

PAFMC COMMENDATIONS

In 2014 the Polish Air Force Memorial Committee began awarding Commendations. These are given to people who, with no personal connections with Poland, have nonetheless made an exceptional contribution to preserving the memory of Polish Airmen.

1. Mr Peter Whitaker and the late Mr Jim Hartley

For their work in establishing a memorial to seven Polish airmen who died when their Wellington bomber crashed at the side of the Leeds Liverpool canal at Bradley on September 23, 1943, tracing descendants of those airmen, and taking the medals to which they were entitled back to their families.

2. Mrs Nina Britton Boyle

For her work over many years sending information about Polish airmen who died to their families in Poland, tending their graves, and erecting memorial plaques.

3. Mr Colin Mitchell-Smith

For his work in creating the memorial at Faldingworth to Polish airmen, organising ceremonies there, and recently creating an Anglo-Polish 'Path of Friendship' at the Church there.

4. The R J Mitchell Primary School

This School is built on the former parade ground of RAF Hornchurch. Classrooms are named after Battle of Britain pilots, and they chose to include Ferić and Gabszewicz among them. It is one of only two schools in the country allowed to wear the RAF tie as its school tie. The Commendation will be received by the headmaster, Mr Read.

5. Ms Kate O'Mara

A Commendation has also been awarded to Ms Kate O'Mara, who was responsible for establishing a memorial to 302 Squadron in the church at Leconfield. As she is unable to be here today, it will be presented subsequently.

6. Wing Commander Richard Willis
RAF Northolt

For exceptional dedication to the role of the Polish Air Force, particularly at RAF Northolt, and for assistance to the Polish Air Force Memorial Committee.

2015

7. Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
Leader of Hillingdon Council

For many years, work, both on routine matters such as the impeccable maintenance of the Monument and its grounds, and one-off events, such as the wonderful gesture of the creation of the Memorial Garden to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

8. Peter Devitt
RAF Museum, Hendon

For curating the splendid 'Brothers in Arms' exhibition at the RAF Museum and in giving presentations in the Britain and in Poland on the role and achievements of the Polish Air Force.

9. Kelvin Youngs
Aircrew Remembered web-site

For creating and maintaining the Aircrew Remembered web-site, which has grown into a source of immense, value to family members, scholars and the general public.

10. Jan Mills
RAF Northolt

For the care provided to visiting veterans and their descendants, as well as the trouble taken to make sure that no visitor to RAF Northolt, from whatever background, leaves without understanding the role played by the Polish Air Force.