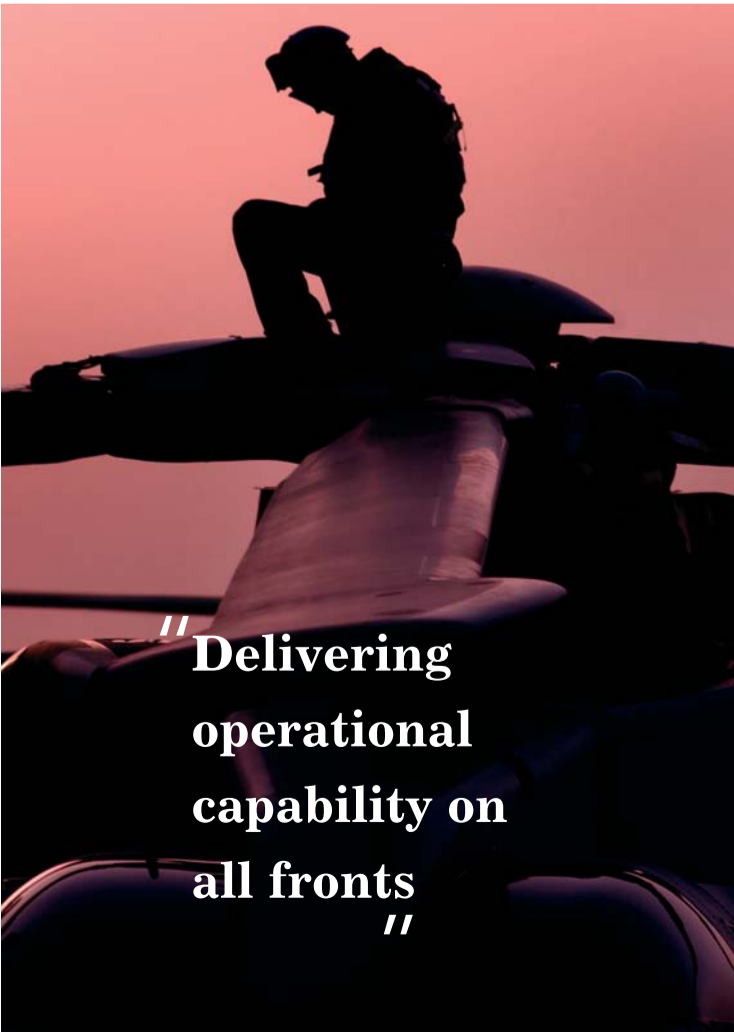




A Proud Year for The Fleet Air Arm



“Delivering operational capability on all fronts”

The Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm is working at full stretch deployed on operations around the world but this year's Centenary of Naval aviation has provided a brief respite and an opportunity to reflect on past and present glories, a remarkable history and an indomitable spirit that remains as strong today as it was 100 years ago.

The celebrations have taken place on flight decks and battlefields, in the heart of the City of London, in the Far East and on the plains of Kandahar.

The Fleet Air Arm makes up one fifth of the Royal Navy but with many of its personnel and aircraft at sea or assigned to Joint Units, including Joint Force Harrier and the Joint Helicopter Command, it is scattered far and wide.

The intensity of operations in Afghanistan has kept the Squadrons with the Commando Helicopter Force exceptionally busy and embarked Squadrons and Flights are maintaining high levels of vigilance on counter piracy, counter narcotics and maritime surveillance operations in all the world's hot spots.

“Working hard and playing hard has always been the Fleet Air Arm ethos” said Chief Air Engineering Technician Neil Copeland, 845 A Flight SMR in Kandahar. “It has been pretty challenging in

Afghanistan in recent months and while we have missed the celebrations in the UK, the sense of all of one company is extremely strong. Elements of 845 and 846 have been operating out here since 2007. We are proud to be Royal Navy. The Fleet Air Arm is making a real difference out here.”

This year's celebrations have included a Fly Past over HMS Illustrious in London, a magnificent service in St Paul's Cathedral and a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace attended by 6000 members of the Naval aviation community. Speaking after the service in St Paul's, Commander Ade Orchard OBE said “This year's celebrations have really brought the Fleet Air Arm family together. Over the past 100 years the Fleet Air Arm has quietly got on with the job rarely attracting the recognition that it deserves but this year there has been an overwhelming respect for what we do. The nation's gratitude for the sacrifices being made by those serving on front line operations has been very humbling.”





