

- THE -
SIR KEITH PARK
- MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN -



Final Newsletter - November 2010

www.sirkeithpark.com



Back row left to right: Sqn. Ldr. Tony Pickering; Sqn. Ldr. Tony Iveson; Ft. Lt. Keith Lawrence; Ft. Lt. William Walker; Sqn. Ldr. Geoffrey Wellum; Fg. Off. Ken Wilkinson; Wng. Cdr. Tom Neil

Middle row left to right: Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, Chief of the Air Staff; Hon. Dr. Wayne Mapp, Minister of Defence for New Zealand; Terry Smith, Chairman of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign; The Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox, Secretary of State for Defence; Air Vice Marshal Graham Lintott, Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force

Front row left to right: Ft. Lt. Owen Burns; Gp. Cpt. John Gard'ner; Wng. Cdr. Bob Foster; Wng. Cdr. Terry Kane; Ft. Lt. Bill Green; Sqn. Ldr. Nigel Rose



Terry Smith, Chairman of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign addressing supporters at the unveiling of the permanent statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place

Dear Supporter,

I would like to thank you all for your valued support in helping us secure a permanent memorial to Sir Keith Park in the heart of the capital city of the country he did so much to defend.

On Wednesday, 15 September, 2010, the 70th Anniversary of the ‘Battle of Britain’, the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign unveiled a permanent statue in Waterloo Place, London. The unveiling ceremony was a memorable occasion, particularly because we were honoured to be joined by so many of the surviving ‘Battle of Britain’ veterans. They were joined by senior RAF personnel, the Defence Secretary, the Mayor of London, over 60 Park family members and many more individuals, including over one thousand Campaign supporters. Those attending were fortunate to witness a flypast by a lone Spitfire - evoking the drama of the Battle which had raged in the skies above London in 1940.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wing Commander Bob Foster, ‘Battle of Britain’ veteran and Leigh Park, the great-great niece of Sir Keith for joining me to unveil the statue. Their presence on the dias formed a tangible link between Sir Keith, the men he commanded and his family. I would also like to thank Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, Chief of the Air Staff and the Hon. Dr. Wayne Mapp, Minister of Defence for New Zealand for their speeches and The Venerable Air-Vice Marshal Ray Pentland, Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force for leading the prayers and blessing.

As I am sure you will agree, the statue sculpted by Les Johnson is a fitting tribute not only to Sir Keith but to all those of 11 Group who flew under his command. In a broader sense, his statue pays tribute to the service and sacrifices of those airmen from the Commonwealth and beyond who served in the RAF during the Battle and the wider conflict. I also want to thank all our supporters, without whose efforts we would not have succeeded in acknowledging the debt of gratitude we owe Sir Keith as the ‘Defender of London’. Most importantly of all, we should take pride that the permanent statue in Waterloo Place will serve to remind future generations of what Sir Keith and his comrades achieved, so that we may live in freedom.

Kind regards,

Terry Smith
Chairman of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton KCB ADC BSc FRAeS CCM1 RAF at the unveiling of the statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place



Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC AE, ‘Battle of Britain’ veteran and Leigh Park, great-great niece of Sir Keith Park, unveiling the bronze statue



Unveiling ceremony of the statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place, Wednesday, 15 September, 2010



Wing Cdr. Terry Kane, The Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox MP and Ft. Lt. Bill Green



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, Terry Smith and Air Vice Marshal Graham Lintott ONZM FRAeS RNZAF



Flypast of a Spitfire, flown by Squadron Leader Ian Smith RAF (OC BBMF)



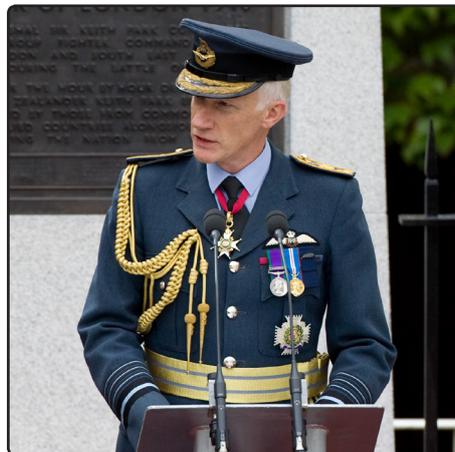
'Battle of Britain' veterans present at the unveiling of the statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place



Leigh Park, great-great niece of Sir Keith Park, Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC AE & The Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox MP



The Venerable Air Vice-Marshal Ray Pentland QHC BA DPS Mth RAF leading prayers and the blessing



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton KCB ADC BSc FRAeS CCMI RAF addressing supporters



The Hon. Dr. Wayne Mapp MP addressing supporters in Waterloo Place



The Guard of Honour of the Queen's Colour Squadron



The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, The Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox MP, Her Honour Judge Marshall QC, Cllr. Harvey Marshall, Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Terry Smith and The Hon. Dr. Wayne Mapp MP

Unveiling Ceremony for the Temporary Statue of Sir Keith Park - Trafalgar Square

On Wednesday, 4 November, 2009, the temporary statue of Sir Keith Park was unveiled on Trafalgar Square's iconic Fourth Plinth. The achievement, of what was the first truly appropriate commemoration of Park - often in the face of opposition - is something in which all our supporters can take pride.

