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BOOK REVIEW

Your Number's Not Dry

by Eric Hayes, MBE

*Serendipity Publishers: Darlington, UK;
2007; 333 pp.; ISBN 978-1-84394-213-9;
Price UK Pounds 14.95'*

This is an easy-to-read insight into life in the Royal Air Force (RAF) from immediately after World War II until the early 1990s, a period during which the world political landscape changed markedly. Written with the typical humour (some would say dark humour) of those who have happily served in the military, whatever the colour of their uniform, it traces the career of the author, who joined the RAF as a Boy Entrant in 1949 to be trained as an Electrical Mechanic (Air), progressing to Technician, then to NCO Aircrew, finally to be commissioned in 1966 as a Flight Engineer. He retired from the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant in 1992 after a number of years in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation posts. His book brings to life many of the older aircraft, including the introduction of the Hercules into RAF service, and describes life on many of the bases in England and overseas operated and used by the RAF during his period of service. It is a delightful read for anyone who served in the RAF during this period, but would be of interest to anyone who wishes to gain an insight into life in the Services, with all of its up and downs, in the second half of the 20th century. A copy of the book has been donated to the library by Dr James Hayes, a member of our Institute and the author's brother.

Doug Roser

¹Available from: Serendipity, 21 Evans Business Centre, Lingfield Road, Darlington, DL1 4PS, UK.