



Newsletter - June 2009

Campaign Secures Planning Permission!



Terry Smith with Campaign sculptor, Mr. Leslie Johnson, the metre high maquette statue of Sir Keith Park and Terence Stevens-Prior (Sir Keith's great great nephew).

Dear Supporter,

I would like to thank you all for your valued support and for helping us achieve our aims so far. The many thousands of letters and emails you sent to Westminster City Council's Planning Department were crucial to the outcome of the Westminster City Council Planning Committee, who on Thursday, 7th May 2009, passed the planning applications for both a temporary statue of Sir Keith Park on the Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square, for six months, to be unveiled in early November 2009, and a permanent statue of Sir Keith Park to be unveiled in Waterloo Place on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, 15th September 2010.

I would also like to thank Westminster City Councillors the majority of whom were supportive of both our planning applications.

I hope to see many of you both at the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, for the temporary unveiling, on 4th November 2009 and at Waterloo Place, for the permanent unveiling, on 15th September 2010. Any supporters who would like further details or to attend the unveilings can do so by contacting the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign using the contact details displayed at the bottom of this newsletter. Further details will also be available via the Campaign Website: www.sirkeithpark.com

Once again, thank you all for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

Terry Smith
Chairman, Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign



A representation of the statue on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

'Circuit Of Britain' Recreating Sir Keith Park's epic journey in 1919



Terry Smith and Terence Stevens-Prior, great great nephew of Sir Keith with the 'Socata T20 Trinidad' flown in their 'Circuit of Britain'

Between 5th May and the 7th May 2009, Terry Smith accompanied by Sir Keith Park's great great nephew, Terence Stevens-Prior and his co-pilot Rodger Filbee, completed a re-creation of Sir Keith's epic 'Round Britain Flight' made in Spring 1919. Sir Keith and his crew undertook their 'Circuit of Britain' in a Handley Page aircraft, whilst Terry Smith followed in Sir Keith's geographical footsteps in a Socata T20 Trinidad. Stops were made at RAF Waddington, Edinburgh, RAF Aldergrove (Belfast), Haverfordwest and Thruxton, with a flypast at Capel-le-Ferne, home to the Battle of Britain Memorial to 'The Few'. For further information on Capel-le-Ferne please contact the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust at: www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

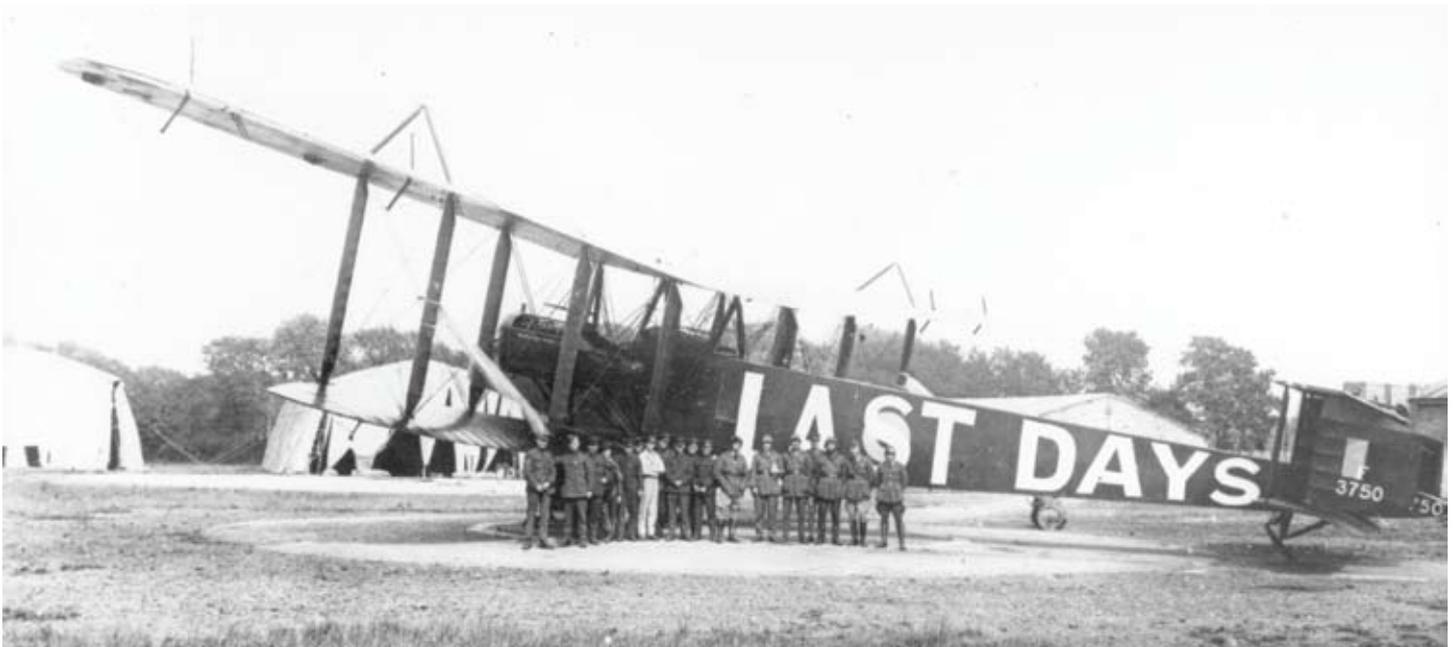
This journey was completed to raise awareness of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign prior to the Westminster City Council Planning Committee's decision on 7th May 2009.



