



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2021/02011

Telephone: 020 7218 9000

E-mail: [DDC-
SecretariatParliamentary@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DDC-SecretariatParliamentary@mod.gov.uk)

E-mail: [REDACTED]

5 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your E-mail of 21 February requesting the following information:

"I refer to your email dated 19 February 2021 (below) and to my initial reply to it, also sent on that date, both following your email dated 10 February 2021 (your ref. FOI2021/00887), attaching a Response to my Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 26 January 2021, all regarding the RAF Flying Badge on the memorial stone at Errol.

The questions I raised in my email of 19 February 2021 are continued.

Whereas I still do not know which party or parties submitted a request for permission to use the RAF Flying Badge on the memorial stone at Errol, or the date of such request(s) or the date of the granting of permission; I therefore ask if you will kindly supply the following further information, which you may treat either as a further continuation of the initial FOI request or as a new FOI request as you see fit:

In regard to the RAF Flying Badge ("the insignia") on the memorial stone at Errol ("the memorial"):

- 1. What date was the initial request to use the insignia on the memorial made to Air Officer Scotland?*
- 2. What is the identity of the party who made the abovementioned request to Air Officer Scotland?*
- 3. What date did Air Officer Scotland grant permission to the abovementioned request?*
- 4. Can you provide a copy of the aforementioned permission letter, if extant, by Air Office Scotland?*
- 5. What are the identities of the "relevant MOD authorities" cited in your email to me dated 19 February 2019?*
- 6. On what date or dates did the abovementioned relevant MOD authorities state that they were content (with the use of the insignia on the memorial)?*

7. Can you provide a copy of the permission letter or letters, or email or emails, indicating the approval of the aforementioned relevant MOD authorities?

8. Please supply a copy of the initial request to the DDC Brand Team to use the insignia.

9. Please supply a copy of the letter from DDC Brand Team giving permission to use the insignia.
dated by the applicant.

10. Please supply a copy of the abovementioned letter duly dated and signed (N.B. redaction of signature expected) by applicant and returned to the DDC Brand Team.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information within the scope of your request.

Regarding question 5, to clarify, the relevant MOD authorities referred to were Air Historic Branch, DDC, and the Directorate of Intellectual property rights, the same three MOD departments that were involved in the response to your initial FOI.

All the information held by MOD within the scope of your request is contained within the five enclosures attached. Please note some information has been redacted in accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act, personal information, which is exempt from release. Section 40 is an absolute exemption for which we are not required to conduct a public interest test.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary.

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2020 08:49
To: Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) [REDACTED]
Subject: Russian WW2 Memorial at Errol

Dear Ross

The WW2 Errol Memorial

Forgive me for bothering you as reading my papers I know you have been extremely busy - all good news!

As you are aware I have been involved with the WW2 Memorial at Errol remembering The Russian Pilots who served there during WW2 alongside The RAF who were training them on the Armstrong Whitworth Albermarle Aircraft in support and as aid to our Allies. The Memorial remembers those pilots who served and lost their lives at that time.

I and The Provost have attended the Memorial Ceremony over the last two years; now their plan is to establish a more formal and lasting Memorial at Errol Church and this has been agreed by all parties, indeed The Provost of Perth and Kinross will be attending the Unveiling Ceremony on 8 May 2020 along with the new LL or his Deputy.

I attach a summary of the project as a brief for you and also a draft of the Plaque which will be in Bronze made in a foundry established by a Scot, Charles Gascoigne at the time of Catherine The Great! It will be placed on a large piece of Shoksha stone being brought from the quarry in Russia.

The new plan is to bring the Stone by sea. I thought however that you would wish to be aware of the up to date situation - clearly we would be honoured by your presence at the official unveiling on 8 May or if that is not possible your representative?

My last request is regarding the Plaque - draft attached . The RAF insignia is included of course - I hope that meets with your approval? My apologies - I am required to give a rather instant response !

With my thanks and best wishes,

Yours ever

Mel

Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

**REMEMBERING THE RUSSIAN AIRMEN
WHO HAD FOUGHT HEROICALLY
ON THE EASTERN FRONT AND
IN 1943 CAME TO RAF ERROL**

**THEIR DANGEROUS MISSION WAS
TO FERRY BRITISH PLANES
GIVEN AS ALLIED AID ACROSS
ENEMY OCCUPIED LAND TO MOSCOW**

**THIS STONE WAS BROUGHT FROM RUSSIA
TO MARK THE 75TH VICTORY ANNIVERSARY
AND INSTALLED AT A JOINT CEREMONY
ON 8 MAY 2020**



From: Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2020 09:04
To: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Russian WW2 Memorial at Errol

Morning

The top set is perfect - ty.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Best wishes

Ross

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 12 Feb 2020, 8:54 am
To: Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Russian WW2 Memorial at Errol

Dear Ross

That is so kind - deeply grateful.

