



**Royal Air Force  
North Weald  
1916-1964**

**Debt of Honour**

*For your tomorrow we gave our today*

# The Personnel

Aircrews from at least seven nations have been stationed at North Weald and, at one time or another, the local holsteries have echoed to the accents of Americans, Canadians, New Zealanders, Czechs, Norwegians and Poles. Altogether, 260 men, women

and civilians lost their lives while serving at the Station in peace and war and in the Debt of Honour no distinction has been drawn between death in the face of the enemy or in an accident on or around the airfield. All served . . . and all paid the supreme sacrifice.

## The First World War

December 5, 1917	2nd Lt Thomas Pritchard, No. 39 Sqn	June 13, 1918	Flt Cdt John MacKay, No. 39 Sqn
January 22, 1918	2nd Lt Aubrey Hurst, No. 39 Sqn	July 31, 1918	Lt Charles Jordan, No. 39 Sqn
June 13, 1918	2nd Lt Jack Boles, No. 39 Sqn	November 6, 1918	Mbr Grace Collins, No. 39 Sqn

## The Inter-War years

June 27, 1929	F/O Vickers Eyre, No. 56 Sqn	November 6, 1934	LAC George Paterson, No. 56 Sqn
October 11, 1929	F/O John Clarke, No. 29 Sqn	September 30, 1937	AC1 Robert Pull, No. 29 Sqn
June 17, 1930	W/Cdr Bernard Smythies, Station HQ	"	AC2 Brinley South, No. 56 Sqn
October 18, 1930	F/Lt Oswald Worsley, No. 29 Sqn	"	Sgt Arthur Wood, No. 29 Sqn
November 4, 1930	F/O Max Barnett, No. 56 Sqn	April 24, 1939	Sgt Sydney Evetts, No. 56 Sqn
January 12, 1931	F/O Frank Lemon, No. 29 Sqn	June 6, 1939	Sgt Gordon Hughes, No. 17 Sqn
March 19, 1931	P/O David Angell, No. 29 Sqn	June 12, 1939	P/O Peter Charlton, No. 151 Sqn
February 15, 1933	LAC Ernest Walden, No. 29 Sqn	August 4, 1939	P/O Peter Phillips, No. 151 Sqn
September 3, 1934	F/O John Bigelow, No. 29 Sqn		

## The Second World War

### 1939

September 6	P/O Montagu Hulton-Harrap, No. 56 Sqn (The first casualty of RAF Fighter Command in WWII)	November 14	P/O William Ross, No. 604 Sqn
October 13	AC2 Harold Melvin, No. 604 Sqn	November 27	Cpl Charles Francis, Station HQ
"	AC2 Jack Warry, No. 604 Sqn	November 29	LAC Vernon Oliver, No. 604 Sqn
October 18	F/O Edward Prescott, No. 604 Sqn	"	F/O Philip Wheeler, No. 604 Sqn
"	LAC Albert Roberts, No. 604 Sqn	December 22	AC1 Martin Molony, Station North Weald

