

# 70 Years on - Tredegar remembers Flight T2520

1940 - Britain was rocked by wave after wave of German aircraft trying desperately to smash the spirit of the people of Britain. But they didn't. Year 2010 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Blitz, air strikes that tore across Britain flattening many of its towns and cities. But Britain was fighting back - paying a terrible price.

One night in December 1940 a Wellington Bomber - Flight T2520 - successfully carried out a raid over Europe and without the benefit of the modern equipment we have these days - crashed in the early hours of the morning into the mountains above Trefil. All six brave young men on board perished.

Those who lost their lives in that fateful crash were:

Pilot Officer Albert Tindall (21 Years Old)  
Sergeant David Mills: Pilot (21 Years Old)  
Sergeant Hylton Daniel Ellis: Observer/Nose Gunner (26 Years Old)  
Sergeant Stanley Gordon Howard: Air Gunner  
Sergeant Reginald Brown: Air Gunner (22 Years Old)  
Sergeant David Ernest Wallace: Air Gunner

Each year, we at Tredegar Town Council place a wreath on the cairn that marks the site of the crash.

To mark the 70th Anniversary we held a Memorial Service at St. George's Church in Tredegar on Thursday 9th December 2010 - 70 years to that fateful day. The Squadron which the plane belonged to - No. 115 Squadron - still exists, and they sent a representative, Flight Lieutenant Peter Batson, to the Service. He also climbed to the Cairn the following day to lay a wreath. We were also joined by Squadron Leader Phil Atkinson from RAF St. Athan who joined with Peter in reading the Roll of Honour. Memories from the surviving relatives were read by Cllr. Alyson Tippings, whose research had led to the Service, it was a powerful and moving moment.

With the co-operation of local groups and organisations including the local ATC and RBL divisions and with Fr. John Davis, their Chaplain, taking the Service we hope that it was a fitting tribute to those who died in this crash, and others around the mountains of Tredegar. There were a number of crashes - not all of them fatal. Some showed the incredible bravery of individuals - Sgt. G Christie, Wireless Operator on board a flight from 10 Squadron, Leeming in Yorkshire (Whitley T4232) dragged the whole crew from the burning wreckage of his plane at Brynbrith Farm Nr. Tredegar on 13th November 1940.

On Saturday 11th December 2010, Sqdn. Ldr. Atkinson was one of a number of people including our local MP Mr. Nick Smith and Mr. Alun Davies AM, who braved the freezing temperatures and snowy conditions to mark the 70th Anniversary at the Cairn.

In remembering the sacrifice of 70 years ago, it can only serve to highlight the courage and resilience of our present members of the Armed Forces.

## **"Tredegar Remembers T2520"**

A very moving film tribute to the Crew of the Wellington Bomber Flight T2520 has been released on You Tube. The film relives the last flight of T2520 through the memories of the people of Tredegar and includes the Memorial Services held to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the crash.

Special thanks must be extended to Jane Wilcox, Spirit of Bevan; Kevin Phillips, Green Valley Film Productions; Alyson Tippings; and all those who offered their memories and time for this film.

Please view the film at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ivmj\\_MyQOus](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ivmj_MyQOus)

As part of the Remembrance Day Service, members of Tredegar Town Council and the public walk to the Cairn site to lay a wreath. 2011 saw this ceremony take place following the Royal British Legion's Service which was held in the Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar.

12th November 2016 - photos from the annual Memorial Service at the Cairn are viewable on the [Flickr gallery](#).