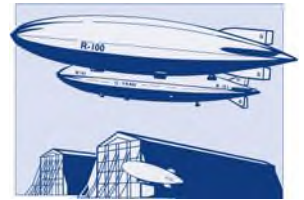


AIRSHIP HERITAGE NEWS

WWW.AIRSHIPSONLINE.COM

EDITION NO.2



OCTOBER 2020

Hello everyone.

Greetings from Myself, and the other Trustees and officers of AHT.

A Message from your Chairman, Alastair Lawson.

2020 A YEAR OF CHANGE

AHT OPERATIONS

Firstly I'd like to say, that I hope all our members are well and remain safe. When this pandemic began in March, we were looking at phrases like "the new norm". As we are now some six months later, what I have seen through both work and home life is that we all are getting used to the speed of changes in rules and guidelines. Before, we would have to discuss and have time to prepare for any change. Now we react to a 10:00pm BBC news update on your smartphone stating the change for the next day with a sigh, but resigned understanding and acceptance.

However, on the positive side, your AHT Council still operates together and like many organisations, now meets via Zoom. I'm pleased to report that with this method, that there is now 100% Trustee attendance without the challenges and restrictions of travel, and room bookings. Also, I can say that it's fun!

We are getting used to it, and over the winter months will hopefully look to provide an online talk for our members to attend. We are looking at the possibility of an online AGM if we still have restrictions or limitations by 2021.

So what are we doing? A fuller report will appear in the third edition of *Dirigible* for 2020, but I'd like to cover some of the items we have been working on.

The R.100 Return Flight To Canada: 90th Anniversary

We were able to *virtually* celebrate this achievement by undertaking a series of "vlogs" or video blog, with Roger Allton providing an excellent commentary about the ship. He was also scheduled to appear on 3 Counties Radio, on "R. 100 Day" but alas the media pulled the story on the day.



We moved up a gear on our online realm by using some of the excellent AHT archive materials, and the superb graphics created by talented graphic designer Marshall Young, who offers his services to the AHT free of charge. We now have a YouTube channel which is also linked to our website, and currently have a small library of videos you can enjoy. We are also looking to add old documentaries which we can share with you. Please feel free to “like” and subscribe to be notified when we add new content.

90th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS OF THE LOSS OF THE R.101

As you know, we had planned to commemorate the R. 101 as part of 3-day joint convention with the Airship Association held in Bedford. This convention has now been moved to the end of September 2021, and our venue remains at the Mercure Hotel in Bedford. We had started to plan an event to commemorate the loss of the R.101, and with the ever-changing guidelines, new rules on meeting in public places, and indeed “rule of 6”, we are planning to the current advice, but again won’t be surprised if this changes again.

Above all, we will make sure that the memory of victims of the tragedy will not be forgotten.

Service of Remembrance

As many of you will know, it had become the practice to commemorate major anniversaries of the R101 disaster on 5th October 1930 with a memorial service in the Parish Church of St Mary, Cardington. The last such service took place ten years ago to mark the 80th Anniversary. This year, it had been planned to hold a commemorative event in Westminster Hall where the bodies of the 48 victims lay in state before the funeral that took place at Cardington on 11th October 1930. For various reasons – not least of which was the Coronavirus Pandemic – this sadly proved impossible.

Determined that this important anniversary should not pass unmarked, the Trust arranged a short Service of Remembrance by the graveside at Cardington at mid-day on Monday, 5th October, led by Rev. Stephen Smith, the Vicar of St Mary’s. The Order of Service included a reading of the names of all those who died on R101 and of ‘For the Fallen’ by Laurence Binyon. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Lewis Bourne, a bugler from the RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band. Wreaths were laid by Flt Lt Scott Butler RAF for the Royal Air Force, Alastair Lawson for the Trust, Peter Davison for the Relatives of the Victims and Cllr Alan Apling for Cardington Parish Council. Also present was Captain John Towell, Master of The Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The service took place in bright sunshine.

After careful consideration and taking into account the need to control numbers and maintain social distancing, Council did not feel able to make this Service of Remembrance a



public event or to publicise it in advance. There would be no facilities available for anyone attending the service and great uncertainty remained about how regulations might change regarding how groups of people might meet.

We hope that members and relatives who might otherwise have wished to attend the service will understand the difficulty we faced and will agree that the Trust did its best to mark this important anniversary in an appropriate way.



