

– THE –
SIR KEITH PARK
– MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN –

TRAFALGAR SQUARE, FOURTH PLINTH UNVEILING UPDATE

**STATUE OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR KEITH PARK TO BE UNVEILED
ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER AT 16:00HRS**

- Unveiling ceremony to commence with a Royal Air Force flypast of a Spitfire and a Typhoon aircraft (weather permitting)
- VIP guests include **Dame Vera Lynn, actor Edward Fox, Dr Stephen Bungay and His Excellency Mr Derek Leask, New Zealand High Commissioner**
- Speaking and unveiling party includes:-
 - Boris Johnson**, Mayor of London
 - Terry Smith**, Chairman of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign
 - Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton**, Chief of the Air Staff
 - WWII RAF veterans**
 - Members of the **Park family**
- Supported by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force and its Fanfare Team and the Royal Air Force's Queen's Colour Squadron

2 November 2009 - A statue of **Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park** will be unveiled on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square on Wednesday 4 November 2009.

Sir Keith Park commanded Number 11 Group of Fighter Command, responsible for the defence of London and the South East during the Battle of Britain, and his statue will be on the Fourth Plinth for six months. A permanent memorial statue of Park will then be erected in Waterloo Place on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain on 15 September 2010.

The unveiling ceremony will be attended by over 1,000 invited guests alongside the General Public including Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, Terry Smith, Chairman of the SKPMC, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, Chief of the Air Staff, WWII RAF veterans and members of Sir Keith Park's family. Also in attendance will be supporters of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign since its launch in 2008, including Edward Fox OBE, Dr Stephen Bungay, Dame Vera Lynn, Flight Lieutenant John Nicol and many representatives of the Commonwealth and other countries represented by members of 'The Few'.

The ceremony will begin with a Royal Air Force flypast (weather permitting) of a Spitfire and a Typhoon aircraft over Trafalgar Square and speeches will be made by Terry Smith, Boris Johnson and Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton.

A large screen in Trafalgar Square will be playing video footage of Sir Keith Park and RAF Films from noon and will then relay the ceremony from 16:00hrs through to the close of the event at 16:40hrs.

Media wishing to cover the event, arrange interviews and gain access to the press stand should register in advance with Charlotte Kirkham or Emma Thompson, details below. Video footage and photography will be distributed on the day via Getty and at www.sirkeithpark.org and www.defencenewsimagery.mod.uk.

- ENDS -

www.sirkeithpark.com

Cable House, 54-62 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1ST Tel: 020 7200 7000 Fax: 020 7200 7464

– THE –
SIR KEITH PARK
– MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN –

Media enquiries:

Charlotte Kirkham
Tel. +44 (0)7989 528421
Kirkham@mcomgroup.com

Emma Thompson
Tel. +44 (0)7850 155246
Thompson@mcomgroup.com

Notes to Editors

1. Please note that a large area of Trafalgar Square will be cordoned off to host the ceremony on the day; to secure access to the designated media area we request you confirm your attendance in advance. If you would like to attend, please contact Charlotte Kirkham or Emma Thompson (details above) including details of your affiliation and any photographers and camera crew.
2. Access to the media area will be available from 14:00hrs on the day. Interviews with key spokesmen will be available when the ceremony ends at approximately 16:40hrs – you are advised to request interview slots in advance; a list of those individuals will be made available. We will also be providing images and video footage of the unveiling and aerial footage and shots of the flypast from the air shortly after the event via Getty and at www.sirkeithpark.org and www.defencenewsimagery.mod.uk.
3. Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Rodney Park, GCB, KBE, MC and Bar, DFC, DCL, MA, RAF was the New Zealand born RAF Air Vice-Marshal who commanded Number 11 Group, Fighter Command, responsible for the air defence of London and South East England during the Battle of Britain. His inspirational leadership and tactical brilliance was central to Britain winning the battle, which in turn helped determine the outcome of the entire Second World War. Sir Keith went on to lead the air defence of Malta in 1942, subsequently reaching the rank of Air Chief Marshal in South East Asia at the end of the war. During the First World War, Sir Keith served at Gallipoli and then the Somme before becoming a pilot and shooting down 20 enemy aircraft.
4. The design by sculptor Les Johnson will be used for both the statue to be exhibited temporarily for six months on Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth from 4 November 2009, as well as for the permanent memorial statue which will be erected in Waterloo Place on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain on 15 September 2010, Battle of Britain Day.
5. The Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign was launched on 7 March 2008 when Battle of Britain pilots, senior serving RAF officers, a great-great niece of Sir Keith Park, politicians and many other supporters assembled in Trafalgar Square beside a full-size replica Spitfire.
6. The Campaign has received support from a broad constituency including the RAF, Battle of Britain veterans, members of the Park family and the New Zealand cricket team. It also secured the support of the leader of every New Zealand political party, including the Prime Minister and Defence Minister. In this country more than 100 MPs and a number of House of Lords members from all parties, former politicians such as Tony Benn and Lord Tebbit, as well as well-known names such as Sir Patrick Moore, Dan Snow and Edward Fox have backed the Campaign.
7. Over 10,000 people signed the various Campaign petitions.

– THE –
SIR KEITH PARK
– MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN –

8. Terry Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of Tullett Prebon plc and Executive Chairman of Collins Stewart plc. He has a keen interest in military history.
9. Other supporters of the Campaign include: Algy Cluff; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge; Air Marshal Clifford Spink; Lord Lee of Trafford; Lord Selkirk; Rt Hon Lord Trefgarne; Mark Field MP; Richard Benyon MP and Hon. Nicholas Soames MP.
10. For more information, please visit our website at www.sirkeithpark.com.