

Appeal in relation to the
Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial
to be built at
Hyde Park Corner, London

Liam O'Connor
Architects and Planning
Consultants

on behalf of the Bomber Command
Association, London



Bomber Command Memorial, London, View of central pavilion.



Bomber Command Memorial, London, View from Piccadilly.

Introduction

The Bomber Command Memorial is being promoted by the RAF Bomber Command Association which has been securing funds to build a permanent memorial to the 55,000 aircrew who lost their lives during the Second World War.

The Bomber Command Association is a registered charity in the UK. Its president, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham GCB CBE DFC AFC DL, has been campaigning for about 25 years to have this memorial built.

The Association is based at the RAF Museum in Hendon and is headed by Douglas Radcliffe, MBE. There is a dedicated memorial committee headed by Air Commodore Malcolm White.

“Speaking as someone who has researched the history of Bomber Command for my book ‘Bomber’, may I say that, like the infantry, the aircrews of Bomber Command were, for the most part little more than boys. They came from all parts of the English-speaking world, as well as from such countries as France, Holland, Belgium and Poland. The odds against them surviving a full tour of operations were bleak if not to say horrifying. Yet the promise of death did not deter them, nor break their spirit. These boys, so many of whom died before enjoying more than two decades of life, deserve a permanent place in our history. I believe that a memorial to them is overdue.”

Len Deighton



Bomber Command Memorial, London, Interior View.

Support and Funding position

The Royal Air Force, the British Government and a number of other organisations have provided support for the ongoing campaign to erect a memorial in a prominent civic location.

Newspapers and the media have provided platforms for fundraising. Amongst these, The Daily Telegraph newspaper has campaigned tirelessly with a result of over £1.3 million raised so far through its ongoing fundraising campaign.

There are a host of fundraising initiatives planned throughout 2011 but large donations are being sought urgently to allow construction to commence and to complete the memorial whilst some RAF veterans are still alive to see their colleagues honoured.

To date £2.4 million has been raised and a donation of £1.0 million promised leaving a shortfall of £1.6 million to reach the £5.0 million budget target.

The Site

At the heart of central London lies Hyde Park Corner, replete with fine memorials such as the Wellington Memorial, the Royal Artillery Memorial, the Australian and New Zealand Memorials as well as others. To the immediate east of Hyde Park Corner is The Green Park, a Royal Park with Heritage Listed Status and in a designated Conservation Area. To the south lies Buckingham Palace and to the north Piccadilly with Mayfair beyond.

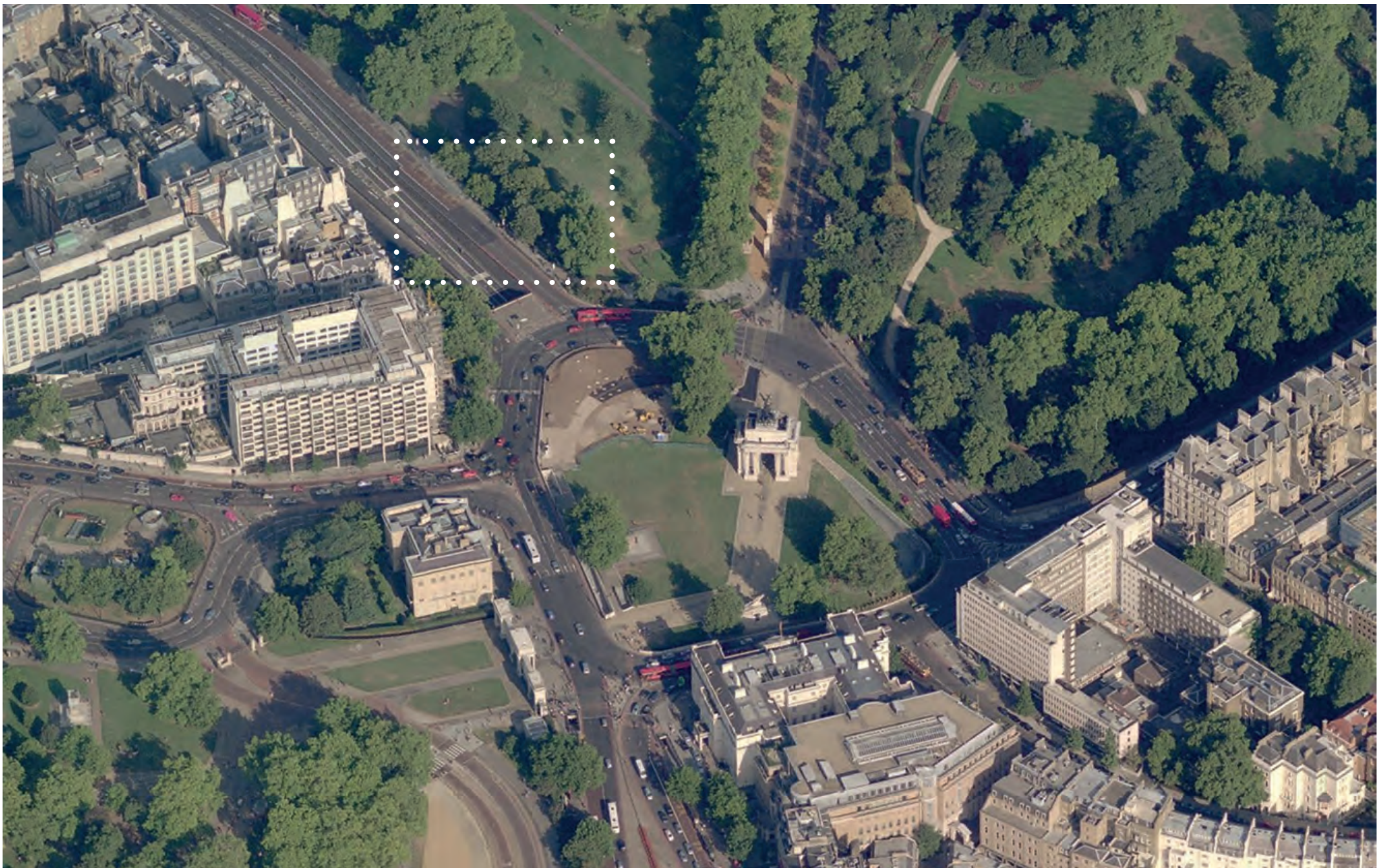
The Bomber Command Memorial will be sited at the western end of Piccadilly at the junction with The Green Park and Hyde Park Corner.

