

2018 Air Dispatch Reunion

Those of you who were at the Farewell Dinner at the 2016 Reunion in Sydney would remember Ron McCaffery gave us a fantastic presentation of what he proposed for the International Reunion in the UK in 2018, being a 10 day tour of Scotland and Ireland.

It is believed the general consensus of opinion within the UK ADA, is that a reunion of this calibre would be too long, too far to travel and a big strain on their older members, so now the only people travelling on Ron's planned 10 day tour will be Australians, Kiwis and possibly a few Americans.

In the past 12 months, I have been in contact with the UK ADA and they have planned a five-day reunion to be held immediately after Ron's tour all the details of both tours are in the following pages

From my perspective, Ron McCaffery has supported all the International Reunions held by the US, NZ and Australia and was instrumental in the 2010 Reunion in Arnhem, Holland where a number of us did the World War I Battlefields tour and the Normandy tour, an eye-opening and mesmerising journey. It is therefore my recommendation that we as an association support his tour. That said, Joyce and myself will be attending both Ron's tour and the planned UK ADA reunion and I believe ADAA members should also support this event.

From a personal view, the UK ADA, with the exception of Ron McCaffery and Reg Hollins and their wives, have not supported any International Reunions since at least 2006. There is now a new driving force within this organisation and his name is George Hilliar, who with his wife Cindy we met last year. A younger man with some very good ideas (the five-day reunion being one of them). If we as an association fail to support the UK ADA reunion, it could possibly mark the end of International Reunions as we know them, which would be very disappointing as a lot of work and planning go into them.

After discussions with my New Zealand counterpart, Ash Ashby, we are looking at a combined Australian/New Zealand (ANZAC) Contingent to attend the 2018 reunion. This is designed to show a combined front to the UK ADA and the Red Hat Chapter (US Riggers) as well as our commitment to holding these International Reunions in the future.

2018 Air Dispatch Reunion

The UK ADA is still in the planning stages and calculating costings for their event but we need some idea of those who would be interested in attending one or both events.

Please tick the box which identifies your intention in regard to next years International Reunion and either post to PO Box 483 Helensburgh, NSW 2508, or scan and email to reunion2018@adaa.net.au. It is requested these responses be forwarded to our committee before the 31 October 17. This is not a binding document and only designed to get some idea of numbers who may wish to attend.

Cheers

Nick Nicolai

President ADAA

22 July 17

Please mark one of the following boxes and return to the Committee

I/We will be attending BOTH the tour and the reunion 10 – 26 August 18

I/We will be attending the tour ONLY 10 – 21 August 18

I/We will be attending the reunion ONLY 21 – 26 August 18

Please print names of those attending -----

Air Dispatch Tour of Scotland & Ireland 2018

- **Day 1 Friday August 10**

Arrival into Glasgow airport. Transfer to your hotel. Join your travel companions for a welcome drink before dinner and overnight.

- **Day 2 Saturday August 11**

Breakfast. Meet your tour guide and set out on an introductory tour of central Glasgow. This is a city that flourished in Victorian times due to the shipbuilding industry and international trade. Drive around George Square with its ornate City Chambers and visit Provand's Lordship, Glasgow's oldest house built in 1471. The house was originally part of a hospital and has been extensively restored and furnished. Dinner and overnight

- **Day 3 Sunday August 12**

Breakfast. Travel alongside the famous Loch Lomond, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty and through the deep valley of Glen Coe, notorious for the Campbell massacre of the Clan Macdonald in 1692. Drive through Fort William and stop at the Spean Bridge Woollen Mill, which offers a good selection of quality Scottish goods. Short cruise on Loch Ness to keep an eye out for 'Nessie'. Dinner and overnight.

- **Day 4 Monday August 13**

Breakfast. We visit a whisky distillery, learn how its distilled and sample some. Continue south to St Andrews, renowned as the 'Home of Golf' and for its university, Scotland's oldest. Spend some time to explore on your own. Drive south to Edinburgh. Overnight

- **Day 5 Tuesday August 14**

Breakfast. This morning tour the principal sights of Edinburgh. Drive along the bustling Princes Street and through the gracious, wide streets of the 200 year old Gregorian New Town. Walk along part of the Royal Mile where compact medieval houses reach 11 floors tall. Visit Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the city and contains the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of the Scone. The balance of the day is free.

