



# 100<sup>th</sup> DESPATCHES



## The News Magazine of the 90<sup>th</sup> Entry Society

A Branch of the RAF Halton Apprentices Association

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# WELCOME TO THE 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF DESPATCHES, Part 1.

## The RAFHAA Centennial Reunion



Viscount Trenchard and RAFHAA Chairman Frank Denton-Powell

## Introduction

Because of the proximity of two important events it has been necessary to split D100 into two parts.

Part 1 focuses upon the RAFHAA Centennial Reunion held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Part 2 follows the more conventional Despatches format celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Issue.

Over 700 people, comprising mainly of ex-apprentices of all ages made a pilgrimage to return to RAF Halton on Saturday morning. This was a unique occasion to celebrate the centennial of the RAF Halton Apprentices Association.

It was held on a glorious summer's day set against the magnificent backdrop of the Chiltern Hills leading our eyes up to a brilliant blue sky.

Attendees included two members of the 47<sup>th</sup> Entry who enlisted some 79 years ago in 1943, with fifteen other Entries each attracting more than ten members. The 90<sup>th</sup> Entry had the largest number of members from a single Entry.

I sent my better half on a mission to take photos of the occasion for Despatches. As a picture speaks a thousand words, they can tell their own story.



Members and guests were issued with a bespoke lanyard



## The Golden Oldies



The Golden Oldies led the Parade, and performed both during the morning and afternoon in characteristic style

## The D-Day Darlings



The D-Day Darlings entertained us in No. 1 Wing NAAFI (Tank) with suitably appropriate songs



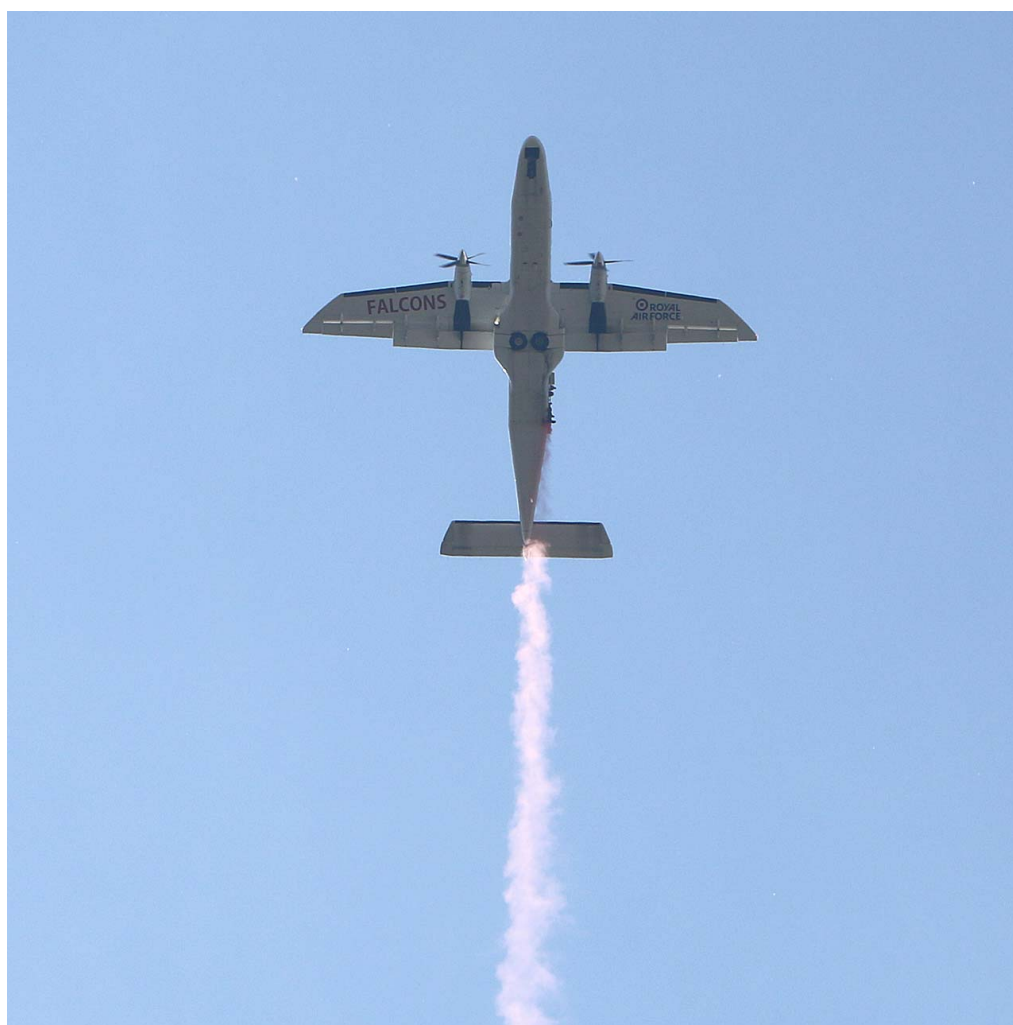
The D-Day Darlings with a costume change and another performance in the afternoon



## The RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team



Preparing their marker on the Parade Square.  
The display was delayed a few minutes for lack of wind.



