



6 Squadron

90th Anniversary 1914 – 2004

1914–2004

90th Anniversary

6 Squadron

RAF Coltishall

POST NO AND NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	UNIT	REMARKS
01A	N. THOMAS	4017	A	CCA AS BURELLES 047
01A	X. SCOTT	KEEPCO	B	
01A	R. BAILEY		C	
01A	D. HUNTER		D	
01A	S. JONES		E	
01A	V. SMITH		F	
01A	O. BRIDGE		G	
01A	T. HOPKINS		H	
01A	Y. ALLEN	4007	A	AL AS BURELLES 047
01A	Z. HILL	UNSP026	B	
01A	P. SMITH		C	
01A	N. SCOTT		D	
01A	O. PICTON	4007	A	AL AS BURELLES 047
01A	R. THOMAS	UNSP026	B	
01A	T. SPURGEON		C	
01A	S. COLLINS		D	
01A	Z. HILL	UNSP026	B	
01A	P. SMITH		C	
01A	N. SCOTT		D	
01A	O. PICTON	4007	A	AL AS BURELLES 047
01A	R. THOMAS	UNSP026	B	
01A	T. SPURGEON		C	
01A	S. COLLINS		D	

The Sovereign's Standard

The Sovereign's Standard is presented to a Squadron in recognition of its operational achievements and is not usually bestowed until the Squadron has completed 25 years service. To mark the 25th anniversary of the Royal Air Force on 1st April, 1943, His Majesty King George VI has awarded the Standard to each of the operational squadrons formed before 1st April, 1918. The bestowal of the Standard was promulgated on the 9th September 1943. No.6 Squadron became eligible for the granting of a Royal Standard in 1939 but due to the war, the presentation was delayed until 1954.

The presentation of the Standard by Air Marshall Sir Claud Pelly KCB, CBE, MC, Air Officer Commanding Middle East Air Force, was held at Amman on the 31st January 1954. This Standard is laid up at the Church of St Andrews, Lammas, Coltishall.

A new Standard was presented by Air Chief Marshall Sir Keith Williamson GCB, AFC, ADC, at Coltishall on the 31st October 1980.



The Royal Jordanian Standard

No 6 Squadron is unique in having been awarded two Royal Standards, the second being presented by King Abdullah of Jordan at the royal palace at Amman.

During the Squadron's many years service in the Middle East, it was deeply involved in the seemingly ever present rebellions, minor wars and insurgency. Various border clashes between French - Syria and Trans-Jordan were dealt with by the Squadron, which was constantly engaged in peace keeping throughout the region. Towards the end of the 1930's, the clashes became mainly Arab-Jewish, and the Squadron in carrying out its duties suffered many casualties and gained many honours and awards. A close association was built up between the Squadron and the Emir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. He showed great interest in the Squadron which had virtually been his air bodyguard for nearly twenty years. In 1940, the Emir was granted the honorary rank of Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force and the Squadron carried out a flypast in his honour from Ramleh in Palestine.

Ten years later, the Squadron arrived in Mafraq on the 31st May 1950 to test the viability of using a sand airfield as a base for jet operations. On arrival, the new Vampire Mk5's carried out three formation runs past King Abdullah's royal palace at Amman. On the 9th June, the King arrived at Mafraq and inspected the Squadron aircraft. The CO (Sqn Ldr Pat Kennedy) presented him with a framed reproduction of the Squadron badge. As an expression of his delight, he presented the Squadron with one of his personal Standards at the royal palace at Amman on the 15th October 1950.

The Standard is of silk in the Jordanian colours of black, white, green and red with the Royal Crest in gold as the centrepiece.





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6 Squadron: 90th Anniversary Brochure 1914 – 2004



Welcome to RAF Coltishall from the Station Commander

Group Captain Graham Wright OBE BSc MRAeS

As you gather to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of No 6 Sqn I wish to extend a very warm welcome to RAF Coltishall. Celebrations such as this focus our attention on our history and this is something of which we at Coltishall are extremely proud.

