

Borough of Cowbridge

Presentation of the

Freedom of Entry

into

The Borough

to

*Royal Air Force
St Athan*

21st October, 1973



Councillor W Selwyn Davies
Mayor of Cowbridge



Air Commodore I M Davidson R A F
Officer Commanding R A F St Athan

HISTORICAL NOTES ON RAF ST ATHAN

The site on which St Athan stands was acquired by the Air Ministry in 1936 and was first occupied actively in 1938, by No 4 School of Technical Training, furnishing the Royal Air Force with Fitter Mechanics. In 1939 a hospital was opened and Nos 19 and 32 Maintenance Units were formed, and tasked with the overhaul, repair and storage of aircraft.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 triggered an enormous increase in the Station's size and output. Fitter training expanded, particularly with the introduction of WRAF in that role. At various times, No 1 School of Transport, the School of Air Navigation, No 11 Fighter Pool, equipped with Hurricanes, and the Pilotless - Aircraft Unit, testing the radio controlled Moths used in Anti Aircraft gun practice, were based at St Athan. At its peak, in 1941 the Station strength exceeded 14,000 personnel.

In 1942 the training of Flight Engineers began, and from then until 1951 over 22,000 were trained, including many from Allied Air Forces. At the height of Bomber Command's offensive in 1943 and 1944, the School rarely had less than 5,000 Flight Engineers under training, and was passing them out at a rate of 500 a week.

In the post war period, the training of Flight Mechanics was re-introduced, and the training of Administration Apprentices began, to be replaced in 1954 by the School of Physical Training. The training of Boy Entrants for the Aircraft, Motor Transport and General Engineering trades was introduced in 1955 and in the 10 year period of its operation some 7,000 young men received their initial training.

In 1968, because the Station's maintenance role had become paramount, it was transferred from Training Command to Maintenance Command which has since been renamed Support Command. It continues to undertake the major servicing of Victor, Vulcan, Canberra, Buccaneer Hunter and Chipmunk aircraft, and provides general engineering support for the whole of the Royal Air Force. No 4 School of Technical Training remains as a lodger unit, along with the Command Defence School and the University of Wales Air Squadron. The Headquarters Air Cadets (Wales) is accommodated and supported by St Athan. One of the 8 official Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Teams is based at St Athan. Today RAF St Athan is one of the largest Royal Air Force stations with around 3,000 airmen and over 1,000 civilian personnel whose main function is to provide engineering support for the advanced technology of today's Royal Air Force.

DEED OF GRANT OF FREEDOM OF ENTRY

The following is the text of the Deed:

To the
OFFICER COMMANDING,
the OFFICERS
and OTHER RANKS of
ROYAL AIR FORCE
STATION - ST. ATHAN

Greetings

At a meeting of the Council of the
BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

held on the 25th day of September, 1973, at the Town Hall, Cowbridge it was Unanimously Resolved that the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Cowbridge, acting by the Council of the said Borough, do confer in perpetuity upon the Officer Commanding, the Officers and Other Ranks of the Royal Air Force for the time being and from time to time stationed at the Royal Air Force Station, St Athan,

the Freedom of Entry into the Borough of Cowbridge
and the privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the said Borough on all ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and bands playing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF
the Common Seal of the
Mayor, Aldermen and
Burgesses of the Borough
of Cowbridge was hereunto
affixed by the direction of the
Council this 25th day of
September, 1973 in the presence of