Paul Ross

Trustee



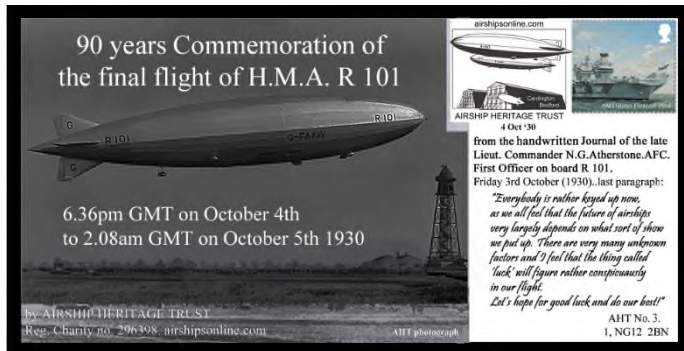
Commemorative postal cover for R 101.

This 90th Commemorative cover is now available for sale through airshipsonline.com priced at £16.00 post-paid in UK. For Europe and overseas rates see website.

I am pleased to say that two A.H.T. members, who's Grandfathers were lost in R 101, signed these 101 numbered covers: Rebecca Atherstone for 1st Officer Lieut. Cdr. Noel Grabowsky Atherstone, and Linda Dunford for Chief Steward Albert H. Savidge of both the R-100 and R 101.

Rebecca also gave permission for us to use the extract from her Grandfather's Journal on the cover.

We shall shortly feature on the website, a piece to camera which Rebecca did for Anglia TV in 1980, concerning the R 101.



The replica cover and reverse of the 101 numbered 90th Anniversary postal covers. Price £16.00 post-paid in UK. These are priced to raise funds for AHT's charitable work. See airshipsonline.com

I reproduce the cover insert here:



Ninety years ago today, on 4th October 1930 at 7.36pm BST, His Majesty's Airship R 101 slipped the mast at the Royal Airship Works Cardington en route for the new Ismailia mast in Egypt, then on to Karachi, India. It was her 12th flight.

Now 777ft (237m) long, with an extra gas cell making 5,509,753 cu ft (156,019 cu m) of hydrogen, she was at this time, the largest airship in the world.

Only 7 1/2 hours into this flight, in severe weather at 2.09am GMT on 5th October, she came down at Allonne, near Beauvais in France, and was immediately consumed by fire.

PASSENGERS ON BOARD

The Rt. Hon. Lord Thomson, PC, CBE, DSO (His Majesty's Secretary of State for Air); Sir W. Sefton Brancker, KCB, AFC (Director of Civil Aviation); Major P. Bishop, OBE (Chief Inspector AID.); Sqn.Ldr. W. Palstra (Representing

Brig.-General



*Australian Government); Sqn.Ldr. O'Neill (Deputy Director of Civil Aviation, India, Representing Indian Government);
Mr. James Buck (Valet to Secretary of State for Air).*

OFFICIALS FROM THE ROYAL AIRSHIP WORKS

Wg.Cdr.R.B.B. Colmore

*OBE (Director of Airship Development); Major G.H. Scott, CBE AFC (Assistant Director (Flying), Officer in Charge of Flight); Lt. Colonel V.C. Richmond, OBE (Assistant Director (Technical)); Sqn.Ldr.F.M. Rope (Assistant to Assistant Director (Technical));
Mr. A. Bushfield (AID); Mr. H.J. Leech (Foreman Engineer).*

R 101 OFFICERS

Flight

*Lieutenant H. Carmichael Irwin, AFC (Captain); Sqn.Ldr. E.L. Johnston, OBE AFC (Navigator); Lieut. Commander N.G. Atherstone, AFC (1st Officer); Flying Officer M.H. Steff (2nd Officer);
Mr. M.A. Giblett MSc. (Meteorological Officer).*

R 101 CREW

Chief

*Coxswain: G.W. Hunt. Assistant Coxswains: Flt.Sgt. W.A. Potter, L.F. Oughton, C.H. Mason. Riggers: E.G. Rudd, M.G. Rampton, H.E. Ford, C.E. Taylor, A.W.J. Norcott, A.J. Richardson, P.A. Foster, W.G. Radcliffe, S. Church.
First Engineer: W.R. Gent. Charge-hand Engineers: G.W. Short, S.E. Scott, T. Key. Engineers: R. Blake, C.A. Burton, C.J. Fergusson, A.C. Hasting, W.H. King, M.F. Littlekit, W. Moule, A.H. Watkins, A.V. Bell, J.H. Binks, A.J. Cook, V. Savory. Chief Wireless
Operator: S.T. Keeley. Wireless Operators: G.H. Atkins, F. Elliott, A. Disley. Chief Steward: A.H. Savidge. Stewards: F. Hodnett, E.A. Graham. Galley Boy: J.W. Megginson.*

Total on Board, on 4th/5th October 1930, was 54 persons.

