

## CATANIA WAR CEMETERY

### A short Service of Remembrance

(From Giornale di Sicilia/GDS- La Zona Franca <http://www.lazonafranca.info/?p=726> ) Catania

*On Thursday, Nov. 11, about 70 people came together at Catania British Commonwealth War Cemetery to remember the ultimate contributions of Commonwealth military service men and women. Uniformed US Navy and Air Force men and women, the Color Guard, as well as boy and girl scouts from NASSIG attended the ceremony, along with British Consulate in Catania Head of Mission Mr Richard Brown.*

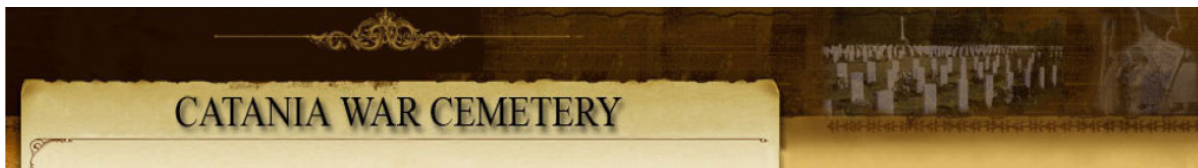
*In attendance was also Prof. Sebastiano Giannitto, a teacher from Pachino (Siracusa), who has been committed, along with his students, to a long term project of collecting, researching and organizing data (photos of military graves, documents, letters from family members and photos donated by family and friends) about the Catania War Cemetery (the research is available at the following web site: [www.primopachino.it](http://www.primopachino.it)).*



After remembering that Remembrance Day recalls the end of the First World War when an armistice went into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, La Zona Franca journalist Graziella Nicolosi notes that the memorial was organized by retired/veteran British Army Major Alan Batty who started honoring the war heroes buried at the Catania British Cemetery five years ago. A ceremony which was initially a private one but was later extended to the Sigonella military community and Italian friends. Nicolosi quotes NASSIG

delegation leader Chaplain Concha as saying the Navy service members and their families came to embrace all fallen heroes and the troops that are still fighting all over the world.

The Catania War Cemetery contains burials from the later stages of the WW2 campaign, from Lentini northwards. Many soldiers died in the heavy fighting just short of Catania (the town was taken on 5 August) and in the battle for the Simeto river bridgehead. Catania War Cemetery contains 2,135 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 113 of them unidentified. Two of them are American.



## A short Service of Remembrance



### Catania War Cemetery – Sicily

11 November 2010



In memory of those who lost their lives on “Operation Husky”



### Introduction

**(Major (Retired) Alan Robert Joseph Batty MBE Late RASC)**

*We gather today to remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country and in particular those members of the Allied Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice.*

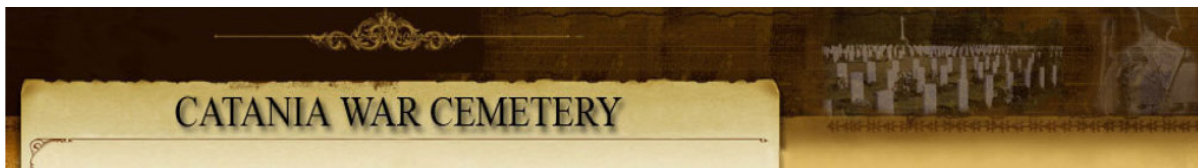
*At home today, our Nation remembers the debit it owes, across so many years and most poignantly for some, still within living in memory. Here in this tranquil spot, in a hallowed field, we too should recall the sacrifice made by so many. Lives lost so that we many live in freedom. Such was the unselfish gift of our forbears.*

*It was in 1943 that the Allies began to forge the Alliance that was to win the war in the west Newly tested in North Africa, much blood was to be split before Allied troops stepped onto the shores of the Italian mainland and many lessons were to be learned. But , as a prelude to the D-Day invasion in 1944, these were crucial lessons which ensured success for Operation Overlord and it’s follow on operations. Lives lost in Sicily were not wasted, despite the tragic circumstances of some aspects of Operation Husky.*

