

**Flight Lieutenant Margaret Bell RAF VR(T)
Officer Commanding
22 (Sandy) Squadron ATC**

*Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps*

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PRESS RELEASE

22 Squadron Remembers The Fallen

Air Cadets and Staff from 22 (Sandy) Squadron were on Parade for Remembrance Day last Sunday. It was a cold and blustery day as they marched to the Town's War Memorial for a short service of Remembrance before marching to St. Swithun's Church. Cadet Robert Hubbard laid the Air Training Corps Wreath and Cadet Laura Jones laid a Poppy Cross on behalf of the Williamson family in Australia in memory of Flight Sergeant G H Williamson RAAF and Crew.

The Squadron then paraded for a Memorial Service organised by Edwin Bryce and conducted by Rev Barbara Eberling at Tempsford Airfield Barn, with kind permission of the Countess of Erroll. The Last Post was played by Mark Stafferton, of the Sandy Drum & Bugle Corps.

Cadet Clare Hillier read a message from the late Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges KCB CBE DSO DFC a former Officer Commanding No 161 Squadron, who sadly died last year. Cadet Kim Coates laid a wreath on behalf of the crew of Halifax LL280, and Cadet Alice Ward laid a wreath in memory of the crew of Hudson FK790. Cadet Jason Filby laid a Poppy Cross for the Williamson family in Australia in memory of Flight Sergeant G H Williamson RAAF and Crew. The Tempsford Cross was laid by Cadet Akeel Shaikh and the RAF Memorial Cross was laid by Wing Commander Anthony Smith DFC AFC, 22 Squadron's President. Flight Sergeant Tom Jackman laid the ATC Squadron's wreath. The Squadron's Banner Bearer for both Parades was Cadet Corporal Dominic Chapman. A Wreath was also laid by Mr Harold Watson on behalf of 161 (1st Highland) Sqn Air Training Corps.

Wreaths and Tributes were also laid in memory of all SOE agents who were flown from Tempsford and the RAF Crews who flew them, as well as many tributes laid by relatives and friends of former personnel who served and flew out of the Airfield.

Following the Parade at Tempsford the Staff and Cadets had a chance to talk to two former Pilots and aircrew from 161 Squadron, who flew on special operations from Tempsford during the war. One of the former Pilots was an Air Cadet himself and joined at 16 before joining the Royal Air Force. Now well into his 80s he was so pleased to be able to attend the Ceremony and meet the Air Cadets from the next Generation. Mr Tommy Thomas (*far right photo 1*) thanked the Squadron Commander for attending the Ceremony, and said "*how wonderful it was to see the Air Cadets again taking part*". Tommy, who lives in France, flew on Lysander missions out of Tempsford over occupied Europe, including the hazardous mail pick-up operations over France. He was awarded the Legion D'honneur by the French government last year.

The organiser Edwin Bryce thanked the Squadron Commander and the Cadets and said "*Tempsford wouldn't be Tempsford without the Air Cadets*".



The ATC/ACF Cadet Centre, Alnwick Close, Sandy, Beds. SG19 1UA (no mailbox facility)



Website: www.sandy-aircadets.org.uk

Charity Exemption W182/00

Officer Commanding 22 (Sandy) Squadron, Flight Lieutenant Margaret Bell said *"It is so important for the next generation of Air Cadets and my Squadron in particular to be involved with Remembrance Sunday, and we remember not only those who had given their lives during the two World Wars but also serving personnel out in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families at this time, and that we should all never forget the price of freedom"*.

If you would like more information on how to join as a Cadet or a member of Staff or Civilian Committee please call 01234 307776, email 22Sqn@BedsCambsWgATC.org or log onto the website at sandy-aircadets.org.uk and follow the link.

Margaret Bell

Flt. Lt. RAF VR(T)
OC 22 Squadron

Distribution

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Photo – 22 Sandy Squadron - on Parade at Sandy
Photo – Cadet Akeel Shaikh laying the Tempsford Cross
Photo – former Pilots and Crew from 161 Squadron Tempsford with Air Cadets from 22 Squadron



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