

2-440201  
2-240201

5/7/42

THE "MANY" REMEMBER THE "FEW"

The Hawker Hurricanes, a symbol of a great and gallant victory. Biggin Hill, the most famous airfield of that battle, is today crowded with visitors who come to remember the summer fourteen years ago when a handful of young men flew to glory in our skies. Spitfires and Hurricanes - two words which turn back the pages of time. They were not born then, yet they know the story of the battle, a story that the years cannot dim.

A small boy fires the guns that once helped destroy the Luftwaffe. Jet fighters stand by the veteran 'planes, a reminder of the great strides aviation has made since 1940. Now it is time for the flying display, and overhead a lone Hurricane sweeps past in salute.

Next a Spitfire.

Now one of the Hawker Hunters which are already in service with the Royal Air Force. The top-secret Handley Page "Victor", a swept-wing, long-range bomber.

Fourteen years have passed, and yet for a few it is as yesterday. In the mess at Biggin Hill, they meet again to relive those days. Men like Group Captain Cunningham, still one of our leading fliers.

Former Air Minister, Viscount Thorne, on the right, chats with Douglas Bader, the legless fighter ace. George Page and John Louden. Lord Dowding, who laid the plans of victory. Together, at the airfield they know long ago.

Now on Battle of Britain Sunday, a service of dedication is held on the airfield, and again the heroes gather. Lord Dowding is there, and seated near him are Air Chief Marshal Sir John Baker and Air Vice Marshal Patch. During the ceremony, a Hurricane and a Spitfire will be dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester as a permanent memorial to the Few.

Twelve Meteors dip in salute over the airfield as a tribute from the Royal Air Force to gallant comrades. And now at the altar, between the two fighter 'planes, the Bishop, Dr. Chavasse performs the dedication:

On the airfield from which they flew, the two 'planes will stand as a vital reminder of the heroism and sacrifice of the victorious Few. Meanwhile in Holland, by Nijmegen Bridge, the tenth anniversary is remembered of the town's liberation and of the epic battle of Arnhem. In this about 10,000 paratroopers were dropped; many did not return, but the Dutch people see that their graves are not neglected.

At an impressive ceremony, a young man of Nijmegen, Jan Van Hoof, is honoured. A great bronze statue is dedicated to his memory, for it was he who saved the bridge for the Liberation troops. He is depicted

over/-

2-440201  
2-240201

running back to the town carrying a bullet-torn flag of freedom.

At Arnhem's Cemetery another service of remembrance is held. 300 British people attend, including Major General Urquhart who commanded the First Airborne Division. General Sosabowski, of the war time Polish Army watches General Urquhart lay a wreath to the "men with the Red beret" who lost their lives in the battle. Each year since the end of the war this service has been held, and each year the children place flowers by the white headstones that mark the last resting-place of their liberators. The men of Arnhem - the fighter-pilots of the Battle of Britain - The sea divides their graves and the years their day of dying - yet they share together a corner in our hearts; for they died for us, and man can ask no more from any man.

---