LS

W S DAVIES
Mayor

J THORNLEY TAYLOR
Town Clerk

STATION COMMANDERS
ROYAL AIR FORCE ST. ATHAN

Sep 1938 to Sep 1939	Group Captain E BROWNSDON-RICE RAF
Sep 1939 to Oct 1940	Air Commodore Hon J D BOYLE CBE DSO RAF
Oct 1940 to Sep 1941	Air Commodore E A B RICE CB CBE MC RAF
Sep 1941 to Nov 1942	Air Commodore J C QUINNELL CB DFC RAF
Nov 1942 to May 1944	Air Commodore C B COOKE CB, CBE RAF
May 1944 to Dec 1946	Air Commodore D W CLAPPEN CB RAF
Dec 1946 to Oct 1947	Air Commodore H J ROACH CB CBE AFC RAF
Oct 1947 to Oct 1948	Air Commodore W A OPIE RAF
Oct 1948 to Feb 1951	Air Commodore H E FORROW CB OBE RAF
Feb 1951 to Mar 1953	Air Commodore J MUTCH CBE RAF
Mar 1953 to Oct 1956	Air Commodore J D BAKER-CARR CBE AFC RAF
Oct 1956 to Oct 1958	Air Commodore M E M PERKINS CBE RAF
Oct 1958 to Jun 1960	Air Commodore V D MORSHEAD RAF
Jun 1960 to Oct 1961	Air Commodore M K D PORTER CB CBE AMIEE RAF
Oct 1961 to Dec 1961	Group Captain E T McCABE OBE RAF
Jan 1962 to Jul 1964	Air Commodore J W BAYLEY MBE AFRAeS RAF
Jul 1964 to Jul 1966	Air Commodore C N S PRINGLE MA FRAeS RAF
Jul 1966 to Jul 1969	Air Commodore J W McKELVEY CB MBE CEng AFRAeS RAF
Jul 1969 to Jan 1972	Air Commodore I J de la PLAIN CBE CEng AFRAeS RAF
Jan 1972 to the present	Air Commodore S M DAVIDSON CBE CEng FIERE RAF

BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

PRESENT COUNCIL

MAYOR

Mayor - Councillor W S Davies

ALDERMEN

Alderman Trevor Williams
Alderman G McNeil (Deputy Mayor)
Alderman K M Hutchings
Alderman K A George

COUNCILLORS

Councillor H Bevan
Councillor D F Tilley
Councillor J Roberts
Councillor D M Jones
Councillor W V B Greenwood
Councillor N E Williams
Councillor Mrs M J Weston
Councillor J W A Phillips
Councillor C Treharne Jones
Councillor M J Davies

Town Clerk

Medical Officer

Public Health Officer & Surveyor

Treasurer

Borough Agent

J Thornley Taylor

Dr N K Contractor

Hubert Thomas

C F England

W H Veale

ORDER OF P

0945 hours Congregation enters Church of the Holy Cross
Cowbridge

1000 hours Gathering of Assembly in the Holy Cross Church.

High Sheriff for The County of Glamorgan.
Mayor and Mayoress of Barry.
Freeman of the Borough of Cowbridge,
Colonel Sir Cennydd Traherne KG.
Member of Parliament for the Constituency,
Brynmor John MP.
Chairman of Cowbridge RDC.
Chairman of Glamorgan County Council.
Aldermen, Councillors, Officials -

