

Bloodhound News

The Newsletter of the Bloodhound Missile Preservation Group (BMPG)

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of Bloodhound News. The commitment is to publish the newsletter regularly to keep you informed. The newsletter is only available in PDF 'electronic' format so if you change your email address, please let us know.

The BMPG was inaugurated to arrange reunions and take positive action on preserving Bloodhound equipment. The motivation for establishing the group came from requests for a reunion from the web site and personal visits to aviation museums to search out their Bloodhound equipment. Apart from some exceptions I was disappointed as much is not on public display, remaining hidden away and slowly deteriorating towards oblivion. An LCP has already been 'recycled' and more Bloodhound equipment will follow if nothing is done.

I hope to be realistic as everything Bloodhound will not be saved. Most remaining Bloodhound equipment remains outdoors and its condition will eventually become unsafe until disposal is the only answer. If I have a personal vision it is to ensure that one good example of missile, launcher, LCP and radar remains for future generations.

Actions speak louder than words as the BMPG have now taken ownership of an LCP in a case of 'save it or lose it'. Further details on the LCP acquisition are contained in this newsletter.

Finally; I'm often asked this question so the answer is, 'Yes; the BMPG is for both MKI and MKII'.

Pete Harry



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Inaugural Meeting

Twenty nine attended the meeting at the Newark Air Museum. The purpose of the meeting was to inform and be informed as several of those attending have experience in organising events that will benefit the BMPG. The turnout was encouraging considering the clash with other events including the RAFLAA AGM and reunion at Weston.



A summary of the key decisions made by those attending were:

- Structure of the group
Volunteers helping to run the BMPG are free to offer their services for whatever time period they can manage. Specific projects will have a team leader to coordinate activity.
- Funding
No subscriptions but requests for donations to fund specific projects will be made.
- Date for the Reunion
It was agreed that June does not give sufficient time to organize the reunion. It was agreed the reunion be informal and moved to October. Put Saturday October 27th in your diary now. Location to be advised.

Several offers of help were gratefully received. A copy of the minutes is available on the BMPG Yahoo Group or email to request a copy.

Following the meeting a chance to look over the T86 (or is it an AD10) at Newark. Note the 'desert' cover for the air conditioning units.



The above photo shows several who attended the inaugural meeting discussing how long it would take to get the radar serviceable. One comment being 'not long as they were so reliable in service'!!!

The radar at Newark is probably the best maintained in preservation but corrosion can still be seen. Do you live near Newark? Can you help the Newark Air Museum look after their T86?

Bloodhound Force Reunion

As decided at the inaugural meeting a new date in October has been set (27th). It was agreed that June presented logistical problems plus it clashes with the holiday season. Apologies for the false start on the reunion but at least everyone will now have plenty of notice.

A good suggestion coming out of the inaugural meeting was that all interested in attending a reunion give their address or postal town so a location can be chosen that will suite the majority, so please email in your address. Data Protection will apply where you only give permission for your address to be held in the BMPG database for the sole purpose of communicating on BMPG matters.

The opportunity to visit the Duxford Bloodhound section still stands but does not have to be part of, or at the same time as, the reunion.

The first reunion will be informal. What this means is that a location will be chosen with the reunion starting at lunch time. Following the afternoon reunion you will be free to stay on or move elsewhere for dinner with old friends or whatever. Lots of good advice was given at the inaugural meeting on reunion organising and having an informal reunion was a good first step. If there is then enough support a more formal reunion will be arranged in the future. Informal means that you will be responsible for your own hotel bookings once the location has been published.

Can you help organise our October reunion?

BMPG Acquire LCP

Advertisement

Volunteers Required

Help restore a Bloodhound MKII LCP. No 'L' skills necessary and no pay. Location: West Midlands. If interested in this exciting opportunity please email: contact@bmpg.org.uk

The BMPG LCP was originally part of the Bloodhound section allocated to RAF Museum Cosford in 1991. Pete Harry initiated the acquisition with an instant decision as the LCP was under threat.

The external appearance of the LCP shows the result of the time spent in the open. It is watertight and complete internally apart from two panels that have been removed which will need replacing. To enable this contact has been made with IWM Duxford to get access to their LCP so we can re-create the missing panels by copying the

originals. Duxford have the only complete LCP left in the UK.



The LCP preservation project is being led by Neil Cartman who worked on this particular LCP. It is Ser. No. 1022, ex 25 Sqn B Flt RAF Wildenrath. 1022 was modified in 1986 to digitise the Tech. Sup. and E.C. control panels.



Modifications post 1986 to the LCP did away with the Argus 200 and used the Argus 700. The 'peg board' went to be replaced by the latest in storage technology, a Winchester Disk and paper tape reader.

The LCP cannot be left in its current location so the first priority for the project team is to get the LCP moved to a secure location and hopefully under cover. Arrangements for this move are currently under way.

Longer term it is hoped that the LCP will once again take its place alongside a missile and T86 and on public display. The project team will also be assessing the possibility of re-instating the LCP simulator. A live exhibit is better than a dead one.

Can you help with the restoration of the LCP? The project is already receiving advice from ex Ferranti staff but all LCP technical and E.C. experience will be invaluable to this project. Please email if you are able to offer any LCP knowledge or experience. You never know you may remember something that everyone else has forgotten.

We are also hopeful that a set of AP's will be available.

Internal photographs of the LCP are posted on the BMPG Yahoo Group.

