

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ROBTER 'BOBBY' LAUMANS

Born 4th March 1920 - Passed away 21st April 2014

Born on 4th December 1920 at Tervuren Flt Lt Bobby Laumans, an RAF veteran and long-standing Life Member and good friend of the Belgian Branch, passed away after a short illness on 21st April 2014. He was training with the Belgian military Flying School at the outbreak of War and escaped via France and Morocco arriving in Great Britain in August 1940. He joined the RAFVR and after training as a pilot, flew Spitfires with 74 (Tiger) Sqn and then 350 Sqn. Flying with them on his 48th sortie on 1st June 1942, he was shot down over the Channel.

He managed to bale out safely and survived 3 days and 2 nights in his dinghy before being picked up by the Germans and sent as Prisoner of War to Stalag Luft III. He did not draw a low enough number to take part in the 'Great Escape' but as a key member of the Camp Theatre society his skills as an actor, set and costume designer and artist did much to raise the morale of his fellow prisoners. After repatriation and as the war drew to a close in mid-1945, the Theatre Society got permission from the RAF to put on a series of charity Variety Shows in aid of the Red Cross. They played to packed houses in London's West End and on tour around the Country. The shows proved to be so popular with Press and Public, that when Bobby married Miss Rosemary Titmus on 21 Aug 1945, their wedding photograph was on the front page of the National Newspaper the Daily Mail. Despite promising offers to take up an acting career, he stayed with flying and retrained on the transport fleet with 525 Sqn and then after the war into SABENA for a full career in civil aviation.

Many Branch friends were at the funeral, where a strong RAF 'light blue' presence was led by Air Marshal Stacey. The Branch Standard was paraded, the RAF Flag was draped on the coffin. Eulogies were given by Gp Capt Whittingham and Léon Rubin offering their remembrances of Bobby and offering their heartfelt sympathy to the family.

[Contributions to Belgian Branch Newsletter by Bobby Laumans](#)

[Belgian Armed Forces Report](#)

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[UK Daily Telegraph Obituary for 'Bobby' Laumans](#)