



**POLISH AIR FORCE  
COMMEMORATION  
2016**



*Wellington Crew Silhouette, RAF Ingham 2016  
© RAF Ingham Heritage Group*

**Saturday 3rd September 2016**

**12.00**

**56<sup>th</sup> Ceremony of Homage to Fallen Polish Airmen**

***The Polish Air Force Memorial Committee thanks the  
following for their help in organising this event:***

*RAF Northolt  
The London Borough of Hillingdon  
The Polish Air Force Academy, Dęblin  
Middlesex Wing ATC  
The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight  
The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund  
The Polish Scouting Association  
St John Ambulance Brigade  
The Metropolitan Police (Hillingdon OCU)  
The Gaelic Athletic Association  
RAF Ingham Heritage Group*

*The Trumpeter and Drummer from the RAF Central Band  
play by permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council*

## **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 Air Force Association GB  
The Standard of the Polish Air Force Association Nottingham  
The Standards of the Polish Scouts and Guides  
The Standards of Polish Schools  
ATC Cadets with wreaths  
Polish Scouts and Guides  
Members of 663 Squadron, Army Air Corps  
Officer Cadets from the Polish Air Force Academy, Dęblin,*

#### ***Introduction to the Ceremony***

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

## **Roll-call of the Fallen – Apel Poległych**

*The Polish Roll-Call of the Fallen: Dęblin Officer Cadets*

### **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 Honour

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 it 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 Honour

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!**

Present yourselves for the Roll-Call

**Polegli na Polu Chwały!**

They fell on the Field of Honour

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 devoted hearts were for Poland to 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 Second World War fronts.

**Stańcie do apelu!**

Present yourselves for the roll-call

**Chwała bohaterom!**

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!**

Praise to the Heroes

**Cześć ich pamięci**

Hail to their Memory

**Prayers for the Fallen in Polish**

Ks Stefan Wylęzek,

Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England & Wales

*The **LAST POST** is sounded, Standards and Banners are dipped.*

*There will be a minute's silence, ended by **REVEILLE**.*

## PLEASE SIT FOR THE WREATH LAYING

- 1 Bruce Houlder Esq CB QC DL  
Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hillingdon
- 2 HE Arkady Rzegocki  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
- 3 Cllr John Hensley  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon
- 4 Cllr Dr Patricia Walker  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing
- 5 Cllr Mercy Umeh  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham
- 6 Cllr Dean Hyde  
The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of Newark
- 7 Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC  
Chief of the Air Staff
- 8 Lt. Col. Dorota Kawecka  
Acting Defence Attaché, Republic of Poland
- 9 Col. Jiri Svatos  
Defence Attaché, Czech Republic
10. Col. Travis Willis  
Air Attaché, United States of America
- 11 Kapt. Grzegorz Buško  
Polish Air Force Academy, Dęblin
- 12 Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton GCB LLD (Hon) BSc FRAeS CCMi  
Patron, Polish Air Force Memorial Committee &  
Patron, Battle of Britain Fighter Association
- 14 Gp Capt David Manning ADC MA CMgr FCMI  
Station Commander, RAF Northolt
- 15 Mr Artur Bildziuk  
Chairman, Polish Air Force Association GB
- 16 Air Cdre Charles Clarke OBE  
Chairman, Bomber Command Association
- 17 Druhna. hm T. Ciecierska  
Polish Scouting Association  
Druh. hm M Nalewajko  
Polish Scouting Association

*Wreaths will then be laid for each of the Polish Squadrons and Units commemorated on the Memorial, by veterans of those Squadrons or their descendants. (See insert)*

