



THE ORDER OF SERVICE  
FOR  
THE LAYING UP OF THE STANDARD  
OF  
NO 207 SQUADRON  
ROYAL AIR FORCE



LEICESTER CATHEDRAL  
SUNDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 1984 AT 2.30 PM

ORDER OF PROCESSION

2.30 PM The Provost of Leicester (The Very Revd A C Warm MA) and other clergy meet the following at the South Door and escort them to their places.

Squadron Leader and Mrs Hampton

The High Bailiff of Leicester

The High Sheriff of Leicestershire

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Mrs Martin

To Be Done

At 10.30 AM on 11th June 1961

THE SECRETARY

The Reverend A. A. G. Jones M.A.

The *Provost* welcomes the Congregation and leads

#### THE BIDDING

On this day, you have assembled in this Cathedral, to commemorate loyal and fearless service, given by your Squadron to our Sovereigns and fellow countrymen, to commemorate it with thanksgiving before God. It is right that on this day, you should pay tribute to the memory of those who have given their lives to just and noble causes; for you have come as well to lay up your Squadron Standard. No more fitting place could be found wherein to deposit this emblem of Duty and Service than in this Cathedral of the City which adopted 20<sup>th</sup> Squadron as its own.

So let us now praise God; and in his presence seek inspiration to dedicate ourselves anew to his service.

*Provost:* Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,  
*Answer:* But unto thy name give the praise  
*Provost:* The Lord hath done great things for us already;  
*Answer:* Whereof we rejoice.  
*Provost:* Praise the Lord O my soul;  
*Answer:* And forget not all his benefits.

#### GRANDMASTE THE LESSON

Ecclesiasticus 44 v. 1 - 15

Read By

Squadron Leader I J Hampton RAF

#### HYMN

O WORSHIP the King all glories above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

O ceaseless Might, ineffable Love,  
While angels delight to hymn thee above,  
Thy ransomed creation, though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Sr R Grant

Based on W. Keble (1561)

#### THE ADDRESS

The Reverend A A B Jones RAF

## THE LAYING UP OF THE STANDARD

At the conclusion of the address, the congregation is asked to stand while the Standard Party moves to the Communion Rail. The Standard is received by the Officer Commanding No 207 Squadron who in turn will deliver it to the Provost.

**Provost:** It is an ancient and laudable custom to lay up in the house of God the consecrated emblems of man's duty and service, there to remain for all time as a reminder of a duty well done and of the strength that God supplies.

**Officer Commanding:** Very Reverend Sir, I ask you to receive this Standard of No 207 Squadron of the Royal Air Force for safe lodging in the House of God until such time as it shall pass to that like those whose courage and devotion are enshrined in its history.

**Provost:** We receive this standard into safe keeping at God's House, here to hang for all time as a reminder to those who pass by of man's duty to God, to his Sovereign and to his country.

The Provost having placed the Standard on the high Altar will say this prayer:

'Almighty God and Lord of Hosts, we now lay up these emblems of courage and steadfastness. May all who look upon them be reminded of their duty to God, their Queen and their Country, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.'

The Last Post shall be sounded.

## HYMN 207

I VOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;  
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear of them that love her, most great to them that know;  
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering,  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice

## The Trumpeter shall then sound the Reveille

## THE CONCLUSION

**Prose:** Be thou faithful unto death;  
**Answer:** And I will give thee a crown of life.  
**Prose:** Let us pray:

"Grant we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we who recall the steadfastness of those belonging to 207 Squadron who have gone before, may ever be found faithful to thee in all things, and may with them receive the Crown of Everlasting Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Let us pray for those who suffer:

"O God who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength, we commend unto thee all who suffer through war and strife, the wounded, the sick, the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed; the anxious, the frightened and the bereaved. Strengthen them, O Lord, with Thy Holy Spirit and give them friends to help them in their need. We ask it in his name, Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Let us pray for the Royal Air Force:

"Almighty God whose love enfolds us both in life and death, we pray for all members of the Royal Air Force, that thou wouldst keep them always loyal in Thy service. In danger make them calm, in conflict bold, in retreat undaunted, in victory free from pride. Give to the whole world peace and goodwill, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Prose:** Blessed be the name of the Lord;  
**Answer:** From this time forth and ever more.  
**Prose:** Our help is in the name of the Lord;  
**Answer:** Who hath made heaven and earth.  
**Prose:** Finally let us join our prayers and praises in the words our Lord has taught us, saying:  
**Answer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name....

## HYMN

For all the Saints who from their labours rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confess,  
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest,  
Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness dress'd their one true Light,  
Alleluia!

O May thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold,  
Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong,  
Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest:  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest,  
Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's furthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia!

Bishop W. W. How, 1823 - 97

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

### THE BLESSING

The Congregation remains seated and asked to move by the Ushers, Retiring Collection. To be donated to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.



Throughout its 66 years, life has been pretty turbulent for 207 Squadron. It has its origins in 7 Squadron RNAS, formed in 1916 and until early 1917 it operated in the combined fighter and bomber roles. With the formation of the RAF on 1 April, 1918 the Squadron became No. 207.

Between the wars the squadron led a fairly uneventful life except for two overseas tours. Due to trouble between Greece and Turkey they were sent to Constantinople in 1922, returning a year later when the political situation had improved. In 1924 they became one of the first squadrons to be fitted with radio telecommunication and later, in 1933, potential trouble in Abyssinia saw the squadron posted to the Sudan.

From there it was moved to Gabati, where it was presented with its badge - one of the few designed and signed by King Edward VIII.

The late 30s heralded the end of the bi-plane era when the squadron was re-equipped with Wellesleys, later replaced by Battles.

During the Second World War the squadron was one of the first to be equipped with the ill-fated Manchester, but because of the aircraft's bad record it was given Hampdens in order to remain operational. In 1942 they took charge of Lancasters and for the rest of the war they were in the forefront of the bomber offensive, adding Berlin, the Ruhr and Normandy to their battle honours.

The squadron was first disbanded in February 1950 but reformed again at Marham in 1951 with B29 Superfortresses, replaced three years later by Canberra which later made way for the Valkyrie. With the demise of the Valkyrie the squadron was again disbanded in 1963.

Southern Communications Squadron took over the number and standard of 207 Squadron in 1969 when it moved to Northolt, using the Deven in the communications role.