Centenary Service in St Paul's Cathedral



Over 2,400 current and former serving members of the Fleet Air Arm, their guests and families attended a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Centenary of Naval Aviation in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 8 May 2009.

The service was attended by members of the Royal family, including HRH The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, HRH The Duke of York, the Right Honourable John Hutton MP, former Secretary of State for Defence, dignitaries from the City of London and the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope KCB, OBE. Five former Chiefs of the Naval Staff, Admirals of the Fleet, Sir Julian Oswald GCB and Sir Benjamin Bathurst GCB, DL, Admiral Sir Jock Slater GCB, LVO, Admiral The Lord West GCB, DCS and former Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Peter Abbott GBE, KCB were also among the distinguished guests.

The service had a strong Naval theme with battle ensigns hung in the nave and a deeply moving act of remembrance reminiscent of a burial at sea, when the Fleet Air Arm Roll of Honour containing the names of the 6,749 Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm personnel who gave their lives in the service of Naval aviation, was placed on the altar to the poignant sound of the bosun's call piping the 'still'. The poem 'High Flight' was read during the service by the internationally acclaimed actress, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose father,

Simon Scott Thomas, died in a Sea Vixen in 1966. Her mother remarried, but tragically was widowed a second time. Kristin's step father, another Fleet Air Arm pilot, Simon Idiens, died in a Phantom accident in 1971. Kristin's mother, Debs Ingerfield, who attended the service with her daughters and grandsons, said "It was such a memorable and special day and just so wonderful to be back in the Navy family again."

After the service HRH The Prince of Wales took the salute as the Guard from HMS Illustrious, current serving aviators and veterans marched past St Paul's Cathedral. The late Henry Allingham, the last remaining veteran of the Royal Naval Air Service, who died in July, took part in the parade in his wheelchair and was warmly applauded by HRH The Prince of Wales (pictured left).

Receptions were held after the service in Guildhall, Merchant Taylors' and Skinners' Hall. Speaking in Guildhall, the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir Michael Savory, spoke of the huge respect the City of London had for the Royal Navy and the longstanding and close ties between the Service and the civic heart of London.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew –
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

An Important and Proud Year for The Fleet Air Arm

2009 has been an important and proud year for the Fleet Air Arm. Our Front Line Squadrons have been continuously deployed maintaining a global presence on operations from the Northern Arabian Gulf to the Caribbean and 845 and 846 Squadrons continue to do an outstanding job in Afghanistan.

Royal Navy Sea King ASaC7s are also in Afghanistan supported by teams from Fleet Support (Air). The Fleet Air Arm is to be found wherever there is work to do and this year Naval aviation has never been in greater demand. The Fleet Air Arm has also received an unprecedented number of Operational Honours and Awards and the Fly Navy 100 Balbo took the top trophy at RIAT for overall best flying demonstration.

The cutting of steel of the first of the new aircraft carriers took place in July and at the same time the RN and RAF reached agreement on Joint Force Harrier, paving the way in which the new Joint Combat Aircraft will operate in the future. We also look forward to the introduction into service of the Lynx replacement, Wildcat and to taking delivery of the King Air 350 to replace the Jetstream.

Given the intensity of operations, our Centenary events have far exceeded anything we hoped for, strengthening our ties with our valued affiliations, raising our profile in the public eye and achieving strong support and backing for the regeneration of the nation's carrier strike capability. I am enormously grateful to the Fly Navy 100 team for their supreme efforts in giving us a year we will always remember.



"The Fleet Air Arm is to be found wherever there is work to do."

Rear Admiral Simon Charlier
Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm

Royal Navy Sea Kings Deploy to Afghanistan



Following the call for more helicopters and increased surveillance capability in the battle against the Taliban, Royal Navy Sea King ASaC7 Airborne Surveillance and Control helicopters from Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose have deployed to Afghanistan.

The aircraft are providing vital additional capability to the joint forces. The Royal Navy Sea Kings with their powerful Searchwater Radar are the modern variant of the Fleet Air Arm's traditional role of airborne early warning. Although primarily designed to operate over sea, the aircraft proved invaluable during the second Gulf War assisting in battlefield reconnaissance operations.



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Centenary Celebrations in Kandahar



Royal Navy and Royal Marines aircrew and engineers serving as part of the UK Joint Aviation Group on operations in Afghanistan were joined for their Centenary celebrations by Rear Admiral George Zambellas DSC, for a commemorative photograph and slice of birthday cake outside their hangar at Kandahar airfield.

