

## Contour help to remember ‘The Few’.

When the guns finally fell silent over Europe on the 8th of May 1945 the nation rejoiced that the slaughter was over and that a new future for this country could begin.

However in celebrating the future the past would not be forgotten as a host of memorials were erected in Great Britain to remember both the fallen and the actions of the heroes.

The National Memorial to ‘The Few’ on the famous white cliffs between Dover and Folkestone in Kent, occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of all those who have visited this moving site. Maintained by the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, the site is dedicated to Churchill’s famous “Few” who fought in the skies overhead to keep this country free from invasion.

The Wing is the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust’s new building at this memorial site.

This eye-catching building was designed by Folkestone architectural practice Godden Allen Lawn, with the pitch of the roof to mirror the angle of a Spitfire’s wing. Contour were then specified as the manufacturer tasked to develop a series of innovative solutions to overcome some arduous design challenges.

From their 32,000 sq ft facility in Telford, Contour has the capability and capacity to tackle a huge variety of built environment projects, regardless of scale or technical complexity, anywhere in the UK or overseas.

The technical aspect of the manufacture and supply for the Wing Building would be daunting for most companies, but not for Contour. It included the design and manufacture of a varied selection of products - 25 column casings; 17 internal each in 2 colours and supplemented with 8 external column casings. Critically the pitch of the roof required that many of the internal column casings be created with a 5 degree angled sloping top.

The difficulty factor at the Wing Building would be compounded by its closeness to a shore line environment which could adversely affect the external column casings. In order to protect the metal from the corrosive effects of the sea air a Syntha Pulvin Powder Coating was applied to the external casings.

All the column casings, including those with 5 degree angled tops, were manufactured in-house by Contour using the company’s technical expertise combined with its advanced CAD facilities. This was of great benefit to the contactors, Kent- based EPPS Construction, removing the need for difficult shape forming on-site, saving them time and possible on-site problems.

Lee Howard, Site Manager from EPPS said, “we were absolutely delighted with the standard of the column casings that Contour supplied and our on-site installation was problem free thanks to them”.

The order would also see circular column casings being manufactured by Contour to cover structural beams.

The Wing is not a museum but houses The Scramble Experience, a hands-on attraction that uses audio-visual effects, a video wall and other special techniques to show something of what it was like for the ‘Few’ in the summer and early autumn of 1940.

Leigh Simpson, Contour’s Managing Director, commented, “We excel in designing and manufacturing to meet this type of technically challenging specification. It was a project that we knew would look fantastic and being part of marking history was very satisfying for all of us”.

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