

# FALCON FIELD ASSOCIATION

NO.4 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL, FALCON FIELD, MESA, ARIZONA, USA - 1941 - 1945

Chairman

Capt. W. McCash, AFM, AE,



4th July, 2013

Chief Fire Officer Mr. Dan Fraijo,  
Prescott Fire Department,  
1700 Iron Springs Road,  
Prescott,  
Arizona 86305  
USA

Dear Chief Fraijo,

May I introduce myself. This Association was composed of those former Royal Air Force and USAF personnel who served at Falcon Field during World War 2, along with our American civilian staff. We therefore have a deep affinity with Arizona and have many friendships with its citizens. Additionally, the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force at Falcon Field are now the organisers of the Annual Service of Remembrance in November each year for the 23 cadets who died during training at Falcon.

Although we closed at the end of 2009 (due to our advanced ages) there is still much inter-member communication and my members and I were absolutely appalled at the news of the wildlife fire at Yarnell Hill which cost the lives of 19 of your Granite Mountain Emergency Hotshot Crew.

I have been following the details as they emerge and it is clear that your Crew behaved with the impeccable bravery we have come to expect from our Emergency Teams. It reminded me of the extreme bravery shown by the New York Fire teams in 2011 on 9/11 when, as one commentator said, "They went into the building to their certain deaths." We British saw the same conduct from our Fire Crews during the Blitz in World War 2 when they were trying to extinguish the fires caused by the incendiary bombs while the German bombers were still dropping more bombs. Many died.

We are truly blessed by having such fellow citizens.

I will be mailing a letter in similar vein to both the Governor of Arizona and the Mayor of Prescott at the same time as this but I wanted to contact you direct. I saw you on my computer this morning and was much impressed by your most dignified stance and attitude. As an RAF pilot then civilian airline Captain I encountered the loss of friends in the line of duty so I can understand your feelings. On one occasion we had an aircraft fly into a hill in Austria killing all 85 on board. A few days later I personally flew out and brought most of the bodies home, including my 8 crew members.

May I now, Sir, on behalf of the Falcon Field Association, its Committee, Widows and Friends, offer to you, your fellow fire fighters, bereaved families and citizens our sincerest deepest sympathy and condolences '

With respect and regards

Yours most sincerely.

*Bill McCash*  
Captain W. McCash