Colonel John McCardle OBE RM, Commander of the UK Joint Aviation Group with responsibility for all UK helicopters in Afghanistan said "We felt it was important to mark the occasion and capture the significant contribution being made by the men and women of the Fleet Air Arm today. They continue to serve their country with

distinction in the finest traditions of their forebears, demonstrating their 'can do' ethos on a daily basis in the most demanding environment." The celebrations continued with a Barbecue in the evening and a raffle to raise money for 'Help the Heroes'.



" And a bottle of bubbly for the aircraft! "



The Fleet Air Arm Association

The Fleet Air Arm Association has worked hard to actively support this year's Centenary by fund raising for the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church, the Fly Navy Heritage Trust and the Royal Navy Historic Flight as well as promoting the Fleet Air Arm in the public eye. The Association which has 21 Branches around the country and a membership of over 1,000 exists to perpetuate the comradeship, sense of service to one another and social camaraderie that its members enjoyed in the Fleet Air Arm.

The Association's President, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB, CBE, ADC said "The Fleet Air Arm Association is one of the youngest Associations, it was only established in 1981 but it has accomplished a great deal of valuable work and been a stalwart support to today's Fleet Air Arm. The Association's aim of rendering services to one another is in the finest traditions of the Service. The humility, kindness and sense of selflessness that I have seen among its members, sets it apart as a living embodiment of the fellowship of Naval aviation in the community."

Fleet Air Arm Association veterans attended the service at the Pioneer Memorial at Eastchurch in May and Mr Peter Roalf from the Essex Branch laid a wreath on behalf of the Association in memory of the early Naval aviators who did their flying training at Eastchurch. The Fleet Air Arm Association was also represented at the Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral in May with many Association members taking part in the march past afterwards. Membership of the Association is open to both serving and ex serving ranks in a Fleet Air Arm trade. Visit our web site at www.faaa.org.uk



Tribute to the Pioneering Spirit of Naval Aviation

Hundreds of people lined the streets of Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey in May to celebrate the beginning of Naval aviation and pay their respects to the achievements and spirit of adventure of the early Naval aviators at the Pioneer Memorial in the centre of the town. The occasion was marked by a flypast of Naval Strike Wing Harriers, Hawks and Falcons and a historic de Havilland Sea Vixen.

On 1 March 1911, the first four Naval officers selected for flying training assembled at the aerodrome just down the road from Eastchurch. Their names, Lieutenants Samson, Gregory and Longmore Royal Navy and Lieutenant Gerrard Royal Marines Light Infantry are inscribed on the memorial and live on in the spirit and ethos of Naval aviation today.

"Not only did the first Naval pilots learn to fly at Eastchurch but the first Naval aircraft were built here and Eastchurch was the first Royal Naval Air Station" said Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, speaking at the service. "The early Naval aviators were totally immersed in the development of aviation. When wind or weather conditions prevented them flying they spent many hours absorbed in aeronautical experiments working out schemes for fitting torpedo shaped air bags to the undercarriage skids – the beginning of the Seaplane – and exploring the feasibility of folding wings for easier manoeuvring and stowage. No sooner had Lieutenant Samson completed his flying training than he put his new found skills to use in the Fleet. In May 1912, Samson became the first pilot anywhere in the world to take off from a ship underway."

During the service Commander Max Snow, a serving Naval aviator, spoke of his own family connection

with Eastchurch. "My grandfather gained his wings on 12 July 1913 on the Short biplane at Eastchurch and his son, my late father, got his wings in 1942. It is an amazing story to have 96 years of Naval aviation passed down from grandfather to grandson – almost the entire Centenary of Naval aviation!"

Admiral Charlier thanked the Mayor and Mayoress of Swale, Cllrs Alan and Jean Willicombe and leader of Swale Council Cllr Andrew Bowles for the warm reception and hospitality of the people of Sheppey, and HMS Sultan for providing the Guard of trainee Air Engineering Technicians for the service.