Smoke from the Falcons Dornier 228 indicating they were ready to jump

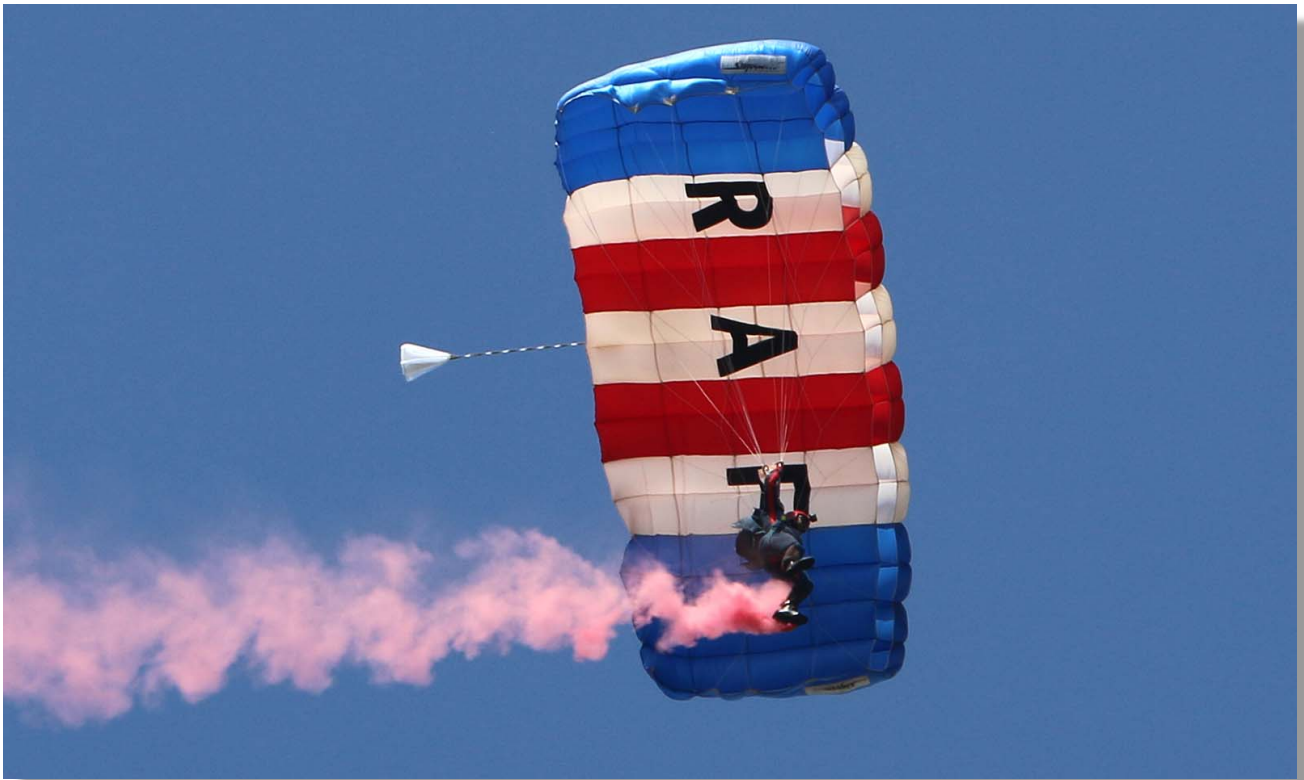


All seven lining up for display soon after exit



Part of the spectacular display. Unfortunately, a lack of space prevents showing lots more of equally impressive photos of their display.





An overhead shot clearly showing the drogue and leg smoke



Coming into land on the Square from the 3 Wing direction.



Making it look all so easy!



A spot-on landing





The RAF Halton Station Commander Group Captain Startup taking the salute



Return applause from him for their thrilling display



The Falcons Team showing their camaraderie

## The BBMF Lancaster Fly-Past



It was superb to hear the unmistakable sound and see the iconic shape of the Lancaster against the Halton skyline.



Banking to come directly overhead and fly three circuits





A brilliant shot of the BBMF Lancaster almost overhead



Leaving us after a final circuit

## The Speeches



The Viscount Trenchard addressing the Parade with RAFHAA Chairman Frank Denton-Powell looking on.



The Viscount Trenchard giving his speech.



## The Presentation



A presentation of 'Trenchard's Legacy' designed by Tony Jones of the 88th Entry



Viscount Trenchard with the Station Commander

## The Parade



The DI's strutting their stuff with the 90<sup>th</sup> Entry in the background.



The Parade Leader Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller KBE (210<sup>th</sup> Entry)





The Queen's colour paraded by trainees from RAF Cosford



Barry Hathaway of the 100<sup>th</sup> Entry parading the RAFHAA Standard





Eyes-right past the saluting base from the Golden Oldies Drum Major



The most senior ex-apprentices led the Parade, including two from the 47<sup>th</sup> Entry





Some of the 90th passing the saluting base



After the Parade we lined up for a photo - minus a few who escaped early.



Some of the 90<sup>th</sup> attendees enjoying their day







She tells me there had to be some reward for taking pictures all day.