Brass Chalices – No2 ARD Norton



Tony Spillane 9th May 2023

Norton No2 Aircraft Repair Depot – Brass Chalices

- Many facilities and trade skills were employed at the No2 ARD, including linen covering and doping, painting, wooden structures and repairs, and engine repairs.
- At the end of WW1, No2 ARD was progressively closed down.
- Some artefacts were made for the on-site church, such as a wooden altar, and five brass chalices.
- Apparently at least one chalice was made by a female fitter in the engine repair section.
- Two of the chalices are now in Southwell Minster, and two in Norton Church. The fifth one's whereabouts are unknown.
- The design of the chalices is unknown, but resembles the Anglo-Saxon Tassilo chalice, named after Duke Tassilo III of Bavaria.

Brass chalices – design features



£7,330.58

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Brass chalices – religious functions

- We can be sure that these brass chalices were made for religious purposes, just like the wooden altar, from their form and location in the Southwell Minster / Norton Church.
- Prior to that, records show that they were initially made for the "Nissen Hut Church" at the RFC camp.
- They could have been used in either Church of England or Roman Catholic services, and would hold red wine for consecration and holy communion during the service.
- The insides of the chalices have a blackened appearance, to varying degrees, no doubt due to the effect of the wine on the brass.
- The two chalices at the Norton Church have had identical inscriptions added around 1950.





Southwell Minster chalices

One of the Norton Church chalices