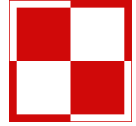


# POLISH AIR FORCE COMMEMORATION 2017



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*Prime Ministers May & Szydło lay wreaths on the occasion of the  
inaugural UK-Poland Intergovernmental Consultations  
28 November 2016*

Saturday 2nd September 2017  
12.00

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



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*Prime Ministers May and Szydlo reflect on the fallen ...*

*... and meet those who survived*



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## **ORDER OF CEREMONY**

*The Trumpeter sounds the **ASSEMBLY***

### **Parade**

*Please sit*

*The Wilno Standard of the war-time Polish Air Force*

*The Standard of the Polish Airmen's Association*

*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**

*Please sit*

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**

*Please sit*

Mgr Stefan Wylęzek,

Rektor of the Polish Catholic Mission in England & Wales

**ŚPIJ KOLEGO** *is sounded* ('Sleep Friend' – Polish Last Post)

*Standards & Banners are Dipped*

*Short Silence*

## **Wreath Laying**

*Please sit*

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

- 1 Wing Cdr Mike Dudgeon OBE DL  
Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London
- 2 HE Arkady Rzegocki  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
- 3 Cllr Carol Melvin  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon
- 4 Cllr Simon Woodroofe  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing
- 5 Cllr Michael Cartwright  
The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham
- 6 Cllr Tony Roberts MBE  
Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Newark
- 7 Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC  
Chief of the Air Staff
- 8 gen. bryg. Mirosław Jemielniak  
Inspector General, Polish Air Force
- 9 gen. bryg. pil. dr Piotr Krawczyk  
Rector-Comandant, Polish Air Force Academy, Dęblin
- 10 Brig. Gen. Short  
Defence Attaché, United States of America
- 11 Col. Jiří Svatoš  
Defence Attaché, Czech Republic
- 12 M. J-P Tarlet, Mayor of Plumetot  
M. F. Jouy, President of the Communes of Coeur de Nacre
- 13 Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton GCB LLD (Hon) BSc FRAeS CCMI  
Patron, Polish Air Force Memorial Committee
- 14 Gp Capt Mike Carver  
Station Commander, RAF Northolt
- 15 Mr Artur Bildziuk  
Chairman, Polish Airmen's Association UK
- 16 Mrs Deborah Burns  
Battle of Britain Fighter Association; widow Flt Lt Owen Burns, 235 Sqn,
- 17 Air Cdre Charles Clarke OBE  
Chairman, Bomber Command Association
- 18 Druhna. hm T. Ciecierska  
Polish Scouting Association  
Druh. hm M Nalewajko  
Polish Scouting Association

## SQUADRON WREATHS

Laid by **veterans** or descendants of each Polish Air Force Squadron

### BOMBER SQUADRONS

- 19** 300 Land of Mazowia **WO Jan Black Stangryciuk** – Rear Gunner  
**20** 301 Land of Pomerania **Lt Wanda Szuwalska** - Polish WAAF  
**21** 304 Land of Silesia **WO Julian Michalski** - Navigator  
**22** 305 Land of Gr'ter Poland Joanna Kaliniecka-Williamson, dtr of Flt Lt Jerzy Kaliniecki - Engineer  
**23** Special Duties Flight **WO John Baxter (Zablocki)** - pilot

### FIGHTER SQUADRONS

- 24** 302 City of Poznań Nina Bannerman, dtr of WO Henryk Bieniek - Pilot  
Steve Bienniek, grandson  
**25** 303 Kościuszko Jacek Mainka, g'son Cpl Ryszard Kwiatkowski- Mechanic  
Chris Rybak, son Sgt Tadeusz Rybak - Pilot  
Chris Mackey, representing Mrs Palframan-Smith, dtr of FO W Wiórkiewicz - Engineer  
**26** 306 City of Toruń John Kay, son of Flt Lt Jan Kurowski -Pilot  
**27** 307 Lwów Eagle Owls Andrzej Michalski, gt nephew Kpt Leon Michalski - Observer  
Michael Parrott, 307 Sqn Project  
**28** 308 City of Kraków Eileen Kwissa, widow of Cpl Tadeusz Kwissa - Mechanic  
Tom Kwissa, g'son  
**29** 309 Land of Czerwien Stefan Gnyś, son of Mjr Władysław Gnyś - Pilot  
**30** 315 City of Dęblin **Mjr Marian Jankiewicz** - Pilot  
**31** 316 City of Warsaw Stefan Gabszewicz, son of Gp Capt Aleksander Gabszewicz - O/C Polish Wing  
**32** 317 City of Wilno **Col Adam Ostrowski** – Pilot  
Jan Ostrowski  
**33** 318 City of Gdańsk Simon Biggs, g'son FO Zdzisław Sieroslowski - Pilot  
**34** Polish Fighting Team 'Skalski's Circus' Mrs Dunmill-Malinowska, niece Flt Lt Bronisław Malinowski - Pilot