"Eastchurch is the home of Naval aviation and we will always be grateful to the people of Eastchurch for giving us a fair wind and a flying start," said Admiral Charlier. He also thanked the Fleet Air Arm Association for their sterling support. The Fleet Air Arm Association standard bearer, Mr Don Armstrong Rich of the Eastbourne Branch (pictured above) paraded the national Fleet Air Arm standard.

and Singapore

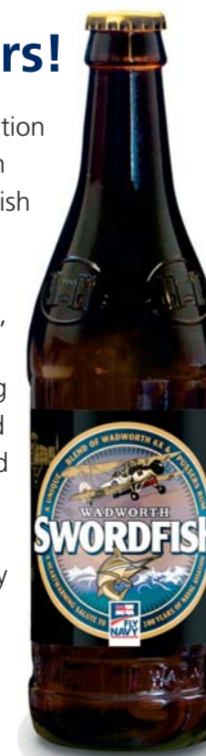
In Singapore the officers of HMS Ocean, HMS Somerset, RFA Wave Ruler and HMNZS Te Mana, in the company of 815, 820 and 847 Naval Air Squadrons and 6 Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force, celebrated the Centenary with a Mess Dinner in the world famous Raffles Hotel. The evening was punctuated with tales of daring deeds throughout the 100 years of Naval aviation and was rounded off in time honoured tradition with a hearty rendition of the 'A25' song. The ships, part of the Taurus 09 Task Group, were in Singapore prior to conducting a joint air and sea exercise with the Navies and Air Forces of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

" Meet you at Raffles "



Centenary Cheers!

The nation's thirst for its Naval aviation heritage is being met up and down the country by Wadworth's Swordfish Beer, launched by the Fly Navy Heritage Trust in May. The beer, with its subtle hint of Pusser's Rum, sold out in a major national pub chain on its first day and is retailing very successfully through Tesco and a range of pub chains. When asked why Swordfish? Admiral Terry Loughran, Chairman of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust said "the Fairey Swordfish is the Fleet Air Arm's iconic aircraft. Every drop of Swordfish beer drunk should stir the memory of its glorious deeds and the men who flew it while contributing to our Heritage funds in the process. It is also an exceedingly good Ale!"



Swordfish is available from the brewery on 01380 732277, Tesco and major pub chains.



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Fleet Air Arm Legends!

Celebrated veterans, from left to right, Lt Cdr John Moffat, Lt Cdr Edgar Lee and Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown were honoured guests in HMS Illustrious on 7 May. Lt Cdr Moffat was the pilot of one of the Swordfish from HMS Ark Royal credited with disabling the German Battleship, Bismarck in 1941, Lt Cdr Lee is the only survivor of the heroic Channel Dash attack on the Scharnorst Battle Group in the Channel in 1942 and exceptional Test Pilot, Captain Brown is the most decorated pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.

"I remember flying into that hail of fire as if it was yesterday" said Lt Cdr 'Jock' Moffat. "We flew in really close and waited until the very last minute to drop our torpedoes. Landing back on afterwards was just as bad. The waves were up to 60 foot high. Ark Royal's deck was rising and falling over 50 feet!"

"It is stories like these on which the ethos of the Fleet Air Arm is founded" said Rear Admiral Simon Charlier.

Find, Fix and Strike!



The Fleet Air Arm motto, 'Find, Fix and Strike' has stood the test of time. On 7 May 2009, 100 years to the day on which the Royal Navy ordered its first airship, the celebrations onboard HMS Illustrious moored in The Thames at Greenwich were a splendid and fitting tribute to the enduring strengths of Naval aviation.

"Today is a glorious moment in Naval history" said First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope. "The bravery, tenacity and accomplishments of the Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm have proved the case, time and time again for Naval Air Power. Today the Fleet Air Arm has never been in greater demand and our aircraft are delivering operational capability on all fronts."

HRH The Duke of York, Commodore in Chief of the Fleet Air Arm was guest of honour onboard HMS Illustrious as a formation of Merlin, Sea King and Lynx helicopters, as well as Hawk and Jetstream aircraft flew

proudly over the ship defying the grey leaden skies. The Duke spoke warmly of his service in the Fleet Air Arm and described his pleasure at being part of the celebrations. "Flying at sea is challenging but it is not just the aircrew who deserve recognition." he said. "The engineers, handlers and everyone onboard ship are just as much a part of the Fleet Air Arm's illustrious history".

Guests at the celebrations onboard HMS Illustrious included current and former serving Fleet Air Arm personnel including Captain Eric Brown, the Navy's celebrated Test Pilot whose services to Naval aviation are unsurpassed, Sir George Martin, pictured top left, who was a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm before his famous career in the music industry and Members of Parliament, including the Secretary of State for Defence, former Chiefs of the Naval Staff and Flag Officers of Naval Aviation together with the Chief of the Air Staff and representatives from industry and



"It was sheer magic . . . I have worked with so many good people in the Fleet Air Arm, many of them geniuses in their time."

Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown CBE, DSC, AFC, FRAeS Royal Navy



the City.



Commodore-in-Chief Visits Yeovilton and Culdrose

HRH The Duke of York KG, Commodore-in-Chief of the Fleet Air Arm has given huge support to this year's Centenary, taking part in all the major events and visiting both Royal Naval Air Stations and the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

He joined a crowd of 32,000 at Yeovilton International Air Day in July particularly enjoying the dramatic displays by the Sea Vixen and French Rafale and the

unmissable Commando assault. During his visit to Culdrose he met fellow aviators he had served with in 820 Squadron during the Falklands conflict, visited the Merlin Systems Trainer, had a sortie in the simulator and was briefed on the Sea King ASaC7s. He was also presented with an impressive trophy to commemorate the Centenary of Naval aviation – a Sea King door that had been totally reskinned in brass and which will hang in the new Junior Rates Mess.

The Fleet Air Arm in the Public Eye

Over 20,000 people visited the Fleet Air Arm display at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich in May, crowding along the banks of The Thames to watch the weekend flying demonstrations and viewing the Naval aircraft in the college grounds.

"The sheer volume and enthusiasm of the crowds was overwhelming" said Lieutenant Ian Keam. "The public support and gratitude for the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm was very humbling and made me extremely proud to wear my uniform."

The flying demonstrations against the backdrop of the Old Royal Naval College held everyone in rapturous attention as Merlin, Lynx and Sea King helicopters played out an exciting counter piracy scenario followed by a mercy mission to rescue a hostage. The next Fleet Air Arm in the Public Eye event will be in Liverpool from 23-26 October 2009 including a fly past over HMS Illustrious and a static park in front of the Liver Building.



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

Vernon Ball
Pat Beagley
Stanley Brand
Doug Buckland
Donald Bunce
Cyril Cox
Len Cox
Terry Crowley
Russell George
Tom Hallhead
Lew Howells
Stan Inchcliffe
Eric Lascelles
Frank Hunter
Mick Lawrence
Dennis Leach
Andrew Linsley
Gren Lockett
Dennis Lydall
Tex Lyster
John Mayes
Mary Morgan
Terry Noble
Joe Oliver
Frank O'Shaugnessy
Ken Phillips
Ron Porter
Stewart Robertson
Jeff Powell
May Rawstron
Hank Reed
Vic Rogers
William Ruddock
Leslie Sayer
Ken Sims
Ray Sturtivant
Dickie Sweet
Tony Tarran
Norman Turner
Bill West
Bill Woodward



Telegraphist Air Gunners Remember Absent Friends

Service at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial, Lee-on-Solent

This year the Telegraphist Air Gunners Association annual memorial service at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial, Lee-on-Solent on Sunday 17 May, the 62nd anniversary of the formation of the Association, was an especially poignant one. In recent months 42 of their number have died and as their names were read out, one by one, and the wreaths of remembrance were laid on the memorial there was a prevailing deep sadness among those remaining that the Association would not be able to continue to exist for many more years.



Telegraphist Air Gunners (TAGs) served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1922-1950 providing communications by Morse Code and manning the rear gun. Three thousand TAGs were trained in the 28 year life span of the branch; 507 were lost through enemy action or flying accidents

and 60 became Prisoners of War. TAGs were awarded 2 CGMs, 115 DSMs, 20 BEMs and 134 Mentions in Despatches. They served in 77 different Aircraft Carriers, 12 Fleet Carriers, 10 Light Fleet Carriers, 33 Escort Carriers, 19 MAC ships, 3 small carriers and in 11 Battleships and 36 Cruisers.

Speaking at the lunch in HMS Collingwood after the service, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, KCB, CBE, ADC said that the TAGs were hugely respected and that their loyalty and legacy would never be forgotten.

Duke of Edinburgh Opens New Exhibition

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh opened an impressive new exhibition hall at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton in July. The exhibition entitled 'A Celebration of Naval Flying' coincides with this year's Centenary of Naval aviation and includes many exciting new exhibits including a replica of a Shorts S27 bi-plane, the Sea King which was flown by HRH The Duke of York during the Falklands Conflict and a battle proven Sea Harrier.

