

RAF Bomber Command Commemorative Service



ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 9th June 2019

10.30am

Conducted by

Chaplain Stuart Hight, J.P.

RNZAF Base, Whenuapai

Master of Ceremonies

Ian Barron, NZ Bomber Command Trust Board

Call to Order: Master of Ceremonies Ian Barron

Please stand

New Zealand National Anthem

- Led by Able Musician Rebecca Nelson RNZNVR

E Ihowā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakarangona;
Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai Aotearoa

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat, God
defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar, God
defend New Zealand.

Acknowledgement of Veterans and special guests

This year we mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and with that we welcome all those men and women who have served with and preserved the proud history of those forces that made this memorial possible.

We especially welcome our Veterans, whose colleagues we remember today, and the representatives and personnel of our allied Defence Forces

The Mayor of Auckland, Mr Phil Goff
Commander of RNZAF Base Auckland, Group Captain Daniel Hunt
Representing the RAF and the UK High Commission, Flt Lt James Dickinson
Representing the Australian Defence Forces, L Cdr Mark Tandy Royal Australian Navy
Representing 5 Squadron RNZAF, Flying Officer James Copsey
Representing the Auckland District RSA, Wg Cdr Gordon Ragg AFC JP RNZAF (Retd)

We have received heartfelt apologies from veterans who, for various reasons simply cannot attend. They have been sent the Order of Service for today and will be part of the Service, albeit in many other parts of New Zealand and indeed in other Countries around the World

Welcome and address: Bruce Heberd - President of the NZBCA

Memorial Service : Chaplain Stuart Hight, RNZAF Chaplain Whenuapai Base

Opening Address

This morning in the presence of God, who is our strength and refuge, we come to remember those who served and died in Bomber Command during World War 2. We give thanks to Him for those who from came together from the Commonwealth, Europe and the UK to serve a common purpose. We remember with thanksgiving the men & women who served in Bomber Command, leaving homes & families to which so many of them were never to return. Many of them laid down their lives in the cause of justice, freedom and peace. By their costly and sacrificial endeavour, the Battle was won.

We acknowledge the controversies around Bomber Command that have developed over the years, resulting in judgements passed by some, but today is about remembering those who served. We remember all those who still bear the scars of conflict in body, mind and spirit.

We pray for peace between the nations of Europe since the ending of World War 2 and for the extension of unity concord and understanding across the continent. We pray for realisation of peace in all those places where there is war and conflict.

We pray for those who work for peace, and we do so rejoicing in the power and grace of Christ who is the Prince of Peace - that swords can be beaten into ploughshares and old and bitter enemies can yield up their hatred and find enduring fellowship. In praise, thanksgiving, remembrance and hope we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth. Let us say the Lord's prayer together.

Prayer **(All)**

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom
the power and glory
for ever and ever. **Amen**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul:
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I shall fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod & Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Reading : HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbled mirth
Of sun - split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung

My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Written by : Pilot Officer John Gillespie McGee RCAF

Prayer

Almighty God from you alone comes wisdom and understanding. We humbly ask you to bless and inspire the hearts and minds of those who bear the responsibility of government in every country and the Queen and all those in authority under her. Give to them the vision of your truth and righteousness and guide them to work together for justice and peace.

Lord hear our prayer.

Almighty God your love enfolds us in both life and death; we thank you for the men and women who served Bomber Command, for those who gave their lives or health and for those who survived; for their families and all who supported them. We thank you for their sacrifice their loyalty their commitment their courage and their devotion to duty. Keep us through their example always loyal in our service, in danger - calm, in conflict - bold, in resolve - undaunted and in success - free of pride.

Lord hear our prayer.

Almighty God we thank you for those whose lives were defended by the service of Bomber Command and offer our debt of gratitude for our own lives and our liberty. We pray for all those who suffer as a result of war or conflict, for the injured, the wounded, the hurt, and the bereaved, for the homeless and the refugees for the fearful and the oppressed, for the prisoner and the vulnerable for those who seek to bring relief and protection.

Lord hear our prayer. Amen

Addresses:

- **The Mayor of Auckland, Hon. Phil Goff**
- **Flt Lt James Dickinson, representing the RAF and the British High Commission**
- **Jonathan Pote, Jonathan Pote MBE, RAF Sqn Ldr (Rtd)**

Call to Lay Wreaths

Reflection

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women:
that we may help, encourage, and comfort others,
and support those working for the relief of the needy
and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All say together

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all mankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name.**

**Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.**

Amen

The Kohima Epitaph

“When you go home tell them of us and say, that for your tomorrow, we gave our today”

The Ode:

**Wg Cdr Gordon Ragg AFC JP RNZAF (Retd),
Auckland District Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association**

Their glory shall never die,
the whole wide world is their Sepulchre.
Their epitaph is written in the Hearts of all mankind
and where ever there is talk
Of noble deeds their names will be held in
grateful Remembrance.

They shall grow not 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 shall remember them.

All We shall remember them

The Last Post

The Rouse

FINAL BLESSING

May God grant to the living peace, to the departed, rest
to all people peace and concord and to us and all his servants life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and
remain with you always. **Amen**

Laying of Poppies,

- Veterans
- Dignitaries & Guests
- Members of Public

Final Thanks and Dismissal

The New Zealand Bomber Command Association would like to thank
Fiona Blanchard, Visitor Services Team Manager
Pilot Officer John Tihan and
Cadets of 3 Squadron Air Training Corps for their assistance

Please Stand

God Save The Queen

- **Led by Able Musician Rebecca Nelson RNZNVR**

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.

Dismiss



The NZ Bomber Command Association
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