### ARTILLERY OBS.

- 35** 663 Maj. Richard Simcock – O/C 663 Sqn Army Air Corps

## **Act of Remembrance**

*Please stand*

Fr. James Caulfield, Principal Catholic Chaplain to the RAF

*The **LAST POST** is sounded, Standards and Banners are dipped.  
There will be a minute's silence, ended by **REVEILLE**.*

*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.*

## **Conclusion**

*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 let me give you 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*



## THE PLUMETOT MEMORIAL PROJECT

Shortly after D-Day, 19 Advanced Landing Grounds were created in Normandy. One of these was 'B 10' at Plumetot, a few miles behind Sword Beach. It was used by a range of RAF units from 10<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and from August to September it was home to 131 Polish Wing, comprising 302, 308 and 317 Squadrons, all of which had previously served at Northolt.

The arrival of 131 Polish Wing at Plumetot has a particular significance as it marked the return of the Polish Air Force to mainland Europe.



*Polish airmen using captured enemy transport*

Plumetot was a Commune with less than a hundred inhabitants on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1944. Within a matter of days there were over 3,000. Local memories are strong: a former Maire, now in his 80s, standing by the fields which were formerly runways,

well remembers being a five-year old boy taking fresh milk from the family farm to Polish pilots and returning with his pockets full of sweets.



*Soldiers of the Pioneer Corps laying prefabricated bitumen strips for a new runway at B10/Plumetot, as a Hawker Typhoon of 198 Sqn RAF takes off*

Unlike most other Advanced Landing Grounds, however, there is currently nothing to mark the existence of B 10, nor its special significance in the history of the Polish Air Force.

The Polish Air Force Memorial Committee approached the the Mayor and Commune of Plumetot with a proposal for a joint project to create a Memorial in the village and to provide information at the site of the airfield, marking the role of the Polish Air Force among the Allied forces fighting for the liberation of Europe. Although only at an early stage, this collaborative project has received the warmest support from all local and regional authorities in Normandy, and the Polish Embassy in Paris is taking an interest.

A competition will be held for a Polish artist (or one of Polish descent) to design the Memorial which will be at the heart of the village, between the Mairie and the Church. The goal is to have the formal unveiling around the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day in June 2019, so that the role of the Polish Air Force in supporting the Invasion can be given its proper place, alongside that of the Polish Navy and of the Polish Army which played such a heroic part by holding the Falaise Gap.

The monument will form part of a linked route of memorials commemorating the involvement of all branches of the Polish armed forces which took part in the Allied Invasion.



*Polish Spitfire IXc's of 317 Sqn in their dispersal areas at B10 Plumetot*

The Mayor will also take the opportunity to create an additional memorial to M. & Mme. Requis and their daughter, proprietors of the local *estaminet* and known for their friendship and generosity to allied troops. They were killed by a German bomb, their home being the only building in the villlage to be destroyed during the Invasion.

The Polish Air Force Memorial Committee is particularly pleased to welcome representatives of the Commune of Plumetot and its neighbourhood to today's Commemoration. Polish, French and British interests are combined to mark an important part of our shared history.



*6 July 1944, QF 25 pdr anti-tank gun defending B 10 aerodrome  
AOP Auster of 652 Sqn RAF approaching*

*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  
Greater Manchester Wing ATC  
The National Marching Band of the ATC  
The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight  
The Polish Scouting Association  
St John Ambulance Brigade  
The Metropolitan Police (Hillingdon OCU)  
The Gaelic Athletic Association*

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



**NOTES:**

**Lavatories** will be found at the Gaelic Athletic Association Sports & Social Club, McGovern Park, 100 yards up the road from the Memorial

**Sunday 3rd September 2017 at 12.00 - Mass** will be offered for fallen Polish Airmen at the Garrison Church of St Andrew Bobola, Leyfield Place, Hammersmith; all are welcome.

**Polish Air Force Museum** – for arrangements to visit the unique PAF Museum at RAF Northolt, or to discuss loaning or giving memorabilia, please contact the Chairman at [richardkornicki@gmail.com](mailto:richardkornicki@gmail.com)

**Wreath-laying** - Veterans or descendants wishing to be added to the Squadron wreath-laying roster should contact the Chairman at [richardkornicki@gmail.com](mailto:richardkornicki@gmail.com)

**Next year's Ceremony will take place on Saturday 1st Sept. 2018 at 12.00**