



The Dedication
of the
Airfield Memorial
and
Debt of Honour
for
RAF North Weald
1916-1964

Sunday, September 3, 2000

Service

The Reverend Rayner Harries, MBE
Formerly Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief Royal Air Force

Parade Marshal
AWO Betty McAulay

Organist
Norman Davis

Band
West Essex Wing Band Air Training Corps

National Standards

Airmen of seven nations served at RAF North Weald, and the National Flags of the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Poland and Czechoslovakia will be paraded from the village hall to the memorial, led by Flight Lieutenant Jeremy Robinson from No. 2 Squadron, RAF — the oldest fixed-wing squadron in the world.

Music

Prior to the service, Norman Davis will be playing a selection of music appropriate to the seven nations.

The Parade being assembled,
the events of this day 60 years ago will be read from the
Operations Record Book for RAF North Weald on September 3, 1940
by
Arthur Moreton, Chairman of the North Weald Airfield Museum.

The aerodrome was bombed by 25-30 Dornier 215s or 17s escorted by about 50 Messerschmitt 110s. 249 took off to intercept this raid, but was unable to gain sufficient height to engage the enemy as they had just landed and were refuelling.

Hangars 151 and 25 were set on fire: two Hurricanes were set on fire on the ground and one Blenheim fired in the hangar. The MT section yard was badly damaged and several lorries were set on fire. There was some damage to living quarters, the old Operations Room housing the Intelligence Office was hit and partly destroyed. The Tannoy system was destroyed and the loudspeaker warning system was rendered unserviceable.

The new Operations Room received a direct hit on the roof but stood up to it and no damage was done. However communications with the Observer Corps was severed, with the exception of Watford HF relay system. The main stores was severely damaged. The aerodrome was not rendered unserviceable for day operations although there were many craters and delayed-action bombs on south and south-western corner. One airman and one civilian were killed, 7 seriously wounded and 30 received minor injuries.'

There will then be a short background statement of the aims and ideas behind this Memorial by
Winston Ramsey, Editor-in-Chief, *After the Battle*

HYMN

During which the flags of the nations are brought to the Memorial

2

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

3

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the Same

4

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

6

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

High Flight, the poem written by Pilot Officer John Magee, killed

December 11, 1941

by Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Mason

Assistant Air Force Adviser, Canadian Air Force

A reading from St John's Gospel chapter 15 verses 9 to 13

by Lieutenant Colonel Ervin Miller, ex No. 333 'Eagle' Squadron

and European President of the US Eagle Squadrons

HYMN

1

Praise my soul the King of Heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, heal'd, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King

2

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

3

Father-like He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In His Hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Widely as his mercy flows.

4

Angels help us to adore Him
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him
Dwellers all in time and space
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace.

THE LAST POST

Colonel G.C.P. Morgan, OBE, DL

President of The Essex Regiment Association will read

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them

And all shall respond: We will remember them

THE SILENCE

An Air Training Corps Cadet of the Epping and North Weald Squadron will read

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow we gave our today.

REVEILLE

Then shall the wreaths be laid, beginning with those of the
Nations represented here today

THE ADDRESS

*The Reverend H.R.M. Harries, MBE
Formerly Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief Royal Air Force*

HYMN

Tune Dambusters

God is our strength and refuge
Our present help in trouble
And we therefore will not fear,
Though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble
Though swirling waters are raging
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river,
Within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her —
She shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
Thrones vanish at His presence
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore!

Come see the works of our maker,
Learn of his deeds all-powerful;
Wars will cease across the world
When He shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
Uplift Him in the nations —
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore!

THE PRAYERS

THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL

In recognition of the great debt we owe to those from many nations, both service and civilian, who served their country at North Weald during the years that this was a Royal Air Force Station from 1916 to 1964 and in acknowledgement of the bonds between them and the civil parish we dedicate this memorial in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Flight Lieutenant Mikulas Grofik, ex-No. 312 (Czech) Squadron

Let us pray for Peace in the world. O God our heavenly Father, look mercifully upon the unrest in the world, and draw all men to you and to each other in the bonds of peace. Grant understanding among all nations, with an increase of sympathy and mutual goodwill: may we all be united in a true brotherhood which is based on justice and mercy, truth and freedom, so that all men may live together in that peace which is your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **AMEN**

Squadron Leader Philip Kendal, ex-No. 486 (New Zealand) Squadron

Let us pray for those who still suffer as a result of war. O Lord our heavenly Father, we commend to you all those who still suffer as a result of war, those for whom the memory of what they have seen and of what they have endured will not go away. We pray especially for the maimed, the blind, and those who are afflicted in their minds. Fill us with compassion for them, and help all those who minister to their needs. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **AMEN**

Flight Lieutenant Andrzej Jeziorski, ex-No. 304 'Śląski' (Polish) Squadron

Let us pray for those who mourn the loss of father or mother, sister or brother, husband or wife, son or daughter, or friend. Comfort O Lord all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, and especially those who laid down their lives for their country and its cause. Give them faith to look beyond the troubles of the present time, and to know that neither life nor death can ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ Our Lord. **AMEN**

*Lieutenant General Wilhelm Mohr, DFC, former Squadron Commander of
No. 332 (Norwegian) Squadron*

Let us pray for a new dawn in international relationships. Eternal God, the Father of all mankind, we commit to you the needs of the whole world. Where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, restore faith; where there is sorrow, renew hope; where there is darkness, let there be light. We ask this through him who is the light of the world our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

*Air Commodore Roger Topp AFC**RAF (Ret'd),
the Squadron Commander in 1958 of No. 111 Squadron, the last at North Weald*

Let us pray for ourselves. O Lord support us all the days of our life, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then Lord in thy mercy grant us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

HYMN

During which the National Flags will be returned to the bearers

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath bless'd us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessèd peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplex'd,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest Heaven,
The One Eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace: be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted,
honour all men,
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you, and all whom you love, and all for whom you pray,
this day and forever more. **AMEN**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

MARCH PAST

Service veterans are invited to join in the March Past.

The salute will be taken by Air Vice-Marshal Philip Roser, MBE, FRAeS, RAF,
former squadron commander with No. 111 Squadron

Arthur Moreton and Winston Ramsey wish to thank the many people who have made today possible, in particular the North Weald Airfield Museum Association, the officers of Epping Forest District Council and the West Essex Wing of the Air Training Corps, and invite everyone to visit The Squadron after the service to meet old friends.

To reach The Squadron on the western side of the airfield, drive to the new main gate (accessible through the rear of Booker's car park) and follow the signs around the perimeter track, taking care when crossing the threshold of the main runway.

Memorial Construction

Westone Masonry Ltd, Weston-super-Mare

Supervised by Greg Morgan

Stonemasons: Jeff Stemp, Derek Matson

Lettercutter: Reg Bradford

Flagpoles: Piggott Brothers & Co. Ltd., Ongar, Essex

North Weald Village Crest

Gillian Anne, Richmond, Surrey

Debt of Honour Cabinet

Morris Singer Limited, Lasham, Hants

Debt of Honour

Compiled by *After the Battle*



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