



A Rededication Service for

**Flying Officer Philip Anthony Neville Cox
Royal Air Force**

Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 15:30 hours

CWGC Bergen-op-Zoom Cemetery, The Netherlands

**Service Conducted by
Reverend (Squadron Leader) Jonathan Stewart RAF**



Flying Officer Philip Anthony Neville Cox
(21 July 1915 – 27 July 1940)

Philip Anthony Neville Cox, of Brighton, Sussex was born in Patcham on 21st July 1915, the son of Dr. Arthur Neville Cox M.D. (1887-April 1940) and Winifred Alice Neville Cox (nee Goddard) (1885-1958), of Brighton, Sussex.

Philip Cox went to Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School. He joined the RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice training at School of Technical, Halton in September 1932. He passed out in August 1935 as a Fitter.

He won a place at RAF College Cranwell in September 1935. He was awarded the RM Groves Memorial Prize in 1937.

Cox was described on his confidential reports as "A good pilot and most conscientious officera good all round sportsmansound judgement who will be an asset to the service"

After graduating in late July 1937, Cox was posted to 43 Squadron at Tangmere. On 17th January 1939 he went to 11 Group Pool, St Athan as an instructor and was made OC 'C Flight on 28th August.

In May 1940 Cox was at 6 OTU, leaving there for Hendon on 6th June for onward posting to France where he joined 501 Squadron as a Flight Commander. The squadron was withdrawn on the 18th from Dinard and operated on the 19th from Jersey, covering the BEF evacuation from Cherbourg. It re-assembled at Croydon on the 21st.

Cox claimed a Me109 destroyed and shared in the destruction of another on 20th July.

In combat over Dover Harbour on the 27th Cox was shot down in Hurricane P3808 by Fw. Fernsebner of III/JG52 and reported 'Missing'. At the time Cox was thought to have been a victim of the Dover anti-aircraft guns.

He was 25. His younger brother, Robert was killed in action in 1944.

Order of Service

Conducted by

**Reverend Jonathan Stewart RAF
Station Chaplain RAF Odiham**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past and remember with thanksgiving these brave men whom, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in service. We have come together, to give thanks for the life of Flying Officer Philip Anthony Cox who died on 27 July 1940, and to dedicate this place to his memory.

Opening Prayer

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in His resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reading

Read by Jennifer Woodhall, Commemoration Team on behalf of the family.

To Any Mother – Anthony Richardson

Weep not, my lady, though no more
He shall pass in by your door,
Though the garden gate is wide
And his footmarks scarce have dried,
Where he trod his merry way
On his last leave's final day!

So he went, as once he came,
Calling you by that dear name,
As a schoolboy back from class,
Buoyant as the clouds that pass –
He was like a schoolboy, then
Off to that harsh school of men!

Weep not, lady! Did you teach
What the parsons try to preach –
That a man's life only means
What the eager spirit gleans,
That at twenty he may see
What's still hid at eighty-three!

This he knew: it was no end
Suddenly to meet his Friend!
Suddenly to meet those others,
Those, his comrades – those, his brothers!
This is truth. This thing, I know –
No such moments merits woe!

Reverend Jonathan Stewart

All-Powerful God,
We honour Philip Anthony Neville Cox,
Who laid down his life for his country,
His sacrifice is too humbling for words,
Except these uttered in prayer.

Loving Lord, bless him forever in Your eternal peace.
Let the sounds of strife, the cries of battle, the wounds of war
Be calmed for all eternity in Your loving and endless grace.
Let him find rest,
Ever reminded that we who are left behind,
Cherish his spirit and honour his commitment,
Send him our love,
We will never forget the service that he gave.

In Your precious name.

Amen.

Psalm 116:15

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

Scripture Reading:

Read by Captain Sam Edwards RM representative from the British Embassy

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me

it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent

and set me high upon a rock.

Address

Reverend Jonathan Stewart

The Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

Read by Acting Warrant Officer Neil Rudge 51 Sqn RAF

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

We will remember them.

The Last Post

Played by Air Specialist (Class1) Marcus Gatenby,
Trumpeter of the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Acting Warrant Officer Neil Rudge 51 Sqn RAF

When you go home tell them of us and say:
'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

The Prayers

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the life of Philip and for the grace and mercy that he has received from you. For all that was good in his life and for the treasured memories he left behind. We give thanks for his courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice.

Almighty Father, your love enfolds us in both life and death; we thank you for all the men and women who have served in the Royal Air Force and her allies, especially for those who gave their lives or health, for their families and all who have supported them.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Royal Air Force

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount with wings, as eagles; we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support them in their endeavour, that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and a sure defence to our homeland, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In praise, thanksgiving, remembrance and hope, we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

**May God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to The King, Commonwealth
and all people, peace and concord.
And to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.**



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, is responsible for the research, identification and burial of all British casualties worldwide.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and memory of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

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A/Flight Lieutenant Philip Anthony Neville Cox, RAF

"One of the Few"

No. 501 (County of Gloucestershire) Sqn, AuxAF

6th June - 27th July 1940

Originally joining the RAF as a young Aircraft Apprentice in September 1932.

He became a Flight Cadet in 1935 and qualified as a pilot in July 1937.

He was shot down in aerial combat off Dover by Lt Marx in a Me109 of 3./JGp 210 on July 27th and was reported missing.

Today Philip Cox is 'No Longer Missing'

