

“F/Sgt Penny and crew failed to return.”

So reads the stark entry in the Ministry of War records of 23 November 1942.

At the insistence of his loving wife Ursula, Flight Lieutenant James A Penny (he was commissioned as an Officer after the war) began writing his memoirs as something he could pass on to his wonderful family. Well into his eighties, he acquired a computer, and started writing his life story. And what a story it is!

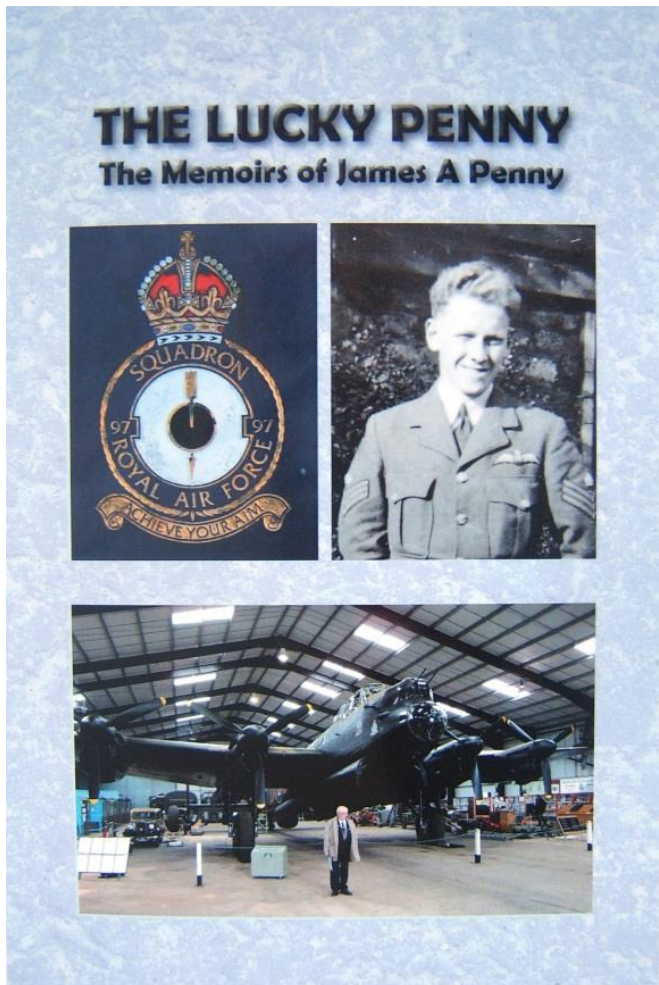
The level of detail that Jim has been able to recall is truly amazing. As his brave generation slips away from us, it becomes ever more important that their stories are captured for the future.

Although the primary focus of this book was to be something he could pass on to his family, its level of detail and the informative commentary make it a highly interesting and delightful read for everyone.

From the vantage point of his 91 years, Jim has reflected upon all of his life, how much he owed to a wonderful family upbringing and, after the war, to his beloved wife and loving family and to the RAF in which, after his dramatic wartime experiences, he remained to complete 30 years service. Perhaps the most important aspect of Jim's story is that it shows how the values which he and thousands like him fought so bravely to defend are as relevant today as they were then and which he asserts continue in the Forces of today.

The importance of family, of challenging intolerance and injustice, and of acting with integrity and fairness all shine through.

How lucky are we, the generations that follow Jim and his contemporaries, that they were willing to risk so much to keep these values alive. Our best way of honouring what they achieved is to ensure that we apply those guiding principles to our own lives.



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Available from Jim at £9.99, from www.amazon.co.uk or from the publisher's website www.fast-print.net/bookshop .

Jim is donating £1 to the RAF Benevolent Fund for every book sold.