



**FLY NAVY
HERITAGE
TRUST**

FLIGHT DECK

Preserving the Nation's Naval Aviation Heritage

SEE INSIDE ...

Reaching New Heights!

Battle of the Atlantic Appeal raises over £250K to restore legendary Swordfish.

Flight Deck

Fleet Air Arm journal first published in 1944, lives on to promote Royal Navy's Aviation Heritage.

Battle of the Atlantic Flypasts

Swordfish LS326 led the Battle of the Atlantic 70th anniversary flypasts over London and Liverpool in May.

**YOU CAN NOW
DONATE BY
TEXT**

Support our 2014
Centenary Appeal

TEXT MESSAGE:

**FNHT14 £5 TO
70070**

Donations can be between £1 & £10



Vintage Viewpoint taken by Lt Cdr Andy Thompson RN

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

FLY PAST OVER LONDON

Campaign Success

A massive thank you to all our supporters! We are really grateful to everyone who has donated to the Trust this year.

Follow us on Twitter
and Facebook



With the weight of national pride resting on her wings, the challenges of getting Swordfish LS326 airborne for the Battle of the Atlantic 70th anniversary events in London and Liverpool in May were quite extraordinary. However, as she flew along The Thames towards Greenwich the cry went up 'There she is!' and the dedication, resourcefulness and sheer determination of everyone involved once again proved the Fleet Air Arm's reputation of always achieving the aim in the

face of enormous difficulties! From the skills and expertise of the maintenance and airworthiness authorities to the considerable financial pressures, the demands of maintaining such priceless national treasures are truly great and the Trust would like to thank all our Supporters and everyone involved for their herculean efforts. The many thousands who saw the Swordfish flying over the celebrations were hugely impressed – and those who flew the Swordfish in action were moved to tears.

**SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY HISTORIC FLIGHT, THE FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM
AND ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, THE FLEET AIR ARM MEMORIAL CHURCH**

FLIGHT DECK

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust is delighted to take on the Fleet Air Arm's iconic magazine title 'Flight Deck' as the Trust's Naval Aviation Heritage Newsletter.

'Flight Deck' was first published in August 1944 and has been the Fleet Air Arm tribal magazine for over 65 years but three years ago this much respected journal of Naval Aviation was cut in a MOD savings measure to rationalise the number of military magazines.

'Flight Deck' has always drawn the past, present and future together and re-launching this distinctive title at a time when the portents for Carrier Strike, Littoral Manoeuvre and the future of the Fleet Air Arm have never been better, is a privilege for the Trust and another building block in our commitment to keep the Royal Navy's Aviation Heritage in the public eye.

Articles are welcome from all areas and eras of Naval Aviation! Please tell us what you are doing to raise money and raise awareness of the remarkable history and spirit of Naval flying. Email office@fnht.co.uk

NEW WEBSITE

The new fnht.co.uk website went live in June. You can now view our award winning film with backing track 'The Great Gig in the Sky' from Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon album together with its sequel tribute to the Swordfish in the Battle of the Atlantic with voiceover by Fly Navy Heritage Trust Ambassador Frederick Forsyth CBE. The site offers more information about the work of the Trust as well as easier access to news about our appeals, events and the aircraft. Come and visit us!

fnht.co.uk



Admiral Sir John Treacher KCB FRAeS President Fly Navy Heritage Trust

Having introduced 'Fly Navy' as the Naval Aviation logo when I was Captain of HMS Eagle, I am delighted to see the Fly Navy Heritage Trust take on the Fleet Air Arm's iconic 'Flight Deck' magazine.

This year's 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic is also of special significance for me. I served on Russian convoys enduring savage ice storms to deliver essential weapons to Murmansk.

Victory in the Battle of the Atlantic was achieved at enormous cost and we must never forget that control of the sea is essential to our island nation. I have been greatly impressed by the tremendous efforts of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust this year, not only achieving a marked step-up in fundraising, but in gaining better national understanding of the vital role of the Fleet Air Arm in an operational theatre

covering thousands of square miles of ocean.

