



COASTAL COMMAND AND MARITIME AIR ASSOCIATION (CCMAA)

Between 1936 and 1969 maritime air operations were under the control of Coastal Command. On the formation of Strike Command in 1969, the former 18 and 19 Groups of Coastal Command became 18 Gp N & S within Strike Command. On 1st April 1996, Nos.18 and 11 Groups amalgamated, so combining UK air defence and maritime forces under a single AOC. On 1st April 2000 the Service was reconstructed yet again, with all maritime forces being placed in No 3 Group. Many squadron associations exist within the old Coastal framework but there was a need for a wider association which would embrace personnel of all ranks who have been or who are currently involved in maritime air operations. The concept of the Coastal Command and Maritime Air Association (CCMAA) was launched in 1995 by a committee of serving and retired maritime air personnel, headed by Air Vice Marshal Andrew Roberts.

The aim of the CCMAA is to enhance comradeship by maintaining contact between past members of air, sea and ground crews and their modern day successors, whilst preserving the traditions and learning from past and present maritime operations. We hope to assist and cooperate with Service charities and other organisations and where appropriate, represent the interests of members. In addition, we publish our own newsletter or magazine, detailing articles of interest, meetings, functions and general maritime aviation news. The newsletter is normally produced twice a year as summer and winter editions.

CCMAA membership is open to all aircrew, ground-crew, marine craft and supporting personnel of RAF, WRAF, RAuxAF, WAuxAF, Dominion and Commonwealth Air Forces and those Allied Forces who served within the framework of Coastal Command and other RAF Maritime air formations, during the period 1936 to 1969; all past members of the RAF Marine Branch; all who have served with No 18 Group and those who now serve in the Maritime element of No 3 Group. Widows or widowers of former CCMAA members, or of those who died prior to the formation of the association, are welcomed as full members. Spouses, partners and members of the immediate family of those who have served are welcome to become associate members. In short, membership of the CCMAA encompasses every member of the maritime community, irrespective of rank or status.

As a result of the dogged determination of the late Tony Spooner DSO, DFC, who reminded us all of the need for national recognition of members of the maritime community who have endeavoured to safeguard freedom around the world, the CCMAA formed a small team of volunteers in 1998 to study the feasibility of a Commemorative Project, now known as Project Constant Endeavour. The aim of Project Constant Endeavour is firstly to mark the sacrifice and contribution of all who served with Coastal Command and its overseas squadrons during the Second World War, together with its successor formations in later campaigns and secondly to promote a wider public understanding of those contributions to the cause of freedom and the security of our country.

One of the first steps was to commission the research needed to compile an authentic Book of Remembrance. Thanks to a generous legacy from Tony Spooner, this was successfully completed and dedicated by the Dean of Liverpool in the Battle of the Atlantic Service in May 2003.

A steering committee for Project Constant Endeavour was formed, chaired by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough and a full time administrator appointed. Charitable status was granted under the name of The Maritime Air Trust and HRH Prince Philip agreed to become the Patron. The target sum for the total project is £500,000. Well over half of this amount has already been raised. Funds have been used for Phase 1, a commemorative tribute in the form of a relief sculpture that was erected in the South Cloister of Westminster Abbey and was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen on 16th March 2004, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication.



Efforts are now under way to raise further funds for Phase 2 of this worthwhile cause. The next target is the wider aim in the field of public awareness. Innovative concepts are being explored with the Directors of the RAF Museum and other similar institutions, as well as the possibility of providing educational scholarships and bursaries but these ambitions will depend on the amount of further donations received.

The CCMAA as a whole meets once a year, combining the Annual General Meeting with a weekend of visits and social gatherings. We endeavour to hold each annual event in different parts of the country to give all members a fair spread of opportunities to attend. Recent venues have included Telford, Cambridge, Kinloss, Bournemouth and Lincoln. The venue for the 2005 AGM/Reunion will be Newquay, probably at the end of September or early October.

Membership is spread throughout the UK, as well as overseas, and since attendance at the AGM may present difficulties for some members, regional “get-togethers” are also encouraged.

The membership subscription of £10 per annum is payable on 1st January annually (or the next banking day after that) either by cheque or Standing Order. It helps with our administration and costs if you elect to pay by the latter.

President: Sir John Harris, Vice President: Andrew Roberts

Chairman: John Cairns

Vice Chairman Peter Gordon

Newsletter Editor: Ian Coleman, Treasurer: Hector Hillman
Webmaster: Paul Warrener

Membership Secretary: Ernie Gledhill , 22 Castleford Drive, Prestbury, Cheshire SK10 4BG email:
membership@ccmaa.org.uk

Publicity & Events Member: Bob Hall
publicity@ccmaa.org.uk

Visit the CCMAA website: www.cmaa.org.uk

**COASTAL COMMAND AND MARITIME AIR ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FORM**

Title: (Mr/Mrs/Other).....

SURNAME:..... Initials..... Known as:.....

Address:.....

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Postcode:.....

Tel No:.....

Spouse/Partner First Name:.....

E@mail Address:.....

SERVICE DETAILS

No:..... Rank..... Honours/Decorations:.....

Category (eg. Groundcrew / Aircrew {P, N, Obs, AG, S, AE etc}/ Marine Branch.)

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Squadron(s)/Units/Dates..... Locations(s)/Dates.....

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The membership subscription of £10 per annum is payable on 1st January annually (or the next banking day after that) either by cheque or Standing Order. It helps with our administration and costs if you elect to pay by the latter.

Please complete the Standing Order form or make out a cheque payable to CCMAA and send with your completed application to the Membership Secretary: Ernie Gledhill, 22 Castleford Drive, PRESTBURY, Cheshire SK10 4BG, email:

Ernie Gledhill , 22 Castleford Drive, Prestbury, Cheshire SK10 4BG

e@mail : membership@ccmaa.org.uk

Notes:

- a. Widows or widowers of personnel who would have been eligible for membership but died prior to formation may join as full members. Please provide spouses details above.
- b. Spouses, partners or members of the immediate family of those who have served and other interested parties may join as associate members.
- c. Widows or widowers of full members may receive free membership for a period of 3 years following bereavement.



CCMAA STANDING ORDER

To: The Manager
.....(Bank/Bldg Soc) Account to be debited:
.....(Branch)
.....(Address) Account Name

.....
.....
.....(Postcode) Account No:

Please pay on 1st January.....(year) and annually thereafter, the sum of Ten Pounds (£10.00) to the Coastal Command and Maritime Air Association at :

Barclays Bank
Henley-on-Thames
Oxon
Sort Code 20-39-53
Account No: 70101982

This order will remain in force until cancelled by me in writing.

CCMAA Member Name:..... Initials.....

Home Address.....
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Signature.....
Date.....