### 1940

February 18	P/O Harold Lovell, No. 151 Sqn	September 2	P/O John Bailey, No. 46 Sqn
March 27	P/O Peter Brierley, No. 25 Sqn	September 3	John Diprase, Civilian
April 2	P/O Henry Fenton, No. 151 Sqn	"	Sgt Gerald Edworthy, No. 46 Sqn
May 18	F/O Frank Rose, No. 56 Sqn	"	P/O Douglas Hogg, No. 25 Sqn
"	F/Lt Ian Soden, No. 56 Sqn	"	Arthur Sweeting, Civilian
May 25	P/O John Bushell, No. 151 Sqn	"	Stanley Wright, Civilian
"	Flt/Lt Frederick Ives, No. 151 Sqn	September 7	P/O Robert Fleming, No. 249 Sqn
May 29	Sgt James Elliott, No. 56 Sqn	September 9	S/Lt Jack Carpenter, No. 46 Sqn
June 13	F/O James Mycock, No. 25 Sqn	September 11	Sgt Stanley Andrew, No. 46 Sqn
June 17	F/O Leonid Ereminsky, No. 151 Sqn	"	Sgt William Peacock, No. 46 Sqn
June 18	Sgt Maurice Aslin, No. 151 Sqn	September 14	F/O Richard Plummer, No. 46 Sqn
"	P/O Leslie Wright, No. 151 Sqn	September 15	F/O Hugh Lambert, No. 25 Sqn
June 28	F/O Kenneth Newton, No. 151 Sqn	"	F/O Miles Miley, No. 25 Sqn
July 9	Lt John Howitt, Essex Rgt	"	LAC John Wyatt, No. 25 Sqn
July 12	F/O James Allen, No. 151 Sqn	September 18	Sgt George Jefferys, No. 46 Sqn
July 13	Sgt Joseph Whitfield, No. 56 Sqn	"	F/Lt Denis Parnall, No. 249 Sqn
"	Sgt James Cowsill, No. 56 Sqn	September 27	F/O Percival Burton, No. 249 Sqn
July 24	P/O Jack Hamar, No. 151 Sqn	"	P/O James Meaker, No. 249 Sqn
July 29	F/Sgt Cecil Cooney, No. 56 Sqn	September 30	P/O John Crossman, No. 46 Sqn
August 11	Sgt Ronald Baker, No. 56 Sqn	October 10	Sgt Edward Bayley, No. 249 Sqn
August 12	P/O Robert Beley, No. 151 Sqn	October 15	P/O Peter Gunning, No. 46 Sqn
August 15	P/O Mieczyslaw Rozwadowski, No. 151 Sqn	"	F/Sgt Eric Williams, No. 46 Sqn
"	P/O James Johnson, No. 151 Sqn	October 22	Sgt Robert Fraser, No. 257 Sqn
August 17	F/O John Coghlan, No. 56 Sqn	"	P/O Norman Heywood, No. 257 Sqn
August 18	P/O John Ramsay, No. 151 Sqn	"	Sgt Joseph Morrison, No. 46 Sqn
August 24	Pte John Barnes, Essex Rgt	October 26	P/O William Pattullo, No. 46 Sqn
"	Pte John Bates, Essex Rgt	October 29	AC1 Harold Elliott, Station North Weald
"	Pte Frederick Elliott, Essex Rgt	"	Sgt Alexander Girdwood, No. 257 Sqn
"	Pte Stephen Held, Essex Rgt	"	AC1 Luis Harradine, Station North Weald
"	Pte Samuel Knight, Essex Rgt	"	AC1 Thomas Saunders, No. 249 Sqn
"	Pte Nathaniel Miles, Essex Rgt	"	AC2 Thomas Rothwell, No. 257 Sqn
"	Pte Monty Pincus, Essex Rgt	"	George Tyrrell, Civilian
"	Pte Stephen Shuster, Essex Rgt	October 30	P/O William Millington, DFC, No. 249 Sqn
"	Pte Douglas Wood, Essex Rgt	November 1	Sgt Roger de Cannart d'Hamale, No. 46 Sqn
August 26	F/O Robert Edwards, No. 1 (RCAF) Sqn	November 2	P/O William Cochrane, Station HQ
August 30	Sgt Feliks Gmur, No. 151 Sqn	November 9	Sgt Bert Black, No. 46 Sqn
"	S/Ldr Eric King, No. 151 Sqn	December 5	P/O Cecil Young, No. 46 Sqn
August 31	F/Lt Percy Weaver, No. 56 Sqn		

February 5 Sgt Rowland Jones, No. 56 Sqn  
 February 26 Sgt Arnold Turner, No. 56 Sqn  
 April 7 P/O Richard Wynn, No. 249 Sqn  
 April 20 F/O Norman Edmond, No. 242 Sqn  
 April 23 Sgt Alan David, No. 242 Sqn  
 April 26 Sgt Arthur Vaughan, No. 242 Sqn  
 May 21 Flt/Sgt George Hoyle, No. 56 Sqn  
 May 31 P/O Kazimierz Kubiak, No. 56 Sqn  
 June 14 P/O Tomas Kozak, No. 242 Sqn  
 June 17 Sgt Richard Carvill, No. 56 Sqn  
 " P/O Patrick Harris, No. 56 Sqn  
 " P/O Peter Robinson, No. 56 Sqn  
 Flt/Lt Bruce Rogers, No. 242 Sqn  
 July 23 Sgt Alfred Gregory, No. 111 Sqn  
 August 5 P/O William Driver, No. 71 Sqn  
 August 9 P/O Benjamin Squires, No. 111 Sqn  
 " P/O Kenneth Taylor, No. 71 Sqn  
 August 19 P/O Virgil Olson, No. 71 Sqn

