

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL “Tour Guide Presentation”



Chapter 3 - The Dining Hall

Dining Room



The design of the College Dining Room is based on that of the Long Room of the Royal Hospital.

At its head are displayed the College Colours, behind which is hidden a pair of white gloves for the duty cadet to wear if/when removing it in the event of a fire.

A very special place, it is adorned by paintings of previous Chiefs of the Air Staff and cherished College celebrities such as Malcolm VC, Whittle and Bader.

Above all, it is where the 'spiritual home of the RAF' becomes the "domestic home to cadets" who have decided to serve their country. And on special nights, when those cadets enjoy the formalities of a dining-in night, you will hear, from the gallery at the opposite end of the Dining Room, a traditional rendition of the Post Horn Gallop from a musician of the RAF College Band.

Former Chiefs of Air Staff



Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Sir Andrew Henry Humphrey
GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC & Two Bars
(10 Jan 1921 – 24 Jan 1977)



Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Sir Keith Alec Williamson,
GCB, AFC
(born 25 February 1928)



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Michael James Graydon,
GCB, CBE
(b 24 October 1938)



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Richard Edward Johns,
GCB, KCVO, CBE
(born 28 July 1939)



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Peter Ted Squire
GCB, DFC, AFC, DL, FRAeS
(born 7 October 1945)



Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Baron, Graham Eric Stirrup (aka 'Jock')
KG, GCB, AFC, FRAeS, FCMI
(born 4 December 1949),



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Glenn Lester Torpy
GCB, CBE, DSO
(born 27 July 1953)



Air Chief Marshal
Sir Stephen Gary George Dalton
GCB, ADC
(born 23 April 1954)

Three of our very best Cadets



Wg Cdr **Hugh Gordon Malcolm VC**
(2 May 1917 – 4 December 1942)

Malcolm was the only College cadet to be awarded a VC, heroically leading 18 Sqn in a bombing raid on an enemy fighter airfield near Chougui, Tunisia, against overwhelming odds. He was posthumously awarded a VC in April 1943, the first to be awarded in the North Africa campaign. His name is remembered through the formation of the Malcolm Clubs that provide welfare services for RAF families.



Air Commodore **Sir Frank Whittle** OM KBE CB FRS FRAeS
(1 June 1907 – 9 August 1996)

Despite passing the RAF entrance examination with a very high mark, Whittle failed twice to enter the RAF because he was too small, at just 5 feet tall. Undeterred, he applied again under an assumed name, passing the physical and, in September 1923, 364365 Boy Whittle, F started his three-year training as an aircraft mechanic in No. 1 Squadron of No. 4 Apprentices Wing. Recognised by RAF staff as a genius, he developed the jet engine that first flew in a Gloster E28/39 at Cranwell in 1941.



Group Captain **Sir Douglas Robert Stuart Bader**
CBE, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, FRAeS, DL
(21 February 1910 – 5 September 1982)

Joined the RAF in 1928, commissioned in 1930, lost both legs in an aerobatic accident in 1931. Despite being discharged on medical grounds, he rejoined in 1939 to become a renowned flying ace, credited with 22 aerial victories, four shared victories, six probables, one shared probable and 11 enemy aircraft damaged. Shot down in 1941 - blue-on-blue - he 'resided' in Colditz Camp for the next 4 years.

Courage **A**bility **D**edication **E**nergy **T**eamwork **S**ingle-mindedness