The history of our nation is reflected in its maritime heritage. If we don't give our heritage all we have, then in Churchill's words 'what were we fighting for?'

Make no mistake, keeping the Royal Navy's historic aircraft flying in order to bring the story to life for future generations, comes with a hefty price tag.

We need an endowment of £10 Million and the success of the Trust will ultimately be judged on its ability to raise major donations over the years ahead. As President I am pleased to see the seeds of this ambition bear fruit this year and encourage you to give the Fly Navy Heritage Trust your full support.

From the Chief Executive Mike Nixon OBE

2013 has been an extraordinarily busy year during which the Fly Navy Heritage Trust has given substantial grants to the Royal Navy Historic Flight, enabling the Royal Navy's historic aircraft to fly at air shows the length and breadth of the British Isles and Northern Ireland. We have also supported an unprecedented number of events including the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Trust's Sea Fury T20 continues to be a great success both for the Trust and the Royal Navy Historic Flight. Flown by Lt Cdr Chris Götke, her power, performance and grace have drawn ever increasing spectator numbers, further strengthening and consolidating the Trust's support to the Royal Navy.

Additionally, the Trust has laid the foundations for Swordfish W5856 to take to the skies again in 2014, through an outstanding £200,000 donation from the Peter Harrison Heritage Foundation. This exceptional gift gave a great boost to this year's Battle of the Atlantic Appeal helping achieve our ambitious target. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Every gift, even the smallest donation, is much appreciated.

We are also extremely grateful to our main partners in industry, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, AgustaWestland and Rolls-Royce for their continued commitment and generosity. Our inaugural Legacy Seminar in September was well attended and our Supporter numbers continue to grow. Our Supporters are very important to us and if you have not already joined, 2014 is an excellent year to do so. The story of Naval Aviation has always had the capacity to educate, enthral and excite and next year, 100 years after the formation of the Royal Naval Air Service, the past, present and future come together in the naming ceremony of HMS Queen Elizabeth, as carrier aviation prepares to take a quantum leap forward into a second Century.

Thank you
to all our supporters!

The Experience of a life time



Brothers Martin and Peter Jackson shared a thrilling and unforgettable experience when they flew in the Trust's Sea Fury T20 to celebrate Peter's 75th birthday. Peter, pictured right, who served with the Fleet Air Arm and saw active service in Borneo with 845 Naval Air Squadron, said "It was the experience of a lifetime. To fly in an aircraft that has held me spellbound since seeing it take off from Lee on Solent 60 years ago was truly amazing." The Hawker Sea Fury T20 is the twin seat trainer variant of the Sea Fury, the last of the Royal Navy's piston engine fighters, that served with great distinction in Korea in the 1950s.



Trust Supporter
Peter Jackson

A fond farewell

The Trust was sorry to say goodbye to Hannah Robinson at Supporters' Day. Hannah, who was appointed as Events and Development Manager in October 2012, led the Trust's events programme during the extremely busy Battle of the Atlantic 70th Anniversary year, championing our fundraising efforts with tremendous energy and heightening the Trust's profile with veterans, volunteers and the wider Naval Service. "Hannah will be greatly missed" said Chief Executive Mike Nixon.

Hannah, who also serves in the RNR Air Branch and is the Training Officer for Yeovil Sea Cadets, leaves to broaden her career in the charity sector.

SUPPORTERS' DAY



The Trust's inaugural Supporters' Day, held at RNAS Yeovilton in October, was a very successful and enjoyable day attended by 120 Supporters, their families, guests and friends.

The event, which was sold out within an hour of being advertised, included the opportunity to see the Royal Navy's historic aircraft at close quarters, meet the aircrew and maintainers and watch a heritage flying display including two breathtaking passes by Lt Cdr Chris Götke in the Sea Fury T20 and a stunning display by John Beattie and Trustee Henry Cooke in the Jet Provost. It was a perfect end to the summer season topped off by afternoon tea in glorious sunshine and some early Christmas shopping with the Fly Navy Heritage Trust Trailer selling nearly £1000 of 'Fly Navy' merchandise.



