

Memorial Service

Wing Commander (Ret'd)
R.G. Middlemiss, DFC, CD

1920 - 2013



Wing Commander (Ret'd) R.G. Middlemiss, DFC, CD

Wing Commander Bob Middlemiss was born in Montreal in 1920 where he was educated at Commercial High School. On September 14th 1940, he joined the RCAF and completed his Elementary Flying Training at St. Eugene, Ontario. After earning his wings at 9 Service Flying Training School in Summerside, PEI, he was posted overseas initially with 145 and later 41 Squadron.

In June 1942, he was selected to serve with a team of Spitfire pilots assembled to defend Malta. During operations over Malta, Wing Commander Middlemiss shot down three enemy aircraft bringing his total to four, and was awarded the DFC. He was later shot down and, against overwhelming odds, was subsequently rescued from the sea. Having survived Malta, he returned to Britain and was posted to 403 Squadron under the famous flying ace Johnnie Johnson. Wing Commander Middlemiss was proud to be chosen as Johnnie's number two and after completing three tours, he was posted back to Canada.

Following World War II, Wing Commander Middlemiss was the first RCAF exchange officer to be posted to the Central Fighter Establishment at West Rayham. On his return to Canada in 1951, he commanded 421 Squadron, and went on to become the first CO of the Overseas Ferry Command, ferrying some 800 Sabres and T33s to RCAF division in Europe. In 1959, he was seconded to California to evaluate the Super Tiger and Starfighter as replacements for the Sabre. He was the first Canadian fighter pilot to fly the Starfighter and he later took command of the first Starfighter Squadron at Zweibrücken, Germany. Wing Commander Middlemiss was then posted to Cold Lake, Alberta, as CO of Number 6 Strike/Recce Operational Squadron.

Wing Commander Middlemiss retired from the RCAF on June 13th 1969. He served as Honorary Colonel of 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron, since October 2003.

2 HR. SERVICE, 500 PRESENT

Order of Service

Processional - Chaplain, Bearer Party; Family

Welcome

National Anthem

Opening prayer - Padre Daniel Forget

First scripture reading - Padre Daniel Forget
Psalm 23 ; Isaiah 40:28-31

Second scripture reading - Padre Bill Hodson
John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27

Tributes from family and friends - HCol Jamie Massie;
Mr. Dan Middlemiss

Tributes from the Chain of Command - MGen Richard Foster;
LCol Travis Morehen

Pastoral message - Rev. Dr. Donald McKillican

Poem, "High Flight" - Mr. Robert Warman

Prayer of thanksgiving - Padre Daniel Forget

Hymn - "Amazing Grace"

Prayer for the Canadian Armed Forces - Padre Bill Hodson

Flag and Medals presentation

Last Post / Lament / Reveille

Blessing - Padre Daniel Forget

Conclusion of Memorial Service

Reception

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

In Fond Memory

