



# INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

*Za Waszą wolność i naszą*

Spring 2021

**To the Memory of all who served at RAF Ingham (Cammeringham)  
and in the Dywizjony Bombowe Polskich Sił Powietrznych**



## Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter *Ingham White Eagle*.

Well what an extraordinary 12 months. Who'd have thought in Feb 2020, that the UK and the world would be gripped by such a deadly pandemic.

Here at RAF Ingham Heritage Centre, we've had to close since the initial lockdown in March 2020; and as a result, we've been unable to hold or attend our usual calendar of events and ceremonies, as well as being unable to welcome our many visitors and descendants. This has had a huge impact on our fundraising capabilities.

Also, for the first time in our Group's history, we had to hold two consecutive Annual General Meetings, virtually. So were now eagerly looking forward to this Summer, when

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we can re-open to the public, and also start attending events around the local area.

We have some very exciting projects being launched this year including; the creation of a **Polish Air Force Bomber Squadron Trail in Lincolnshire** (more info in Summer Edition); a touring Exhibition of **Polish Air Force Bomber Squadron in Lincolnshire**, which will be visiting a number of venues around the East Midlands (dates/venues tbc); **Michael Czajkowski's** annual lecture at Petwood Hotel, is being moved from November to September (dates/times tbc); and on-Site, the opening of our new **Reception and Shop**; and bringing on-line our **Volunteers Workshop**.

I hope you find this Edition, both interesting and informative. Please forward or pass on to anyone you feel maybe interested in it. So from all the Team and myself at RAF Ingham, please stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you and welcoming you back.

*Geoff Burton*

Chairman / Trustee

## Maintenance Team



During Covid and especially since the autumn, we've not been permitted under HMG restrictions to have our Volunteer Team working on-Site undertaking numerous planned projects.

However, we have retained our small Maintenance Team of Colin, Brendan and Geoff, who once a week, visited the Heritage Centre site, and continued a program of maintenance, repairs and priority works, whilst maintaining Social Distancing.



## AEC Matador

In March last year, our AEC Matador 6x6 Refueler finally made it to the Heritage Centre. But with Covid etc, it took until November before we could remove the old rusty tank (thanks once again to Tim and his Teleporter. The Cab was completely rotten and rusted-through, so had to be removed prior to being shunted into the Volunteers Workshop, to keep her from any further deterioration.

Now the real work starts.

Once the Volunteers are back on Site through May, we'll be forming a Restoration Team, led by Mike Eretraut. If you have, either knowledge, expertise or just a passion for renovation, please let us know, and we'll pass on your details to Mike.



## 'Airmen's Rest' - Cafe



Another of our planned projects, is to create and open our own Cafe, in the former aptly named 'Food Preparation Building'. The Cafe, once completed, will be able to serve hot and cold snacks, teas & coffees, cakes and ice creams. Much of the catering tables and work surfaces have been recycled from a previous life, and are being cleaned and sterilised prior to being fitted in the new Cafe.



## Polish Resettlement - Nissen Hut

As you will no doubt be aware, if you've been able to visit our Heritage Centre over the last few years, we managed to rescue enough parts from the old Nissen Huts, on the old Polish Families Resettlement Unit site in Ingham village (before it was completely flattened a few years ago). This has allowed us to recreate an exact replica of the Nissen Huts occupied by Polish Air Force families, after they'd been de-mobbed, after the war. The Nissen Huts were originally Barrack Blocks, consisting of a metal tube with a brick wall at either end. Due to an acute housing shortage immediately post war, the War Dept created a design to convert these former barracks, into temporary family homes, by building internal walls, to create two bedrooms, a bathroom, and main family living room, and a pantry.

The latest part of this Project has involved the reclamation of a front door and four internal panelled doors. Tony Jablonski, (cabinet maker), and whose father was on 300 Sqn, helped to restore the Doors ravaged by woodworm; the Team then primed the doors; and Tony Gordon, made the door frame and hung all five doors. All that's now needed is some door furniture and a coat of top paint. Thanks for a great team effort.



## Happy 99th Birthday Jan



Last month saw Jan Black (Stangryciuk), Rear Gunner, 300 Sqn, celebrate his 99th birthday. Jan is an incredibly inspirational gentleman, with a wonderful zest for life, and a love of Red wine. We raise a glass to you.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAN

## 5th Polish Heritage Day

At the moment, everything seems to be prefixed with " during Covid or during the pandemic".

Last years, and this year's Polish Heritage Days were no exception, with both being held virtually; so we decided to create a short film about the Polish Bomber Squadrons, with the help of a local young film maker, Stuart Riley, as our contribution to the 5th Polish Heritage Day, The link is below, and we hope you enjoy it.

<https://www.rafingham.co.uk/polish-heritage-days>



## Visit of Polish Consul General

On Thursday 22 April, we were delighted to welcome Michał Mazurek, new Consul General, and Vice Consul Patryk Gowin, from Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Manchester, for their first visit to RAF Ingham Heritage Centre. They brought beautiful weather with them, and were able to stay for almost two hours. During their visit we gave them a full guided tour of our Site, and organised a variety of displays and stands about the Polish Air Forces Bomber Squadrons in Lincolnshire.

The visit was a great success, and we look forward to working with them, over the coming months and years.



## PAF Bomber Squadron - Touring Exhibition



We are extremely excited to be finally getting this touring Exhibition off the ground, after last year's disappointing postponement, due to Covid. The Exhibition will tell the story of the **Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons in Lincolnshire**, and is being funded by *Museum Development East Midlands*, and the *Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Manchester*. The Exhibition Tour will take place during October and November, and will be visiting a selection of venues around the East Midlands. More information on dates, times and venues will be announced, during the summer.



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Manchester

## Carol Wharmby-Gordon - 199 Sqn Researcher



Over the past two years of being the *199 Squadron Researcher*, I have made steady progress, sending numerous email enquiries to libraries, museums and historical centres etc. The internet has been invaluable in tracing and making contact with, relatives as far as Australia and Canada. I have received so many heart-warming responses, with everyone being so helpful, in sending information through of their relatives, and often, the added bonus of a photo, so you can put a face to the name. Although 199 Squadron were only based at RAF Ingham between Feb to Jun 1943, fifty-seven names of squadron aircrew are remembered on the Memorial Wall at RAF Ingham. Many of these young men were also based previously at RAF Blyton, a short distance from Ingham. Over the past few weeks, my husband Tony and I have been on holiday in the County, from our home in the north west. This has allowed us to come along on Sundays, as volunteers, and help in the ongoing work at Ingham. It has been so enjoyable and interesting to get involved as well as doing the research on 199 Squadron. Hopefully this year I will get to meet some of you, and for you, to pay your own tributes to your loved one at the memorial here at RAF Ingham. **Carol Wharmby-Gordon, Researcher - 199 Sqn RAF Ingham - rafingham199sqn@aol.com**

Registered Charity No 1142147

[www.rafigham.co.uk](http://www.rafigham.co.uk) [rafigham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rafigham@hotmail.co.uk)



@rafigham



RAF Ingham Heritage Centre

RAF Ingham Heritage Centre  
Middle Street, Fillingham, DN21 5BU