‘Op Aardvark’



ASaC Force Charity Cycle

A team of cyclists from 849 Naval Air Squadron based at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose raised £4,275 for the Fly Navy Heritage Trust in a 400 mile memorial cycle ride from RNAS Culdrose to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in March.

The cycle ride, which took five days in atrocious weather conditions, was organised to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the mid-air collision between two Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Control helicopters in the Northern

Gulf during Operation Telic in 2003 in which seven members of the Squadron tragically lost their lives.

“The Sea King ASaC force is a small close-knit unit” said Cdr Andrew Rose, Commander Sea King Helicopter Force. “The accident on 22 March 2003 devastated 849 ‘A’ Flight killing all six Royal Navy aircrew and an American Navy exchange officer. We wanted to remember them by raising money for the Fly Navy Heritage Trust and holding a service with the families at the Fleet Air Arm memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

BATTLE OF THE GOLF CLUBS RAISES £8,000

This year’s Swordfish Golf Tournament at the Bowood Spa and Golf Resort raised over £8000. Once again Bowood gave the Fly Navy Heritage Trust a warm welcome as 12 teams took to the course. Lt Cdr Chris Götke provided the midday entertainment with a stunning fly past in the Sea Fury T20 and, as an added treat in the afternoon, Wadworth Brewery dray horses, Monty and Prince, arrived to deliver the Swordfish Ale.



Top prize went to AgustaWestland with prizes presented by AgustaWestland Vice President for UK Government Business, Simon Jones.

SEA VIXEN FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The last airworthy Sea Vixen XP924/G-CVIX took to the skies again this year thrilling the crowds with a spectacular display at RNAS Culdrose Air Day in July but the future of this classic Fleet Air Arm fighter is uncertain. Her owner has offered to gift her to the Royal Navy. However, she will need sponsorship, expertise and a dedicated support group to keep her flying. The Sea Vixen has a tremendous following amongst aircrew and enthusiasts alike. If you can help please contact Commodore Bill Covington at office@fnht.co.uk



Merchandise Sales Double



This year the Fly Navy Heritage Trust trailer has been to some of the Country’s largest events, including the Battle of Atlantic Commemorations in Liverpool and London in May, and the Bournemouth and Eastbourne National Air Festivals in August and September. Managed by Dave Weatherley, the Fly Navy Heritage Trust office manager, and a small team of volunteers, the trailer and publicity stand has generated £20,000 of revenue through merchandise sales and made a significant contribution to raising public awareness of the work of the Trust.

Merchandise sales in 2012 were more than double those of the previous year and this year’s figures indicate that sales have continued to climb, tripling since 2011. “As well as generating income, our aim is to increase public support, particularly of the Royal Navy Historic Flight’s role as a living memorial” said Dave. “We are extremely grateful to the many members of public who have visited our stand and to the volunteer helpers, pilots and crews who have given up their weekends to help.”

See our range of Merchandise on fnht.co.uk

‘Two Red Rats, Seven Aardvarks, Never Forgotten’

JUNGLES RE-TRACE THEIR HERITAGE IN BORNEO

17 members of 845 Naval Air Squadron had a fascinating insight into their Squadron history earlier this year when they spent 12 days in Borneo re-tracing the footsteps of their former comrades and honouring those who gave their lives during the Indonesian confrontation in the 1960s.

Sponsored by the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, the expedition included a visit to Nanga Gaat memorial erected to remember the Commando helicopter Squadrons and other members of the

security forces who lost their lives during the operation.

845 Squadron operated in the jungle in Borneo from 1962-66 as part of a

Royal Navy task force supporting the Malaysian government in counter insurgency operations against the communist rebels. Flying conditions were exacting and landing in dense jungle clearings in low cloud and rain with trees soaring to a height of 200 feet became a well-practised manoeuvre, earning the Commando Squadron aircrews their nickname ‘Junglies’.