January 8 P/O Jack Gilliland, No. 121 Sqn  
 January 17 Flt/Sgt Arthur Monserez, No. 403 Sqn  
 January 25 P/O Frederick Duggan, No. 222 Sqn  
 January 27 Sgt Maurice Rusk, No. 222 Sqn  
 February 9 Sgt Albert Stockwell, No. 3 Works Sqn  
 February 12 P/O John Cawsey, No. 403 Sqn  
 February 27 P/O James Ross, No. 222 Sqn  
 " Sgt John Wilson, No. 222 Sqn  
 March 8 P/O Douglas Aitken, No. 403 Sqn  
 March 17 AC2 Douglas Brooker, No. 121 Sqn  
 April 11 Airman Claude Rammond, No. 222 Sqn  
 April 14 Flt/Lt Cyril Wood, No. 403 Sqn  
 April 15 Sergeant Pierre Mathillon, No. 222 Sqn  
 April 17 Flt/Sgt Frederick Austin, No. 121 Sqn  
 April 25 P/O William Munn, No. 403 Sqn  
 " P/O William Zoochkan, No. 403 Sqn  
 April 27 Flt/Lt Henry Duval, No. 403 Sqn  
 April 28 Sgt Ralph Batman, No. 222 Sqn  
 " P/O Carl Bodding, No. 121 Sqn  
 April 30 Lt Colin Steyn (SAAF), No. 222 Sqn  
 May 4 P/O Robert Brossmer, No. 121 Sqn  
 " P/O Ralph Freiberg, No. 121 Sqn  
 May 25 S/Ldr Jerzy Jankiewicz, No. 222 Sqn

January 20 Lt Peder Mollestad, No. 332 Sqn  
 January 21 LAC Clifford Jones, No. 124 Sqn  
 January 26 V/Sgt Emil Samuelsen, No. 332 Sqn  
 January 30 Sgt Johan Eyde, No. 332 Sqn  
 February 10 Sgt Reidar Watne, No. 332 Sqn  
 February 17 Flt/Lt Frederick Chalk, No. 124 Sqn  
 " F/O Bernard Hull, No. 124 Sqn  
 February 20 Sgt Bruce Hirstch, No. 124 Sqn  
 April 5 Sgt Sverre Larsen, No. 332 Sqn  
 April 13 Sgt Eyolf Berg-Olsen, No. 331 Sqn  
 " Sgt Birk Gilje, No. 331 Sqn  
 April 16 Sgt Gustav Koren, No. 331 Sqn  
 May 2 Sgt Fredrik Eitzen, No. 331 Sqn

January 3 Flt/Lt Roger Cook, No. 168 Sqn  
 January 4 Fen Bjørn Stenstad, No. 331 Sqn  
 January 14 Flt/Lt Richard Bock, No. 168 Sqn  
 January 30 F/O Samuel Seddon, No. 268 Sqn  
 January 28 F/O Michael Graham, No. 2 Sqn  
 " F/O Gordon McPherson, No. 2 Sqn  
 February 9 V/Sgt Otto Treider, No. 331 Sqn  
 February 11 AC2 John Brooks, No. 2 Sqn  
 February 19 Fen Reidar Olsen, No. 331 Sqn  
 February 25 Lt Fredrik Fearnley, No. 331 Sqn  
 March 20 F/O Robert Ward, No. 1 Sqn  
 March 25 Sgt Halldor Espelid, No. 331 Sqn  
 " Fen Nils Fuglesang, No. 332 Sqn

