



# POLISH AIR FORCE COMMEMORATION 2019



Polish Air Force Memorial at Plumetot, Normandy  
Unveiled 9th June 2019 as part of D-Day 75

7th September 2019  
12.00

59th Ceremony of Homage to Fallen Polish Airmen



The Polish Air Force Memorial Committee  
thanks the following for supporting this event:

RAF Northolt  
The London Borough of Hillingdon  
The Polish Air Force University, Dęblin  
Middlesex Wing ATC  
Greater Manchester Wing ATC  
The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight  
The Polish Scouting Association  
The Metropolitan Police (West Area)  
St John Ambulance Brigade  
The Gaelic Athletic Association

The RAF Central Band  
plays by permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council



## **NOTES:**

**LAVATORIES** will be found at the Social Cub at the McGovern Park,  
100 yards up the road from the Memorial

### **SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2019, 12.00**

Mass will be offered for fallen Polish Airmen at the Garrison Church of  
St Andrew Bobola, Leyfield Place, Hammersmith; all are welcome.

**WREATH-LAYING** – veterans or descendants wishing to be added to the squadron  
wreath-laying roster should contact the Chairman: [richardkornicki@gmail.com](mailto:richardkornicki@gmail.com)

**POLISH AIR FORCE MUSEUM** – to visit the PAF Museum at RAF Northolt or  
discuss depositing memorabilia please contact: [richardkornicki@gmail.com](mailto:richardkornicki@gmail.com)

**Next year's Commemoration will take place on Saturday 5th Sept 2020 at 12.00**



# ORDER OF CEREMONY

*The Trumpeter sounds the Assembly  
Please stand*

## **PARADE**

The Wilno Standard of the war-time Polish Air Force  
The Standard of the Polish Airmen's Association UK  
The Standards of the Polish Scouts and Guides  
Air Training Corps Standards  
The Standards of Polish Schools  
ATC Cadets with wreaths  
Polish Scouts and Guides  
Officer Cadets from the Polish Air Force University, Dęblin,

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Please sit*

Chairman of the  
Polish Air Force Memorial Committee,  
Mr Richard Kornicki



## **ROLL-CALL OF THE FALLEN – APEL POLEGŁYCH**

*Officer Cadets from the Polish Air Force Academy, Dęblin*

**Lotnicy Polscy!**

Polish Airmen

**Bohaterowie walk o Niepodległość**

Heroes of the struggle for freedom

**Szanowni Zebrani!**

And all people here present

In a moment of profound solemnity, we gather for this roll-call, our hearts joined in remembering the heroes of the Polish sky. We are come to honour their memory and to pay tribute to all the airmen who laid down their lives and their strength in the service of the Republic. We owe our deepest gratitude to those who, in a struggle high above the earth, did not spare their blood for Poland, the country that would not be overcome.

**Stańcie do apelu!**

Present yourselves for the Roll-Call

**Polegli na Polu Chwały!**

They fell on the Field of Glory

I call on you airmen, wanderers overwhelmed with the pain of Poland's defeat in September 1939, who carried in your hearts the craving for battle and, by different routes, found your opportunity in the Allied ranks where you could take revenge for the humiliation you had experienced. Take your places now.

**Stańcie do apelu!**

Present yourselves for the Roll-Call

**Polegli na Polu Chwały!**

They fell on the Field of Glory

I call on you, the heroes of the Battle of Britain. Defending this Island of the Last Hope, you won the admiration of the world for your deeds. Yours was the most successful Fighter squadron of any in the Battle, protecting London to the utmost. You hunted Hitler's marauders over the North Sea, in the Bay of Biscay, in the English Channel. You were heroes of the air-war above the sands of Africa. Far from your native land, you laid down your lives with thoughts of Poland. I call on you, the crews of the Bomber squadrons, making raids on distant enemy targets and supporting the air-bridge to our occupied country.



**Stańcie do apelu!**  
**Polegli na Polu Chwały!**

Present yourselves for the Roll-Call  
They fell on the Field of Glory

I turn to you, brother airmen, murdered in Hitler's concentration and prisoner of war camps, in the Soviet labour camps, and in the Gulag: your tragic fate prevented you from continuing the struggle. I call you all: your hearts were devoted to Poland till the last moment of your lives. I call on all airmen in technical and logistics units, who gave your lives whilst keeping the aircrew flying on all fronts in the Second World War.

**Stańcie do apelu!**  
**Chwała bohaterom!**

Present yourselves for the roll-call  
Praise to the heroes

Finally, I turn to you, their Descendants. Remember the blood and the lives offered by Polish airmen on the altar of our homeland: they have met beyond measure those momentous words on our Standard – Love demands Sacrifice. Their heroic deeds are stamped in history as an example for all generations. Let them be the testimony of vows faithfully fulfilled.