A military band, a guard of honour and a spectacular flypast by a Spitfire and modern Typhoon set the tone for the ceremony. Speeches were then delivered by the Chief of the Air Staff, Campaign Chairman Terry Smith and the Mayor of London, who caused a ripple of applause when he declared that he would have liked to rename Hyde Park "Park Park". Diplomats from many Commonwealth and other countries attended, as did Ministers, MPs and hundreds of Campaign supporters. As ever, we were particularly honoured by the presence of so many veterans and by members of the Park family.

Guests then enjoyed a Second World War-themed reception, with the route to the entrance mocked up as an archetypal 1940's London Blitz street. Actors dressed in WWII uniforms welcomed guests and musical performances by 'The Swingtime Sweethearts' and 'Olivia' evoked the sounds of wartime Britain with iconic songs of the period such as 'The White Cliffs of Dover'. Speeches were delivered by His Excellency Mr. Derek Leask, New Zealand High Commissioner and Terry Smith.

The temporary statue remained in Trafalgar Square until Wednesday, 5 May, 2010, when it was removed and taken to its permanent home as part of the Battle of Britain Exhibition at the RAF Museum in Hendon.

For further details please visit: www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london



Temporary statue of Sir Keith Park - Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square



Unveiling ceremony of the temporary statue of Sir Keith Park, Trafalgar Square - Wednesday, 4 November, 2009



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton
KCB ADC BSc FRAeS CCMI RAF
Chief of the Air Staff addressing supporters



Terry Smith, Chairman of the Sir Keith Park Memorial
Campaign addressing supporters in Trafalgar Square



Mayor of London, Boris Johnson
addressing supporters in Trafalgar Square



Terence Stevens-Prior, great-great nephew of Sir Keith
and Cllr. Duncan Sandys, (the then) Worshipful Lord Mayor
of Westminster & great grandson of
Sir Winston Churchill



Stephen Park, Laurette Cummins and Terence
Stevens-Prior (Park family members)



Ft. Lt. Keith Lawrence DFC RNZAF (Ret'd)
and Leigh Park great-great niece of Sir Keith Park



Spitfire and Typhoon Flypast at the unveiling
of the Sir Keith Park Statue in Trafalgar Square



Central Band and Fanfare Trumpeters of the RAF
under the Sir Keith Park Statue on the Fourth Plinth



Supporters present at the unveiling
of the statue of Sir Keith Park



His Excellency Mr. Derek Leask
New Zealand High Commissioner



Edward Fox OBE and Lieutenant J. Keatings RAF (Ret'd)



Les Johnson, sculptor of the Sir Keith Park Statue

Campaign Timeline

15 September 2007

Mrs Money Penny's Sir Keith Park article in the Financial Times.

22 September 2007

Published response to the Financial Times article by Terry Smith, supporting an appropriate memorial to Sir Keith and offering to financially back the Campaign.



Terry Smith at the launch of the Campaign in Trafalgar Square

7 March 2008

Terry Smith launches the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign in Trafalgar Square.

18 & 19 March 2008

Cross Party sponsored Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign (SKPMC) Early Day Motion '1206' is tabled in the UK Parliament. 10 Downing Street website petition is created.



Terry Smith at Biggin Hill airfield with Flt. Lt. Owen Burns and Sqn. Ldr. Al Pinner MBE BSc RAF

29 April 2008

Fly-in of a 'Battle of Britain' Hurricane and Messerschmitt 109 to Biggin Hill airfield in the presence of 'Battle of Britain' veterans.



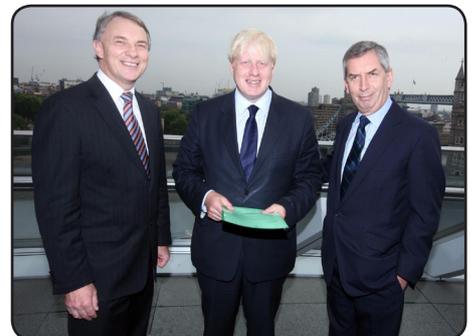
Terry Smith with Park Family Members in New Zealand, 2008

5 - 7 May 2008

Terry Smith visits New Zealand to meet Campaign supporters, members of the Park family and politicians.

6 June 2008

Meeting at City Hall, London, with Terry Smith, Chairman SKPMC; Boris Johnson, Mayor of London & The Hon. Phil Goff MP; the then Minister for Defence, NZ. Phil Goff delivers a letter to Boris Johnson supporting the SKPMC signed by the leaders of New Zealand's political parties.



The Hon Phil Goff MP, the then Minister for Defence; Boris Johnson, Mayor of London and Terry Smith at City Hall, London

13 June 2008

SKPMC planning applications submitted to Westminster City Council Public Arts Advisory Panel (WCCPAAP) for the temporary and permanent statues of Sir Keith Park.