Can I just be sure of the correct insignia - we need to get this one right!

Is this one correct for WW2 ?



Not this as it is the version used today?



All best wishes and many thanks

Mel

On 11 Feb 2020, at 20:03, Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) [REDACTED] wrote:

Mel

Thanks for this and sorry to be slow but just bows down at present.

The text is fine - to avoid any possible faff, can I ask that you use the WW2 RAF crest (ie old crown) as this then absolutely keeps it all as historic activity.

Many thanks

Ross

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Melville Jameson <[REDACTED]>
Date: Monday, 10 Feb 2020, 3:03 pm
To: Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Paterson, Ross AVM (Air-AOS) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Russian WW2 Memorial at Errol

Dear Ross

Regarding my email attached , I wonder if there is any chance of your kind agreement to the RAF Insignia on the new memorial to be unveiled at Errol Church on 8th May ?

I am sorry to bother you with this knowing there are so many more important matters on your agenda - I am now under pressure from the the makers of the Plaque . For your information a Brass plaque which is already situated within Errol Church by their memorial wall, remembers both RAF and Russians together who fell during WW2 .

I hope all goes well for you and hope to speak soon.

All best wishes,

Mel.

On 5 Feb 2020, at 08:48, Melville Jameson [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Ross

The WW2 Errol Memorial

Forgive me for bothering you as reading my papers I know you have been extremely busy - all good news!

As you are aware I have been involved with the WW2 Memorial at Errol remembering The Russian Pilots who served there during WW2 alongside The RAF who were training them on the Armstrong Whitworth Albermarle Aircraft in support and as aid to our Allies. The Memorial remembers those pilots who served and lost heir lives at that time.

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With my thanks and best wishes,

Yours ever

Mel

Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

<THE ERROL MEMORIAL SUMMARY (last).docx>

<Errol Memorial Plaque inscription.jpg>

The Errol Memorial Unveiling Ceremony. 8th May 2020.

At the height of the WWII on a mission agreed between Churchill and Stalin a handpicked group of Russian ace pilots was covertly flown to Scotland where they joined up with the Royal Air Force. Nothing had been known about the top secret allied operation until a few years ago the Russian mystery presence in Perthshire was uncovered by a granddaughter of one of the airmen based on the family memorabilia and a research at the declassified military archives. That untold story of WWII has strongly resonated both in Russia and the UK resulting in a book published to wide acclaim in Moscow last May.

The Russians were part of the elite Moscow Special Assignment Airgroup formed from the best civilian airmen to perform important tasks of the Red Army High Command. They fought the war on the Eastern Front at its hardest phase, the period of heavy losses and retreat before the turning point at Stalingrad. In 1943, straight from the heat of battle they arrived at RAF Errol to be trained to fly twin-engine Albemarle bombers, given as British allied aid, and ferry them across the enemy-occupied territories to Moscow.

In May 2015 a memorial plaque was installed at the former Errol aerodrome where the Russian air unit had been based. It became a traditional site of the Russian-British wreath laying ceremony led by The Provost of Perth and Kinross, The Consul General of Russia, the airmen's descendants and the ordinary Scottish people.

The forthcoming 75th Victory Anniversary is a major national holiday both in Britain and Russia to reflect on the enormous sacrifice and courage of those who fought in WWII. To mark that significant occasion, it was jointly agreed to install a new memorial in front of Errol Parish Church as a permanent site for the annual commemoration. The Errol Memorial will be a tribute to the heroic Russian airmen who had faced our common enemy from the first days of war on the Eastern Front and then came here to join forces with the British people in the fight against the evil of Nazism.

As proposed by the Scottish side, a large piece of natural rock with a memorial plaque will be delivered from Russia by the historic route of the Arctic convoys. The chosen stone type - the rare Shoksha crimson quartzite mined in Karelia, carries a deep symbolic significance. It was used for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Red Square, with thirteen identical stone blocks containing incapsulated soils from the sites of the epic battles – Moscow, Leningrad, Sevastopol and others - all part of the airmen's operational record.

