

## Commemorating the Battle of Britain in No1 Group - 2014

In Kent and East Sussex, commemorations for the Battle of Britain are held throughout the summer from the start of the Battle in July with The RAF Memorial Day at **Capel le Ferne** and finishing at the end of October at a Battle of Britain dinner held by **Biggin Hill** Supporters Club as part of their fund raising for the Biggin Hill Heritage Centre.



*The following pictures are from some of the commemorative events.*



In August, the No1 Group Standard was paraded at **Chart Sutton**, a small village in the Weald of Kent. A pilot was killed here when his hurricane crashed at the height of the battle. The grave has been preserved as a memorial garden where an act of remembrance took place with a salute from a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Members of the pilot's family still attend this annual service. Terry & Jacqui Giles, Frank & Brenda Tilley and Bryan & Margaret McCarthy represented the ROCA, Bryan laying the wreath.







At the beginning of September, **Biggin Hill** Squadron of the ATC held an annual reception and concert to mark the battle. It began with Ceremonial Sunset and a fly past and display from the Spirit of Kent Spitfire to be followed by a buffet and the concert in St George's Memorial Chapel where the cadets take an active part telling the story of the battle.



In mid-September the No1 Group Standard paraded at **Wye**, another charming Kentish village. This one embodies ROC history. During the WW1 an aerodrome was established there by the RFC, the station becoming RAF Wye in 1918. It was the site of one of the forty three original posts that were opened in 1925 following the trials based on Cranbrook. It went underground in 1959 and was stood down in 1991 having served continuously as part of 'Front Line Britain'.

This claim was emphasised in 1943 when it was designated a Totter Post where the air raid warning alarm could be sounded if low flying enemy aircraft were sighted without reference to the centre.



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During that evening, No1 Group Standard was on parade again for **Medway** RAFA's annual event. A parade was led by the local ATC band followed by a service in the RE Garrison Church in **Brompton**. Amongst those attending were Terry & Jacqui Giles, Robin Green and Frank & Brenda Tilley.







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On Battle of Britain Day, 15 September, we returned to **Capel le Ferne** where a simple and informal ceremony was held. The memorial area was as impressive as always especially in the warm sunshine with France visible in the distance. There was a reasonable public presence, a mixture of those attending the event and those visiting the Memorial who were surprised to see a parade and service. ROCA members attending were Terry & Jacqui Giles, Robin Green and Len Goldsack who laid a wreath.





We are now looking forward to the End of Battle of Britain dinner and then get ready for 2015. It should be quite a year!

*Jacqui & Terry Giles Maidstone Group*