



RIP Roy Damary

Courtesy of the English Church, Geneva

The love and care that Roy Damary, and Christine, had given over many years to a considerable number of people in and around Geneva was palpably felt and honoured by the full church and 40-strong choir



that gathered to express their love in return, and to wish Roy 'adieu'.

Roy was a long term member of Holy Trinity Church Geneva, to which he offered service in so many different ways. His funeral was held there on 28 June. He had died, after a short illness, the previously Friday, 22 June, which also happened to be his 74th birthday.

Roy was the longest serving Reader in the Diocese in Europe, having been first licensed on 18 February 1982 to the church in Geneva. He was an assiduous and loyal attender of many of the Reader training events organised by the Diocese. He exercised his Reader ministry in a number of ways. As well as leading worship and preaching regularly at Holy Trinity, in a way that was always stimulating, even if occasionally contentious, he had become in recent years the valued chaplain of the RAF Association in the Lake Lemman region. He was always willing to go the extra mile to help – quite literally. On Christmas Day last year, because there was no one else able to do it, he

travelled for several hours there and back to take the service in Villars, arriving back home for his own Christmas lunch late in the afternoon.

But Roy's contribution extended well beyond the normal duties of a Reader. He had a passion for music, and for many years was a stalwart as a valued bass in the church choir. In his address given at Roy's Requiem, Canon Alex Gordon referred to this:

"Much of what really needs to be said at times like this is said through a medium that was very dear to Roy indeed; the medium of music. Music has an ability to draw so much together in our lives and even achieve the resolution of conflicting emotions. And it is good that in this service there is much music, of differing genres, and languages too, all of which had a place in Roy's heart."

One of those other languages was Russian. Not the least of Roy's contributions to the life of the church and to wider Geneva, was to build bridges, initially via his professional work, with groups of musicians in Russia. It led to a memorable Holy Trinity Choir visit to Izhevsk and Moscow in 2014, and to a number of occasions at Holy Trinity where we enjoyed Russian music and culture in return.

In his address Canon Alex also referred to Roy's 'unique uniqueness' a quality to which his friends at Holy Trinity would testify. This was sometimes expressed by his wittily assigning nicknames to his dear friends in the congregation. But above all we were the witnesses and sometimes recipients of the discreet kindness showed by Roy and Christine to those in any sort of trouble or problem. And so many of us have been the beneficiaries of the generous hospitality of their home.

Dear Roy – go with God!

Valleiry and the Liberation of Haute-Savoie

Alain Dardelin

This 16 August 2018, the commune of Valleiry com-

memorated the 74th anniversary of its liberation from German occupation.

With some 20 standard bearers representing veterans' associations standing in line, the ceremony opened with the arrival of the mayor Mr. Frédéric Mugnier, accompanied by local parliamentarians Messrs Cyril Pellevat and Loïc Hervé, mayors from neighbouring communes Mrs. Agnès Cuzin and Mrs. Sylvie Tarragon, Mr. Gérard Blandin for *Souvenir Français*, and General (retd) Jean-Michel Wabinski delegate of the *Union Nationale des Parachutistes* for Haute-Savoie.

Mr. Miguel Vera, President of the *Amicale de la Résistance Espagnole en Haute-Savoie* was in attendance. It should be remembered that those Spanish republicans who fled their country after General Franco's takeover in 1939 played an important role in the war and in the *Résistance*. They were actively involved in the battles of Glières (section EBRO) and the liberation of Haute-Savoie.

Two delegations of former *légionnaires* and paratroopers under the "command" of General Wabinski,



ski, and wearing their respective green and red berets had been invited to attend. Once the speeches finished, they sang *a cappella* their traditional songs enjoyed by all present.

The school children sang the *Chant des Partisans* and *La Marseillaise* joined by the audience before the laying of a wreath at the memorial followed by one minute silence.

The official part of the ceremony finished with the children and assembly singing *Les Allobroges*.

RAFA Swiss branch was represented by standard bearer Alain Dardelin.