Sponsors

To help fund preservation projects sponsors will be actively sought. Key organisations to approach will be those companies in the defence field that have a Bloodhound history somewhere in their past. We have to be realistic in the current economic climate.

Funding will also be sought from a Heritage Lottery grant - Your Heritage. These grants are for specific projects under £10K.

The BMPG already have a sponsor, Imtex Technologies Ltd, who have paid some incidental costs to date including those incurred for the room rent and admission for the inaugural meeting at Newark.

Radar Type 83 Discovered

Long lost Bloodhound items do turn up from time to time and perhaps the biggest surprise is that a T83 still exists at RAFM Cosford. It is believed it arrived from Henlow some years ago



The T83 is accompanied by its control cabin and apparently the scanner does survive but is not fitted. Why is it painted blue?

The T83 has been released from RAFM Cosford and has already been claimed by the Thorpe Camp Preservation Group who are arranging its transportation to their museum site (Woodhall Spa).

Scrap Yard MKI Missile

Contact has been made with the owner of Coxley scrapyard near Wells where, amongst other 'relics' in the yard, stands a MKI missile.

The history of the missile in the owner's words: 'On the day of the September 11th attack on America, I got a message from the Bason Bridge the ordnance factory near Bridgwater. They offered to sell me the missile if I could transport it. Which I did! It was situated outside their gates and they were embarrassed because the locals were getting windy about it'.



The scrap yard owner has stated they will look after the missile and is considering making a shelter for it. He is aware of the magnesium corrosion which can be a major problem with the MKI missile. The result of such corrosion is that the missile literally falls to bits. While most MKI missiles that remain are mostly an empty shell this missile is different. Richard Vernon observes: 'This is a pucker production MKI missile with all the correct stencilling and from what I can see all of the bits that should be in the missile as far forward as the Hydraulics Turbo Pump including the Rear Ref Aerial are present. I would love to see if the GW2 fuze is fitted in the warhead bay'.

Bristol Aero Collection

If you've never visited the Bristol Aero Collection at Kemble and you have the opportunity to do so be quick as they close to the public on May 28th 2012. They are open on Sundays and Mondays. Closure is due to relocating the museum.

Of interest are the many Bloodhound missile components plus a complete MKII missile and launcher purchased directly from MOD at the end of Bloodhound in the UK. Kept under cover ever since purchase it is in excellent condition and the best example of a MKII missile and launcher in the UK.

The volunteer staff at Kemble are very approachable and helpful. A number of them worked on the design and development of the Bloodhound missile at Filton and are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you.

See their web site: www.bristolaero.com



Swiss Bloodhound Museum

The Swiss approach to Bloodhound preservation is to keep a complete squadron (almost) on its operating site. Their web site is well worth a visit:

www.mhsz.ch

Click on the 'Bereich Luftwaffe' link.

The following links are to photographs taken by visitors to the museum:

www.pbase.com/karibaer/bloodhound

www.festung-schweiz.ch/bl64.html

Yahoo Group

You are encouraged to join our Yahoo Group as this is the most convenient method of communicating to a group – as its name suggests. Posted messages are seen by all in the group with any responses seen by all. You need to register to use the Yahoo Group and you cannot join the group anonymously. A Yahoo Group is safe and secure. The BMPG Yahoo Group is at: [//groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloodhound_Missile_Preservation/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloodhound_Missile_Preservation/)

Mystery Object

The following photo shows 'Taboo Zone' units photographed in the T86/AD10 at Newark. Were they part of the T86/AD10 in RAF Service (not in my day [Ed]) or were they part of a later research use? (At least two T86's were used after Bloodhound finished in RAF service). Has anyone come across these units before? Please email if you have.



Museum Happenings

Important Notice: Information under this heading is provided in good faith and any corrections will be published in future newsletters.

Museum Happenings will be a regular feature of the newsletter for updates on any Bloodhound equipment held by museums. As this newsletter will be copied to curators at aviation related museums they will be encouraged to contribute. Those in the BMPG that have close links with specific museums will be asked to keep the BMPG informed on Bloodhound

developments and/or take requests from the museum for information and help.

A recent happening: As well as the possible T83 movement Thorpe Park have recovered a MKI missile from the airfield at North Luffenham and are currently restoring it.

Web site:

www.thorpecamp.org.uk

Another happening: The Wattisham Airfield Museum is looking to rescue the Bloodhound 'remains' at North Luffenham. These include a dilapidated T86 and MKII missile on a servicing stand. The remains of an LCP may be there as well. Photos of these items are on the Bloodhound web site under 'Relics'.

Web site:

www.wattishamairfieldmuseum.org

If you are aware of any Bloodhound 'happenings' please email.

Notices

The BMPG are looking for a Health and Safety/Risk assessor to adviser. Email if you can help in any way.

Hopefully the www.bmpg.org.co web site will be up to date by May 7th 2012. Time to do problem here.

Did you Know?

There were plans to deploy Bloodhound to the Falklands in the 1980's

... and finally a mystery photo for you. Is it a MKI? Where was the photo taken? Please email in with answers to be included in the next newsletter.



Contact

Email: Contact@bmpg.org.uk
Tel. 01299 272628

www.bloodhoundmkii.org.uk
www.bmpg.org.uk

[//groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloodhound_Missile_Preservation/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloodhound_Missile_Preservation/)

Photographs courtesy of: Mike Strange, Neil Cartman and Dave Croft