

PRESS RELEASE

SIR KEITH PARK CAMPAIGN TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT MEMORIAL AT RAF'S 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN' WEEKEND

**Exciting Campaign event at the RAF's 'Battle of Britain Weekend',
at the RAF Museum London, Hendon on 13th September**

This Saturday, 13th September, the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign is taking a prominent role at a special RAF 'Battle of Britain Weekend', being held at the RAF Museum London, Hendon. The Campaign has been given space in the Museum's impressive Battle of Britain Hall, where guests will be able to learn more about its plans to commemorate Battle of Britain hero commander Sir Keith Park with a statue, which would be temporarily exhibited on Trafalgar Square's 4th Plinth next year and then permanently sited in Waterloo Place in 2010 – the 70th anniversary of the Battle itself.

This family day will also offer visitors a host of free entertainment on a Battle of Britain theme, including concerts of music from the period, digitally re-mastered film and free tours around the Museum's Battle of Britain Hall.

The Campaign's instigator, Terry Smith, will also be attending and will speak briefly, including giving an update on recent progress of the statue plans. After receiving the enthusiastic backing of Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, the Campaign is now working on detailed proposals and will be in a position to make an announcement about these in the next few weeks.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For further information or to film and/or conduct interviews on Saturday at RAF Hendon, please contact:

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2. More information about the RAF Museum London's 'Battle of Britain Weekend' can be found at - http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/news/article.cfm?news_id=80.
3. **Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Rodney Park, GCB, KBE, MC and Bar, DFC, RAF** was the RAF Air Vice-Marshal commanding 11 Group Fighter Command, responsible for the aerial 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

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SIR KEITH PARK
– MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN –

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 Campaign was launched on 7th March 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.
5. 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 has 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 60 MPs from all parties, unlikely bedfellows Tony Benn and Lord Tebbit, as well as well-known names such as Sir Patrick Moore, Dan Snow and Edward Fox are backing the Campaign. Thousands of members of the public have also signalled their support through our website and at events throughout the country.
6. Over 20 000 people have signed the Campaign's petitions, available electronically at <http://www.sirkeithpark.com/petition.aspx>. Many more are signing a hard copy version of the petition both in the UK and in New Zealand.
7. Terry Smith is the Chief Executive of Tullett Prebon plc and Chairman of Collins Stewart plc. He has a keen interest in military history.
6. Other supporters of the campaign include: Algy Cluff; Dr John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford; 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 the Hon. Nicholas Soames MP, Dr. Stephen Bungay,
7. For more information, please visit our website at www.sirkeithpark.com.