



100th Anniversary
14 Squadron
1915 - 2015

Station Church
10am, 8th Feb

Kevin Hart, Rev (Wg Cdr)
Senior Chaplain





14 Squadron

A History of the Squadron

No. 14 Squadron formed at Shoreham on 3 February 1915 from a nucleus provided by No. 3 Reserve Squadron, and worked up on a variety of types before departing for the Middle East in November. It was tasked with Army co-operation duties in Egypt, Palestine and Arabia, and carried out a series of detachments around the region as hot spots occurred. In November 1917, the Squadron received RE8s and concentrated on reconnaissance duties until recalled to the UK in 1919 and disbanded in February of that year.

Reformed in Palestine a year later, the Squadron remained in the region throughout the Inter-War years, flying Bristol Fighters and on various duties including air policing, photo survey and many long-distance 'flag waving' flights around the region. Fairey IIIFs and Gordons replaced these in the early 1930s and by the start of World War II No. 14 Squadron was flying Wellesley bombers. With the expected advance of Axis forces through Africa, the Squadron began bombing targets in Eritrea in June 1940 before re-equipping with Blenheims and a flight of Gladiators by the end of the year. These were used until the summer of 1942 when Marauders were taken on strength and used in the anti-shiping role. During mid-1944, the Squadron moved to Chivenor and flew Wellingtons in the anti-submarine role. This continued until June 1945, when the Squadron moved to Banff in Scotland and traded its Wellingtons for Mosquitos.

With an administrative disbandment (for one day), the No. 14 Squadron reformed at Wahn in Germany with Mosquito bombers, and continued with these until Vampires arrived in 1951, supplemented two years later by Venoms. In 1955, No. 14 Squadron became a fighter unit and received Hunters for this role. With another short disbandment in 1962, the Squadron re-formed at Wildenrath with Canberras in the strike role until June 1970 when Phantoms arrived. Jaguars replaced these aircraft in the fighter/attack role in 1975 whilst the Squadron was at Bruggen and remained on strength until 1985 when Tornado GR1s replaced them. In January 2001 they moved to Lossiemouth.

14 Squadron was disbanded on the 1st of June 2011. It was agreed that 14 Squadron's numberplate should be passed to a new unit in the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) role. The unit has been operating as part of 5 Squadron at RAF Waddington. The new 14 Squadron, operates the Beechcraft Shadow R1 aircraft.



The service begins at the door of the church

The Standard Party, Officer Commanding 14 Squadron and Padre enter the church

The congregation stands

The Padre lays the Squadron Standard on the altar

Welcome and Introduction

Chaplain: We gather here today to celebrate and commemorate the centenary of 14 Squadron 1915 – 2015. We should never forget the contribution of those who have gone before us and given their lives in the cause of justice, freedom, and peace. Freedom, however, is not free and without cost. The work we recognise today and the dedication of those who have served before us is an expression of our heartfelt thanks, and serves to remind us always of our obligations and responsibilities in maintaining the life of this nation for which they struggled and sacrificed.

We have come together to remember before God those who have given their lives for our country, to honour their courage and sacrifice, and to pray for the peace and freedom which was their hope. We will keep silence and lay a wreath in honour of those who gave their lives; we will hear God's word and commit ourselves again to his service and to that of our neighbour.

Hymn All people that on earth do dwell.

A brief history of 14 Squadron

Officer Commanding

Prayers of Thanks

Chaplain: Generous God, of your great goodness and love you have given your people the vision and skill to mark the centenary of 14 Squadron in this place. Here too the commitment and loyalty to the memory of those who have gone before us are honoured in the gift of a squadron plaque to reside in the Church of the Resurrection, RAF Waddington. May the faith and fortitude of the human spirit be remembered, and those who stand and remember be nurtured and strengthened in faith, hope and love. Here may the seeker find faith,
the weak find courage,
and the grieving find comfort.

May it be a place of peace to all who come here; a statement against all hatred, envy, and pride; and a beacon to all who seek your presence.

In the name of God the Father, who formed us in love and calls us by grace,

All: We dedicate ourselves today.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who draws us together in unity,

All: We dedicate ourselves today.

In the name of the Holy Spirit, who speaks in our hearts the words of eternal life,

All: We dedicate ourselves today.

Generous God, of your great goodness you renew your people in their daily living. Bless us who gather here. Empower us, on this day of dedication, for fresh ventures in faith, greater commitment in love, and new acts of service.

All: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit we dedicate ourselves in service and praise. Amen.

Prayer of the Royal Air Force

Almighty God, who has promised that those who wait upon You shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles, we commend to Your fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support us in our endeavour, that we may be a safeguard to our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and a sure defence to our nation. Help us to fulfil our several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that we may prove to be worthy successors of those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for 14 Squadron

Almighty God, warm the hearts, inspire the minds and guide the wills of all who serve in 14 Squadron; that those who operate technological systems may face the challenges of the air with courage and fortitude; that those who work to maintain and support operations may be infused with dedication and professionalism; and that all may strive for cooperation and excellence, refreshed with the life-giving power and strength of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We bless you, O God, for the courage, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice of those who in years of service gave themselves that we may live in peace.

We bless you for the witness of those who today make sacrifices, which challenge us to search for peace. With them, you invite us to share the vision of a new world in which creation is cherished and every human life valued in friendship, love and trust, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Bible Reading Isaiah 40: 21-31

Flt Lt Alex Harman

Hymn Great is thy faithfulness.

Bible Reading Mark 1: 29-39

Hymn Lord, for the years.

Address

Hymn Such love, pure as the whitest snow.

The Act of Remembrance

The congregation remains standing as the Officer Commanding 14 Squadron moves to the lectern for the Act of Remembrance.

Officer Commanding 14 Squadron:

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

There follows a 2-minute silence.

Kohima Epitaph

When you go home
Tell them of us and say –
"For your tomorrow
We gave our today".

The Officer Commanding 14 Squadron lays the wreath

Chaplain: Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Jesus we cannot be parted, either by life or death, we give you thanks for all whom we remember this day, and ask that you would so work your good purposes in us that we might honour those who have gone before us and share with them in your eternal joy.

Amen.

Act of Commitment

Chaplain: God, who calls us to be one with himself, through his Son Jesus Christ, tasks us to share in his work of reconciliation. So let us pledge ourselves anew to be peacemakers in our homes, in our country and throughout the world, in the words of the following prayer:

**All: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;**

**to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.
Amen.**

Chaplain: Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

All: We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

All: We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

All: We will.

**All: Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all your peoples,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful
now and always.
Amen.**

Chaplain: Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Saviour gave us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name:
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn Take my life, and let it be.

The Standard Bearer receives the Squadron Standard from the Padre

The Blessing

Chaplain: Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And give us ever cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

The Standard Party exits to the Royal Air Force March Past