*Thus we remember today the sacrifice made by our Countrymen and by our Allied brothers in arms and we reflect on the duty that they performed.*

*We honor their sacrifice and call to mind those whose graves receive no visits and those whose final resting place is unmarked, or known only to God*





**(John Hoffpauir (late 82 and Airborne US Army))**

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now we remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

*I have told you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this:*

*"Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me I chose you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

*This is my command: Love each other*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**All thanks be to God.**



## **THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

**(Major (Retired) Alan Robert Joseph Batty MBE Late RASC)**

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.*

**All: We will remember them**



**The Color guard has lowered standards**

**Those in Uniform have saluted**

**At two minutes silence has been observed**

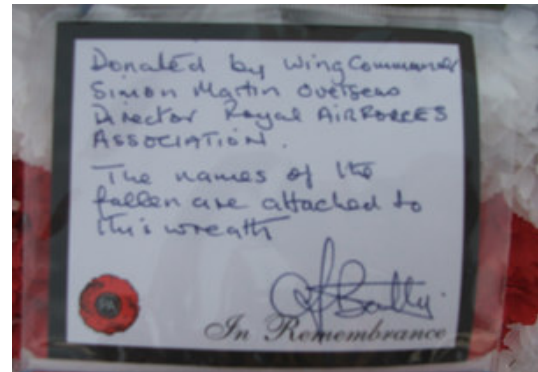
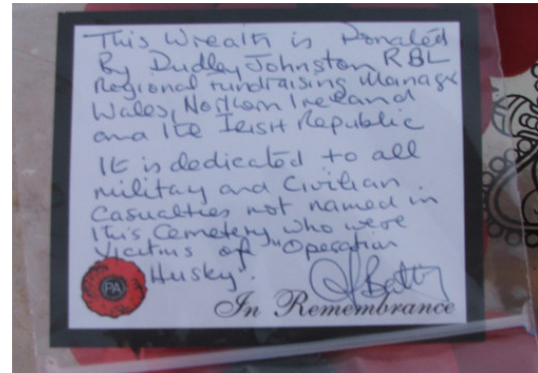
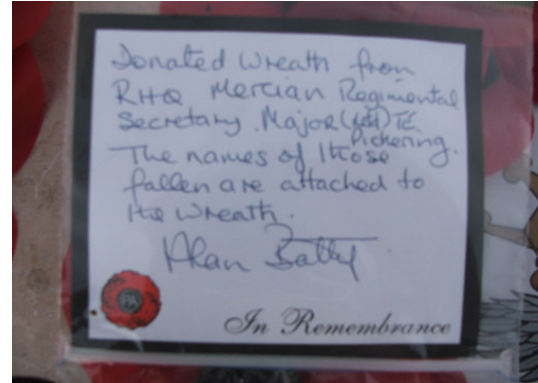
**After two minutes**

**The trumpeter has sounded "The Last Post/Tps"**

**The Color guard has raised standards**

# CATANIA WAR CEMETERY

Ended the salute.



# CATANIA WAR CEMETERY



This wreath is donated by Allan Solly Membership Secretary of the Royal Artillery Association. The wreath is placed with honour and dignity a list of names of those RA killed on Operation Husky is attached to this wreath. 137 are buried on this grave sign you are here. *A. Solly*  
In Remembrance



This wreath is donated by The Royal Naval Association Abergyleigh Branch by Gareth Lewis. The names of those RN and RM fallen are attached to this wreath. *G. Lewis*  
In Remembrance



Donated by 110 Admin Off Royal Signals Association Peter Cuckow. The names of 110 Royal Signals fallen are attached to this wreath. *P. Cuckow*  
In Remembrance



In memory of all officers and soldiers of the Royal Army Service Corps who died serving their Country on Operation Husky the Liberation of Sicily. *RA*  
In Remembrance

CATANIA WAR CEMETERY

