



Issue 5 - Jul - Nov 09

Contrails

Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

Strathallan Collection

Our speaker for the meeting on 2nd September was Dick Richardson - currently manager of the popular Popham airfield near Basingstoke.

Following some time in the RAF Dick joined the Strathallan Collection owned by Lord Roberts and was put to work assessing aircraft for purchase, preparing them for delivery to the airfield near Auchterarder in Scotland and restoring them.

Dick took us through an amazing collection of slides built up through the years and events. Aircraft featured included Spitfires, Hurricanes, Lysander, Swordfish, Battle, Miles M18, Short Scion, Lancaster, Shackleton and perhaps the most unusual the Reid and Sigrist RS4 prone position research aircraft as below. *Photo below courtesy Neville Denton*



At one time there was a fleet of Ansons dotted around the airfield.

Although the collection was closed in the 80s, it left a legacy of usable aircraft via an auction, probably the most viewed is the Swordfish (rebuilt at Strathallan) that is flown regularly by the Royal Navy.

A Lancaster, that was flown from Canada, (subject of another Dick Richardson talk), was being refurbished at Woodford but was damaged when a hangar collapsed on it.

The Comet, see below, was flown into the grass strip but a downdraught caught the aircraft on landing which resulted in a broken main undercarriage and a long skid nearly into the hangar it was to show in.

Photo below courtesy Michael Bezier / Airlines.net



Visit report to Tangmere

On 15th September, fittingly Battle of Britain day, seven CAS members, along with others, enjoyed a guided tour around this impressive museum.

Tangmere Military Aviation Museum was established in 1982 on the edge of the old RAF Tangmere airfield. From its beginnings in 1916, through its illustrious service as one of Britain's front line fighter

bases during WW2 and on to its key role as home to the world speed record breaking aircraft of the High Speed Flight in the post war years Tangmere has occupied a unique place in aviation history. This diverse museum contains priceless historic aircraft such as Neville Duke's world record breaking Hawker Hunter and actual equipment used by the SOE agents who were carried into occupied

Forthcoming Events for 2010

Wed, 06Jan10, Britten Norman, A talk by Bob Wealthy, a speaker with wide knowledge of IOW aviation

Wed, 03Mar10, Hunter One, Mike Phipp, co-author of the book of the same name, tells the story of a private jet aircraft fleet. The mystery of the red Hunter at Bournemouth Airport can now be revealed.

Wed, 05May10, AGM Followed by a talk on **Boscombe Down Aviation Museum**

Mystery Picture - What and where is it? See overleaf



Intrepid

Having been requested to do a Quality Audit in an oil testing laboratory in New Jersey, about 40 miles from New York, the flight schedule gave me a Sunday with no commitments and so I took the train into New York to view a museum I had heard about.

The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum situated at Pier 86, Hudson River, in New York was opened in 1982, the Museum has welcomed more than 10 million visitors with currently more than 75,000 visitors each year. Refurbished recently the Museum is housed in the aircraft carrier Intrepid (CVS-11), which served in World War II and with refits went on to serve as a capsule recovery vessel for NASA, three tours of duty off Vietnam, and submarine surveillance in the North Atlantic during the Cold War.

There are 30 aircraft exhibits spread between the hangar deck, and the flight deck. Naval aircraft such as Skyhawk and Avenger are presented in pristine condition in the Hangar and on the flight deck is an impressive array which includes Harrier and Scimitar along with Russian, Israeli and French aircraft as well as prime examples of Blackbird, Tomcat and F16, with helicopters represented by Huey and Cobra to mention but a few. On the pier you can view and walk through a British Airways Concorde, G-BOAD, which set a world speed record for passenger airliners on February 7, 1996 when it flew from New York to London in 2 hours, 52 minutes and 59 seconds.

Alongside is a submarine, Growler class, which hails from the era when missiles were housed on deck in hangars. If your partner goes to the big apple for the shopping there is something for you to see as well.

Mystery Pic - The refuelling probe of the Harrier with a skyscraper background

Aircraft on the Flight Deck of Intrepid.....



.....and on the pier alongside.



Tangmere Cont

France on 'black Lysander' flights from Tangmere.

Other aircraft on parade include Lightning, Hunter, Swift, Phantom, Meteor and Sea Harrier.

Of course it is also the present home of our one and only XJ580 and the photo at right shows how well looked after she is.