AP 1081 (1937), The RAF Pocket Book

G.Robertson (based on an article in an old RAF Quarterly by Gp Capt E.S.Williams)

In 17 chapters and 320 pages, The RAF Pocket Book, issued in 1937, covers administration, discipline, signals, air navigation, meteorology, airman-ship, explosives, weapons and many other important topics, including liaison with the Navy and the Army. It gives a very detailed picture of how the RAF thought and worked in the years leading up to the Second World War but it would not be much use to you if you were stationed in UK. These were the days when the RAF was "Imperial" so AP 1081 concentrated on how the young officer would operate, socialize and survive in the tropics, the desert and the jungle.

Forced landings in the desert were frequent. Recovery of the aircraft would require deployment of "Camels, Pack" which with a 450lb load would plod at 2 mph while a "Camel, Trotting" would race away at 7-8 mph — if you gave it 15 gallons of water a day, its sweet oats and dry bran. You also were told that a caravan of 100 camels took up 500 yards of road whereas 100 pack mules only took 350 yards. There were tables which showed that two pack oxen could march 15-18 miles in a day with a 400 lb payload but on a road, hitched to a wagon they carried 800lb over the same distance and time.

Discipline applied equally to airmen and "camp-followers" (no "Dependents" or "UK-based Civilians" then) and was strict. A sentence of death could be awarded by a squadron leader presiding at a Field General Court Martial and methods of Field Punishment were also covered in the book.

AP1081 contained the telephone number to ring to obtain the weather forecast in Poona, Calcutta, Nairobi, Aboukir, Ramleh, Baghdad, and Rangoon but not Calshot, Upavon or Northolt.

If you force-landed, it advised you to tie your dog to

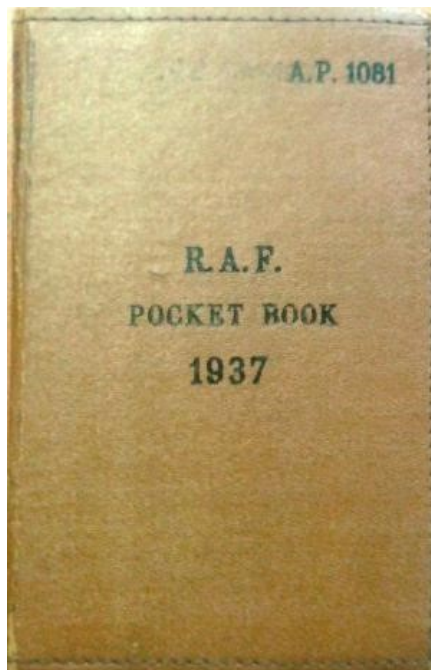
your aircraft, find the biggest tent around, avoid the woman-folk, accept any hospitality given and only *in extremis* claim "dakhil" by seizing the clothing of the most influential-looking Arab in order to seek his protection.

Hygiene in the tropics was well covered as was snake-bite, scorpion sting, rabid dog bite, heat stroke and dhobie itch. For Western ailments like broken bones, bleeding, electric shock etc you were on your own. Advice on how to diagnose ma-

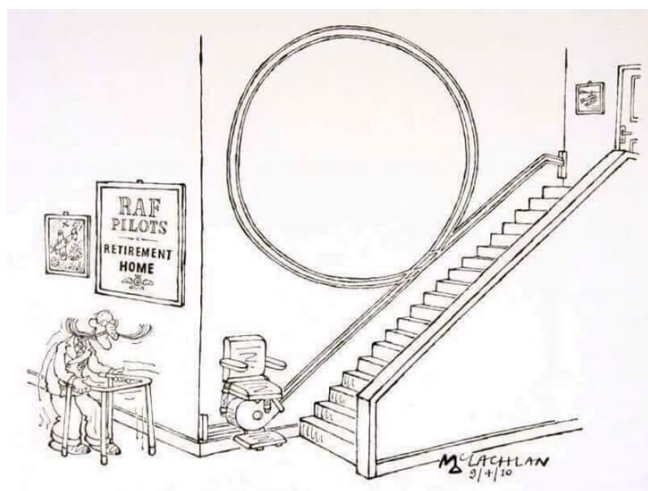
laria, yellow fever, and blackwater fever was included but treatment was futile and AP1081 limited itself to telling you to find a doctor. With it in your pocket, you knew how to build a camp, lay out an emergency night landing area for a seaplane, and cook trooper's steak, a sea pie or chupatties.

