



A Burial Service for

**Flight Sergeant William Robert Stephen Hurrell
No. 175 Squadron, RAF**

Thursday 29 September 2022 at 11:00 hours

CWGC Jonkerbos War Cemetery, The Netherlands

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



William Robert Stephen Hurrell was born on 1 May 1923 in East Ham, London to father, Sydney, and mother, Daisy Ellen. On his record of service his religion is described as Church of England and he is described as 5 ft 6.5 ins, brown hair, blue eyes and with a fair complexion. Before enlisting into the RAF in March 1941 he was employed as an apprentice fitter and turner. Hurrell was sent to No 1 British Flying School in Texas in April 1942 and awarded his Pilot's wings on 2 December 1942, he completed additional training at No 5 Pilot Advanced Flying Unit in Shropshire and No 57 Operational Training Unit in Wales. Hurrell saw service in India before taking up a posting on 17 September 1944 to No 175 Squadron RAF (Typhoon) that was based at Deurne, near Antwerp, Belgium.

Hurrell was flying in a Hawker Typhoon single seat fighter bomber in a formation of six aircraft on an armed reconnaissance north of Arnhem. They took off at 12:35 hours on 26 September 1944, where at the time, Operation Market Garden was reaching its final stages. This was Hurrell's third operational mission with the squadron. They had just reached Apeldoorn when they were jumped by sixty ME109's. In the confusion of the action, the Commanding Officer of No 175 Squadron lost sight of Hurrell and he was not seen again.

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 Flight Sergeant William Robert Stephen Hurrell, 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.

Scripture Reading
John 15:9-17

Read by a representative from The British Embassy.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Address by Padre

Reading

Our Wall by William Walker

Read by Brydie Hurrell, Great Niece of Flight Sergeant Hurrell

Here inscribed the names of friends we knew,
Young men with whom we often flew.
Scrambled to many angels high,
They knew that they or friends might die.
Many were very scarcely trained,
And many badly burnt or maimed.
Behind each name a story lies
Of bravery in summer skies;
Though many brave unwritten tales
Were simply told in vapour trails.
Many now lie in sacred graves
And many rest beneath the waves.
Outnumbered every day they flew,
Remembered here as just 'The Few'.

Padre

Interment

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
For ever and ever.

Committal

We have entrusted Flight Sergeant Hurrell to God's eternal keeping. We now commit his earthly remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

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.

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.

Reading

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

Read by Sebastiaan van 't Erve, Mayor of Lochem.

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!

The Exhortation

Read by Flight Sergeant Cameron Kirvig 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

Reading

Goodbye and God Bless You by Ruth Burgess

Read by Flight Lieutenant Liam Williamson RAF

It is time to say
Goodbye to Bill.
Goodbye and God bless you.
Safe journey home.

Goodbye Bill.
We have prayed for you.
We have told your story.
Goodbye and God bless you.
Safe journey home.

Goodbye Bill.
We want you to know
that we love and miss you.
Goodbye and God bless you.
Safe journey home.

Goodbye Bill.
Go well on your journey.
Goodbye and God bless you.
Safe journey home.

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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.

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.





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. Flight Sergeant William Hurrell 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.

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