



# Editorial

Mick Davis

An important date for our diaries is 10 April, scheduled for our Annual General Meeting at 14.00. It's amazing how accustomed people have become in the last year to using video-conferencing programmes such

as Teams and Zoom and our first experiment with it, for the 2020 AGM last autumn, proved its effectiveness. Although the number of participants was limited, the afternoon slot allowed participation by members from both North America and the Antipodes, something unlikely in normal times. By the same token, people from remoter parts of the UK and neighbouring European countries also have the opportunity to participate. The meeting will be followed by a pre-recorded talk from Paul Hare on the subject of the RAF BE2, the subject of Paul's recent book, written in collaboration with Andrew Willox.

## Colourisation

There's a lot of discussion going on about the colourisation of images that were originally captured on orthochromatic or panchromatic film. Purists may wince and the more pedantic will reach for the Methuen book of colour but, if done effectively, such colour images can capture the imagination – remember the impression created when *They Shall Not Grow Old* appeared. I'm quite happy to see such images used as cover illustrations for the journal and this issue sees an example from Canadian member David Fuller, who does the pre-press work. More examples are planned for future use.

## This Issue

The University of Wolverhampton has a reputation for its War Studies Department, and we have recently been offered two recent dissertations from a pair of graduates. Each will be presented as a two-part feature and the first, from David Spruce, begins in this issue. By their very nature, these dissertations are awash with references and their lists of sources are extensive. I'm retaining the references but would like to make the lists of sources, to any member who wishes to have them, available by email from me.

The rest of the issue is, I hope, a varied mix with something to appeal to all members.

Stewart Taylor's biography of 'Gerry' Nash throws up new information about the famous Black Flight, particularly the circumstances leading to Nash's capture. Surprisingly, Donald MacLaren isn't the subject of a Stewart Taylor article in CCI possession, but Rod Henderson has provided a short biography for this issue.

Contributions from European members are always welcome. Juraj Cervenka's feature on Karl Nemenji and Flik 49 and Pietro Landro's Venice piece add variety of topic, as does Mike Kelsey's look at the FK3 captured and flown by Bulgarian forces in Macedonia.

Trevor Henshaw, in Logbook, provides a really useful research tool – a comprehensive listing of the essays submitted to the RAF Staff College at Andover during the inter-war period. They were written by WWI pilots and reflect their experiences of flying and fighting. Trevor has catalogued them by unit. One of these, by G.E. Gibbs and submitted by Arnold Harvey, appeared in CCI a couple of years ago.

## A Request for Help

Ronnie Fraser is a researcher for the website *British Jews in the First World War*, which commemorates the contribution made by British Jews in that conflict. The site, <https://www.jewsfww.uk/>, currently holds the stories of 2500 allied servicemen as well as many history windows and photographs.

Approximately three hundred Jews from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa served in the Royal Flying Corps as pilots and observers. Ronnie's aim is to research the lives of as many as possible and he appeals to members for help, especially when it comes to their stories and photographs. If anyone knows of any Jewish airmen who served in WWI and would like to share their stories with Ronnie, he can be contacted at [fraser\\_ronnie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fraser_ronnie@yahoo.co.uk).

In particular, Ronnie is trying to find out the personal story of Lt Albert Abram Robinson MC DFC of 3 Kite Balloon Section and why Lieut. Cyril Jewell was buried 70 miles away from where he crashed in a churchyard in Ide Hill in Kent rather a Jewish Cemetery. He is also looking for photographs of three South Africans, 2Lt Walter Sondheim, and Lt Baron Starfield of 20 Sqn, and Capt Duncan Ross Solomon DFC of 10 Balloon Company and one of Canadian pilot Lt Herbert Vineberg AFC.

## Taster

Angus Scully, of the City of Vancouver Archives, drew my attention to a photograph album held there and offered it for use in our journal. The c.250 photographs were taken by one James Crookall and will form a photo feature in a later issue.



Above: One of many crash photos in the album, JN4 (Can) C200 of 82 CTS after an accident near Camp Mohawk.

Below: James Crookall looking relaxed on a Harley Davidson, with a 79 CTS JN4 (Can) behind.



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