

Unveiling of the Runnymede Memorial

17th October 1953 at 2.30 p.m.

Programme

Time

- 2.p.m. Some 25,000 relatives and friends of those whose names are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial will by now have taken their seats. Of these, rather over 2,000 will have come from the overseas countries of the Commonwealth. (The next-of-kin of every man or woman commemorated on the memorial has had an individual invitation to be present.) A Guard will have been mounted over the Stone of Remembrance within the Memorial.
- 14.05 The Guard of Honour, supported by the Central Band of the R.A.F., will march up the main avenue and take position in front of the Memorial.
- 14.20 The choir of St. George's, Windsor, followed by the Principal Chaplain, United Board (The Reverend J.R.Appleyard, Q.H.C.), the Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force (The Reverend Canon A.S. Giles, C.B.E., M.A., Q.H.C.), and the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and his Chaplain will move up the Main Avenue in procession.
- 14.26 His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Imperial War Graves Commission, arrives at the main entrance to the Memorial Enclosure.
- 14.30 Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, arrives at the main entrance to the Memorial and is received by:-
- His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.
The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey (General Sir Robert Haining, K.C.B., D.S.O.)
The Chairman of the I.W.G.C. (Rt. Hon. Antony Head, C.B.E.; M.C. M.P.)
The Secretary of State for Air (Rt.Hon. The Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, V.C.)
The High Commissioner for South Africa (H.E. Dr.A.L.Geyer)
The High Commissioner for Australia (H.E.Group Captain the Hon. Sir Thomas White, K.B.E., D.F.C.,V.D.)
The High Commissioner for New Zealand (H.E. Sir Frederick Doidge, K.C.M.G.)
The High Commissioner for Pakistan (H.E.Mr. M.A.H. Ispahani)
The High Commissioner for Canada (H.E. Mr. Norman Robertson)
The High Commissioner for India (H.E. Mr.B.J.Kher)
The Chief of the Air Staff (Air Chief Marshal Sir William F. Dickson, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.F.C.)
The Vice-Chairman of the I.W.G.C. (Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., K.C.B.)
The High Sheriff (Mr.John E. Ferguson)
The Chief Constable (Mr.J.Simpson, O.B.E.)
The Chairman of the Egham Urban District Council (Councillor R.H. Try, J.P.)
The Secretary, I.W.G.C. (Mr.F.Higginson, C.B., C.M.G.)
The Architect for the Memorial (Mr.Edward Maufe, R.A.)
- 14.32 Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester and escorted by the Chief of the Air Staff, will walk up the main avenue (which is lined by representative

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contingents from the Commonwealth Air Forces) and will mount the dais to take the Royal Salute.

- 14.34 Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester and escorted by the Chief of the Air Staff, will inspect the Guard of Honour.
- 14.36 Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Gloucester and the Chief of the Air Staff, will return to the dais, followed by the officiating clergy. The Service of Dedication will then take place according to the printed Order of Ceremony.
- 14.43 The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Imperial War Graves Commission, will invite The Queen to unveil the Memorial. Her Majesty addresses the congregation and then unveils the Memorial by pressing a button on the dais.
- 14.58 Towards the end of the Service of Dedication The Queen will lay a wreath, followed by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester. Wreaths will then be laid by the Secretary of State for Air, the High Commissioners for South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Canada and India, the Chief of the Air Staff and the Chairman of the Egham Urban District Council.
- 15.03 After the singing of the National Anthem The Queen will be presented with a silver key by the Architect. Her Majesty will unlock the entrance door to the Memorial and will inspect the Interior accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester. During the inspection of the memorial Her Majesty will be escorted by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Commission and by the Architect for the memorial.
- 15.19 On the conclusion of the inspection of the Memorial Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester and escorted by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission, the Secretary of State for Air and the Chief of the Air Staff, will make a tour of the relatives' enclosures.
- 15.34 The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Gloucester and escorted by the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretary of State for Air will remount the dais. The Chairman of the Commission will present to Her Majesty a specially bound copy of the Register of the Memorial. The Royal Salute is then given and Her Majesty will walk down the Main Avenue to the Royal Car at the entrance to the Memorial.
- 15.44 Airmen will take the wreaths laid at the entrance to the Memorial and place them against the Stone of Remembrance within the Memorial.
- 15.47 The Guard of Honour, the Central Band of the R.A.F. and the clergy and choir will leave via the main avenue and the main entrance.
- 15.52 Relatives will be admitted to the Memorial to inspect the names on the panels within the cloister and to lay wreaths. It is expected that about 6,000 wreaths, bunches of flowers or posies will be laid by relatives as they pass through the Memorial.
- 17.00 The Memorial will be flood lit both inside and out,

