



**A Burial Service for**

**Leading Aircraftman John Stuart Mee Bromley  
No. 264 Squadron, RAF**

**Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 15:30 hours**

**CWGC Jonkerbos War Cemetery, The Netherlands**

**Service conducted by  
Reverend (Squadron Leader) Josephine Critchley RAF  
Station Chaplain RAF Honington**

## History

The Boulton Paul Defiant was a single engine, two-seater turret fighter aircraft. Defiant L6958 was piloted by Pilot Officer Thomas and the rear gunner was LAC Bromley. Defiant L6958 was flying operationally as part of "B" Flight of No. 264 Squadron on 13 May 1940. The Flight was patrolling the Hague and surrounding country to prevent enemy bombing. Very heavy enemy opposition was encountered near Dordrecht. "B" Flight was attacking seven Junkers 87 aircraft and in turn was attacked by 27 Messerschmitt 109s resulting in casualties. Bromley was confirmed killed in action by Thomas, who managed to escape by parachute and evade capture. Bromley's next of kin was informed that "it can only be assumed that the aircraft came down into one of the waterways and was lost without a trace".

Thomas gave a statement that said "The operation took place in the dawning hours of 13 May 1940...unfortunately we were intercepted by a large number of enemy fighters and a severe air battle took place in which our aircraft were considerably outnumbered. John Stuart Bromley acquitted himself very well, accounting for two enemy aircraft and possibly a third. However, there was a very sudden burst of fire; all controls were shot out of my hands and the aircraft caught fire. I called to Bromley on the radio telephone several times and told him to bale out, but there was no reply. Finally, I waggled the wings of the aircraft from side to side, this being a pre-arranged signal to bale out if the radio failed". His mother, Constance, was so distraught over her son's death that it was suggested a Welfare Officer delivered the news relayed by Thomas in the post-war period, as a standard letter could be "more than she could bear".

John Stuart Mee Bromley was born on 17 March 1916 in Toxteth Park, Liverpool. His mother was Constance Maud Bromley who never married or had any further children. He was baptised on 15 June 1916 in Liverpool and died on 13 May 1940.

## **Order of Service**

Conducted by

**Reverend (Squadron Leader) Josephine Critchley RAF  
Station Chaplain RAF Honington**

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 Leading Aircraftman John Stuart Mee Bromley, 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

### Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep by Mary Elizabeth Rye

Read by Flight Lieutenant Liam Williamson RAF

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
of quiet bird in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there, I did not die!

## Reading

### Ecclesiastes 3, 1 – 8 (King James Version)

To everything there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up:  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance:  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones  
together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing:  
A time to get, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away:  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak:  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

### Address by Padre

## Committal

Let us commend Leading Aircraftman John Bromley to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer.

God our creator and redeemer,  
By your power Christ conquered death  
And entered into glory.  
Confident of His victory  
And claiming His promises,  
We entrust this man to your mercy  
In the name of Jesus our Lord,  
Who died and is alive  
And reigns with you,  
Now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Psalm 103, v 8-17**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:  
Slow to anger and of great goodness.  
As a father is tender towards his children:  
So is the Lord tender to those that fear Him.  
For He knows of what we are made:  
He remembers that we are but dust.  
Our days are like the grass;  
We flourish like a flower of the field;  
When the wind goes over it, it is gone:  
And its place will know it no more.  
But the merciful goodness of the Lord  
Endures forever and ever towards those that fear Him:  
And His righteousness upon their children's children.

We have entrusted Leading Aircraftman Bromley to God's  
mercy,  
and we now commit his body to the ground:  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:  
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who will transform our frail bodies  
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,  
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.  
To him be glory forever.

**All: Amen.**



## **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 Flight Sergeant Cameron Kinvig 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 Corporal George Bailey, Trumpeter of the Central Band of the Royal Air Force

## **The Silence**

## **The Reveille**

## **Kohima Epitaph**

Read by Gunner Jack Westworth RAF

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

## Laying of Wreaths

### Life Is But a Stopping Place

Read by Steve Brown MBE, Head of The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre

Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road  
to sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things,  
but never meant to stay...  
Our destination is a place  
far greater than we know.  
For some the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow.  
And when the journey finally ends,  
We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace,  
Together with the lord

### The Prayers

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**

Read by Gunner Troy Taylor-Morgan RAF

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.**



By kind permission of the  
Biesbosch Museum and Gerrit L Kok

Nijmegen was a frontline town from 17 September 1944 until February 1945. An initial temporary burial ground was created by No. 3 Casualty Clearing station in a wooded area known as Jonkers Bosch, from which it took its name. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Jonkerbos War Cemetery was established nearby after the war and contains over 1,640 graves. Leading Aircraftman Bromley is being laid to rest in the cemetery having previously been commemorated on CWGC's Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede.



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.

© Crown Copyright/JCCC 2022