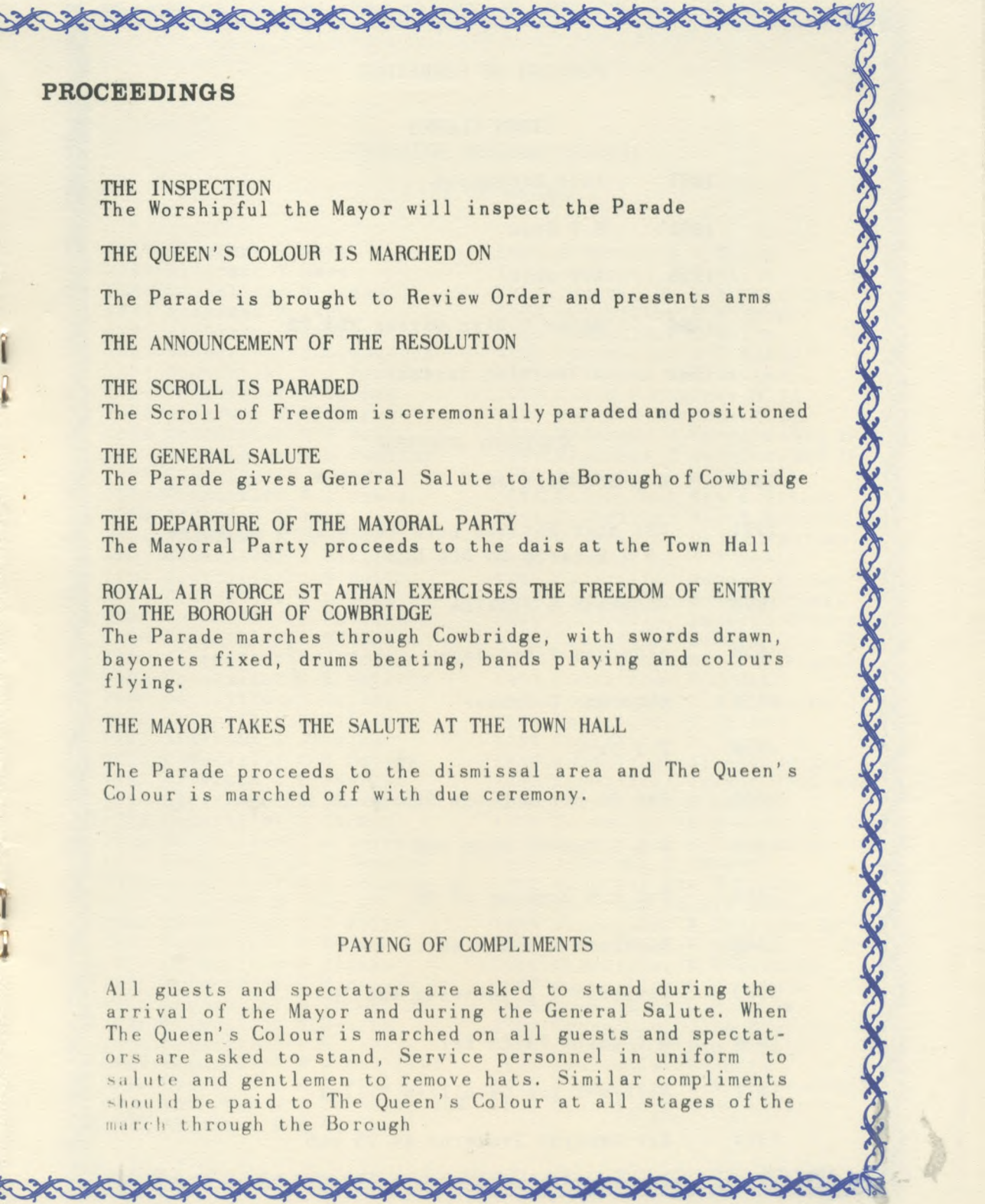
Air Marshal Sir Charles Pringle CBE RAF
Air Vice-Marshal C S Betts CBE RAF
Air Vice-Marshal E L Frith CB RAF

1025 hours The Worshipful the Mayor of Cowbridge
(Councillor W S Davies) will enter the Church
accompanied by Air Commodore S M Davidson,
Officer Commanding Royal Air Force St Athan,
the Town Clerk and Civic Scroll Bearer.
(The assembly should stand during the entry
of the Mayoral Procession and remain standing
until the conclusion of the Bidding)

1030 hours Service and Conferment of the Freedom of the
Borough upon Royal Air Force St Athan.

1100 hours MAYORAL PROCESSION TO THE DAIS IN THE HIGH STREET

1115 hours ARRIVAL OF THE MAYORAL PARTY
The arrival of the Mayoral Party will be
acknowledged by a General Salute.



PROCEEDINGS

THE INSPECTION

The Worshipful the Mayor will inspect the Parade

THE QUEEN'S COLOUR IS MARCHED ON

The Parade is brought to Review Order and presents arms

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION

THE SCROLL IS PARADED

The Scroll of Freedom is ceremonially paraded and positioned

THE GENERAL SALUTE

The Parade gives a General Salute to the Borough of Cowbridge

THE DEPARTURE OF THE MAYORAL PARTY

The Mayoral Party proceeds to the dais at the Town Hall

ROYAL AIR FORCE ST ATHAN EXERCISES THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

The Parade marches through Cowbridge, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.

THE MAYOR TAKES THE SALUTE AT THE TOWN HALL

The Parade proceeds to the dismissal area and The Queen's Colour is marched off with due ceremony.

