



PRESS RELEASE

Issued: Friday 11th November 2016

With Images

Leeds Bradford Airport commemorates Remembrance 2016

Friday 11th November 2016: To commemorate Remembrance Day 2016, Leeds Bradford Airport were joined by members of the 609 (West Riding) Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force to lay wreaths.

No. 609 Squadron was originally formed as a Bomber Squadron in 1936 at RAF Yeadon, now Leeds Bradford Airport, but achieved fame during the Second World War as a Fighter Squadron, especially during the Battle of Britain. Members of the squadron, including Squadron Leader Jeffrey Metcalfe were joined by local Aviation Historian Ken Cothcliff as well as CEO John Parkin and Leeds Bradford Airport staff and passengers, for a service and prayers led by Airport Chaplain, Rev Andrew Atkins.

Wreaths were laid at 609 Squadron memorials both airside and landside, with a two minute silence observed at 11am.

The Royal British Legion have also supplied poppies for passengers to buy in the airport terminal throughout November, to raise money for this year's Poppy Appeal. The airport will also be observing a two minute silence today, Armistice Day.

The squadron is longer flying and instead has the role of Force Protection. It is currently based at RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, working to prevent or minimise the effects of enemy attack on RAF bases.

John Parkin, CEO of Leeds Bradford Airport, said:

"It was a honour to welcome members of the 609 (West Riding) Squadron back again this year to commemorate and thank them for their services since 1936. The annual wreath laying service led by our Airport Chaplain Rev. Atkins provides us all with an opportunity to reflect and remember."

Squadron Leader Jeffrey Metcalfe said:

"609 (West Riding) Squadron Auxiliary Air Force was formed 80 years ago at RAF Yeadon, now Leeds Bradford Airport. The present day Squadron, based at RAF Leeming near Northallerton, are ever mindful of their proud history and traditions. We are conscious of the fact that we are now the custodians of this heritage, so it has been a wonderful opportunity to commemorate our forebears on the very spot where history was made and I thank LBA for facilitating the event."



Leeds Bradford[®]
Airport

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For more information about the airport please visit: www.leedsbradfordairport.co.uk. For more information on this year's Poppy Appeal, please visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk.

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With Image:

Members of the 609 squad at Leeds Bradford Airport lay a wreath.



For further information please contact:

Kayley Worsley, PR & Public Affairs Manager – Leeds Bradford Airport

Email: Kayley.Worsley@lba.co.uk Tel: 07710 075279