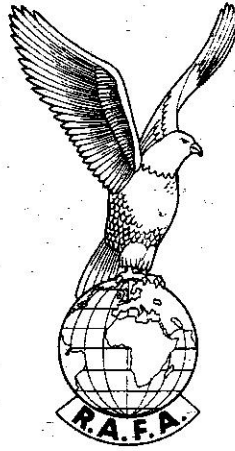


THE BELGIAN BRANCH  
OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION



**SERVICE**  
**OF**  
**DEDICATION**  
**OF**  
**THE ANGLO-BELGIAN**  
**AIR FORCES**  
**MEMORIAL WINDOWS**

IN

THE NATIONAL BASILICA  
OF THE SACRED HEART KOEKELBERG

WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 1988  
11.30 A.M.



THE CENTRAL WINDOWS  
OF THE MEMORIAL

## THE OFFICIALS OF THE SERVICE

- The Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Koekelberg  
Reverend Frans Dirken
- The Chief Chaplain (P) to the Belgian Forces  
Reverend Marc Van den Steene
- The Honorary Chaplain to the Belgian Branch of the Royal Air Force Association  
Reverend Charles Mac Neill O.B.E., B.A.R.A.F.
- Chief of Protocol of the Belgian Air Force  
Major W. Tersago  
Major N. Minguet.

*The Band of the Belgian Air Force will play voluntaries before and after the service under the direction of:*

**1st Lieutenant Alain Crepin, Director of Music of the Belgian Air Force.**

### *Before the Service*

Symphony No. 1 in Re Minor . . . . .	<i>A. Guilmant</i>
Bist Du bei mir . . . . .	<i>J.S. Bach</i>
The March of the Royal Air Force . . . . .	<i>H.W. Davies</i>
Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 . . . . .	<i>E. Elgar</i>

### *After the Service*

The March of the Belgian Air Forces . . . . .	<i>H. Mestrez</i>
Prelude, Passacaglia and Fugue . . . . .	<i>E.D. Borgo</i>

## DEDICATION OF THE WINDOWS

*Rector :*

We ask Air Commodore Sir Dennis Mitchell now to present the Memorial Windows on behalf of the Belgian Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association.

*Response :*

« Reverend Sir,

In the name of The Royal Air Forces Association and in memory of Belgian members of The Royal Air Force we ask you to receive these Memorial Stained Glass Windows and to dedicate them to the glory and praise of God ».

*Rector :*

« We accept these Stained Glass Windows as a shared trust and shall guard them reverently, in honour of the faithful and devoted lives of Belgian members of The Royal Air Force to whose memory they are dedicated.

*Then he shall pronounce the word of The Dedication :*

« In the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate these Windows to the glory of God, and in memory of Belgian members of The Royal Air Force and those who dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom and liberty. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit ».

## PRAYERS

*All kneeling, the prayers shall be said*

**A**lmighty God, graciously receive these windows which we dedicate unto you in memory of those Belgian men & women who served in the Royal Air Force & also those members of the escape organisations & the secret agents. May they beautify this sanctuary that your people may be richly blessed & uplifted as they remember the sacrifices made on their behalf.

We pray that all who behold the beauty and colour of these windows may be filled with thoughts pure and lovely and be drawn to the vision of good and noble deeds. Give to us a purity of heart that we might know and see you more clearly that when signs and symbols have passed away we may behold the things you have prepared for them that love you and with unclouded vision, see you as you are.

## **THE ANGLO BELGIAN AIR FORCES MEMORIAL WINDOWS**

The Belgian Branch of The Royal Air Forces Association has taken the initiative to create a fund to finance and instal nine stained glass windows in a chapel of the National Basilica. The windows serve as a reminder of the gallantry not only of the Belgians who served in The Royal Air Force in World War II but also of the heroism of those who organised the escape lines for aircrews who had been shot down to return safely to the United Kingdom. Much is also owed to those Belgian Agents who, at great risk to themselves, supplied intelligence reports which undoubtedly saved the lives of many aircrew.

The windows also symbolise the long standing spirit of comradeship between our two nations, in particular the Belgian Air Force and The Royal Air Force, by paying homage to all those Belgians who gave their lives in the service of The Royal Air Force it is earnestly hoped that future generations will pause and reflect on hardships endured and sacrifices made to maintain freedom and liberty.

The chapel in which the windows are displayed is one of five small chapels in the north transept of the Basilica.

### **A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL WINDOWS**

The focal point of the central window is the Royal Air Force emblem set in a background of various shades of blue. The radiant sun, from which emerges a white dove of peace carrying an olive branch, sends forth its rays washing the national flags of the United Kingdom and Belgium in the glorious colours of the rainbow. The whole concept evokes a sense of timeless majesty in the creation of the universe and mankind's place in the scheme of things.

The window on the left represents Jesus Christ with outstretched arms sending forth his spirit of light, love and peace to a warring humanity fighting in outer darkness.

The window on the right depicts a Belgian airman in the uniform of The Royal Air Force listening to the words of Jesus. He is surrounded by birds flying in an anti-clockwise direction signifying the spiritual qualities of his immortal soul reaching upwards in its pilgrimage towards God. A lone agent parachutist falls from a moonlit sky.

### **THE ARTIST**

Born in Poperinge in 1930, Madame Theodora Veranneman belongs to a long line of notable artists, Alphonse and Louis Veranneman being only two, specialising in works of a religious nature. She studied painting under Leon Pringels and architecture under Malcause at the Academie des Beaux Arts de St. Gilles.

Her talented work exudes a freshness and a vivacity which exhilarates and is in great demand. She has realised many important commissions for churches in Belgium including the National Basilica. Her reputation as an international artist is further enhanced by the creation of The Royal Air Force memorial windows.