PAYING OF COMPLIMENTS

All guests and spectators are asked to stand during the arrival of the Mayor and during the General Salute. When The Queen's Colour is marched on all guests and spectators are asked to stand, Service personnel in uniform to salute and gentlemen to remove hats. Similar compliments should be paid to The Queen's Colour at all stages of the march through the Borough

BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

TOWN CLERKS

1887	John Stockwood
1892	W T Gwyn
1930	A W Gwyn
1948	Major O Glyn Davies MBE TD
1961	J Thornley Taylor

HONORARY FREEMEN

1911	E H Ebsworth JP
1921	The Most Rev The Lord Archbishop of Wales, A G Edwards DD DCL LLD
1923	Alderman L Jenkins
1929	Alderman J Williams
1929	Alderman D Thomas
1929	W T Gwyn
1930	The Rt Hon D Lloyd George OM LLD MP
1934	G A H Samuel FRGS FSS
1935	Col H R Homfray JP DL
1940	Alderman C M Davies
1940	Alderman T J Yorwerth MBE JP
1956	D C Watts FRICS FAI
1971	Alderman Mrs Gwenllian Tilley
1971	Sir Cennydd Traherne KG TD LLD

COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF MAYORS

1887 Alderman T Rees	1931 Alderman A T Mills
1888 Alderman T Rees	1932 Alderman A T Mills
1889 Councillor W James	1933 Councillor W A Phillips
1890 Alderman E John	1934 Councillor R W Thomas
1891 Alderman L Jenkins	1935 Councillor J Miles
1892 Councillor J Llewellyn	1936 Councillor D C Watts
1893 Councillor T J Parsons	1937 Alderman C M Davies
1894 Councillor D Thomas	1938 Col H R Homfray JP DL
1895 Alderman D Tilley	1939 Col H R Homfray JP DL
1896 Councillor W J Hall	1940 Alderman T Yorwerth MBE JP
1897 Councillor W L Jenkins	1941 Alderman T Yorwerth MBE JP
1898 Councillor R M Moynan	1942 Alderman L S Rowsell
1899 Councillor W A James	1943 Councillor Mrs G Tilley
1900 Alderman E John	1944 Councillor Rev B Roberts
1901 Alderman L Jenkins	1945 Councillor Dr Mrs E Meller
1902 Councillor J Williams	1946 Councillor W J David
1903 Councillor J W Hall	1947 Councillor Robert Thomas
1904 Councillor W L Jenkins	1948 Councillor Robert Thomas
1905 Councillor J Pickard	1949 Councillor Mansell Edwards
1906 Councillor C M Davies	1950 Councillor Edward John JP
1907 Councillor T J Yorwerth	1951 Councillor Mrs F E Hinton
1908 Councillor R E Watkins	1952 Councillor W F Batt
1909 Councillor D Tilley	1953 Councillor R H Williams JP
1910 Councillor D Tilley	1954 Councillor G Caines
1911 Alderman L Jenkins	1955 Councillor J James JP
1912 Councillor C M Davies	1956 Councillor Albert Morgan
1913 Alderman J Llewellyn	1957 Councillor Trevor Williams
1914 Alderman W A James JP	1958 Councillor G McNeil
1915 Councillor D Thomas	1959 Councillor K M Hutchins
1916 Councillor T J Yorwerth	1960 Councillor C T Cooksley
1917 Councillor W L Jenkins JP	1961 Alderman R Thomas
1918 Councillor W L Jenkins JP	1962 Alderman Mrs G Tilley
1919 Alderman E John JP	1963 Alderman Edward John JP
1920 Councillor C T Mills	1964 Councillor R Williams JP
1921 Councillor W Thomas	1965 Councillor G McNeil
1922 Councillor W Thomas	1966 Councillor R W Edwards
1923 Councillor E T Hopkin	1967 Councillor K A George
1924 Councillor E Thomas JP	1968 Councillor D F Tilley
1925 Councillor W Davies	1969 Councillor John Roberts
1926 Councillor W H John	1970 Councillor Mrs M Hall
1927 Councillor W A Phillips	1971 Councillor D Jones
1928 Councillor W A Phillips	1972 Councillor W V B Greenwood
1929 Alderman T J Yorwerth MBE	1973 Councillor W S Davies
1930 Alderman C M Davies	