The Architect

Liam set up his practice 'Liam O'Connor Architects and Planning Consultants' in 1990 and has developed a reputation for the design and construction of a number of exemplary classical yet contemporary buildings including a number of private houses and public memorials. Amongst his well known memorials are the Commonwealth Memorial Gates, opened by HM The Queen in 2002 and the Armed Forces Memorial, inaugurated by HM The Queen in 2007.



Bomber Command Memorial, London, View from Piccadilly.



Site for the proposed Bomber Command Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, Green Park, Piccadilly, central London.



Bomber Command Memorial, London, View from Green Park in winter

The Design

The Bomber Command Memorial comprises a central open pavilion or loggia with flanking colonnaded screens and gated entries to the park at either end. At the centre of the memorial will stand a bronze sculpture group, by Philip Jackson, of seven RAF aircrew, on a plinth facing south and overlooking the sloping lawns slope of Green Park. A curved steel roof over the memorial has been designed to reflect the diagrid principles of the Wellington Bomber aircraft designed by Barnes Wallis.

In overall design terms, the memorial, with columns in stone based on a refined Greek Doric order, is an important new public space at the heart of London.. The space is directly open to both Piccadilly and the Green Park. As such, this scheme represents a complex and finely tuned urban design and landscape proposal which refers to the picturesque landscape tradition of the eighteenth century. It is a synthesis of architecture and sculpture with important urban design and landscape components.

The entire memorial will be built in a white Portland limestone, the same material used by Sir Christopher Wren for St Paul's Cathedral and by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the Cenotaph in Whitehall. It will be built in lime mortar to exacting tolerances.

Timing and present status

Liam O'Connor Architects and Planning Consultants has already completed the design stage of the project as well as the formal planning application process with a planning consent awarded by Westminster City Council in May 2010.

With full professional team appointments in place, the detailed design and specification stage was undertaken and a formal tender process initiated. Following interviews, a preferred contractor has been selected based on detailed costings which are within the project budget.

The Association has committed to the sculpture element of the project. The ambitious nine foot high bronze figure group, taking over a year to complete, is well underway with the third of the seven figures already at the foundry casting stage.

The Association is hoping to have a royal inauguration before the commencement of the Olympic Games in summer 2012.

Summary

The architectural and landscape design elements are complete with preliminary selection of trees and stone already made. The central bronze sculpture is underway and the completion date is well within the overall construction programme. We are in receipt of all statutory permits and the construction tendering process is concluded.

The project is effectively ready for the commencement of the construction phase with with the larger portion of the funding already secured.

The building work cannot commence unless all the funding is in place for the construction and future maintenance of the memorial.

