



Royal Air Force Finningley
No. 6 FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL

No. 82 AIR ENGINEER COURSE

Graduation Ceremony

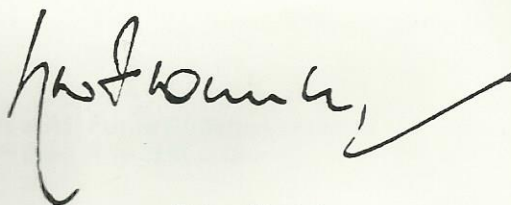
FRIDAY
25th MAY, 1979

REVIEWING OFFICER:
AIR COMMODORE R. C. F. PEIRSE, RAF
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL (AIR) (RAF)

Foreword

Today, No. 82 Air Engineer Course graduate from No. 6 Flying School after successful completion of over twelve months intensive training. At this ceremony we are recognising their achievements by awarding them the flying badge, which I know they will wear with pride. Air Commodore R. C. F. Peirse, RAF, Director of Personnel (AIR) (RAF) has kindly consented to present the graduating NCOs with their flying badges. We extend to him, and to all parents and friends with us today, a very warm welcome.

The Royal Air Force operates modern aeroplanes which present a great challenge to the men who fly them. The training is demanding and success requires determination and dedication as well as skill and strength of character. This success is hard won but, to those who have gained it, well deserved. I therefore congratulate the members of the graduating course on behalf of all officers and airman of No. 6 Flying Training School for having reached the high standards required of them. I hope that they in turn will set new standards which will help to guide the destiny of the Royal Air Force in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. F. Peirse', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Group Captain

Outline of Training at 6 FTS

6 FTS trains officers and airmen for all aircrew specialisations in the Royal Air Force. The courses provide flying, academic and personal development training to enable junior officers and NCOs to qualify for the award of the appropriate flying badge.

After they arrive at 6 FTS, air electronics operator and air engineer students first undergo the Airmen Aircrew Initial Training Course along with student air loadmasters. This lasts for six weeks and consists mainly of personal development and general service training. On completion of the course the three categories separate for their professional training. Air electronics operators and air engineers remain at 6 FTS for another year whereas the air loadmasters proceed to RAF Brize Norton for basic instruction prior to training on a specific aircraft type at an Operational Conversion Unit. In the basic phase student air electronics operators study electrical and electronic theory, aircraft equipment and their operating procedures whilst air engineers study aircraft airframes, engine systems and their operating procedures. Then, during the applied phase, they practise in the air the theory they have learned in the classroom. For air electronics operators the transition between ground and air instruction is achieved in the air electronics simulator and for the air engineers in the Argosy flight simulator at RAF Benson. It is during the applied phase that both air electronics operators and air engineers learn the practical aspects of airmanship.

Physical training and games are also well to the fore in all the courses at 6 FTS and many students represent the Station in team and individual sports.

On completion of their training, students are presented with their flying badges and promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Trophies and Awards

Certificates of Merit

Certificates of Merit are awarded to students for Distinguished and Credit Passes taking into account each individual's all round performance in officer or NCO training while at 6 FTS.

The Airmen Aircrew Leadership Trophy

The Leadership Trophy is a cup which was presented by the staff of the Air Electronics and Air Engineer School. It is awarded to a Student NCO who during his training at 6 FTS demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities.

The Air Electronics Air Merit Award

The Air Electronics Air Merit Award is a cup presented by the Air Electronics Officers of Bomber Command. It is awarded to a student Air Electronics Operator who obtains a high assessment for flying, or who performs some outstanding act of airmanship.

The Air Electronics Ground Studies Trophy

The Air Electronics Ground Studies Trophy was presented by the staff of the Air Electronics School. It is awarded to a student Air Electronics Operator who obtains exceptionally high examination marks in academic subjects.

The Best Engineer Graduate Award

The Best Engineer Graduate Award is a cup presented by Rolls Royce Ltd. It is rarely awarded, but goes to a student Air Engineer who achieves a distinguished pass in every subject of the course.

The Air Engineer Air Merit Award

The Air Engineer Air Merit Award is a cup presented by Headquarters Flying Training Command. It is awarded to a student Air Engineer who obtains a high assessment for flying, or who performs some outstanding act of airmanship.

The Air Engineer Ground Studies Trophy

The Air Engineer Ground Studies Trophy is a cup presented by Headquarters Flying Training Command. It is awarded to a student Air Engineer who obtains exceptionally high examination marks in academic subjects.

No. 6 Flying Training School

ROYAL AIR FORCE FINNINGLEY

Station Commander
GROUP CAPTAIN L. W. F. WHEELER

Whilst all sections of the Station play their part in the training of aircrew at No. 6 Flying Training School, the undermentioned have, been directly concerned with the training of the students graduating today.