As Founding Patron of the Museum, The Duke took the opportunity to talk to Museum staff and current and former serving members of the Fleet Air Arm.

centrepiece of our Naval aviation heritage, unrivalled among the world's leading aviation museums."

Chairman of the Trustees of the Museum, Admiral Terry Loughran said "When His Royal Highness opened the Fleet Air Arm Museum forty five years ago we only had three aircraft, now the Museum is the

The opening of the new exhibition was also timed to coincide with the celebrations around Armed Forces Day. Over 200 Fleet Air Arm veterans attended the event and enjoyed a buffet lunch under the wings of Concorde.



FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM



The Few of the Few

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Winston Churchill's words immediately conjure up images of plucky RAF chaps running to their Spitfires to go and give 'Jerry' a damn good thrashing. However, it is frequently overlooked that 56 Fleet Air Arm pilots also took part in the Battle of Britain with four becoming fighter 'aces'. Although rarely acknowledged, three Naval pilots also flew with the famous 242 Squadron commanded by the legendary Douglas Bader.

The young Naval aviators who took part in the Battle of Britain between July and October 1940 saw some of the fiercest fighting of the battle. 23 Naval pilots served with twelve RAF Fighter Command Squadrons, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes, and a further 33 served with 804 and 808, the two Fleet Air Arm Battle of Britain Squadrons who operated under Fighter Command, providing Dockyard defence.

The first Naval fighter ace in the battle was Sub Lieutenant Francis Dawson-Paul who flew Spitfires with 64 Squadron. He was followed by Sub Lieutenant Arthur Blake from 19 Squadron, who also flew Spitfires, and then Sub Lieutenants 'Dickie' Cork and 'Jimmy' Gardner from Douglas Bader's 242 Squadron. Cork was awarded the DFC for his actions.

The two Fleet Air Arm squadrons flew Gloster Sea Gladiators, Grumman Martlets and Fairey Fulmars, normally only seen in carriers. 804 Naval Air Squadron, based at Hatston, consisted of 22 pilots flying Sea Gladiators and Martlets whilst the 11 pilots of 808 Squadron, based at Wick, were equipped with Fulmars.

Amongst these pilots were five Petty Officers earning themselves the Battle of Britain Clasp. Petty Officers TJ Mahoney, FL Shaw and WEJ Stockwell flew with 804 Naval Air Squadron

and Petty Officers, RE Dubber and DE Taylor flew with 808 Naval Air Squadron. Royal Marine pilots were also represented in these squadrons; Captain AE Marsh RM and Lieutenant AJ Wright RM flew with 804 and Lieutenant RC Hay RM with 808.

Seven Naval pilots were killed and two wounded during the Battle of Britain and whilst all 56 Naval aviators are listed on the Battle of Britain memorial in London, the contribution made by the Royal Navy is rarely recognised. In the iconic films 'Battle of Britain' and 'Reach for the Sky', despite Douglas Bader having three Naval Officers in his Squadron, including his wingman 'Dickie Cork', no reference is made to them. In the eyes of the world the Battle of Britain is, and always will be, an RAF victory and the contribution and sacrifice of the 'Few' is something that is indisputable. However, the Royal Navy, and those with an interest in Naval aviation history, should never forget the bravery of the few within the 'Few' who fought in Naval uniform.

Sunday 15 September 1940 was the decisive turning point in the Battle of Britain and this year's annual Battle of Britain service will be held in Westminster Abbey on Sunday 20 September 2009.



www.fnht.org

Fly Navy Heritage Trust

First Sea Lord Signs Up!

In his last visit to Yeovilton as First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathon Band GCB, ADC pledged his support to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, by joining the FNHT as a Supporter and urging everyone who has served with the Fleet Air Arm to do the same.

"It is your Trust – and it needs your support," said Admiral Band. "We all have a part to play in safeguarding our Naval aviation heritage."



This year the Trust has been instrumental in issuing commemorative stamps and Centenary coins, fuelling the cause with a traditional liquid propellant, Wadworth Swordfish Ale, commissioning a Centennial piece of music for the Fleet Air Arm called Daedalus and launching a campaign to seek national recognition for

former Royal Naval Air Stations around the country to be designated as Naval Heritage Sites.