April 6 F/O James Kocaj, No. 285 Sqn  
 May 18 Flt/Sgt Teddy Redstone, No. 287 Sqn  
 July 27 W/O Franciszek Bak, No. 301 Sqn

June 15, 1949 Pilot 2 Norman Wright, No. 601 Sqn  
 May 1, 1951 F/O Harold Taylor, No. 72 Sqn  
 June 4, 1951 Sgt Charles Hunter, No. 72 Sqn  
 September 10, 1951 AC1 Francis Cross, No. 604 Sqn  
 January 7, 1952 Sgt Peter Atkinson, No. 72 Sqn  
 July 12, 1952 F/Lt Raymond Wyborn, No. 72 Sqn  
 " Sgt Cecil Randall, No. 72 Sqn  
 October 17, 1952 P/O Ian Carmichael, No. 72 Sqn

## 1941

August 19 P/O George Skelly, No. 111 Sqn  
 August 27 Flt/Lt John Martin, No. 222 Sqn  
 August 28 LAC Harold Dicker, No. 71 Sqn  
 " P/O Jack Weir, No. 71 Sqn  
 August 29 Wing/Cdr John Gillan, Wing Leader  
 September 7 P/O Hillard Fenlaw, No. 71 Sqn  
 " P/O Eugene Tobin, No. 71 Sqn  
 September 17 P/O Thomas McGerty, No. 71 Sqn  
 September 20 Flt/Lt Lionel Pilkington, No. 111 Sqn  
 September 21 Sgt Kenneth Haine, No. 111 Sqn  
 " Flt/Sgt Robert Wharton, No. 111 Sqn  
 September 28 Flt/Sgt John Connolly, No. 111 Sqn  
 October 15 P/O Roger Atkinson, No. 71 Sqn  
 October 22 P/O Lawrence Chatterton, No. 71 Sqn  
 November 15 S/Ldr Stanley Meares, No. 71 Sqn  
 " P/O Ross Scarborough, No. 71 Sqn  
 December 8 P/O Thomas Robinson, No. 222 Sqn  
 December 22 LAC John Natrass, No. 403 Sqn

## 1942

May 27 Sgt Colin Armstrong, No. 222 Sqn  
 May 31 Flt/Lt Thomas Allen, No. 121 Sqn  
 June 19 Lt Karl Jacobsen, No. 331 Sqn  
 June 29 Lt Arve Aas, No. 332 Sqn  
 July 21 Lt Henning Leifseth, No. 331 Sqn  
 July 24 Sgt Erik Malm, No. 332 Sqn  
 July 30 Sgt Barry Kaye, No. 222 Sqn  
 July 31 Sgt Svein Nygaard, No. 332 Sqn  
 " Sgt Olav Tandberg, No. 332 Sqn  
 August 19 P/O John Gardiner, No. 403 Sqn  
 " P/O Norman Monchier, No. 403 Sqn  
 " P/O Leclare Walker, No. 403 Sqn  
 August 29 Sgt William Meachen, No. 242 Sqn  
 October 2 Sgt Frithjof Cleve, No. 331 Sqn  
 " P/O Raymond Phillips, No. 486 Sqn  
 " Sgt Roald Sorensen, No. 331 Sqn  
 October 11 V/Sgt Jan Løfsgaard, No. 332 Sqn  
 October 16 Sgt Yves de Castro Henrichsen, No. 332 Sqn  
 November 20 Lt Ulf Tandberg, No. 332 Sqn  
 November 29 Sgt Einar Olsen, No. 331 Sqn  
 " V/Sgt Guy Owren, No. 331 Sqn  
 December 13 Kapt Stein Sem, No. 331 Sqn

## 1943

May 12 Sgt Bernt Barge, No. 332 Sqn  
 May 14 Flt/Sgt Eric Phelps, No. 124 Sqn  
 May 22 Sgt Erik Sand, No. 332 Sqn  
 May 26 P/O Lawrence Haynes, No. 124 Sqn  
 June 3 Flt/Sgt Leslie Morshead, No. 124 Sqn  
 June 22 Lt Helge Sognæs, No. 331 Sqn  
 July 15 V/Sgt Harold Odman, No. 332 Sqn  
 September 3 LAC John Hall, No. 2715 RAF Regiment Sqn  
 September 9 Sgt Haakon Horg, No. 331 Sqn  
 September 27 Sgt Arild Hellan, No. 331 Sqn  
 December 12 F/O Kenneth Ewins, No. 168 Sqn  
 December 14 Flt/Lt Robert Wakeling, No. 63 Sqn