845 Squadron will be celebrating their history at a Commando Aviation Heritage Dinner at Merchant Taylors’ Hall, London on 23 June 2014. All proceeds from this glittering fundraiser will be donated to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust. Tickets are available from philt@fnht.co.uk



Nanga Gaat Memorial



Lisa, who was presented with the Award by Tim Sykes, Chairman of Beds & Bars, was nominated for her high standards of flight servicing and the impressive example she set others in her role as Plane Captain on 702 Squadron.

Speaking at the presentation Lisa said “I am so pleased that people are recognising and sponsoring our heritage because it is important.”

HERITAGE AWARD

Air Engineering Technician Lisa Christie has become the first Junior Rating in the Fleet Air Arm to be presented with the prestigious Fly Navy Heritage Trust Award for Distinction. The Award, which is sponsored by Beds & Bars, an international chain of hostels and restaurants, will be awarded termly to the Junior Rating based at RNAS Yeovilton demonstrating outstanding excellence.



THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

70th Anniversary Celebrations

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust marked this year's 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic with two very successful receptions in HMS Illustrious in London on 11 May and HMS Bulwark in Liverpool on 24 May, raising £20,000 towards the Trust's Battle of the Atlantic Appeal.

40 Naval Air Squadrons provided vital air cover during the Battle of the Atlantic, particularly in the mid-Atlantic gap and on the Russian convoy routes. The receptions were attended by 900 former and current serving members of the Fleet Air Arm, Battle of the Atlantic veterans and Fly Navy Heritage Trust Ambassadors and Supporters.

Among the guests watching the fly past from HMS Illustrious was TV adventurer, travel writer and actor Charley Boorman, who was enthralled. "It was absolutely amazing to stand on the flight deck of a carrier and see this remarkable aircraft fly over London!" said Charley.

For the Fleet Air Arm veterans, seeing the Swordfish flying again 70 years later, the experience was very emotional, bringing memories flooding back. "May 1943 was the turning point in the war" said Swordfish pilot Charles Gough. "Up until that point it was pretty horrendous. In March 1943 alone, 627,000 tons of merchant shipping was sunk by U-boats. It was a tough time. The Swordfish was ideally suited to fly from the MAC ships and from May 1943 onwards we turned the tide, keeping the U-boats submerged and stemming convoy losses."

The reception in the Fleet Flag Ship HMS Bulwark in Liverpool was particularly nostalgic for veterans including Rex Ayers (97) pictured above, who served in the River Class Frigate HMS Lossie in the Battle of the Atlantic. Speaking at the reception in HMS Bulwark, the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Zambellas KCB DSC ADC said "We owe a great debt of gratitude to the people of Liverpool and everyone who served in the Battle of the Atlantic."



HMS Illustrious - London



HMS Bulwark - Liverpool



Both events were tremendous reunions, with everyone united in their support of the Royal Navy's Aviation Heritage, but the highlight of the celebrations was, without question, the magnificent and spirited fly pasts by the Royal Navy's historic Fairey Swordfish Mk II LS326 in her original North Atlantic convoys wartime colours. A veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic – and indeed one of the last and rarest remaining links with the campaign – LS326 served with 'L' and 'K' Flights of 836 Naval Air Squadron embarked in MAC ships Rapana and Empire MacCallum. The dedicated and painstaking work to get her airborne in time to lead the national fly pasts in such a fitting tribute was an outstanding achievement that brought pleasure and delight to millions.



‘The Swordfish sits at the heart of the Nation’s Naval Aviation Heritage’

Frederick Forsyth CBE,
Ambassador Fly Navy Heritage Trust



Wellington Dinner Raises £10,000



Battle of the Atlantic veterans Bertie Vigrass (right), Archie Hemsley (left) and Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown were among the guests at this year's Industry Dinner in HQS Wellington in March. The Dinner raised £10,000 for the Trust's Battle of the Atlantic Appeal.