Contacts:

Liam O'Connor
Liam O'Connor Architects and Planning
Consultants
75 Cowcross Street
Loanon EC1M 6EL, UK
+44 (0)20 7250 1983
liam@liamoconnor.com

Douglas Radcliffe, MBE, Secretary
John Boyes, Financial Controller
The Bomber Command Association
RAF Museum Hendon
Grahame Park Way
Hendon London NW9 5LL, UK
+44(0)20 8358 4841
doug.radcliffe@rafmuseum.org
jboyes5652@aol.com

Selected press support for the project can be viewed at the following links

1. http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speechesandarticles/an_article_by_hrh_prince_william_of_wales_about_bomber_comma_291833859.html
2. http://www.rafbombercommand.com/master_the_association.html
3. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/rafbombercommand/>
4. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8681663.stm>
5. <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/215307/David-Shepherd-We-owe-these-magnificent-men-so-much>



The Commonwealth Memorial Gates, Constitution Hill, Liam O'Connor Architects, 2002



The Armed Forces Memorial, Lichfield, UK, Liam O'Connor Architects, 2007




The Armed Forces Memorial, Lichfield, UK, Liam O'Connor Architects, 2007



- [Personal Profiles](#)
- [News and Gallery](#)
- [Speeches and Articles](#)
- [Diary](#)
- [Finances](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [For Children](#)

Speeches and Articles



A useful resource for those looking for the complete texts of speeches, articles and messages written by The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince William and Prince Harry

[Home](#) » [Speeches and Articles](#)

Latest Speeches and Articles

An article by HRH Prince William of Wales about Bomber Command, part of the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, Daily Express

4th November 2010

Of the 125,000 men of Bomber Command, 56,000 gave their lives for this Country and for freedom.

These numbers are so appalling that we risk becoming inured to what they truly mean. Behind each death was a family – parents, friends, often a wife and children, and each would have been utterly devastated by the loss of its loved one – as those who survive no doubt remain so today. For someone of my generation, the scale of this loss is almost impossible to comprehend. Yet comprehend it we must. Each one of those young men died for you and for me.

So much of the analysis of Bomber Command’s role in the Second World War has been mired in controversy that it is sometimes forgotten what these young men went through for us. Their average age was only 22. They were all volunteers. They set forth into the unknown by day and by night, often in freezing conditions. Over enemy territory, they were under near constant attack. And they did this night after night – for up to 12 hours at a time. Just try to

Latest Speeches and Articles

- ▲ An article by HRH Prince William of Wales for the Street News Service

- ▲ A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at The Sun Military Awards

- ▲ A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales to The Prince of Wales’s Accounting for Sustainability Forum

- ▲ A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the PTI Schools Programme Reception, Clarence House

- ▲ A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the opening of Atmosphere, The Science Museum, London

[View All](#)

imagine that – imagine finding the courage to overcome your fear to climb into your flying gear again, and again, knowing what will confront you. As a flyer myself, I find this quite extraordinary. But they did it – tens of thousands of times.

A memorial to the crews of Bomber Command has been half a century too long in coming. Having seen the plans for this sublimely beautiful memorial, I do feel that at last their wait is at end. This will be a truly fitting epitaph to the other – sometimes forgotten – Second World War heroes of the Royal Air Force. A yew tree, a gift from the German nation, is to be planted in the Garden of Remembrance nearby. There can be no greater message of reconciliation than this.

Today, only some 3000 men of Bomber Command remain with us. It is vital, therefore, that this memorial be erected now, while they are still alive and able to appreciate our Nation's gratitude to them, and to their fallen comrades. My great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, was a great champion of Bomber Command. Instinctively, she knew that it was right to honour these young men and their extraordinary sacrifice. As with so much else in her life, her instincts were correct.

You might ask, with a champion such as Queen Elizabeth, what need is there for me to ask you to support this appeal. All I can say is that, as the Patron of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – with its magnificent guardian of these memories, the lone Lancaster, 'The City of Lincoln' – my own realisation of what these men undertook has only recently really dawned on me – as I think it has with many of my generation in other ways.

Mine is but one amongst many voices, urging all those who value the freedoms we enjoy today to contribute whatever you feel you can towards the creation of this wonderful monument. And for those who have already supported the appeal it is not for me to say thank you, but I can only imagine the gratitude of the veterans of Bomber Command, their families and the Royal Air Force.

Prince William is Patron of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

Search Speeches and Articles

Select a date range:

Please select

Topic:

Please select

Nations and Regions:

Please select

Search