

# THE FLOPS!

This small 'collection' of photos are the ones that never made it to the 2012 Reunion page because it was felt that the quality was not brilliant and some were considered unflattering.





# The Fly Navy Federation (FNF)



Air Power From The Sea  
The Fly Navy Federation

An Alliance of Associations of the Fleet Air Arm

## ARE YOU A SERVING OR EX MEMBER OF THE FLEET AIR ARM?

### THEN SUPPORT YOUR HERITAGE AND JOIN ONE OF THE MANY FAA RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

<b>ARMOURERS ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.armourers.org.uk">www.armourers.org.uk</a>	<b>AIRCRAFT HANDLERS ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.aah.org.uk">www.aah.org.uk</a>	<b>AIRCRAFT HANDLERS ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.aah.org.uk">www.aah.org.uk</a>
<b>FAA ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.faa.org.uk">www.faa.org.uk</a>	<b>FAA BUCCANEER ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.faa-buccaneer.org.uk">www.faa-buccaneer.org.uk</a>	<b>FAA FIELD GUN ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.faa-fieldgun.org">www.faa-fieldgun.org</a>
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<b>RN PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.rn-photos.org">www.rn-photos.org</a>	<b>SEA HARRIER ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.seaharrier.org">www.seaharrier.org</a>	<b>THE TELEGRAPHIST AIR GUNNERS ASSOCIATION</b>  <a href="http://www.ttaga.org">www.ttaga.org</a>

As well as the associations, PLEASE support the **Fly Navy Heritage Trust**, the only organisation which focuses exclusively on raising funds to preserve Fleet Air Arm heritage - **The Royal Navy Historic Flight**, the **FAA Museum** & **St Bart's Memorial Church**.

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust  
 87 Colindale Ave, London NW9 1SD, UK  
 Tel: 0208 451 1111

**CHANNEL DASH ASSOCIATION**  
  
[www.channeldash.org](http://www.channeldash.org)

We hope you will consider joining us & lending your voice to the Federation.  
 For any enquiries regarding the FNF, please contact  
[mrphicarpenter@hotmail.com](mailto:mrphicarpenter@hotmail.com)



# CLOUD OBSERVERS



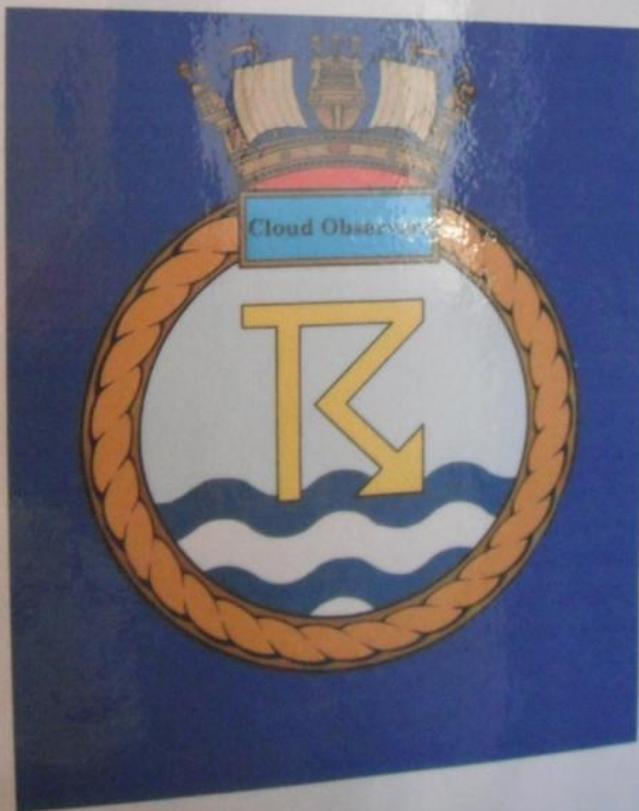








# THE MET OFFICE





Commander A R Edwards

# RN School of Meteorology RNAD Kete

October 1946 - April 1960



Wren Elizabeth Dear

In October 1946 the first real Met School was opened at HMS Harrier, RNAD Kete on the Pembrokeshire coast near Dale. The first course was for forecasters who, being part of the Education branch became instructors, although not necessarily specialising in met. Until the school, opened all officers had done their met training at Royal Naval College Greenwich from 1940. When the school first opened it was staffed by just three people, the Officer in Charge who was Instructor Commander A R Edwards, ably assisted by one of our members, PO Wren Elizabeth Dear nee Balhain and AB (Met) B L Morris, soon to be promoted to U/Seaman (Met). This first forecasters course (M0), lasted for three months and was the last course to take midshipman (five in total). Inst. Cdr Edwards was to remain as OIC until January 1950 and Elizabeth remained until 1948 when she married Inst. Lt Arthur Dear, a course member on M1, proving that it wasn't just a rumour that Kete was known as the "Marriage Bureau".



Elizabeth instructed on the officers courses until wrens and ratings courses were transferred from Looe-on-Sulist in 1947. At this point she assumed the position of I/C of all wrens and ratings courses, they were mixed courses and appear to have lasted for approximately two months. There are two points worth noting, Elizabeth Balhain was the first PO Wren here and she is also still the "pin-up girl" at the school in Devonport today.

According to one ex met rating who twice spent time at Kete in the early days, it was a much more relaxed establishment the first time he was there doing his met training. The second time around, drafted in to plot for an officers course, like there had become very much more "pissar", classes were marched from one session to the next and officers had to be saluted, in other words a real training establishment. (It was the RP School as well!) Nevertheless most of those who went to Kete seem to have enjoyed their time, no doubt this was enhanced by regular trips to the Griffin hostelry in Dale.

Met training continued at Kete for about fourteen years when, in stages, it was moved to another new school. This time met training was to be based at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall, with the ratings moving first in 1958, followed by the rest of the school and officers courses in 1960.

Officers Courses at the School of Meteorology

Instructor	Course	Start	End
A R Edwards	1st Officers	October 1946	January 1947
A R Edwards	2nd Officers	January 1947	February 1947
A R Edwards	3rd Officers	February 1947	March 1947
A R Edwards	4th Officers	March 1947	April 1947
A R Edwards	5th Officers	April 1947	May 1947
A R Edwards	6th Officers	May 1947	June 1947















