

15 August 2020

Due to the current circumstances with the COVID-19, the February 2021 reunion has been postponed. We will set a date when it is clearer as to regulations pertaining to safety and interstate travel. One thing that is locked in is the venue. It will be either the 35 Squadron hangar or the officers' mess.

Spartan Pin Presentation

Friday, 14 August 2020 our Association supplied and presented the gold pins to the air crew and loadmasters when they qualified on the Spartan. The presentation was held in the Air Crew Training Rooms at Amberley. Because of the COVID-19, we were limited to the number who could attend. John Griffiths and yours truly presented the pins to the five who qualified plus pins to those who had previously qualified.

The email below speaks about the demise of R.T.F.V. That will never happen! Our Association is committed to preserving the history of service in Vietnam as well as the history of the Caribou. I have been advocating for years the importance of all those who served with R.T.F.V./35 Squadron should join our Association. If we can get those you served to write their story it will be preserved well and truly, and the future of our Association will stay secure as we get more members from the current 35 Squadron joining.

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Our website

From: Don & Ruth Pollock [<mailto:dnrpollock@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Friday, 14 August 2020 2:20 PM
To: 'William Pike'
Subject: RE: Re-Formation of 35 Squadron

Thanks Bill

From: William Pike
Sent: Friday, 14 August 2020 2:15 PM
To: Don & Ruth Pollock
Subject: Re: Re-Formation of 35 Squadron

My recollection (and I was home by then) is that Scott achieved his aim at least in the short term as new arrivals went into tents and "graduated" to the Villa Anna. Effectively RTFV were gradually replaced by 9 Sqn under this formula as 9 Sqn arrived en masse and filled every vacancy left by a departing RTFV person

On Friday, August 14, 2020, 12:07:03 PM GMT+10, Don & Ruth Pollock <dnrpollock@bigpond.com> wrote:

Hi All,

Recently there have been some moves to remove RTFV from history, and list just 35 SQN. Kev Henderson found a reference (below) as to the renaming of RTFV to 35 SQN. Probably the powers that be realised the complications that would arise with a WGCOC of 9 SQN and a SQNLDR of RTFV, so the upgrading. Even so Scott did make himself unpopular by trying to take over the villa Anna for 9 SQN pilots.

As the historian Chris Coulthard-Clarke observes, other than the increase in rank of the CO RTFV, "there was little noticeable change."

Stay well

Don

From: kevhend@bigpond.net.au [<mailto:kevhend@bigpond.net.au>]
Sent: Sunday, 10 June 2018 2:13 PM
To: dnrpollock@bigpond.com
Cc: Kevin & Meg Henderson
Subject: Re-Formation of 35 Squadron

Hi Don

The info you wanted is on page 107 of Chris CC's "The RAAF in Vietnam". The following is an extract – the first para of Chapter 6, Transport Operations:

“Coinciding with the arrival of a second squadron and the general upgrading of the RAAF presence in Vietnam, a decision was made to raise the RTFV to the status of a full squadron. This change took effect on 1 June 1966 when the flight was renamed No. 35 Squadron. Reflecting the unit's new status, Squadron Leader Guthrie was succeeded by Wing Commander C. Melchert, but otherwise there was little noticeable change. Aircraft numbers within the unit stayed at seven and, similarly, personnel strength initially remained the same at just over 70 all ranks, though later this did increase to more than 90.”

The “second squadron” referred to in the first sentence was No. 9 Squadron.

Hope this is what you wanted.

Cheers

Kev

www.rtfv/35sqn.org is committed to preserving our history.