

## NEWS RELEASE

### Historic World War Two Glider Project

Marchington based Hayes Engineering Ltd have undertaken the task of refurbishing the steel frame of a WACO CG - 4A Hadrian glider. The glider was one of several involved in Operation Varsity and is believed to be the only one of its type left in the world.



Hayes Installation Manager, Robert Smith said “We attended a memorial service of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Operation Varsity” which was a successful glider assault to fly the 17<sup>th</sup> American Airborne Division in behind enemy lines on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1945. The same type of glider was used to carry soldiers from the Staffordshire Regiment into Sicily in 1943. It is fitting that a Staffordshire company such as ourselves has been entrusted to restore such a unique piece of aviation history.”

The 3 week around the clock restoration involved repairing the steel fuselage with new brackets and minimal welding to ensure as much of the original material was retained. Hayes Managing Director, Stephen Smith visited Arnhem to research the design of the glider which was kept on microfiche. The damaged parts were then expertly repaired.

Major Ray Conningham of RAF Shawbury Glider Trust said "Quite exceptional...around the clock efforts of Hayes Engineering turned the Waco from a pile of tubes into a living thing". The steel frame is part of a 2 year restoration of the glider which will go on display at the museum at RAF Shawbury.

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For further information please contact Sian Smith, Company Secretary

**14<sup>th</sup> August 2005**