

Newsletter following the event at Lincoln IBCC on May 27th 2026

On the 27th May 2026 a statue of Sir George Dowty was unveiled at the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln by Sir Michael Graydon, GCB CBE - Chief of the Air Staff.

The Centre is a highly prestigious and world class site devoted to the 57,861 Bomber Command personnel who lost their lives in World War Two. It is situated in a county where the 27 bases earned the title ‘ Bomber County’.

Opened in 2018 visitors reached the 500,000 mark in 2024 coming from 54 different countries.

The first statue of Sir George Dowty has a provincial reach being sited in the West Country. The second statue will have a world-wide reach. A report on the day is shown below

Will Mundy

The unveiling of the statue of Sir George Dowty at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) was a significant commemorative event that garnered widespread acclaim due to the meticulous planning of the Memorial Committee and the profound historical resonance of the site itself. The success of the event was attributed to the seamless integration of industrial heritage with the solemnity of the Bomber Command memorial, creating a bridge between the technological contributions of Dowty—whose aviation components were vital to the RAF—and the human sacrifice honoured at the IBCC.

The Sir George Dowty Memorial Committee, led by Chairman Martin Robins, played the primary role in the event's orchestration. Robins was instrumental in coordinating the logistics of the unveiling ceremony and his fellow Committee members provided the necessary administrative and historical oversight to ensure the statue's placement aligned with the IBCC's rigorous standards for historical accuracy and aesthetic harmony. Their collective role was to ensure that the legacy of Sir George Dowty—a pioneer in aircraft landing gear and hydraulic systems—was presented not merely as a corporate history, but as a vital component of the wartime effort that enabled Bomber Command's operations

Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, provided the necessary military

gravitas, emphasising the operational necessity of Dowty's engineering innovations during the Second World War. His involvement served to validate the connection between the industrial home front and the front-line aircrews. Simultaneously, the Dean of Lincoln Cathedral provided the spiritual and civic context for the unveiling. By officiating the ceremony, the Dean underscored the deep-rooted relationship between the city of Lincoln, the Cathedral, and the surrounding bomber airfields, framing the statue as a permanent fixture in the region's collective memory.

Sir George Dowty's son, George Dowty, played a pivotal role by providing personal insights into his father's character and his commitment to the aviation industry. His presence and participation in the unveiling ceremony offered a humanizing perspective on the man behind the engineering achievements. By sharing anecdotes regarding his father's dedication to the RAF and his post-war industrial impact, George Dowty ensured that the event resonated on a personal level, moving beyond the technical aspects of the statue to celebrate the legacy of a man whose work was integral to the survival and success of the crews honoured at the IBCC