

A message from Jan Bardsley, daughter of Sgt Ronald Pither,
for the 75th Anniversary of the tragedy of the Liberator EW250L

I am sorry that my family and I cannot be with you as you commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the falling of the Liberator EW250 L.

My father, Sgt Ronald Pither was very fortunate to survive the tragedy that took place on 16th October 1944. On this day we remember those who lost their lives that terrible night 75 years ago. They were all brave men who voluntarily flew on this very dangerous mission. May they rest in peace. Their lives were cut short, and the lives of their families and friends were forever changed by the loss of their loved ones. We send our warm greetings and sympathies to any members of those families here today.

My father's escape from the burning plane, and his falling into the safe hands of the Home Army is miraculous. We, the family of Sgt Pither, will always be grateful to the members of the Home Army, and the villagers, who rescued and hid my father. Sgt Pither always spoke of the Polish people with great admiration and gratitude. He never forgot your kindness and courage.

Last year my family were privileged to join you at the unveiling of this magnificent monument in memory of both airmen and rescuers. Their lives and heroic actions are now recorded here for generations to come. We are grateful to you all for keeping the memory of these men alive. They are worthy of our respect and our enduring gratitude.

On our visits to Poland we have been pleased to meet many of you. We send warm greetings to all our Polish friends who have gathered here today to honour these brave men.

Jan Bardsley daughter of Sgt Ronald Pither, with husband Howard Bardsley,
our daughters Suzanne, Ruth, and Emily and their families