## SQUADRON WREATH LAYERS – 2016

300 Land of Mazowia	WO Jan Black-Stangryciuk
301 Land of Pomerania	Lt Wanda Szuwalska
302 City of Poznań	Flt Lt Stanisław Włosok-Nawarski
303 Kościuszko	Louise Pemberton Grazyna Gaziorska Beata Podolska
304 Land of Silesia	WO Julian Michalski
305 Land of Greater Poland	Maja Suchitz Jolanta Parol
306 City of Toruń	John Kaye
307 Lwów Eagle Owls	Michael Parrott Andrzej Michalski
308 City of Kraków	Joanna Kaliniecka-Williamson
309 Land of Czerwien	Stefan Pietrzak
315 City of Dęblin	Mjr Marian Jankiewicz
316 City of Warsaw	OC 316 Sqn ATC Flt Lt Wendy McCormack
317 City of Wilno	Col. Franciszek Kornicki Dunstan Kornicki Tom Kornicki
318 City of Gdańsk	Simon Biggs
663	Maj. Richard Simcock
Polish Fighting Team 'Skalski's Circus'	Mrs J. Dunmill-Malinowska
Special Duties Flight	John Baxter

## **Concluding Prayers**

### **PLEASE STAND**

Fr. James Caulfield, Principal Catholic Chaplain to the RAF

### **PLEASE SIT**

*Anyone wishing to lay a personal wreath will be invited to do so at the conclusion of the prayers: please form up to the right of the monument and follow the Marshal's instructions. Traditional Polish military songs will be played by the Trumpeter.*

### **PLEASE STAND**

The National Anthem of Poland

The National Anthem of the United Kingdom

*The Standards are marched off*

*The Drummer and Trumpeter march off, playing 'White Roses' before they leave 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 by Battle of Britain Memorial Flight*

## RAF INGHAM – THEN AND NOW



RAF Ingham, in Lincolnshire, was opened as an operational base in May 1942 with the arrival of the Polish 300, Land of Mazowia, Squadron, flying the Vickers Wellington Mk IV bomber from its grass runways. With only a short break, 300 Squadron was at Ingham until March 1944, when it was re-equipped and transferred to RAF Faldingworth, where the concrete runways were better able to cope with the weight of fully armed Lancasters. The last operational mission of 300 Squadron was on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 – fittingly as part of a major raid on Hitler's 'Eagle's Nest' at Berchtesgaden.

Polish 305, Land of Wielkopolska, Squadron also served at Ingham, although for a shorter period, as did RAF 199 Squadron. Airmen from Poland, Britain, Canada and Australia all served at Ingham during its brief war-time existence.



*305 Squadron crew boarding their Wellington*

After the war, a Polish Resettlement Unit was built close to the village of Ingham, providing accommodation in family Nissen Huts for Poles unable to return home since the country whose freedom they had fought for, was now under the control of the same Stalin who had invaded it in September 1939.

In 2010 the RAF Ingham Heritage Group was founded by Geoff Burton. Its aim is to restore surviving airfield buildings – including an original Polish



Resettlement Unit family Nissen hut reconstructed on site - as a heritage centre commemorating the Polish, Canadian, Australian and British crews who lived, flew and died from the airfield. It serves also as the commemorative home of all four Polish Bomber Squadrons. With the support of the landowner, the Polish Air Force Association Charitable Trust, the Polish Ex-Combatants Association, and the Heritage Lottery Fund the Heritage Centre should be open by the end of next year.

The first priority, however, was to create a memorial to all those who died flying from RAF Ingham. This was unveiled on 26 May 2016 by Mr Witold Sobków, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, with a fly-past by an RAF Typhoon.



The silhouette of a Wellington crew on the front cover of this booklet forms part of the memorial. It is visible from the road and will remind generations to come of the men who flew from this airfield and the sacrifices they made:

*Za Naszą i Waszą Wolność – For Your Freedom and Ours*



**Please note: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016:**

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

**Next year's ceremony will take place on Saturday 2nd September, 2017 at 12.00**  
Veterans or descendants wishing to be added to the Squadron wreath-laying roster should contact the Committee through the web-site [www.polishairforcememorialcommittee.org](http://www.polishairforcememorialcommittee.org)