And if literally all else fails Appendix III gives a shortened form of the Service for Burial of the Dead after you have excavated a grave 6 feet 6 inches long by 2 feet wide by 5 feet deep.

AP 1081, The RAF Pocket Book, was "for reference only" and carried no official authority. Issued in 1937 with "periodical amendments not contemplated" it remained recommended reading for officers' promotion exams until 1950 — and it did not need batteries or a keyboard!



Roundel team: John Hannon (editor), Alain Dardelin (roving reporter and printing organiser), Régis Pizot (sometime court photographer), Nick and Simone Meyer (envelope stuffers extraordinaires) - and all the contributors.



Plateau des Glières – 18 June 2018

Alain Dardelin

Seventy-eight years ago, on 18 June 1940, General de Gaulle then in London made an appeal on British airwaves calling French people to refuse defeat and continue the fight against the German occupation. The appeal inspired the formation of the Free French forces and the *Résistance*.

It is with this spirit in mind, and in perpetuation of the memory of the sacrifices made by the men and women who resisted and fought the Nazi war machine, that the commemorative ceremony presided by Mr. Pierre Lambert, *préfet* of Haute-Savoie, took place on the Glières Plateau on 18 June 2018. He was flanked by local officials and representatives of neighbouring towns and communes who later all laid wreaths of fresh flowers. There was a reading of the famous speech and the Partisan's song sung by local schoolchildren.

The Branch was represented by John Hannon, Régis Pizot and Alain Dardelin. It was the first time since his back operation that John braved the demanding standing position throughout the hour long ceremony, but he was glad when it was over. Thus, this year again, the Union Flag and the Branch Standard were paraded among the many French flags of various veterans' associations assembled on either side of the stele. The band and the guard of honour were provided as usual by a detachment of the 27^{ème} Chasseurs Alpins of Annecy.

At the end of the ceremony, all retired to the marquee for the traditional *vin d'honneur* and yet another chance to catch up with friends' news.

Le Bouveret, 15 July 2018

Alan Baker

The pretty lakeside village of le Bouveret, situated in the western corner of Canton Valais, again welcomed a high number of Swiss Branch Members, as well as relatives of at least one crew member, to share in the traditional service of commemoration for the loss of 207 Squadron's Lancaster ED412, 75 years ago. Following the recent demise of the Branch Chaplain, Nick Meyer admirably conducted the short service, in English and in French, a point much appreciated by those present.



We were similarly fortunate in having our new Associate Member, piper Ray Saunders, with us, who played a selection of familiar bagpipe tunes for our guests and a growing number of bystand-



ers before, during and after the ceremony.

Many guests could remember the impressive performance offered by the RAF Germany Band, 25 years ago. Whilst that Band is no more, the 75th Anniversary fully lived up to the Branch's policy of welcoming guests from near and far to meet friends old and new, as well as to share memories and to enjoy the formal and the informal parts of a day out alongside Lake Geneva.

Following prayers read by some Members and relatives, the RAFA wreath was laid at the well-tended memorial by our Chairman, Bryan Pattison, who retains a close, personal link with the 207 Squadron Association.

Our thoughts then extended to the crew of the 467 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force's Lancaster that met its own fate just some 30 minutes later, near to Sion. We were delighted to welcome H.E. Suzanne Stein, Australian Consul-General, to lay the second wreath in memory of these Australians killed so far away from home.

The President of the Port-Valais commune, Pierre Zoppelleto, kindly welcomed everyone back to le Bouveret, later – and most generously – providing a *vin d'honneur* and substantial buffet. Voices were heard expressing doubt that the traditional *filets de perche* lunch could be consumed as well as this buffet! In the event, the very large lunch gathering coped well with and enjoyed both selections.

Le Bouveret is included in the Branch events calendar as biennial. Let us therefore look forward to another gloriously warm and sunny day, with a similar ambience, in 2020.