## 1944

March 26 Sgt Petter Aasebø, No. 331 Sqn  
 April 24 LAC Royston Lockwood, No. 74 Sqn  
 May 6 LAC Ernest Burgess, No. 127 Sqn  
 July 22 LAC Albert Day, No. 116 Sqn  
 " W/O Anthony Webber, No. 116 Sqn  
 August 9 W/O Leonard Woolgar, Station Ferry Flight  
 August 31 Flt/Lt Frantisek Rehör, No. 310 Sqn  
 September 3 P/O Antonin Skach, No. 310 Sqn  
 October 5 Flt/Sgt Leonard Stockwell, No. 234 Sqn  
 October 19 Sgt Isikeli Komaisaval, No. 234 Sqn  
 October 24 Flt/Lt Leslie Rookley, No. 63 Sqn  
 December 23 Flt/Lt Jaroslav Kauer, No. 310 Sqn

## 1945

July 27 Sgt Eugeniusz Kocoń, No. 301 Sqn  
 " F/Sgt Antoni Mikołajczak, No. 301 Sqn  
 " F/Lt Alojzy Ratajczak, No. 301 Sqn

## The Post-War years

October 17, 1952 F/O Charles Muldownie, No. 72 Sqn  
 February 20, 1954 F/Lt Andrew Lang, No. 604 Sqn  
 " P/O Byron Lewis, No. 604 Sqn  
 April 3, 1954 F/O Peter Austin, No. 604 Sqn  
 August 11, 1956 F/Lt Roland Hammerbeck, Sector Ops  
 June 7, 1957 F/O David Garratt, No. 111 Sqn  
 July 30, 1957 S/Ldr Leslie Mersham, OC Station Flight

# The Airfield

In two world wars, North Weald aerodrome has served as a cornerstone in the defence of London and south-east England against German raiders from the East. The airfield became operational in August 1916 to counter the growing menace of the German airships and, two months later, became headline news following the successful destruction of the Zeppelin at Potters Bar.

On the evening of October 1, 2nd Lieutenant Wulstan Tempest of No. 39 Home Defence Squadron (based at Sutton's Farm at Hornchurch) was dining with his fiancée in Epping. Summoned to action by telephone, he rushed by motorbike to North Weald; took off; shot down L.31; crash-landed back on the airfield; drove back to Epping to receive a hero's welcome . . . before finishing his meal!

Some eighteen months later, on the night of May 19/20, 1918, two North Weald airmen, Lieutenant Tony Arkell and 1st Airman Albert Stagg of No. 39 Squadron, achieved the airfield's second 'kill' when they brought down a Gotha bomber at Roman Road, East Ham.

During the Second World War, aircrews flying from North Weald claimed over 500 German aircraft destroyed, both over the UK and the Continent.

The airfield's peacetime role included hosting the RAF's aerobatic team — the Black Arrows of No. 111 Squadron; a base for transport aircraft and jet fighters; a Sector Operations Centre; a Personnel Selection and Despatch Centre, and an army barracks, before it was sold to Epping Forest District Council in 1980-82.

## The Squadrons

Over 50 squadrons have been based at the airfield. The first was No. 39 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps in August 1916 and the last No. 111 Squadron — the famous 'Treble One' — of the Royal Air Force which left in February 1958. The airfield was reduced to inactive status on September 1, 1964. The following squadrons saw service at North Weald:

**No. 1** (Squadron Code JX): Detachments August-September 1940 April 1944. **No.1 (RCAF)** (YO) Detachments August-September 1940. **No. 2** (XV): November 1943, January-February 1944. **No. 4** (FV): November 1943. **No. 17** (UV): May-September 1939. **No. 19** (QV): June-July 1953. **No. 25** (ZK): January-June 1940, September-October 1940. **No. 26** 'South African' (RM): January-April 1945. **No. 29** (YB): April 1928-October 1935, September 1936-November 1937. **No. 33** (5R): April-May 1944. **No. 39**: August 1916-November 1918. **No. 44** 'Rhodesia': July-December 1919. **No. 46** 'Uganda' (PO): November-December 1940. **No. 56** 'Punjab' (LR/US): October 1927-May 1940, June-September 1940, December 1940-June 1941. **No. 63** (UB): November 1943-January 1944, September 1944-January 1945. **No. 64**: July-August 1937. **No. 66** (LZ): March 1944. **No. 71** 'Eagle' (American) (XR): June-December 1941. **No. 72** 'Basutoland' (FG): March 1950-July 1953. **No. 74** 'Trinidad' (4D): April-May 1944. **No. 75**: 'New Zealand' May 1918-June 1919. **No. 111** (JU): May-June 1940, July-November 1941, December 1941, December 1953-February 1958. **No. 116** (II): July-August 1944. **No. 121** 'Eagle' (American) (AV):

December 1941-June 1942. **No. 124** 'Baroda' (ON): November 1942-July 1943. **No. 127** (9N): April-May 1944. **No. 130** 'Punjab' (AP): May 1945. **No. 151** (DZ): August 1936-February 1940, May-September 1940. **No. 168** (DE): November 1943-February 1944. **No. 222** 'Natal' (ZD): August 1941-May 1942, July-August 1942. **No. 234** 'Madras Presidency' (AZ): August-December 1944. **No. 242** 'Canadian' (LE): May-July 1941, August-September 1942. **No. 249** 'Gold Coast' (GN): September 1940-May 1941. **No. 257** 'Burma' (DT): October-November 1940. **No. 268** (NM): January-March 1944. **No. 275** (GG/PV): October-November 1940, June-July 1953. **No. 285** (VG): January-June 1945. **No. 287** (KZ): July 1944-June 1945. **No. 288** (RP): August-November 1944. **No. 301** 'Pomorski' (Polish) (GR): July-September 1945. **No. 304** 'Śląski' (Polish) (QD): July-September 1945. **No. 310** (Czechoslovak) (NN): August-December 1944. **No. 312** (Czechoslovak) (DU): August-October 1944. **No. 313** (Czechoslovak) (RY): October-December 1944. **No. 331** (Norwegian) (FN): May 1942-March 1944, April-May 1945. **No. 332** (Norwegian) (AH/HG): June 1942-March 1944, April-May 1945. **No. 403** 'Wolf' (Canadian) (KH): December 1941-May 1942, August 1942. **No. 412** 'Falcon' (Canadian) (VZ): June 1942. **No. 419** Flight: August-October 1940. **No. 486** (New Zealand) (SA): September-October 1942. **No. 601** 'County of London' (RAH): March 1949-March 1957. **No. 604** 'County of Middlesex' (NG/RAK): September-October 1938, September 1939-January 1940, March 1949-March 1957. **No. 695** (4M): November 1946-April 1947.

## The Memorial

In June 1952, HRH The Crown Princess of Norway, Princess Astrid, unveiled a granite obelisk beside the main gate, on behalf of the two Norwegian squadrons which were based at the airfield during the Second World War, dedicated 'in gratitude to the Royal Air Force, to the RAF Station North Weald, and to the people of the district'. However, there has been no memorial specifically commemorating the service of the hundreds of aircrew and thousands of airmen and women who served at North Weald of whom so many lost their lives in the Allied cause.

Over the years, several proposals have been put forward to rectify the omission but not until February 2000 was the present memorial conceived. It has been specifically designed to be complementary — and to enhance — the original from Norway. The North Weald Airfield Memorial was dedicated on Sunday, September 3, 2000 — the 60th anniversary of the heaviest raid on the airfield. The memorial incorporates a bronze cabinet housing the Debt of Honour and visitors are encouraged to take a copy as a reminder of the debt we owe to those who entered the main gate . . . never to return.

Compiled and produced by

After the Battle, Church House, Church Street, London E15 3JA

September 2000