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

LONDON OFFICE

To: Mr. S.J.H. Wright.
Mr. J. Stegg.
Mr. E. Hall.
Mr. A. Stockwell.
Mr. S. Cohen.

DATE 16th October, 1953.

QUEEN UNVEILS AIR FORCES MEMORIAL, HUNNYMEDE,
SATURDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 1953.

Please note that Goumont will film the above Royal Note story to-morrow and supply us with a copy. It is calculated that our print will be available for collection from Denham mid-day on Monday, 19th instant.

The story is for release on Thursday, 22nd October, in the normal way.


G.M. MILLER.

G.M./PEN.

From Corners of Empire They Come To Shrine

By CYRIL BIRKS

"Evening News" Air Correspondent

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND relatives, 2,000 from overseas, will make a pilgrimage to the top of Cooper's Hill, overlooking the historic meadows of Runnymede,

to-morrow to see the Queen unveil the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial.

Occupying seven acres and consisting of cloisters and a shrine, it has been built by the Imperial War Graves Commission to perpetuate the names of members of the Commonwealth Air Forces who died in operations over Britain and North-West Europe and have no known graves.

Inscribed in stone are 20,455 names. Since those were engraved the graves of nine airmen have been traced. Their names will remain.

FANFARE Of Trumpeters

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will drive from Windsor Lodge for the ceremony due to begin at 2.30 p.m.

As the Royal couple arrive at the main entrance, trumpeters will sound a fanfare.

They will then be received by General Sir Robert Haining, Lord Lieutenant of the County; Mr. Antony Head, chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission; Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, the Air Minister; the High Commissioners for South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Canada and India, and Sir William Dickson, Chief of Air Staff.

After a hymn, the reading of the lesson and opening prayers, the Queen will be invited to unveil the memorial by the Duke of Gloucester, president of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

She will address the assembly first.

After the unveiling ceremony the Last Post will be sounded.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will then dedicate the memorial, which will be followed by the sounding of the Reveille.

The service will end with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh each laying a wreath.

Other wreaths will then be laid. Before leaving the memorial the Queen will pass through the relatives' enclosures.

FUNERAL MARCH Written by Pilot

For the first time a funeral march, written by a wartime R.A.F. pilot who flew with Gibson's "dam-busters," will be played at the service.

The composer is ex-Wing-Commander John Wooldridge, who wrote the incidental music for "Angels One Five" and "Appointment in London," films that dealt with the Battle of Britain and Bomber Command.

Mr. Wooldridge, holder of the D.F.C. and Bar and the D.F.M., at one time commanded a Mosquito squadron.

He composed the funeral march originally as a tribute to his brother, whose name is among those on the memorial.

The march has been specially arranged for to-morrow by Wing-Commander A. E. Sims, the R.A.F.'s Organising Director of Music and conductor of the R.A.F. Central Band, which will play it at the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. Wooldridge, who will be among the relatives who have been invited, is donating all copyright fees to the R.A.F. Association and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

More than 1,000 members of the R.A.F., including 81 belonging to the W.R.A.F., will take part in the ceremony.

They will be commanded by Group Captain R. R. Nash, C.O. of R.A.F. Station, Uxbridge.

Flight-Lieutenant J. Cowman will command the Royal Guard of Honour and Squadron-Leader J. S. Sallows will be the Head Usher.

Eighty standard bearers posted round and in the approaches to the memorial will be provided by the R.A.F. Association. There will be two more from the British Legion and one from the Canadian Veterans' Association.

A Civil Aviation Ministry notice to airmen says that special instructions will be issued by London Approach Control "in order that the solemnity of the occasion shall not be disturbed by the noise of aircraft."

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