DOGFEN I RODDI RHYDDID MYNEDIAD

Dyma destum y ddogfen

AT

BENSWYDDOG

SWYDDOGION

a phawb arall sy'n gwasanaethu yn y Llu Awyr Brenhinol
yn Sant Tathan

Cyfarchwn Chwi

Mewn cyfarfod Cyngor Bwrdeistref y Bontfaen a gynhaliwyd Medi 25 ain 1973 yn Neuadd y Dref yn y Bontfaen, Penderfynwyd yn gytun fod y Maer, Henaduriaid a Dinasyddion Bwrdeistref y Bontfaen mewn cydweithrediad âg awdurdod Cyngor y Bwrdeistref i roddi am byth i'r Penswyddog, Swyddogion a phawb sy'n gwasanaethu yn y Llu Awyr Brenhinol yn awr ac yn y dyfodol yng Ngorsaf y Llu Awyr Brenhinol yn Sant Tathan,

RHYDDID O FYNEDIAD I FWRDEISTREF Y BONTFAEN

a'r fraint, a'r anrhydedd a'r enwogrwydd o ymdeithio trwy strydoedd y Bwrdeistref hwnnw ar bob achlysur seremonïol gyda'u cleddyfau a'u bidogau'n dadweiniol, a'u baneri'n chwifio, a'u tabyrddau'n curo, a'u bandiau'n canu.

LS

MEWN TYSTIOLAETH O'R CYFRYW,

seliwydd yma gan y Maer,
Henaduriaid a dinasyddion
Bwrdeistref y Bontfaen ar
awdurdod y Cyngor ar Fedi
25 ain 1973 yng ngwydd.

W S DAVIES
Y Maer

J THORNLEY TAYLOR
Clerc y Dref

HISTORICAL NOTES ON COWBRIDGE

COWBRIDGE (Y BONTFAEN)

Cowbridge is an old Borough Town which lies in the heart of the rich and fertile Vale of Glamorgan. Its history spans many centuries and there is evidence to support the claim that a Roman settlement once occupied the area enclosed by the existing town walls. Tradition believes that the town was walled by Robert St Quintin in 1091 AD, but it appears that the walls on the south side date from the fourteenth century. Of the three original gates into the town, only the South gate, the 'Porte Melin' remains. The Church of the Holy Cross dates back to the twelfth century. This Church, which possesses no transept, was modified in 1473 when the Llanquian aisle was built on the South side for Lady Ann Nevill.

While it is recorded that the town had a Mayor as early as 1180, the original Charter of the Borough was granted in the fourteenth century and this was confirmed during the reign of Charles the Second. This status has been retained unbroken ever since, despite the major re-organisation of Boroughs in Victorian times. A new Charter was granted in 1887 and the Coat of Arms with its motto AWN RHAGOM was adopted

Through the Middle Ages, Cowbridge retained its importance as the focal point of the agricultural industry in the Vale, with a prosperous export trade of agricultural products across the Bristol Channel through the ports of Aberthaw, St Athan, and Llantwit Major. The town's position geographically made it the centre of business in the Vale and in 1820 there were more lawyers in Cowbridge than in Cardiff. At this time it shared a Member of Parliament with Cardiff and Llantrisant.

Over the years Cowbridge has made its impression on Welsh literary and educational circles. In the middle of the sixteenth century Lewys Morgannwg, the head of the bardic order throughout Wales, lived in Cowbridge. Early in the next century the Boys' Grammar School was formed and a number of Welsh scholars have spent their formative years at this school. This association with Literature and the Arts lead to the early development of the printing industry in Cowbridge, which has continued to this present day.

While the Borough of Cowbridge is confined to set limits within the town, the outskirts have continued to expand over recent years. Cowbridge has retained its importance as the commercial and shopping centre for the Vale as well as being the administrative centre for the surrounding area. It has a thriving livestock market which is held weekly.

Cowbridge is today the focal point of the Vale of Glamorgan with a flourishing and expansive market town community.