

# French connection

This week's historic defence treaty between Britain and France revives memories of an earlier 'entente cordiale' right here in North Yorkshire

THIS week's historic new Anglo-French defence agreement has sparked old memories at the Yorkshire Air Museum, near York.

A day after Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy put pen to paper on a deal to share military resources, the Elvington-based museum went back the clock to remember an alliance from yesteryears, when the nations rallied against a common enemy.

Today marks the 68th anniversary of an Anglo-French attack on Germany in the Second World War during which aircraft from Elvington, near York, were lost.

On November 4, 1944, five Halifax aircraft and 35 French airmen stationed at Elvington were lost flying alongside the RAF to Bochum on the lower Ruhr in what became known as the Bochum Raid.

Photographs of some of the 2,000 French airmen stationed at Elvington during 1944/5 are on display at the air museum.

**MEMORIES:** Clockwise, from right, the then proprietor of Betty's Tearooms in York is greeted by a French commander; Capitaine Marchal with mascot; French Air Force leave RAF Elvington, York, on October 20, 1945; RAF Halifax of 346 Guyenne Squadron (French Air Force) Bomber Command from Elvington passes the Eiffel Tower in 1944; a French airman leans on a signpost on the Wheldrake Lane road junction

