

# Birmingham FAA(A)

*The Laying up of the Birmingham FAA(A) Branch Standard*



*The Birmingham branch of the Fleet Air Arm (Association) was formed from an idea in the late 1960's and early 1970's when Birmingham was the Head Quarters of the Fleet Air Arm Association and numbers and geographical reasons dictated that the size Etc. needed re-structure. Thus the B'ham branch became one*

*of the first branches along with Hanworth and then others forming. At this time the branch sort to parade a Standard and a design was agreed and purchased (sadly the records of actual day have been lost) but in 1973 a Standard had been dedicated with a ceremony performed in the “Nautical Club” the branches HQ.*

*Since the dedication a number of Ex FAA members have proudly carried the Standard and in the early days the Standard was paraded with “escort”.*

*This was however the early days but over the latter years the branch “struggled” with numbers and membership, the ageing members, the late night meetings and the “Breathalyser” eventually lead to the branch becoming a day time or lunch meeting with the Taranto night being one of the last functions to survive and in*

*November 2015 and with the closure of the Nautical Club the branch was closed or disbanded, although the small number of members still meet at the Birmingham Federation of Ex Services Associations meeting on the first Saturday of every month to keep some traditions alive and socialise.*

*It was decided in November 2015 that the “Standard” should be Lay-ed Up and after meetings a number of suggestions were proposed and the FAA Memorial Church was asked if it could be lay-ed up there after all the Branch had supported many “kneelers”, ceremonies that the stand was paraded at and charity contributions, But that was rejected in 2016 by the Church committee. Other places suggest were looked at from the FAA Museum to the RAF-RNAS Lossimouth museum. But a closer to home place was found with the assistance of the*

*Birmingham Lord Mayor and the BFESA this was the St. Paul Church in St. Paul's Square Birmingham central, the Standard had been paraded there on many occasions.*

*The Church Padre was approached and was happy to accept the branches wishes and the Standard will be flown with other RBL & military Standards.*

*The date of the service will be the 23rd April 2017, St Georges Day. The service will be followed by the annual St. Georges day parade and Service held with the members of FBESA.*

*It is hoped that as many Ex FAA(A) will be able to attend the service, there will be a lunch at the Menis Strathallan Hotel, Hagley Rd. (now the B'ham Hallmark) following the service.*

*Below are a number of Photos of the Standard as it has been Paraded in public over the latter years, these parades and local military funerals*

*have been visible outings for the Standard, that has been welcomed by family, members and general public and been proudly carried by many Standard Bearers.*



*Father David Bennett the FBESA Padre & previously the Nautical Club Padre*





*National Service Parade @ the National Memorial Arboretum*



*Wet Armed Service Day Parade in Birmingham Centenary Square*



*A Blustery  
Trafalgar  
Day Parade*

*in B'ham @ the First Memorial to Admiral Lord Nelson*



*Poppy Day/Week Launch in Birmingham*





*2016 Poppy Day / Week Launch Birmingham*



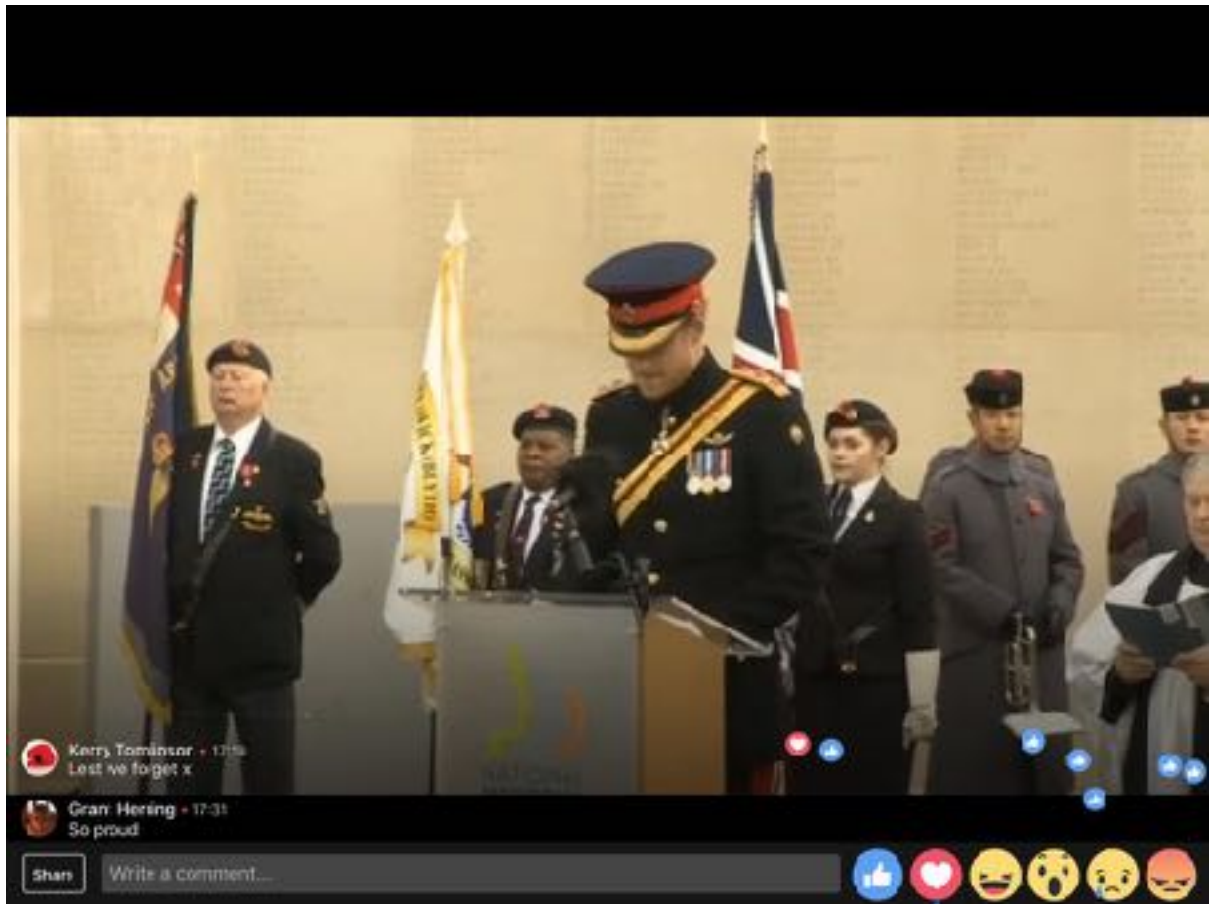




*The 2016 memorial Service on ANZAC Day at the Gallipoli Memorial NMA.*



*Memorial Service for the 100 anniversary of Battle of Jutland in 2016 At the National Memorial Arboretum RNA memorial*



*And the Last Public Parade was Remembrance Day 2016 at the  
Armed Forces Memorial NMA*

*Alan Beward*

*Ex LEM(Air) 1967-1977*

*Last Chairman & Standard Bearer Birmingham branch FAA(A)*