Only 8 survived, but 2 died shortly afterwards.

Note: The Royal Navy stamp recognises the role played by several of HMA R 101's Officers and Crew in naval airships during the Great War.

Issued by the AIRSHIP HERITAGE TRUST. Reg. Charity no. 296398. Patron: The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Smith of Basildon.



The charitable work of the Airship Heritage Trust includes the regular maintenance and cleaning of the Cardington Cemetery Memorial to those who died in HMA R 101, on 5th October 1930, and were buried in this communal grave on 11th October 1930.

For more information on His Majesty's Airship R 101,

other rigid and non-rigid airships,

our charitable working and to join our world-wide membership,

please see the Airship Heritage Trust's website at:

www.airshipsonline.com

Please note: Other 90th A.H.T. Anniversary postal covers will be announced in 'Dirigible'.

Airships Unboxing

The "unboxing" project is gathering momentum and we have 5 members videos completed and 3 more in the pipeline. You can view them on our website, and if you would like to take part then please contact [me](#), and we can set up the simple Zoom call. It's been a real pleasure getting in touch and getting to know members whom may have been unable to come to previous meetings or events, via the new electronic medium.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rP4utlM1WT4>

Additions to the website



Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine mind now, but from the early sold widely. We have had to seek N.S.Norway agents and trustees of article to be included.

Nevil Shute Norway wrote about May 1933 edition, and it is really punches! It is un-corrected for

We shall not show it in its original of 8vo) and two columns each version which is far easier to read.



– not one which comes to 1800's it was produced and agreement from the his literary archive for this

'The Airship Venture' in the worth reading as he pulls no current knowledge.

form in 8pt (64 lines per page page, but as a re-typed

I am now investigating Blackwood's Magazine, as a source of other LTA articles.

Does any member have these at home who could assist? Please do get in touch with RA.

If you would like to submit any photos, research materials, information or messages to be shared to others, please contact our webmaster : webmaster@airshipsonline.com

Barnes Wallis' Patents. 1918-1930 – We have permission for these to be available on the website, and I do suggest you view them. He even patented an all-moving tailplane for an airship – imagine each elevator over 100 ft long, pivoted at the centre of pressure!
NOT used in R-100.

Members' meetings.

As you all know, I was hoping to arrange some luncheon meetings in a variety of areas over the country, so that we could meet other members who live close by. Sadly all is now 'Zoom and Gloom' as regards getting together.

Would any members like to have Zoom meetings? No travel, and 40 mins for free, and you need a microphone, and a camera preferably.

We as Trustees have found them very useful, and very easy on the travelling! I have the same with local RAFA meetings too.



Please do let me know: membership@airshipsonline.com or 0115 933 4795 and we shall try this out.

I can always arrange an agenda, if several members wish to give short (5 mins?) talks.

Now some links to YouTube etc. (Control + left mouse Click to open)

<https://youtu.be/J-4P-6b3lFI> Inside tour of R-100. Graphics by Marshall Young, voice-over by AHT Chairman Alistair Lawson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJojLgmmkil> WW 1 launching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yd3xwbtNE3k> Goodyear blimp.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDd-weQE0UM> Goodyear Blimp. How to fly.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-0RtO3iCTI&feature=emb_rel_end
deHavilland type 53 Hummingbird, and R 34 airship trials.

AHT Virtual Museum.

As I said in the last newsletter, Alastair is also looking to add a 'Virtual Museum', using photos of our airship related artefacts which I photographed on a visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum conservation rooms, where many of our own items are in safe and conserved storage.



Do any members have airship memorabilia which could be photographed to go into our airship 'virtual museum'?



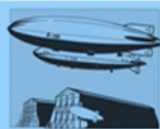
Here are some items you may not have seen before: Note the use of R-100 hull pressings in the bunk supports. The lacing of the bunks has changed from a continuous loop, as bewailed by N.S.Norway, when his bunk failed!



Stay safe and well, and if you have not done already, do please let me know if you have/have not an email address, and if you would like to be part of a Zoom meeting. More in a couple of months.

Sincerely,

Roger. Address: AHT. C/o 1, Orchard Close, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham, NG12 2BN.



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