



## **POLISH AIR FORCE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**



### **KOMITET POMNIKA LOTNIKÓW POLSKICH**

#### **Media Announcement**

**8 July 2011**

A new Polish Air Force Memorial Committee has been formed to maintain the memory of the Polish Air Force's achievements in the Second World War, and to honour the fallen.

The new Committee's functions are:

- To support ceremonies at the Northolt Memorial and elsewhere;
- To build links between today's Polish Air Force and their heritage in the West;
- To ensure that the Polish contribution is represented in British events commemorating the war in the air;
- To help future generations in Britain understand what Polish airmen contributed to the allied cause.

The Committee has been formed with the strong personal support of the Chief of the Air Staff, Sir Stephen Dalton, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Air Force, General Lech Majewski. The Committee is under the joint presidency of their representatives: the Station Commander, RAF Northolt (Gp Capt Tim O'Brien) and the Defence Attaché at the Polish Embassy (Capt. Stanisław Król). They have appointed Richard Kornicki, former secretary of the Polish Air Force Association Trust, as the executive Chairman.

The Committee's first task is to organise the annual ceremony of remembrance at the Northolt Memorial. This will take place at noon, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, and will follow broadly the same format as previously. As well as Polish Air Force veterans and their families, the Committee will welcome the presence of Poles of recent migration and members of the local community, whose heritage this also is.

Following the ceremony, there will be a reunion lunch at the Polish Social and Cultural Centre, 238-246 King St, Hammersmith. Anyone wishing to attend should send a stamped and addressed envelope for details to: Mrs. M. Goddard, Polish Records Section, RAF Northolt, West End Rd., Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG.

#### **Notes for editors:**

During the Battle of Britain RAF Northolt was the home of the Polish 303 Squadron – the highest scoring squadron of any that fought in the Battle with 126 confirmed victories. The war-time account of their exploits is still read by all Polish school children as part of their curriculum.

*Za Wolność Waszą i Naszą – For Your Freedom and Ours*

RAF Northolt was subsequently the home of the Polish Wing during most of the Second World War and is the only Battle of Britain airfield that is still an operational RAF Station. The Northolt Memorial is on the edge of RAF Northolt at the A40 roundabout. It is under the care of Hillingdon Council, who have recently refurbished it to the highest standards and maintain it throughout the year.

Commemorative events were previously organised by the Polish Air Force Association Charitable Trust. The Trust has recently been wound up, but not before passing on this role to the new Committee.

Other members of the Committee are:

Krzysztof Barbarski	Director, Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum
Eugeniusz Borysiuk	Last Chairman Polish Air Force Association Trust
Artur Bildziuk	Vice-Chairman, Polish Airmen's Assoc. London
Jerzy Cynk	Polish Air Force historian
Malgorzata Goddard	Polish Records Branch, RAF Northolt
Wg Cdr David Hale	O/C Middlesex Wing Air Cadets
Chris Norman	Hillingdon Council
Piotr Sikora	Polish Air Force historian
Dan Stirland	Curator, Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge
S/Ldr Richard Willis	Media & Comms. Officer, RAF Northolt

Contact point:

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