The Stone is a gift to the Scottish people by the Republic of Karelia. It is not coincidental, that the memorial plaque, designed by a grandson of one of the airmen, will be cast at the Petrozavodsk Foundry established in 18th C. by a great Scottish industrialist Charles Gascoigne invited to Russia by Catherine the Great.

The Errol Memorial, sponsored privately, is an unprecedented act of the ordinary people's good will, with no political forces or governments' involvement. Nowadays, when the misunderstandings and perception gap has widened it is a good moment to turn a new page in the history of the great bond between our two countries which has stood the test of time and will last for years to come.

The Errol Memorial will be unveiled on 8th May 2020 - VE Day, along with a special exhibition at the Village Hall. The Ceremony will be attended by The Provost of Perth and Kinross, The Consul General of Russia, dignitaries from Moscow and Scotland and the descendants of the Russian airmen.

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2021 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find the Photographs - rather stunning I think!

Look forward to hearing good news - particularly during this dreadful time?

Best wishes,

Melville



On 18 Feb 2021, at 09:31, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote:

Sorry to come back to you so soon there does not seem to be any photos attached in your email.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Brand and Licensing Manager
Directorate of Defence Communication

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MODNET: [REDACTED]

DDC: [REDACTED]

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 February 2021 18:24

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your various emails and questions - as you requested I am enclosing a response:

- My letter - 'To whom it might concern'
- The Story of the Errol Stone
- Photographs of the Stone

This Memorial is of considerable importance to us in Perth and Kinross and even more so to the families of the descendants. You will note in my letter attached that permission to use the WW2 pattern RAF Wings was clearly given by the Air Officer Scotland Air Vice Marshal Ross Paterson, who is responsible for all things RAF in Scotland.

The official 'Unveiling of the Memorial' will take place just as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

Yours sincerely

Melville Jameson

Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE

Office: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

<image001.jpg>

<image002.jpg>

On 16 Feb 2021, at 13:33, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you I will wait to hear from you.

This is the article <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/perth-kinross/1718371/video-monument-to-fearless-russian-airmen-is-installed-near-scene-of-secret-perthshire-base/>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Brand and Licensing Manager
Directorate of Defence Communication

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MODNET: [REDACTED]

DDC: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 February 2021 13:19

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Mel Jameson Melville Jameson [REDACTED]

Subject: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me.

As discussed I will have this looked into as a matter of urgency and get back to you as quickly as I can.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Provost of Perth and Kinross

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2021 11:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Hi

No letter just an email from me please see below

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Brand and Licensing Manager
Directorate of Defence Communication

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MODNET: [REDACTED]

DDC: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2021 16:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Thanks from Scotland

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2021 15:43
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

[REDACTED]

Thank you - I am delighted with the news of approval this morning.
Please also pass on my thanks to the Head of Air Historical Branch RAF.

With best wishes

Melville

Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE
Office: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]

On 19 Feb 2021, at 10:00, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Melville

I am please to say that the RAF Historical Branch have come back with an approval for the memorial.

Dear [REDACTED]

I am prepared to approve the Memorial. My only slight concern was the rendition of the King's Crown which is not perfect, but it is the right crown and the depiction of the RAF Wings is otherwise correct. It would clearly have the potential to create a major diplomatic row if we were to demand what is really a fairly minor change which would require recasting the entire memorial. AVM Patterson clearly believed it was in his gift to grant the approval and he did at least get the right design of crown.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Air Historical Branch(RAF)
Building 824, Royal Air Force Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 6NG

Apologies for the extra work and stress. Thankfully this should all now be resolved.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Brand and Licensing Manager
Directorate of Defence Communication

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MODNET: [REDACTED]

DDC: [REDACTED]

From: Melville Jameson [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 February 2021 18:24

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

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Yours sincerely

Melville Jameson

Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE

Office: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

<image001.jpg>

<image002.jpg>

On 16 Feb 2021, at 13:33, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

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This is the article <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/perth-kinross/1718371/video-monument-to-fearless-russian-airmen-is-installed-near-scene-of-secret-perthshire-base/>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Brand and Licensing Manager
Directorate of Defence Communication

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MODNET: [REDACTED]

DDC: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 February 2021 13:19

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Mel Jameson Melville Jameson [REDACTED]

Subject: Russian Stone/RAFbadge

Dear [REDACTED]

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Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Provost of Perth and Kinross

[REDACTED]

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