The replica of Douglas Bader's Hurricane standing guard at the entrance to RAF Coltishall is a constant reminder of a very important phase in our past, and I am acutely aware of the fact that we are now the only Battle of Britain station to remain in frontline fighter service. For the last 30 years the UK front-line element of the Jaguar force and more specifically for this event of No.6 Squadron. In the last 13 years we have been involved almost continually in deployed operations and are extremely proud of the contribution that the Jaguar force has made in the Middle East and the Balkans. Throughout this period it is the ethos and close-knit team spirit of our people which have been the most obvious of traits, and a clear indication of why our affection for squadron life runs so deeply. It is against this backdrop that the station plays its part as host to help celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the longest continually serving squadron in the Royal Air Force; extremely aware of the importance of our history and of the camaraderie that continues to draw us together.



1914 - 2004

The Royal Jordanian Standard

Foreword

6 Squadron

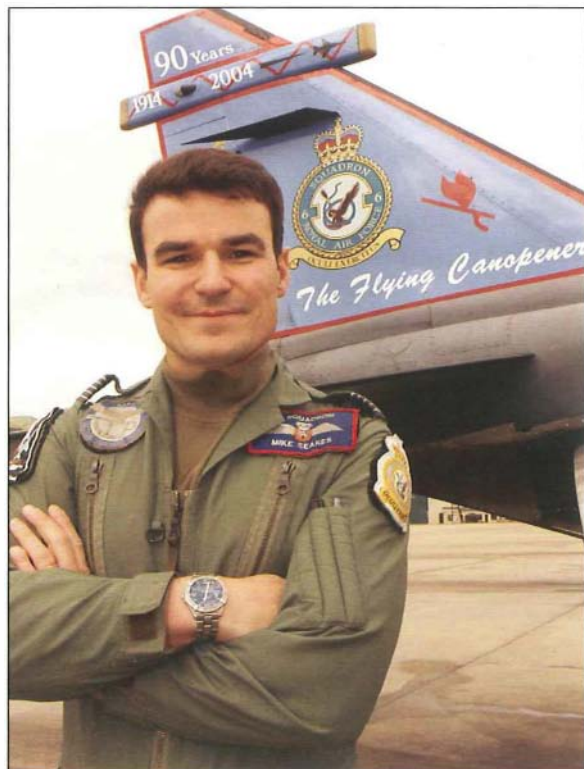
RAF Coltishall

by Wing Commander M J Seares MBE MA RAF

On behalf of all current members of Number 6 Squadron, welcome to our 90th Anniversary celebrations. I hope you'll agree that this is an incredible milestone for the Squadron and whilst our history may be short in military terms, we have many significant events to remember and celebrate from our 90 years of unbroken service. The first ever air combat VC, our links with the Royal Jordanian Air Force, and our operational service flying the Hurricane IID over the Western Desert and Jaguar over Iraq and the Former Yugoslavia are but a few highlights, but I'm sure you will recall many more. Indeed, I sincerely hope that you find the time to peruse the archives in the Squadron History Room and share with us some of your personal anecdotes such that they may be recorded for posterity. Likewise, I hope you will join me in congratulating Flt Lt James Heald on his recent award of the DFC, the first on 6 since 1946 and an honour which truly reflects the hard work of all Squadron personnel on operations over the past 12 years. Turning to the future, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Eurofighter Typhoon and I have been assured that 6 Squadron will move to the new aircraft in due course. My main effort and that of my successor will be to ensure that we do not lose our unique status as the longest, continuous service squadron in the Royal Air Force today. Finally, I hope you enjoy the hospitality we have to offer and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming days.

Yours


Wg Cdr M J Seares MBE MA RAF
 Officer Commanding, Number 6 Squadron



Foreword by Wg Cdr M J Seares MBE MA RAF