REUNITED AFTER 68 YEARS

Swordfish veterans Jack Thomas (left) and Eric King (right) who served together in V Flight 836 Naval Air Squadron during the Battle of the Atlantic were reunited during the Fly Navy Heritage Trust reception in HMS Bulwark in Liverpool in May, having not seen each other for 68 years!

It was quite an emotional moment admitted Eric. "It was all the more poignant because the last time we saw each other on 1 June 1945, the aircraft I was flying suffered an engine failure and ditched in the sea. I was the pilot. Tragically our Observer was lost."

"We were embarked in the grain ship Empire MacKendrick" said Jack, who was a Batsman. "It was one of the last flights of the war. The ship sent out a lifeboat and a group of very brave maintenance ratings, without even hesitating, dived off the ship into the sea to help the crew. Eric

and the Telegraphist Air Gunner, Bob Lea, were very lucky to survive. They were both suffering from hyperthermia. The maintenance ratings should have been decorated really. The last time we saw each other was at RNAS Maydown in 1945."

Eric, who travelled from South Africa for the commemorative events in Liverpool, said "The Swordfish was a very safe aircraft normally and nice to fly. I went on to fly the Seafire and finished the war still flying Seafires against the Japanese in the forgotten British Pacific Fleet."



Left to Right: Charles Gough, Jack Thomas, Eric King and Frank Jackson

Swordfish veteran Frank Jackson (right) who was an Observer with 825 Naval Air Squadron in the escort carrier HMS Vindex during the Battle of the Atlantic, enjoyed swapping notes with fellow Observer Lt Cdr Andy Thompson, who flew in the back of Swordfish LS326 during the anniversary flypasts over London and Liverpool. "Seeing the Swordfish flying today is absolutely wonderful," said Frank. "Navigating around the convoys was quite tricky sometimes. On one night track we came under fire and my Telegraphist Air Gunner was killed by a stray cannon shell. When the MK 3 came into service the TAGs were taken away and the radar went in the back."

£200,000 donation saves legendary Swordfish

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust is delighted to announce it has raised the full target of its Battle of the Atlantic Appeal to restore the only surviving Mk1 Fairey Swordfish in the world to flying condition following a £200,000 donation from the Peter Harrison Heritage Foundation.



Swordfish W5856 was built in 1941 and saw active service in the Mediterranean. In 2003 she was grounded with corrosion in her wing spars and her future looked uncertain. However with great generosity BAE Systems built a new set of wings, but she still needs considerable restoration work before she can return to the sky.

"We are enormously grateful to Sir Peter Harrison" said Chief Executive Mike Nixon. "This donation will make a real

difference giving this legendary aircraft a complete new lease of life."

Sir Peter Harrison, who is also a major benefactor for the Imperial War Museum and Royal Observatory Greenwich, said "Returning an iconic aircraft to flying condition is precisely the sort of cause that inspired me to establish my Heritage Foundation. Swordfish W5856 is an aircraft of national importance and this particular gift gives me great personal satisfaction reflecting my love of the Royal Navy. My aim is that all those who see her flying will be inspired by the courage of the naval aviators who flew these venerable aircraft against the odds."

From the Workshop



The military aircraft of the Royal Navy Historic Flight are unique and keeping them in flying condition is increasingly challenging and expensive. Very few of the original manufacturers are still in existence so finding spares is extremely difficult. As a consequence aircraft can remain on the ground for months for lack of a small component such as a piston ring or a seal.

With spares in such short supply engineers are turning their attention to the use of alternatives. However, while the drawings and specifications may have survived, the materials that were originally used when the aircraft were built are often no longer available either.