- 30 October 2008** Unveiling of the maquette Statue of Sir Keith Park at City Hall with ‘Battle of Britain’ veterans, Park family members, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, the High Commissioner for Malta and the Deputy Mayor of London.
- 13 September 2008** SKPMC supporters event held at the RAF Museum, Hendon.
- 19 January 2009** Cross Party SKPMC Early Day Motion ‘490’ tabled in UK Parliament.
- 9 February 2009** SKPMC planning applications submitted to Westminster City Council (WCC) for the temporary and permanent statues. Thousands of members of the public write to WCC in support of the applications.
- 5, 6 & 7 May 2009** ‘Circuit of Britain’ - Terry Smith recreates Sir Keith’s anti- clockwise circuit of Britain 90 years on.
- 7 May 2009** Westminster City Council Planning Committee passes the planning applications for a temporary statue on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square and subsequently a permanent statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place.
- 7 - 15 September 2009** Terry Smith visits New Zealand to meet with Park family members, politicians and Campaign supporters.
- 4 November 2009** The temporary statue of Sir Keith Park is unveiled on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London.
- 27 July 2010** Cross Party SKPMC Early Day Motion ‘651’ supporting a permanent statue of Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place, tabled in the UK Parliament.
- 15 September 2010** The permanent statue of Sir Keith Park is unveiled in Waterloo Place.



‘Battle of Britain’ veterans at the unveiling of the maquette Statue of Sir Keith Park at City Hall



Terry Smith, Chairman of The Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign, and Terence Stevens-Prior, great-great nephew of Sir Keith during the recreation of the ‘Circuit of Britain’

Terry Smith’s Blog - ‘Straight Talking’

Follow what Terry decides to do next: Terry Smith, Chairman of The Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign, writes a personal blog - www.terrysmithblog.com.

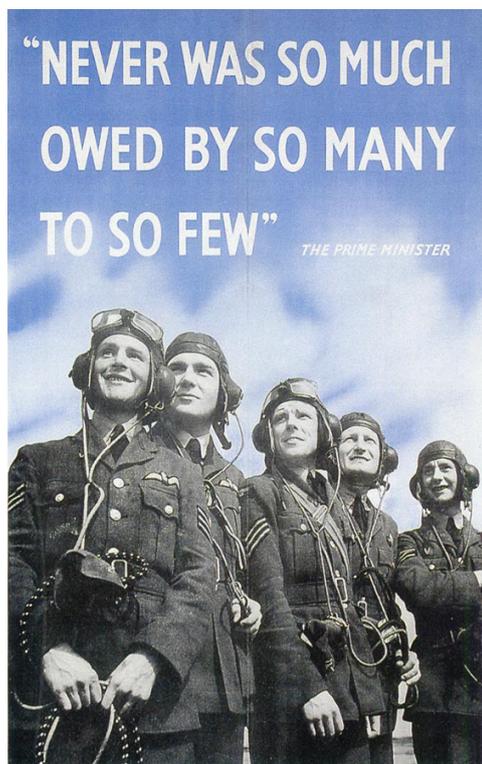
Terry has a reputation for straight talking, and as the success of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign has shown, his determination and often outspoken approach can get things done. In his blog, in addition to Sir Keith Park, Terry has written about his love of history and aviation, his concerns for the country as a result of the credit crises, and many other issues which he is passionate about - current affairs, the economy, business, culture, climate change, our society and all manner of other subjects that affect our lives today. Often controversial but predictable only in its bluntness, his blog will amuse, stimulate, educate, irritate and entertain in equal measure.

Sign up to his blog and receive email alerts when he posts comments.

Come and join the conversation.

Thank You

The Campaign would like to remember all of the veterans who took part in the 'Battle of Britain' and those who took part in WWII. We would also like to thank those veterans who have supported the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign.



'Our Wall'

Written by and published with the permission of Ft. Lt. William Walker RAF (Ret'd)

Here inscribed the names of friends we knew
 Young men with whom we often flew.
 Scrambled to many angels high,
 They knew that they or friends might die.
 Many were very scarcely trained
 And many badly burnt or maimed.
 Behind each name a story lies
 Of bravery in summer skies;
 Though many brave unwritten tales
 Were simply told in vapour trails.
 Many now lie in sacred graves
 And many rest beneath the waves.
 Outnumbered every day they flew,
 Remembered here as just 'The Few'.



The Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign Team from left to right:
 Pascale Davies, Victoria Crump-Haill,
 Frangelica Flook, Karl M'Cartney MP
 and Nigel Szembel MBE TD

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust 70th Anniversary Appeal

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust has recently unveiled plans for a 'Living History' learning centre that will be a permanent reminder of the bravery of the Allied aircrew who fought off the German air invasion in 1940.

The centre at Capel-Le-Ferne will be designed as a living history resource that will use film, walk-through displays and modern technology to recreate the historic events of 1940.

The trust needs £650,000 to fund this exciting scheme and believes that this the 70th Anniversary year of the 'Battle of Britain' is the ideal backdrop to a national appeal.

For further information on the learning centre or to make a donation to The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust Fund, please visit their website at: www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

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