



FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION



“THE AIREY FAIREY”

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FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Dear Member,

FLEET AIR ARM MEMORIAL


I am sure you will remember that some three years ago a Trust comprising of our own Association together with the FAA Officer's, TAG's, the Aircrewman's and the Aircraft Handler's Associations was created to look into the possibility of a memorial in London and to raise sufficient funds to enable us to commission a design, sculptor and architect as well as meet the costs of obtaining the necessary consents and planning approval.

I am delighted to tell you that formal approval for our memorial design has now been granted. It has been a tricky business to achieve with a number of Authorities to satisfy, not all of whom are well disposed to memorials, still less those of a military nature. Features of the early designs were rejected and a number of compromises had to be made. Despite this I believe that James Butler's final design is stunning, and a highly attractive exposition of modern sculpture. The memorial will be situated outside the MOD Main Building (Whitehall Extension) in Victoria Embankment Gardens.

With the necessary approvals now in place we are moving into the construction phase and of course the main expenditure. Our intention is that the unveiling ceremony should take place in early June 2000, and our Patron, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has said that he would be delighted to do this.

Now that we have all the important planning permission, and in order to meet the timescale, we are asking members of the Fleet Air Arm Associations to help us – we need to raise a further £200,000 which includes an endowment to Westminster City Council for the maintenance of the memorial in perpetuity. There will therefore be no further call for funds. The committee of the FAA Association is very strongly in favour of this splendid project, which will record for all time, the sacrifice made by over 6,000 men and women of the Royal Naval Air Service and the Fleet Air Arm.

I ask you personally to support the Memorial Appeal if you possibly can by sending a cheque to the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Trust. If you have already contributed I hope you will excuse this letter which, in the interests of speed and the ease of administration, is being sent to our full mailing list.


pp Doug Wyatt
Chairman

Fleet Air Arm Memorial Trust, 4 St. James's Square, London, SW1Y 4JU.