"It is a real dilemma" said Howard Read, Chief Engineer of the Royal Navy Historic Flight "but in the face of these enormous challenges we are finding some remarkably innovative solutions. We are using new materials and sourcing new suppliers to get modern equivalents manufactured. For instance new pistons for the Swordfish have been manufactured by Cosworth, an engineering company usually associated with high performance Formula 1 engines."

The use of new materials is dynamic and inventive but it too can give rise to further challenges including complex problems of compatibility and metallurgy.



"It took two years to source a metal for the Swordfish piston rings" continued Howard. "They were originally made by Wellworthy near Lymington but they don't exist anymore. Eventually we had to go to Poland to find the particular melt we needed."

"Naval Air Engineering has always required innovative approaches" said Rear Admiral Ian Tibbitt, Deputy Chairman of the Trust, "and our technologists, engineers and project managers are working harder than ever to find imaginative and cost effective solutions to keep the Royal Navy's priceless historic aircraft serviceable and airworthy."

meet our Ambassadors

AMBASSADORS

Nick Mason (Chairman)
Drummer with Pink Floyd

Charley Boorman
Adventurer, travel writer and actor

Heather Bristow
Wife of the late Alan Bristow OBE FRAeS

Eric Deardorff
CEO, Garrard

Roger Earl
Chairman Lloyds Motor Club

Giles English
Co-founder the Bremont Watch Company

Nick English
Co-founder the Bremont Watch Company

Frederick Forsyth CBE
Renowned Novelist and Author

Julian Jones
Managing Director Drilling Systems (UK) Ltd

Keith Knowles
Managing Director Beds & Bars

James Lyle
Financial entrepreneur and aviation enthusiast

Lady Lygo
Wife of the late Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo KCB

Giles Martin
Composer and Musician

Kathryn Mayne
Managing Director Horsley Bridge International

Derek Mayne
Arctic engineering specialist

Stephen Partridge-Hicks
Financial Entrepreneur and aviation enthusiast

Alan Rivers
Entrepreneur

Mike Rutherford
Guitarist with Genesis

Lars Steffensen
Chief Executive Ebullio Capital Management LLP

Jonathan Suckling
Co-founder Wilkins Beaumont Suckling

Kristin Scott Thomas OBE
Internationally Acclaimed Actress

Ian Wace
Financial Entrepreneur

HONORARY AMBASSADORS

Rear Admiral Sir Donald Gosling KCVO
The Gosling Foundation

Sir Torquil Norman CBE
Aviator, philanthropist and entrepreneur

Sir Humphry Wakefield Bt
Patron of the Waterbird Project

Eric Verdon-Roe
Descendant of AV Roe (AVRO)



Ambassadors' Dinner Raises £77,000

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust launched its Ambassadors' initiative in 2010 and the Trust's cadre of Ambassadors, under the Chairmanship of Nick Mason, drummer with Pink Floyd, have made an enormous contribution to the Trust's fundraising efforts.

This year's Ambassadors' Dinner was another fundraising success, raising over £77,000 and introducing many influential new supporters to the Trust. Held in the historic Churchill War Rooms, the secret underground bunker where Sir Winston Churchill and his War Cabinet led Britain and her Allies to victory in World War II,

the setting could not have been a more fitting venue to commemorate the vital role played by the Fleet Air Arm in the Battle of the Atlantic. Guest speaker, The Right Honourable Nicholas Soames MP, gave an outstanding speech reflecting on his Grandfather, Winston Churchill's innovative and far-sighted vision for the capability of Naval Aviation.

Mindful that lavish gala dinners can appear out of step with society in the current economic climate, guests enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of 1940s period dress, 1940s music and plenty of wartime spirit!



RNAS Yeovilton Air Day 2013 will be long remembered as a resounding success. On the hottest day of the year over 200 Supporters enjoyed an exciting and spectacular air display and delicious hog roast BBQ lunch in the Trust's marquee and viewing enclosure.

Air Day is a highlight of the display season and this year the Trust's distinctive 'Fly Navy' brand, cohesive image and absolute focus on keeping the Royal Navy's historic aircraft flying, sent a clear message - there has never been a more important time to raise public awareness of the Royal Navy's Aviation Heritage and the part played by the Fleet Air Arm in the Defence of the Realm.

