



# THE TEMPSFORD AIRFIELD BARN CEREMONY



**11 NOVEMBER 2012**

*WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF  
THE COUNTESS OF ERROLL*

## **GUESTS**

W/CDR LEONARD RATCLIFF DSO, DFC\*, AFC, LD'H, CDEG  
COMMANDING OFFICER 161 SQUADRON &  
STATION COMMANDER, RAF TEMPSFORD

MR GEORGE JONES  
VETERAN 138 SQUADRON

F/LT MARGARET BELL

MARGERY GRIFFITHS  
SECRETARY, 218 (GOLD COAST) SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

## **OFFICIATING MINISTER**

REVEREND MARGARET MARSHALL

## **READER**

CPL HARRY SILCOCK

## **BUGLER**

MARK STAFFERTON





## ORDER OF CEREMONY

### READINGS

Cpl Harry Silcock ATC read a poem written by  
R W Gilbert

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ADDRESS AND PRAYERS Led by Reverend Margaret Marshall

The sounding of the Last Post  
~ The Silence ~

Following the sounding of Reveille,  
wreaths and tributes were laid  
in the following order:





Bob Body laid a wreath on behalf of the Tempsford Veterans and Relatives Association.



Cdt P Burgoyne laid a wreath on behalf of Wing Commander Leonard Ratcliff, in memory of the aircrews of 138 and 161 Squadrons who lost their lives in the fight for freedom.

Derek Eliot laid a wreath in memory of the crew of Hudson FK790, 161 Squadron.

Tom Croad laid a wreath in memory of his brother, Sergeant George Partridge Croad, and the crew of Halifax LL356, 138 Squadron.

Linda Lee laid a wreath in memory of the crew of Halifax LL280, 138 Squadron.

Cdt J Beaumont laid a wreath on behalf of 2500 Squadron ATC.

Cdt T Hart laid a poppy cross in memory of Flight Sergeant Roy Watts, 161 Squadron.

Cdt S Rogers laid a poppy cross in memory of Sergeant Ellis Markson and the crew of Halifax LL358, 138 Squadron.

Fred Greyer laid a wreath in memory of his father, Dominique Edgard Potier (M19).

Peter Green laid a wreath in memory of the crew of Whitley Z9275, 138 Squadron.

Phil Stokes laid a wreath in memory of Flight Sergeant Arthur Stokes DFM, 138 Squadron.

Bill Lee laid a wreath in memory of Sergeant Ray Lee, 138 Squadron.

Tania Szabó laid a wreath in memory of her parents, Adj.-chef (13e DBLE) Etienne Szabó Ld'H and Violette Szabó GC.



Cdt I Scholes laid a wreath in memory of Flight Lieutenant Laird Nicholson RCAF, 161 Squadron.





Jacob & Kate Knightley laid a wreath in memory of  
all on Halifax JD156, 138 Squadron.



Maureen White laid a wreath in memory of  
Sergeant Charles Hartin and  
the crew of Halifax DG405 MA Y, 161 Squadron.

Dudley King laid a wreath in memory of  
Sergeant Herbert Donald King, 138 Squadron.

Val Hassall & Sam Hassall laid a wreath in memory of  
Warrant Officer Frederic Colin Mather, 138 Squadron.

Anne Alexandre laid a wreath in memory of  
Philip Keun and of the agents of Jade Amicol and Jade Fitzroy,  
who lost their lives during the war.

Michael Polnik laid a wreath on behalf of  
the Polish Air Force in memory of  
all Polish aircrews who flew from Tempsford.

Judy Flynn laid a wreath in memory of  
her uncle, Squadron Leader Christopher Francis Gibson and  
the crew of Halifax BB281 NF O, 138 Squadron.

David Briggs laid a wreath in memory of  
Flying Officer George Briggs, 138 Squadron.

Virginia Lipscomb laid a poppy cross in memory of  
her father, Flying Officer George Witt, 161 Squadron.

Margery Griffiths laid a wreath in memory of  
Pilot Officer Elwyn Hinto Edwards RAFVR, the crew of  
Stirling EE944 and other crews of  
No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron (attached to 161 Squadron).

Margaret Bell laid a wreath on behalf of  
the RAF

Cdt S Allen laid the RAF Memorial Cross

Cpl H Silcock laid the Tempsford Cross



**Closing messages**

**Closing Prayer by Reverend Margaret Marshall**





## ***REQUIEM FOR AN AIR GUNNER***

The pain has stopped,  
For I am dead,  
My time on Earth is done.  
But in a hundred years from now,  
I'll still be twenty-one.

My brief sweet life is over,  
My eyes no longer see,  
No summer walks,  
No Christmas trees,  
No pretty girls for me.

I've got the chop, I've had it,  
My nightly ops are done,  
Yet in another hundred years,  
I'll still be twenty-one

***R W Gilbert***

