

ATC Sunday Parade 05/02/2006

5th February 2006 saw the seven squadrons in the Western Sector of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing come together to parade for ATC Sunday. This event is held annually to commemorate and celebrate the achievements of the Air Training Corps since its formation on 5th February 1941.

St. Neots was the venue of this year's parade. With Adult Warrant Officer Graham Sturgess as the parade warrant officer, Flight Lieutenant Tim Brain acting as parade commander, and Squadron Leader Barry Testro in attendance; approximately 120 cadets and staff marched through the town centre, aided by the local police, to arrive in true military fashion at St. Neots parish church. During the first hymn the squadron banners were brought forward and presented at the altar, after which followed a thoughtful address by the local vicar Reverend Roger Henthorne. As is tradition, the service was rounded off with the singing of the national anthem.

On completion of the service, Western Sector was reformed to carry out the march past. Squadron Leader Barry Testro took the salute on this, his final official duty with the Air Training Corps.

Thanks are due to 2500 (St. Neots) Sqn for hosting the event and providing refreshments at the end of the day. Commanding Officer Flight Lieutenant Mark Robinson said "It was a great turnout, all the cadets were immaculately presented and, once again, showed their professionalism on the day."

By Flt Sgt Otulakowski
134 (Bedford) Sqn ATC