



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

“REMEMBERING AT HOME”



Remembrance Sunday

2020



Picture by Hermione Shewry (age 8)

Due to the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic and in view of the Government Guidance with regard to Social Distancing, it is with regret that North Weald Bassett Parish Council are unable to host the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at the North Weald Airfield Memorial and Debt of Honour this year.

Although there will not be a formal service, Parish Councillors will be paying their respects on Remembrance Sunday by laying wreaths on behalf of many organisations. Residents are encouraged to “Remember at Home” this year, although anyone would be welcome to lay their own wreath on the day, should they so wish.

The information contained within this commemorative brochure is attributed to Mr Arthur Moreton, Local Historian for North Weald Airfield. The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to Mr Moreton for allowing the use of his material.

Every year the nation unites to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

We remember all those of the Parish who gave their lives in the service of their country and the families who lost loved ones during WWI and WWII

Albert Lower	Arthur Stannard
Leonard Bard	William Dawes
George Maynard	William Stevens
William Burling	John Fynon
James Nash	Charles Thake
Robert Broad	Jacob Foster
George Broad	Charles Thompson
Arthur Newman	Thomas Freshwater
Cecil Oakley	Peter Turner
George Bridges	Edmund Turner
William Pomfrett	Montague Winch
Jon Chambers	Christopher King
Eric Powell	Leonard King
James Cook	Charles McLaren
John Smith	William Sortwell
George Day	Alfred Sortwell



William Fry - Walter Glasscock - James Barber
Harry Brewer - John Bridges - Charles Burling
George Fish - Horace Hatchman - Henry Nash
Ralph Soloman

All are listed on The Parish Memorial in St Andrews Church

***“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.”***

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



The Norwegian Stone - In June 1952, HRH, The Crown Princess of Norway, Princess Astrid, unveiled a granite obelisk on behalf of the people of Norway and the two Norwegian squadrons (331 and 332) based in North Weald during WWII. The gift was to show their gratitude to the People of North Weald, the Royal Air Force and the RAF Station North Weald. The obelisk, which is now incorporated in the RAF North Weald Memorial (Debt of Honour), commemorates the Norwegian Airmen who were based at the Airfield during WWII. The Memorial commemorates all those who served.

The inscription on the obelisk is in ancient RUNIC language and translates as follows:-

“Dedicated, in gratitude, to the Royal Air Force, RAF Station, North Weald and to the people of the District”.



A total of 36 members of 331 and 332 (Norwegian) Squadrons were killed in action while serving at RAF North Weald between March 1942 and March 1944.



LENGE VILL VI MINNES DERE!
(Long will we remember you)

LENGE VILL VORT VENSKAPPE VARE!
(Long may our friendship endure)



The North Weald Airfield Memorial was dedicated on Sunday, 3 September 2000. There is a bronze cabinet incorporated into the memorial inside of which you will find the Debt of Honour. This lists the names of 267 men, women and civilians who lost their lives while serving at North Weald Airfield in peace and war from 1916-1964.

In Hampden Close, North Weald, tucked away in a corner of a car port, you will find a little known memorial dedicated to nine members of the Essex Regiment who lost their lives while guarding North Weald aerodrome on August 24, 1940. Their shelter received a direct hit during a German air raid. The oak tree still bears the marks of the blast.



**Private John Barnes
Private Frederick Elliott
Private Samuel Knight
Private Monty Pincus
Private Douglas Wood**

**Private James Bates
Private Stephen Held
Private Nathaniel Miles
Private Stephen Shuster**

The memorial was dedicated on August 24, 2010.



56(F) Squadron (*The Firebirds*) - RAF North Weald October 1927 – June 1941

In the autumn of 1927 RAF North Weald once again became a front-line fighter station, expanded to reflect the importance of the RAF to Britain's future; when the local community welcomed 56 Squadron, one of the most famous squadrons of the First World War, who were to operate from the airfield for the next 13 years – in both war and peace.

Playing a major role in the Battle of Britain and the fight back to final victory that followed; reflected in the battle honours on the Squadron Standard that they so proudly paraded through our village on 10th June 2018.



56 Hurricanes 'Scramble' in August 1940



The Squadron take a short break from action - May 1941

NORTH WEALD – A COMMUNITY AT WAR

RAF North Weald played a major role in the Battle of Britain with fierce battles taking place in the skies above the heads of the local population. **In just one raid on the airfield**, more than 200 bombs were dropped on it and the surrounding Parish, killing and injuring many on the airfield, including the nine young soldiers of the Essex Regiment.

In North Weald High Road, the village post office, a cottage opposite the Kings Head and the Woolpack pub were destroyed. Other nearby houses were severely damaged, gas and water mains were hit and the Epping to Ongar Road was closed.



In this and other major attacks that were to follow, bombs intended for the airfield (and later for London itself), fell among the community. But life had to go on and local people continued to work on the airfield, despite the dangers. While the local Civil Defence team (led by Harry Waterman*), the Auxiliary Fire Service and the North Weald Home Guard, continued to serve them and their families throughout the rest of the war.



- * Harry Waterman: After helping to form pre-war Civil Defence Committee, he served as Senior Air Raid Warden and led a team of local volunteers throughout the Second World War. A Member of Parish Council for 32 years, ten as its Chairman, Watermans Way is named after him.