The Swordfish always attracts enormous anticipation and interest at air shows and with this year's added *Battle of the Atlantic effect*, record numbers watched in awe as she flew wide low circuits along the crowd line. The Sea Fury T20 also gave another spectacular display. Quite simply, Lt Cdr Chris Götke leaves the rest standing!



The Fly Navy Heritage Trust marquee at RNAS Yeovilton Air Day is one of the ways in which The Trust is able to say thank you and give something back to its Supporters. An additional benefit of being a member of the Trust's Supporters' Club is that Supporters are also eligible for reduced price entrance tickets to RNAS Yeovilton Air Day and the Fleet Air Arm Museum. For details on the benefits and advantages of becoming a Supporter email office@fnht.co.uk



Show Your Support
Display your Fly Navy Car Sticker
£2.50 each inc p&p 01935 842005

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- Sign up to become a **Supporter**
- Give a **Donation**
- Leave a **Legacy**
- Organise your own **fundraising event**
- Become a **Volunteer**
- Spread the word

Centenary of the Royal Naval Air Service



1914 - 2014

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust will be celebrating the Centenary of the formation of the Royal Naval Air Service with a series of events throughout 2014 culminating in a Centenary Dinner organised by the Trust's Ambassadors in the Imperial War Museum, London on 25 September 2014.

The formation of the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 July 1914 brought all Naval Aviation procurement, personnel, training and infrastructure under the ownership of a new Naval Air Service. Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 and within weeks the Royal Naval Air Service had pioneered the first strategic air raids against Zeppelins in their bases many miles from the sea - outstanding achievements in navigation and daring.

The Phoenix rises!

809 Squadron reborn to fly the Lightning II



The Fleet Air Arm's historic 809 Naval Air Squadron will fly again, becoming the first Naval Air Squadron to operate the F35 Lightning II from the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir George Zambellas KCB DSC ADC said: "This Squadron number is a golden thread which weaves its way through the proud history of carrier strike, telling the Fleet Air Arm jet story from World War II, through to the Buccaneers flying from the post war HMS Ark Royal, to the iconic Sea Harrier which served with such distinction in the Falklands in 1982. It could not be a more fitting Squadron to deliver the new era of UK carrier strike."

809 Squadron flew the Royal Navy Buccaneer low level strike bomber in the 1960s and 1970s.



Legacy Appeal

Leaving a gift in your will is an easy way for your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime and benefit future generations. If you would like to leave a gift in your will please email legacy@fnht.co.uk or call 01935 849200.

Diary Dates ²⁰¹⁴

Friday 4 April 2014

Candlelight Concert St Bartholomew's
Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church

Friday 9 May 2014

Industry/Corporates Dinner
Royal Yacht Britannia, Edinburgh

Monday 23 June 2014

Commando Aviation Heritage Dinner,
Merchant Taylors' Hall, London

Tuesday 1 July 2014

Centenary of the formation of the
Royal Naval Air Service

Saturday 26 July 2014

RNAS Yeovilton Air Day

Thursday 31 July 2014

RNAS Culdrose Air Day

Friday 5 September 2014

Swordfish Golf Tournament Bowood
Country Club, Devizes

Friday 12 September 2014

Legacy Seminar

Thursday 25 September 2014

Ambassadors' Dinner,
Imperial War Museum, London

Saturday 4 October 2014

Supporters' Day, RNAS Yeovilton

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to assist with events, provide support groups for different aircraft types, help in the office or man the trailer at Air Shows around the country. These tasks don't take up enormous amounts of time but they make a huge difference to raising awareness, spreading the word and raising money to keep our Naval Aviation Heritage in the public eye. If you have some spare time and would like to help, please give us a call on **01935 842005** or email us at office@fnht.co.uk

We have moved!

Please note our new address

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