

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM ALLIED AIR FORCES MEMORIAL DAY



Richard and I were delighted to be able to attend this year's Allied Air Forces Memorial Day at the Yorkshire Air Museum on Sunday 6th September.

The morning reception of tea, coffee and biscuits was held in one of the old RAF Elvington huts. During this time we were able to meet up with some familiar faces, including Colonel Emmanuel Emond who was at the ANZAC ceremony in 2025 to lay a wreath on behalf of the French Air & Space Force for French aviators from WW2 who were buried alongside Commonwealth aviators.



In the rather unwelcome rain and to the strains of Colonel Bogey, the Yorkshire Military Band and Corps of Drums marched through to the Halifax Hangar for the service. The band were followed a number of standards and RAF cadets. Together with a line up a military Air Attaches from France, Poland, Canada, Belgium, New Zealand and Australia, Mrs Johanna Ropner, Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, took the salute on behalf of His Majesty King Charles.

Beneath the enormous WW2 Halifax Bomber, the service was conducted by Reverend Charles "Taff" Morgan MBE RAF (Rtd) who, following a prayer to Allied Forces, opened with the hymn I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY. Readings were given by THE Sheriff of York Mr. Geoff Cossins, and The Lord Lieutenant.



During the service, the 'Turning of the Pages' from the Yorkshire Air Museum Book of Remembrance was done by Group Captain John 'Geordie' Lawson, Commanding Officer of RAF Leeming. He was accompanied by the Station Commanders' Cadet, Flt.Lt. Tiffany Ling.

Wendy Graham represented 77 Squadron with their Roll of Honour. The Squadron were based at RAF Elvington during WW2.



Following The Act of Remembrance, The Last Post, The National Anthem and La Marseillaise, a blessing was given and the standards were marched out. Gathering outside of the hangar, the band formed up and once again marched away.



Polish Representation



Women of the RAF (Rtd.)

During a fabulous traditional Sunday lunch in one of the hangars, we were seated with Yorkshire Air Museum Officer Ian Richardson. Also on our table was Air Attaché for the RNZAF Wing Commander Heather Peart and Flight Lieutenant Liam Bone with his wife Ashlea and their seven month old son Laichlan. Richard was seated next to Geoff Coussins, Sheriff of York.



Richard with the Sheriff of York Mr. Geoff Coussins



RNZAF W.C. Heather Peart with Ian Richardson

Thank you to all at the Yorkshire Air Museum that made this happen... what a fitting tribute to the Allied Forces. Look forward to next year!