**Chwała bohaterom!**  
**Cześć ich pamięci**

Glory to the Heroes  
Hail to their Memory

## **PRAYERS FOR THE FALLEN IN POLISH**

*Please stand*

**Ks Stefan Wylężek,**  
Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England & Wales

**Śpij Kolego** *is sounded (Sleep Friend – Polish Last Post)*  
*Standards and Banners are dipped.*

*Short silence*



## **WREATH LAYING**

*Please sit*

### **NATIONAL, CIVIC & OFFICIAL WREATHS**

- 1 **Bruce Houlder**  
Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hillingdon
- 2 **HE Arkady Rzegocki**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
- 3 **Cllr David Yarrow**  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon
- 4 **Cllr Abdullah Gulaid**  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing
- 5 **Cllr Daryl Brown**  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham
- 6 **Cllr Irene Brown**  
The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of Newark
- 7 **Air Chief Marshal Michael Wigston**  
Chief of the Air Staff
- 8 **Col. Wojciech Piłkuła**  
Representing gen bryg pil Jacek Pszczoła, Inspector General, Polish AF
- 9 **Gen bryg pil dr Piotr Krawczyk**  
Rector Commandant, Polish Air Force University, Dęblin
- 10 **Gp Capt Nick Worrall**  
Station Commander, RAF Northolt
- 11 **Col. Jiří Niedoba**  
Defence Attaché, Czech Republic
- 12 **Col. Jan Goceliak**  
Defence Attaché, Slovak Republic
- 13 **Col. Lee Wingfield**  
Air Attaché, United States of America
- 14 **Mr chris Norman**  
Polish Air Force Memorial Committee
- 15 **Mr Artur Bildziuk**  
Chairman, Polish Airmen's Association UK
- 16 **Mrs Deborah Burns**  
Battle of Britain Fighter Association
- 17 **Mr M Nalewajko & Mrs T Ciecierska**  
Polish Scouts & Guides



## **SQUADRON WREATHS**

Laid by veterans or descendants of each Polish Squadron

### **BOMBER SQUADRONS**

- |    |                                |  |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 18 | <b>300 Land of Mazovia</b>     | WO Jan Black-Stangryciuk – rear gunner |
| 19 | <b>301 Land of Pomerania</b>   | Lt Wanda Szuwalska – WAAF              |
| 20 | <b>304 Land of Silesia</b>     | WO Julian Michalski – Navigator        |
| 21 | <b>305 Land of Grtr Poland</b> | Andre Borowski                         |
| 22 | <b>Special Duties Flight</b>   | John Baxter – WO Zablocki – pilot      |

### **FIGHTER SQUADRONS**

- |    |                             |                                     |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23 | <b>302 City of Poznań</b>   | John Baranski                       |
| 24 | <b>303 Kościuszko</b>       | Janet Stephens                      |
| 25 | <b>306 City of Toruń</b>    | John Kaye                           |
| 26 | <b>307 Lwów Eagle Owls</b>  | Michael Parrott & Andrzej Michalski |
| 27 | <b>308 City of Kraków</b>   | Eileen Kwissa                       |
| 28 | <b>309 Land of Czerwien</b> | Stefan Pietrzak Youngs              |
| 29 | <b>315 City of Dęblin</b>   | Ignacy Jankiewicz                   |
| 30 | <b>316 City of Warsaw</b>   | Stefan Gabszewicz                   |
| 31 | <b>317 City of Wilno</b>    | Oleńka Radowicz                     |
| 32 | <b>318 City of Gdańsk</b>   | Flt Lt Philip Barnwell              |
| 33 | <b>Polish Fighting Team</b> | Mrs Dunmill-Malinowska              |

### **ARTILLERY OBSERVATION**

- |    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 34 | <b>663</b> |  |
|----|------------|--|

## **CONCLUDING PRAYERS**

*Please Stand*

Rev. Sqn Ldr Neil Galloway

**Last Post** is sounded

*Standards and Banners dipped  
One Minute's silence*

**Reveille**



## **NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

The National Anthem of Republic of Poland

The National Anthem of the United Kingdom

*The Standards are marched off*

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

*Please sit*

*The Band marches off, the Trumpeter playing 'White Roses' before leaving the enclosure:*

The buds of white roses are blooming again,  
Come back, Jasiu, come back from your war.  
Come back and kiss me, as in days gone by,  
And I will give you those roses once more.

[Echo:]

But for Jasiu, nothing now is needed,  
White roses are blooming in front of his eyes,  
At the edge of the wood their petals will fall,  
On the battlefield grave where cold he lies.

## **END OF CEREMONY**

### **FLY-PAST**

Lancaster PA474, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, RAF

### **PERSONAL WREATHS**

*Anyone wishing to lay a personal wreath is invited to do so at the conclusion of the ceremony: please proceed from the right of the Monument and leave to the left.*





## THE PLUMETOT MEMORIAL

Unveiled as part of the celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, the new Memorial at Plumetot was created to mark the presence of the Polish 131 Wing at the Advanced Landing Ground B 10 at Plumetot in 1944. More widely it commemorates the important role played by the Polish Air Force in supporting the Invasion, the Battle for Normandy, and the Liberation of France as a whole.

