

# Airfield memorial unveiled

A MEMORIAL to airmen based at Llandow Airfield in the Vale between 1941 and 1957 has been unveiled.

The memorial is a tribute to the Spitfire pilots of 53 Operational Training Unit, 614 (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxilliary Squadron, and airmen

from other units who were stationed at Llandow.

The unveiling ceremony of a granite plaque on a limestone base was performed by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Hunter Jarvie.

And a service of dedication was carried out by the Rev Leigh Spicer of RAF St Athan.

The memorial, which

contains a plan of the airfield and the badge of 614 Squadron, has been jointly financed by the Vale council and quarry company ARC-Powell Duffryn, who also supplied the limestone block from their quarry at Ewenny, near Bridgend.

The idea to provide the memorial was conceived by Bridgend

aviation enthusiast Mr Philip Davies, who wrote to the council and the quarry company urging them to support his plan.

In unveiling the memorial, Coun Jarvie said: "As a result of this ceremony, all who pass this spot will be made aware of the debt owed by so many to those who flew

from Llandow during the last war and afterwards in the cause of peace."

The airfield closed in 1957 and is now being used as an industrial estate.

But many small pieces of famous World War II aircraft can still be found there — a reminder of the time when it was used as a breakers' yard.

VALE POST

## Memorial to airmen



World War II airmen, including fighter pilots, were honoured at a ceremony at a former RAF base in South Wales when this plaque was unveiled to the memory of those who served in the 614 (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxilliary Squadron at Llandow Airfield.

The memorial was the idea of aviation enthusiast Mr Philip Davies of Bridgend, who is pictured (kneeling) with the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun T Hunter Jarvis, who unveiled the plaque, Mrs Jean

Overson, of Beddau, wearing the medals of her late husband, William, who was stationed at Llandow, and Mr Tony Clarke (right), who inscribed the memorial.

The ex-airmen present are (from the left) Mr Brian Player, of Swansea, Mr Bob Morgan, of Bristol, Mr Peter Latham, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, and Mr Graham Crocker, of nearby Llanblethian, who all served at Llandow.

## ROADSIDE TRIBUTE TO SPITFIRE PILOTS

WARTIME fighter pilots, who served at a former RAF base in the Vale of Glamorgan, have been honoured with the unveiling of a memorial stone.

The memorial is a tribute to the Spitfire pilots of 53 Operational Training Unit 614 (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxilliary Squadron and airmen from other units who were stationed at Llandow Airfield. Former members of the Squadron saw the unveiling of a granite plaque on limestone by the then Mayor of the Vale, Cllr Hunter Jarvie.

Cllr Jarvie echoed the famous speech of Winston Churchill when he declared: 'All who pass this spot will be made aware of the debt owed by so many to those who flew from Llandow during the last war and afterwards in the cause of peace.'

### ENTHUSIAST

The memorial was the idea of Bridgend aviation enthusiast Mr Philip Davies, who was also at the ceremony. It contains a plan of the airfield and the badge of 614 Squadron and has been jointly financed by the Vale borough council and quarry company ARC-Powell Duffryn, who also supplied the limestone block from their Litalun Quarry at Ewenny.

A dedication service was led by the Rev Leigh Spencer, of RAF St Athan.

The airfield, which is now an industrial estate, closed in 1957. Seven years earlier it gained worldwide notoriety when a Tudor V airliner bringing Welsh supporters from an Ireland v Wales rugby international crashed in an adjoining field killing 80 people. **BARRY AND DISTRICT NEWS**

FRIDAY MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1988

614 Sqdn wound down 17th 1957  
 Cause maintenance etc and 58 (2 RAF men only)  
 1961-2 put up for sale.



● The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Mr T Hunter Jarvis, unveils the memorial watched by former members of 614 (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxiliary Squadron.

## Roadside tribute to wartime RAF pilots

**WARTIME FIGHTER** pilots, who served at a former RAF base in South Wales, were honoured yesterday when a stone was unveiled in their memory.

Former members of 614 (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxiliary Squadron were present at the roadside unveiling ceremony, near Llandow Airfield, Cowbridge.

The memorial was the brain-child of Bridgend aviation enthusiast Philip Davies, who was also at the ceremony.

The airfield, which has since become an industrial estate, closed in 1957.

Seven years earlier it claimed world-wide notoriety when 80 rugby fans were killed after a plane crashed in an adjoining field.

In unveiling the plaque, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Councillor T Hunter Jarvis, echoed the speech of Winston Churchill.

He said, "All who pass this spot will be made aware of the debt owed by so many to those who flew from Llandow during the last war and afterwards in the cause of peace."

A dedication service was led by The Rev Leigh Spicer from RAF St Athan.

FR (DAY) MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1988

LLANDOW AIR CRASH -  
see 'Western Mail'  
13/3/1950



## I.C.E. COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL

### MOBILE PHONE

NEC 11A CAR PHONE £89 + VAT  
NEC P3 POCKET PHONE £379 + VAT  
FACSIMILE NE FAC 170 £449 + VAT

(144607)

# NEC

All equipment 12 months  
Manufacturer's Guarantee

Tel: 0792 648882

**THE DEDICATION**  
of a memorial to  
mark the Llandow  
air disaster of  
March 12, 1950,  
was held yesterday  
at Sigingstone,  
near Cowbridge.  
Two of the three  
survivors, Mr  
Handel Rogers of  
Llanelli, left, and  
Mr Mel Thomas of  
Llanharan, are pic-  
tured after they  
unveiled the  
plaque.