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PRO REFERENCES

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Material was drawn from the following sources:

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AIR 1/51	No 1 Wing RNAS
AIR 1/93	Daily Reports Aeroplanes
AIR 1/149	No 1 Wing RNAS Daily Recce Report 1915
AIR 1/176	201 Sqn RAF 1915-1918
AIR 1/361	Operations Reports 1915
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AIR 1/479	Daily Summary of Dunkerque Base 1915
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FOREWARD

As I write this forward, I am very conscious that I am merely the current custodian of the mantle of Officer Commanding 201 (Guernsey's Own) Squadron and that I shall, with some sadness, hand the baton on to my successor in a matter of months. However, I am delighted that we have been able to generate this second edition of 'On The Step' - the official Squadron history, and am honored to be able to write the introduction.

The first thing I should say is that this new edition builds on its predecessor and, save for a few minor corrections, the original material is preserved without alteration. Indeed, I should pay tribute to the remarkable efforts of Jerry Nash, Paul Warrener and Dave Hattrick, for all the hard work that must have gone into producing such a fine volume. The second edition's team comprised Dave Allen, Nigel Ward, Chas Gimenez, Jack Dunning, James Nightingale, Graham Pratt and, once again, Paul Warrener. We owe a debt of gratitude to these people too. Finally, we should also not forget the generosity of Thales Ltd, who underpinned the production of this second volume financially. Without the dedication of such a team, and the assistance of Thales, a second volume would still merely be an aspiration.

So what is new in the second edition? Well, Volume 1 took us up to the year 1990, which we now know was in the midst of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, so much a part of everyday life of 201 Squadron for previous decades. Much of what the Squadron got up to in the Cold War will have to wait for future editions of 'On the Step,' relying on the reduction of security concerns that comes with time. However, the 13 years since Volume 1 have not seen the Squadron idle! Whilst the threat of global war may have receded, the post Cold War geopolitical environment has proved to be highly unstable, with a number of both inter and intra-national conflicts that have taken the Squadron's attention. In this volume, you will find details of the Squadron's involvement in the 1991 Gulf War and the various strands of the Balkan conflict during the 1990s. You will also see reference to both the 'War against Terrorism' and the second war against Iraq - both of which are supported by 201 Squadron crews deployed to the Middle East as I write! There are of course other dimensions to the Squadron, SAR, the Squadron HQ and the characters - all of these are represented in some way here and I hope that readers will gain a flavour of what 201 Squadron is today. I hope you enjoy the book, whether you are a current Squadron member, an 'old boy' or an enthusiast. 201 Squadron is very much alive and living up to our motto - Hic et Ubique.

Andy Fryer
Wing Commander
OC 201 Squadron
11 April 2003



Wg Cdr Andy Fryer