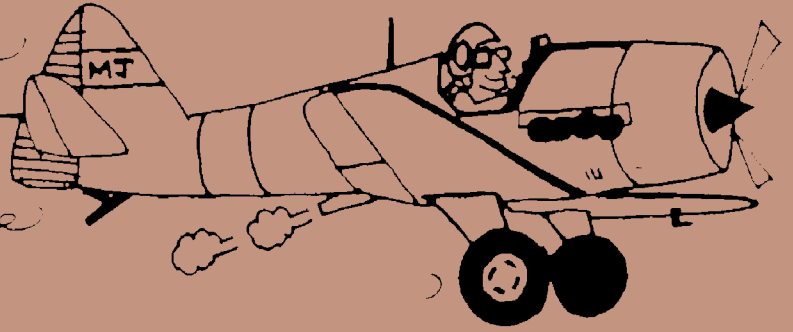


Ancient Aviator Anecdotes



The poem below was composed by Mrs Shirley Parker to mark the 90th birthday of her husband AVM Cecil Parker and read at a surprise party organised by their daughter Shalini and son Kevin on 22 November 2022

LEAVES FROM LOCHINVAR'S LOG BOOK

Now young Lochinvar he came south with a zest
To learn how to fly he said was his quest.
But going to church with intentions so good
He found young Maid Marion sans Robin Hood.
While learning to fly his aircraft caught fire
But bail out he did from a plight so dire.
Though injured while leaving the plane all aflame,
God opened his chute so down safely he came.
Then off to the north our hero he went,
Each day to the maiden a letter he sent.
With his eloquent prose he gained her permission
On a Valentine's Day he completed his mission.
In the years by and by the family did flourish,
As our hero with jet engines his passion did nourish,
Till the war clouds, so angry, over land they did spread,
Filling the poor maiden's heart with much dread.
The conflict it raged over land and the air,
While Lochinvar did his squadron prepare
For the call to the battle with sirens began,
Cometh the moment, cometh the man.
Peace reigned at last, the victory was won
He looks on with pride at a job so well done.
Award and praises on him they did shower
His record still stands tall of that darkest hour.
Fifty years later when the story is told,
The country paid honour for valour so bold.
But time flies by and memories fade,
The valiant few recall how history was made.
With the passing of time there are no backward looks,
Recounting events in his writings and books.
The ups and the downs and the calm and the storm
His life on the pages in anecdotal form.
No waiting as yet for the whistle to blow,
When life is at ebb and not with the flow
While defying all odds makes dreams come true,
If you fit his mould, this should work for you.
"For men may come and men may go
But when comes such another?"
(With apologies to Alfred Lord Tennyson)

