

An extract from Ken Archer's book written for his family

The Way It Was



By Kenneth Archer

Chapter 1

Reporting suitcase in hand on the 13th October 1941 to the Lords cricket ground or ACRC London as it was called, was an event to remember. Standing on the famous turf with several hundred other volunteers was an experience to cherish. However, we were not there to play cricket but to join the RAFVR as air cadets. I had applied earlier in the year and passed the preliminary medical, but being under eighteen years at the time, persuading my parents that they should give their approval proved difficult. The nightly blitz and the land mine explosion at the top of our road blowing open our front door and propelling me from the entrance to the kitchen, convinced them that I would be no worse off in the Royal Air Force.