From left to right: Squadron Leader Edd Watkin; Terence Stevens-Prior, great great nephew of Sir Keith; Wng Cdr T. Neil DFC AFC AERAF Rt'd, BoB veteran; Mrs H. Gregory, Uxbridge Plotting Room Operative; Terry Smith, Campaign Chairman; Mr. R. Filbee, co-pilot; Flight Lieutenant Heather Ratnage-Black at RAF Waddington



Front row: Terry Smith; Pilot Officer Norman Brown RAF Rt'd, BoB veteran; Terence Stevens-Prior, great great nephew of Sir Keith Park. Back row: Rodger Filbee, co-pilot 'Circuit of Britain'; Acting Wing Commander Dougie Roy and 4 cadets from HQ Edinburgh & South Scotland Wing, Air Training Corps



Sir Keith Park with his co-pilot and crew standing in front of the Handley Page aircraft they flew in their 'Circuit of Britain' in May 1919

For further information, please contact:

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Email: info@sirkeithpark.com www.sirkeithpark.com

Phone: 020 7200 7332 / 020 7200 7130 Fax: 020 7200 7678



Terry Smith with his co-pilot Roger Filbee and Terence Stevens-Prior flypast Capel-le-Ferne



From left to right: Air Cadet's from 948 Haverfordwest and City of St. David's Air Squadron; Sir Keith's great great nephew, Terence Stevens-Prior; Terry Smith; Pembrokeshire elected representatives at Haverfordwest Aerodrome



Mrs J. Tootal, Group Captain P. Tootal OBE DL RAF Rt'd and Wng Cdr R. Foster DFC AE RAF Rt'd, BoB veteran, joined at Capel-le-Ferne by other Campaign Supporters for the 'Circuit of Britain' flypast

Steam Trains - 'Manston 34070'



'Sir Keith Park' - Then and Now



Some of our supporters may like to attend the official re-dedication of 'Manston 34070' one of the sister engines to 'Sir Keith Park'. This event will now take place on Saturday, 19th September 2009, at Swanage Station.

Southern Locomotives Ltd. would be very happy to welcome any supporters to this event. the ongoing restoration of the Sir Keith Park engine can be seen onsite on this day.

In attendance on the day will be ex-RAF officers, Lord Dowding's stepson, an ex-Manston Station Commander, and it is also anticipated that participating in the re-dedication will be BoB veterans and a well known personality to action the re-dedication.

For further details contact:

simon@supersonictravel.biz

or on: 01474 833 263

www.southern-locomotives.co.uk

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- THE -
SIR KEITH PARK
- MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN -

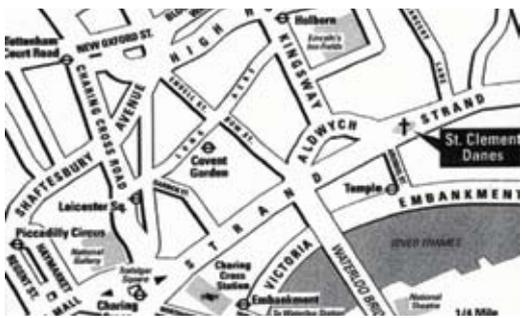


www.sirkeithpark.com

'Brew for the Few'

On Thursday, 23rd July, the Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) will be holding a 'Brew for the Few' at the Central Church of the RAF, St. Clement Danes. Please join RAFA between 11:00hrs and 14:00hrs for a tea and cake. On display will be the 'Books of Remembrance' and the 'Queen's Colours and Standards'. In attendance on the day will be representatives from the RAF Museum London, they will be clothed in authentic Battle of Britain dress and have displays of artefacts from the Second World War.

For further details please contact Pete Brocklehurst, Eastern Area fundraiser: peter.brocklehurst@rafa.org.uk tel: 0116 268 8757 or Izabela Przybylska, St. Clement Danes fundraiser: izabelap@yahoo.com tel: 0778 776 7100



'His Finest Hour'

Print's of 'His Finest Hour' (as depicted below) an excellent painting by Frank Wootton, of Sir Keith Park with his famous Hurricane OK 1, are available for purchase at £25 GBP (including packaging and posting) from Mr. T. Ford, Campaign supporter.

To order a print please contact Mr. Ford directly at:
Mr. T. Ford
PO Box 53094
Auckland Airport
New Zealand
Or email: modelt59@hotmail.com



Channel Dash Association: Membership Campaign

On 12 February 1942, a group of eighteen young men of 825 Naval Air Squadron took off from RAF Manston, Kent in six slow, fabric-covered Fairey Swordfish torpedo bi-planes. Their mission was to attack one of the largest German battle fleets ever assembled, supported by more than 200 fighter aircraft, as it made a 'dash' from France to Germany through the Straits of Dover.

All of the Fairey Swordfish were destroyed and all but five men killed, the whole attack lasted just twenty minutes, the German fleet survived intact. The squadron's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Eugene Esmonde received a posthumous Victoria Cross and collectively the crew's were recognised with four Distinguished Service Orders, one Conspicuous Medal and twelve Mentions in Despatches

The Beatles producer, Sir George Martin, is Vice Patron of the Channel Dash Association. 'They must have known that they would probably be killed in such an incredible attack,' he explains. 'Some have compared it to the Charge of the Light Brigade, but this was no mistake. It was a 'deliberate sacrifice.'

Thanks to the committee, members and supporters of the Channel Dash Association, chaired by Broadstairs' based Peter Nixon, these men and their sacrifice will be remembered with the unveiling of a stunning memorial at Manston Airport on 29 August 2009. This will be a magnificent full-sized replica of a Fairey Swordfish in the livery of the 825 squadron.

If you would like to find out more about the Channel Dash or to contribute to or sponsor the memorial appeal, do take a look at the Channel Dash Association website www.channeldash.org or contact Peter Nixon on 01843 860 242



Reproduction of a possible scene as the Fairey Swordfish attacked.
Courtesy of Mrs. Julie Marson