Officer Commanding Air Electronics & Air Eng. School Wg. Cdr. R. Nield
Officer Commanding Ops & Pilot Trng. Wing Wg. Cdr. T. H. Whittingham
Officer Commanding Support Flying Wing Wg. Cdr. D. E. Leppard
Officer Commanding Engineering Wing Wg. Cdr. T. C. Davies
Officer Commanding Administrative Wing Wg. Cdr. E. Morris
Officer Commanding A.E. Sqn. A.E. & A.Eng. School Sqn. Ldr. C. Wright
Officer Commanding A.Eng. Sqn. A.E. & A.Eng. School Sqn. Ldr. D. Crowson
Officer Commanding Service Training Sqn. Sqn. Ldr. E. R. Norris
Officer Commanding Dominie Sqn. Sqn. Ldr. K. A. Elkington
Flight Commander No. 82 Course Flt. Lt. A. Pinnington

No. 82 AIR ENGINEER COURSE



Sgt. J. T.
Jeffers

Sgt. C.
Gabbitas

Sgt. F. C.
Macbeth



Sgt. J.
Nelson

Sgt. R. T.
Hough

Sgt. S.
Hymers

Sgt. G. M.
Herman

The Reviewing Officer



**AIR COMMODORE
R. C. F. PEIRSE, RAF**

Born in London and educated at Bradfield College, Air Commodore Peirse joined the RAF in 1949 as a cadet at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell, graduating as a pilot in 1952.

In the 1950s he served with No 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron flying Vampire and Venom aircraft at RAF Wunstorf in Germany. After a tour as ADC to the Air Officer Commanding No 2 Group he attended the Central Flying School Course before returning to the Royal Air Force College Cranwell as an instructor and Flight Commander.

In 1960 he was appointed Squadron Leader Air Staff at Headquarters No 23 Group and in 1962 he attended the RAF Staff College, Andover as a student. After a period as Flight Commander with No 39 Squadron he became Officer Commanding Operations Wing at RAF Luqa, Malta.

After a tour at the Air Secretary's Department he attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer. In 1968 he was appointed Officer Commanding No 51 Squadron at RAF Wyton before joining the Queen's Flight as Deputy Captain in 1969.

In 1972 he studied at the Royal College of Defence Studies before being appointed Station Commander at RAF Waddington in 1973.

After his tour as Deputy Director of Operational Requirements from 1976 to 1977 he remained at MOD taking up his present appointment as Director of Personnel (AIR) (RAF).

Air Commodore Peirse is married with two grown-up daughters and a fourteen year old son and includes amongst his interests and hobbies, squash, visiting the theatre, world travel, archaeology and restoring old furniture and clocks to their original condition.

Graduation Dedication Service

Preacher THE REVEREND (FLIGHT LIEUTENANT) D. J. MCGINTY, RAF
R.C. CHAPLAIN ROYAL AIR FORCE FINNINGLEY

The congregation stands when the clergy enter

The clergy and congregation being assembled the Chaplain shall say:
"Brethren, we have come together, in the presence of Almighty God, to ask God's blessing on these young men who have graduated this day, as they serve their country and their fellow men in the Royal Air Force: and to join with them as they dedicate themselves to this Service. Therefore as we stand in silence, let us remember God's presence with us now".

A SILENCE

HYMN

1
All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

2
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make:
We are His folk, He doth us feed;
And for His sheep He doth us take.

3
O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

4
For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

LESSON

HYMN

1
I vow to thee my Country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the tests,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best:
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

2
And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know,
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

THE ADDRESS

THE DEDICATION

The graduating course stands. The congregation remains seated for the Dedication.

The Chaplain shall say:

"Those who have today graduated, are asked to dedicate their lives on the principles of truth and justice, so that by word and deed they may become wholesome examples to the fellow-men, and be dutiful and fearless in the Service to which they have been called. Therefore that they may themselves so promise, it has been thought good to ask as many as shall find it in their hearts to answer, to commit themselves to these things".

Then the Chaplain shall ask:

"Will you give your faithful diligence so to discharge the duties that shall be laid upon you in the Royal Air Force of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth as to be a safeguard to her most Gracious Majesty, and the due order of this realm?"

ANSWER:

"I will do so, by the help of God".

CHAPLAIN:

"Will you maintain and set forward everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise, wherever you are appointed to serve?"

ANSWER:

"I will do so by the help of God".

CHAPLAIN:

"God give you Grace sufficient to perform these promises"

THE PRAYERS

Silent prayer, during which the members of the Courses are named.

Then the congregation will join together, saying:

"We commend, O Lord, unto thy Fatherly care, thy servants about to go forth from this place, beseeching thee that thy loving-kindness and mercy may follow them all the days of their lives. Preserve them in danger, strengthen them in temptation, assist them in every good work, and keep them in the right way, and grant to all a perfect trust in thee who art the only source of all knowledge and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen".

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN

1
Put thou thy trust in God
In duty's path go on;
Walk in his strength with faith and hope,
So shall thy work be done.

2
Give to the winds thy fears;
Hope, and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.

3
Who points the clouds their course,
Whom wind and seas obey,
He shall direct thy wandering feet,
He shall prepare thy way.

4
Leave to his sovereign way
To choose and to command;
So shalt thou, wondering, own his way,
How wise, how strong his hand.

The congregation will remain standing for

THE BLESSING
NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sequence of Events

- 1030 hrs — Guests arrive at
Student Sergeants' Mess
- 1115 hrs — Transport from Student Sergeants' Mess to 6 FTS Briefing Room
- 1130 hrs — Arrival of Reviewing Officer
and Station Commander
Presentation of Flying Badges - Trophies
- 1150 hrs — Inter-denominational Service of Dedication
- 1225 hrs — Transport to Student Sergeants' Mess
- 1240 hrs — Reception in Student Sergeants' Mess
- 1315 hrs — Formal Luncheon in Student Sergeants' Mess
- 1430 hrs — Cars

Music by the Band of the Royal Air Force College Cranwell
(By permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council)