Initiated by the Polish Air Force Memorial Committee, we are extremely grateful for the very generous support of the Polish Institute of National Memory which funded the steel work in Kraków, and to other organisations and individuals in Britain, France and Poland who all helped fund the Project. The Polish Embassy in Paris were closely involved throughout, as were French civil and military authorities at every level. Alexander Smaga was chosen as architect through an international competition and produced an inspired and beautiful design. The tiny Commune of Plumetot, under the leadership of its Mayor, M. Tarlet, his Deputies, and his tireless Secretary Mme Ruffier, took on the major challenge of organising a tri-national event with extraordinary energy matched by their commitment to the memory of the Polish airmen who had passed their way so many years ago.



*Wreaths are laid by M. Bouyx MP, Minister Kasprzyk, M Fiscus Préfet of Calvados, Ambassador Młynarski*



The unveiling followed a Mass in the Norman village church offered for the souls of Polish Airmen. M. Fiscus, Préfet of Calvados, representing the French Secretary of State for Defence, said:

*“I must allow myself to comment that it cannot be by chance that our Polish friends have chosen to honour their airmen on the Feast of Pentecost. It was on the breath of the Spirit of liberty, that the wings of their aircraft were carried in the critical days of June 1944. It was the Spirit of courage, which allowed them to persevere through all peril. And it was the Spirit of sacrifice, which pushed them to risk their very lives to free Europe of the totalitarian Nazi regime. The arrival of Polish pilots at Plumetot is also the symbol of a friendship unshaken across the centuries: the friendship between France and Poland.”*



Mass in the village Church



Local school children assist with the wreaths

The Memorial commemorates the three fighter squadrons – 302, City of Dęblin, 308 City of Kraków, and 317, City of Wilno, which flew from here. It commemorates not only the pilots, but equally importantly, the tireless ground-crew who kept the aircraft operational in the most difficult conditions. More widely, it marks the part played by all Polish airmen, of fighter and bomber squadrons alike, who fought in the Normandy campaign and helped secure the liberation of Plumetot, the liberation of Normandy, and the liberation of France. The importance of remembrance was stressed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in France who said:

*“A soldier dies twice: the first time when he falls in combat, the second time when he falls from memory. Allow me to repeat my most sincere thanks to those who have given back their deserved place to these exceptional heroes... preserving their memory and passing it on to the youngest of generations.”*



Let the last word be left to one of the ground crew, Tadeusz Kwissa, who described in his diary that momentous journey to France:

*“12 British transport aircraft, Dakota type made in America, arrive about 1000. We all wait, ready, after completing last formalities we load into the machines, 12 to 15 people each. We take off individually at 1200. My Dakota takes off as the fourth. After circling above the airfield we set course for France immediately. A bit to the south of Bayeux. Almost at once the sea coast can be seen, as Ford is located very close to the coast. Some small English port escapes beneath us. The coast of England slowly starts to disappear in the slight sea mist so typical for England. We start to feel sorry, with lumps in our throats that we leave this Island full of good people, friends, the island that is jealously hiding my fiancée somewhere... Despite this feeling we also feel strong joy in our hearts that, at last, for once, we're getting closer to Poland rather than further away from Her, as was the case until now... Underneath us clouds in places, the sea has a strangely beautiful pale blue colour, sometimes turning green, with very small waves... We pass whole convoys of ships, small and big. It seems to me we can see a small islet... and behind it a cape of the mainland. We can already see beaches, on which there are lots of barges and equipment, a whole town of ships of various size near the coast. We make landfall. The fields are filled with crates of equipment, ammunition, tanks, and tracks of heavy vehicles everywhere. We pass an airfield full of American Thunderbolts; field hospitals; we can see a destroyed town, then a smaller town, houses without roofs or windows etc. Traffic on the roads like Piccadilly Circus, but on the right hand side, and purely military. Finally our aircraft makes a circuit over an airfield and we land. The airfield has only one 'runway' from tar paper like roof covering. The sun is shining, terrible dust at the airfield. It turns out that the 'A' and 'B' parties of the ground crew have also only just arrived in barges, unloading onto the beach. We sleep in a ditch, in which we have dug sideways holes... During the night a raid, terrible Anti- Aircraft fire. Our airfield is near the village of Plumetot. We're about 7 to 10 miles from the front line. All the time we can hear field artillery, light and heavy. [The next day:]*

*A fine and sunny day. I send my first letter to my fiancée. I'm very proud, as our address is: 'British Liberation Army'”*



A 317 Sqn Polish Spitfire, accompanied by a French CASA transport aircraft, fly over Plumetot with the Invasion beaches behind them.



# THE PLUMETOT MEMORIAL

Designed by Alexander Smaga, constructed in Kraków