Getting out of jail free

Courtesy of Christine Damary

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE' packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest secrecy in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add: a playing token containing a magnetic compass, a two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together and useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money.

British and American aircrews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the 'Free Parking Square'.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by these rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did

so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British government might want to use this highly successful ruse in another future war. The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!

Battle of Britain Commemoration, 16 September 2018

Graham Robertson

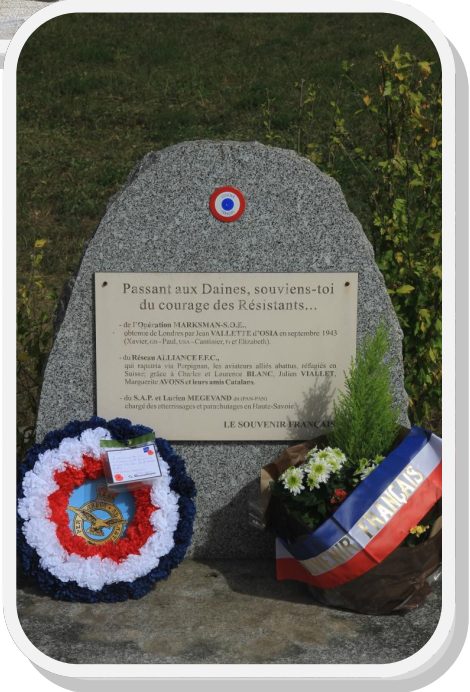
Vevey, Sunday 16 September 2018. 11:00 hrs. Weather fine and sunny. The bugler and standard-bearers in position. Time once again for the RAFA Swiss Branch and friends to come together to commemorate the 78th Anniversary of that event which has so defined the RAF — the Battle of Britain.



The service was conducted by Nick Meyer. Wreaths were laid by Edward Inglett on behalf of the British Embassy; the new Australian Consul-General, Natalie Grant; and RAFA Swiss Branch Chairman, Bryan Pattison OBE. After two minutes silence and a poem from Bryan, Nick gave an Address which drew together memories of not only the young pilots' "relentless rhythm of adrenalin and fear, of dashing verve and supreme skill – and perhaps some luck – together with a unique camaraderie forged in the heat of battle" but also the contributions made by so many others; men, women, British, Commonwealth, and Allies. He then went on to describe his personal war-time experience as a small boy watching aerial combat over Normandy and being bombed near Paris in 1944. Ironically, Nick and his brother were posted to RAF Germany when they joined the Service. He finished by reminding us that "The Battle of Britain is lodged in our corporate memory because it reminds us of just what is possible when we all pull together, however great the odds".

After the service, many of us made our way to Vevey's Café de Port to reflect on what had been said and to indulge in the now-traditional meal of "*filets de perche*".

Plateau des Daines





"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. Lest we forget."

A gentle reminder to our readers that, while we no longer attend air shows we do give coverage to any events touching on aviation and the Royal Air Force.

I'm pleased to include the Bill Tidy cartoon on the right (yet another) - simply because—I used to deliver his post a very long time ago—that, and I find Bill Tidy's visual whimsy uplifting.

Ed.

We regret to announce the death of:

Roy Damary
Simone Emes
Reg Howarth
Jean-Pierre Wilhelm

EXPOSITION

100 ans Royal Air Force

du **01.04.2018**
au **31.12.2018**

Le Baron Rouge
Ch. de la Biole 6
1860 Aigle

jeu-ven: 16:00 - 19:00
sam: 09:00 - 17:00
entrée libre

GALERIE
LE BARON ROUGE
- AIGLE -
ANTIQUITES - MILITARIA

www.lebaronrouge.ch



Royal Air Forces Association Swiss Branch

List of events 2018/2019

21 Oct	10.30	78 Sqn. Halifax Commemoration, Montcony + Lunch
10 Nov	10.40	Armistice Day, CWGC Cemetery, Vevey
2-4 Nov		European Area Conference – Brussels
10 Nov 2019		Remembrance Day - Saturday
2 Mar 2019		2019 Branch AGM – Crowne Plaza
1 June 2019		Hotel du Port, Yvoire. Summer Lunch