

ORDER OF SERVICE

for the

DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL TO 550 SQUADRON

of the

ROYAL AIR FORCE

which flew from R.A.F. North Killingholme

December, 1943 to the cessation of hostilities in 1945

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At 2.00 p.m., when the Official Party are assembled at the Memorial

shall be sung

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

1st Verse

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her Victorious,
Happy and Glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

After which, the Vicar, The Rev. Bob Kenyon, shall say

“We are gathered here today to remember, in the presence of God, those of our gallant Comrades, serving in 550 Squadron, who flew from this airfield during World War Two on Operational Missions against the enemy and did not return, and to Dedicate this Monument to their memory.”

Then shall the Hymn

“Who would true valour see”

be sung

Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather;
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a Pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.
No lion can him fright,
He'll with a giant fight,
But he will have a right
To be a Pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit;
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away;
He'll fear not what men say;
He'll labour night and day
To be a Pilgrim.

(John Bunyan),

Then shall Mr. Charles Whitter, a Sergeant Rear Gunner with
550 Squadron, read the Lesson

Micah, Chapter 4, Verses 1 to 5

1. But in those days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the House of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow into it.
2. And many nations shall come, and say
Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
And to the House of the God of Jacob; and he will
Teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths;
For the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of
the Lord from Jerusalem.
3. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nations shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
4. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it.
5. For all the people will walk every one in the name of his God, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Then shall follow the Prayers by the Vicar, The Rev. Bob Kenyon

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not
into Temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
Kingdom, The Power and the Glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

O God, who didst here inspire Thy servants with an unforgettable
spirit of friendship and brotherhood, keep the flame of that spirit
alive in our hearts this day, that we may leave this place with one
will only, to serve our fellow men and through serving them
serve Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Remember, O Lord, for good all those who laid down their lives
for their friends, especially Thy servants whom we commemorate
before Thee this day. Regard their loyalty and devotion. Give them
rest and peace. Grant that by the sacrifice of their earthly lives,
they may be brought nigh unto the sacrifice of Thy blessed Son.
Grant that, mindful of their sacrifice, the people of the world may
turn from violence and injustice and seek the true righteousness and
peaceable freedom for which they died: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Mrs. Brenda Labourne, Chairman of the North Killingholme Parish Council, will welcome all present on behalf of the Parish Council and will introduce

Wing Commander J. J. Bennett, D.F.C. and Bar,
the First Commanding Officer of 550 Squadron

Ladies and gentlemen, on this historic occasion as we gather here to Dedicate the Memorial to those brave members of 550 Squadron who lived among us for a time in those dark days of war, and especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice, may I, on behalf of the North Killingholme Parish Council and all the peoples of Killingholme, welcome you here to our small village which remembers still with gratitude those young men who lived among us so many years ago. It is my privilege to welcome to our midst once again, Wing Commander Jim Bennett, D.F.C. and Bar, the first Commanding Officer of 550 Squadron.

AN ADDRESS

by

Wing Commander J. J. Bennett, D.F.C. and Bar

Wing Commander Bennett will now unveil the Memorial and pass the Royal Air Force Roundel to Mr. Roland Hardy of the Royal Observer Corps, who as a boy during the War used to watch with wonder as the mighty Lancasters took off and landed.

This being done Mr. Eric Redshaw, a Sergeant Fitter/Airframes
with 550 Squadron will say:

“They shall not grow 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.”

All shall reply

“We will remember them”

Bugler will sound “The Last Post”

The Rev. Bob Kenyon shall Dedicate the Memorial using these words

“In the name of God. Amen. To the honour and glory of Almighty
God, in whom is our humble hope of joyful resurrection and reunion,
we Dedicate this Monument in memory of the members of 550
Squadron who died in the cause of freedom. May God grant that all who
look upon it may enter into the peace of sins forgiven, the joy of faithful
service and the power of the endless life, to which God vouchsafe to
bring us all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then will the Bugler sound “Reveille”

Whilst flowers are placed upon the Memorial by the Official Party

The Piper plays

“Lament of the Forest”

Then shall the Hymn

“O God, our help in ages past”

be sung

O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all her sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

(Isaac Watts)

The Vicar shall then pronounce

The Blessing

At precisely 2.45 p.m. there will be a Fly Past
by the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane
of The Battle of Britain Flight

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This will be followed immediately by a fifteen minute Flying Display
by
The Battle of Britain Flight

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All are welcomed along to St. Denys' Parish Church, North Killingholme,
where Refreshments are available free of charge in the Church.

There are comfortable chairs to sit on too!

One can admire the 550 Squadron Badge which was presented to the
Parish Church of St. Denys last year.