On 16 October, in recognition of the longstanding role Scotland has played in the history of Naval aviation, the Trust will be holding a Centenary Dinner onboard the former Royal Yacht Britannia berthed at Leith near Edinburgh. This is an important opportunity for members of the Fleet Air Arm community in Scotland to meet up and enjoy a once in a life time evening. The Fleet Air Arm's long standing connections with Scotland are set to continue with the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers being built in Rosyth and the new aircraft based at Lissiemouth.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For an annual subscription of £20 you can help support our Naval Aviation Heritage. Everyone in the Fleet Air Arm community should be a member! To sign up today please telephone 01935 842005 or email office@fnht.co.uk

Powering the Fleet Air Arm yesterday, today & tomorrow



Saluting the Fly Navy Centenary

www.roll-royce.com



Rolls-Royce



"Nothing gets you in the way Naval aviation does!"



Buckingham Palace Garden Party

6000 current and former serving members of all ranks and rates of the Fleet Air Arm and their guests attended the Centenary of Naval Aviation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 9 July 2009 in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke of York, The Earl of Wessex, The Princess Royal and Prince Michael of Kent.

"It was a day we will remember for the rest of our lives" said veteran Telegraphist Air Gunner, Bill Jones, who was among those presented to The Princess Royal.

"It was so impressive, even when you arrived the entrance to Buckingham Palace was flanked by helicopters and just as the Members of the Royal Family stepped out onto the terrace, a fly past of Merlins, Lynx and Sea Kings flew overhead."

Former Second Officer WRNS, Kate Worsley, who served at RNAS Culdrose in the 1960s said "I went with my daughter. It was such a privilege to be invited."

Many of the guests were presented to Members of the Royal Family including veterans from the Fleet Air Arm Associations, personnel from the Commando Helicopter Force who had just returned from Afghanistan and Rear Admiral Sir Donald Gosling who has been so generous in his support to the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm over many years. In a fitting tribute to the Centenary, at the end of the afternoon guests were served with champagne.





Afghanistan Heroes Honoured

122 Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel from the Commando Helicopter Force were presented with their Afghanistan Operational Service Medals by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House in July.

The aircrew, engineers and support personnel of 845, 846 and 847 Naval Air Squadrons had recently returned from long operational tours in southern Afghanistan and were invited with their wives and families to a very special welcome home reception in London. Crowds lined the streets and cheered as they marched along the Mall to Clarence House.

The Commando Helicopter Force is a combined Royal Navy and Royal Marines force flying Sea King and Lynx helicopters in support of UK armed forces. Commanding Officer of the Force, Captain Jon Pentreath

said "At any one time we have at least six Royal Navy helicopters in Helmand working flat out moving troops and equipment around the battlefield. No sooner has one crew come home than another one goes out."

HRH The Prince of Wales has very fond memories of his time as a Jungly pilot. He served as a helicopter pilot in 845 Squadron in 1975 and was the first member of the Royal Family to fly in an operational Fleet Air Arm Squadron.



Editor's Note

I joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1974 and have served at RNAS Yeovilton and RNAS Cudrose and more recently, two operational tours in Afghanistan. At



no time in the last 35 years, even during the Falklands conflict, has the Fleet Air Arm been so heavily committed to operations as we are now. The whole military community is involved in Afghanistan with Fleet Air Arm personnel embedded in all areas of the operation. If the lessons of history are to be learned, flexible, adaptable multi-purpose Naval air power – where and when you need it – is key. This has always been the rationale for the Fleet Air Arm and we are delivering it on all fronts. If you have not had a copy of the Centenary edition of Flight Deck or seen the DVD '100 Years of Naval Aviation' please don't hesitate to call or email the Fly Navy 100 office.

Commander Sue Eagles
QVRM, RD Royal Navy

Our Last Link with the RNAS

Tributes have been pouring in following the death of Henry Allingham in July. Henry, who was born in 1896, joined the fledgling Royal Naval Air Service as an air mechanic in 1915. Less than a year later he saw action at sea in the Battle of Jutland and in 1917 found himself in France flying over the Western Front as an air gunner with the Royal Naval Air Service.

Later in life Henry became an active member of the First World War Veterans Association, the last of a generation commanding huge respect and admiration. His personal memories breathed life into the history books. "We have lost someone very special" said Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns. "Henry was a truly honourable man and a living link with our heritage. He will be greatly missed."

Henry celebrated his 113th birthday in June at a party given by the Fleet Air Arm at HMS President. He was presented with a birthday cake delivered by Royal Marines fast assault craft, a blanket embroidered with Fleet Air Arm wings and a decanter of Pusser's Rum, his favourite tiple.



"I always considered myself a Navy man."

Henry Allingham, 1896 - 2009



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