

This wonderful exercise all began when I first visited the Royal Air Force Club in London in early 2010. After seeing the stunning collection of Squadron badges from the RAF and Commonwealth Air Forces, I realized that our 440 AW(F) Squadron badge was not included. A minimal amount of research, (I asked Ms Kathryn Cooper, the Assistant Club Secretary) indicated that the "oversight" could be resolved by merely providing 520 GBP to the Club and they would look after the drawing of the badge and its preparation for hanging amongst the other badges.

The next step was to approach the group attending the most recent 440 Squadron Reunion in Ottawa and see if there was any support for the endeavour. There was! All the necessary funds were raised, thank you very much, and we were off.

In early 2011, I received word from Ms Cooper that the drawing of the badge was complete and she asked for a date that the official presentation could be made. That turned out to be May 11, 2011.



Retired General Paul Manson had kindly agreed in principle at the Reunion to make the presentation on our behalf, and when approached with the proposed date, he said that he and Margaret would be pleased to be there. An enthusiastic group of Bob Hyndman, Wally and Carla Protsack, Crom and Marion Cromarty and Cliff and Lee Cassidy rounded out the participants.

We gathered in the Running Horse Saloon of the RAF Club on Tuesday evening, May 10 to renew old acquaintances and, "Oh, by the way, let's have a beer!"



L to R - Malcolm 'Crom' Cromarty, Bob Hyndman, Cliff & Lee Cassidy, Margaret & Paul Manson, Wally & Carla Protsack.

The photographer is Marion Cromarty, obviously missing from the photo. All of the men and women participating in the RAF Club Badge presentation, and in this photo, (including Marion Cromarty), were at 3 (F) Wing, Zweibrucken, Germany in the late 1950s and early 60s.



RAF Club Secretary, Peter Owen officially receives the 440 AW(F) Squadron Badge from Retired CAF General, Paul Manson, Past Canadian Armed Forces Chief of the Defence Staff, Member of the Order of Canada, and 440 Squadron member.



Canadian Armed Forces Colonel Paul Keddy; Air Force Advisor to the UK, of the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff (London), Peter Owen, Paul Manson



Paul Manson, Malcolm Cromarty, Wally Protsack, Cliff, Cassidy, Peter Owen, Paul Keddy, Bob Hyndman





Marion Cromarty, Carla Protsack, Margaret Manson, Paul Keddy, Crom Cromarty



The now famous Avro CF-100, 440 AW(F) Squadron 18393, on display in the AirSpace hangar at the Imperial War Museum (Duxford) England. Each 440 Squadron pilot and navigator participating in this RAF Club presentation had logged operational flight time in this very airplane.



Paul Manson, Crom Cromarty, Wally Protsack, Cliff Cassidy, enjoying being as close to a CF as one would want to be at this tender age. Then again, perhaps, if given the opportunity, we'd have all leapt at the chance to do just one more circuit in the wonderful old "Clunk"!

Thanks to Lee Cassidy for taking all the "Presentation" photos.

Thanks also to those who supported this venture financially and in spirit, but were not able to be in London with us.

Sincerely,

Cliff Cassidy

AI 440 AW(F) Squadron 1959-1961

If I may, I would like to dedicate this effort to my pilot and friend, the late George P. Mumby