Dine at a Scottish Evening on some excellent Scottish cuisine followed by a lively show with songs, stories and traditional dancing. Overnight.

- **Day 6 Wednesday August 15**

Breakfast. Day at leisure in the Scottish capital.

Option: In the early evening we'll head to the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle for the Military Tattoo (*additional cost*) - for a fantastic evening of music, pomp and pageantry, which ends with the spectacle of the lone piper patrolling the battlements, silhouetted against the night sky. Overnight.

- **Day 7 Thursday August 16**

Air Dispatch Tour of Scotland & Ireland 2018

Breakfast. Depart Edinburgh early this morning and drive south through Ayrshire and along the coast, At Cairryan take a ferry ride to Belfast and enjoy a casual lunch on board. Visit Titanic Belfast to learn about this famous liner which was built in the adjacent docks. State-of-the-art displays describe working conditions in the shipbuilding industry and the construction of the Titanic. Drive south to Dublin and check into your hotel. This evening is free. Overnight.

- **Day 8 Friday August 17**

Breakfast. Tour central Dublin today to see fashionable shopping areas around Grafton and Nassau Streets, view elegant Georgian squares and pass the General Post Office, where the 1916 Uprising started. Walk through the campus of Trinity College with a student guide to view the illuminated manuscript of the 8th century book of Kells and learn how monks created this and other masterpieces. In the evening enjoy a canal dinner cruise with traditional Irish music aboard a former Guinness barge through central Dublin. Overnight.

- **Day 9 Saturday August 18**

Breakfast. Travel through the midlands of Ireland, stopping for photos at the stately Rock of Cashel. Visit a farmhouse for tea with scones and watch skilled sheep dogs herd sheep. Continue south to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the famous 'Stone of Eloquence'. Also visit the Blarney Woollen Mills where you can find quality Irish-made goods. Drive to Killarney, picturesquely set beside lakes and mountains. Check in at your hotel and relax before dinner. Afterwards you may like to explore some of Killarney's famous singing pubs. Dinner and overnight.

- **Day 10 Sunday August 19**

Breakfast. Visit Ross Castle set on Lough Leane. Then embark on the Ring of Kerry - a winding route with breath-taking sights of mountains and coastal views. Cross to Valentia Island by bridge to visit the Skellig experience which describes the austere lives of early Christian monks on the nearby islands. Enjoy a casual lunch and stop in Sneem to admire brightly painted houses. Pause at Moll's Gap for stunning views before returning to Killarney where you have an evening free for independent dining and activities. Overnight.

- **Day 11 Monday August 20**

Breakfast. Take a ferry ride across the River Shannon to reach the Cliffs of Moher, a spectacular wall of sandstone that reaches 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. If you wish, you may visit the Bunratty Folk Park, have a drink in the 200 year old Dirty Nelly's Pub or shop at the Bunratty Mills. In the evening head to Bunratty Castle for a memorable medieval style feast where the lords and ladies will serenade you with song and harp music, evocative of the Middle Ages. Overnight.

- **Day 12 Tuesday August 21**

Breakfast. Transfer to Dublin airport

UK Air Despatch International Reunion 2018

- **Tuesday 21 August**

Travel from Dublin to Birmingham. UK ADA will arrange transport from airport to hotel - free day

- **Wednesday 22 August**

Visit to the helicopter museum at Weston-Super-Mare then in the afternoon on the way home a visit to the town of Bath

- **Thursday 23 August**

Visit the Garden of Remembrance and the Air Dispatch Window at All Saints Church, Down Ampney & 47 AD Sqn at RAF Brize Norton

- **Friday 24 August**

Visit Stratford on Avon (Shakespeare) & Warwick castle (a medieval castle)

The longest trip will be from the hotel to the helicopter museum at Weston-Super-Mare, which is about 2 hours.

Friday night looks like the UK ADA people will start to attend and they are looking at a buffet style meal and get together

- **Saturday 25 August**

Visit the National Arboretum including the AD Tree and the AD Memorial Stone. That evening the Formal Reunion Dinner

- **Sunday 26 August** – Breakfast then disperse to do our own travels