



**FLYING DEMONSTRATION BY
AIRCRAFT OF THE HOME COMMANDS
ROYAL AIR FORCE**

at the

**ROYAL AIR FORCE STATION, HALTON
ON FRIDAY, 18th APRIL, 1947**

PROGRAMME

FLYING DEMONSTRATION

Programme of Events

Event 1.

1730 hours

THE FLY PAST.

The demonstration will be opened by a fly past of some of the types of aircraft in operational use in the Royal Air Force. The aircraft will pass in six groups at one minute intervals in the order shown below.

						<i>Speed.</i>
GROUP I.						
Sunderlands did not take part as they could not take off.	3 Sunderlands	...	...	...	Coastal Command	150 m.p.h.
GROUP II.						
	3 Lancasters	...	...	...	Bomber Command	200 m.p.h.
	3 Lincolns	...	...	...	" "	200 m.p.h.
	3 Beaufighters	...	...	...	Coastal Command	200 m.p.h.
GROUP III.						
	9 Mosquitos	...	...	...	Fighter Command	230 m.p.h.
	9 Spitfires	...	...	...	" "	230 m.p.h.
GROUP IV.						
	3 Hornets	...	...	...	Fighter Command	300 m.p.h.
GROUP V.						
	9 Meteors	...	...	...	Fighter Command	400 m.p.h.
	9 Meteors	...	...	...	" "	400 m.p.h.
GROUP VI.						
	9 Vampires	...	...	...	Fighter Command	450 m.p.h.

Event 2

1738 hours

AEROBATICS.

Demonstration of high-speed aerobatics by a Meteor III flown by a pilot of the Central Fighter Establishment.

Event 3

1744 hours

THE CAPABILITIES OF A MODERN HEAVY BOMBER.

Demonstration of the capabilities of a Lincoln of Bomber Command. The pilot will demonstrate this four-engined aircraft's performance on two and then, on one engine only.

Event 4

1750 hours

AEROBATICS AND HIGH SPEED FLYING.

Demonstration of high-speed aerobatics by a Vampire flown by a pilot of Fighter Command.

Event 5

1756 hours

DROPPING OF PARATROOPS.

Three Dakotas of Transport Command will each drop 15 fully equipped paratroops, on to the airfield, from 700 feet above ground level. The Dakotas will fly in vic formation and the paratroops will jump simultaneously from each of the aircraft.

If the wind speed is too high it may not be possible to carry out live jumps owing to the risk of injury to the personnel involved. The aircraft will, however, fly over the airfield to demonstrate the approach technique and height employed.

Event 6

AIR SUPPLY.

First Phase: 1800 hours.

3 Halifaxes of Transport Command will drop 13 supply containers each from 700 feet above ground level, on to the airfield.

Second Phase: 1802 hours.

A Dakota of Transport Command will drop 8 panniers from 700 feet above ground level, on to the airfield.

These demonstrations show some of the means the R.A.F. employ to deliver stores and supplies to isolated areas where aircraft cannot normally land. Vast quantities of rice and other food is being dropped daily in North Burma to villages which cannot be reached by ordinary means of communication. During the recent bad weather R.A.F. aircraft delivered supplies to isolated villages in England by these means.

Event 7

1805 hours

DROPPING OF EQUIPMENT.

A Halifax will drop a gun, the Jeep to tow it, four containers and the gun crew, simultaneously, from 1,000 feet above ground level, on to the airfield.

Event 8

1807 hours

TOWING OF GLIDERS.

A Halifax/Horsa combination and a Halifax/Hamilcar combination will fly over the airfield at 1,000 feet above ground level. This is another example of delivering equipment to areas where no prepared airfields exist, as the gliders require very little space in which to land. The Horsa will be cast off and will land on the airfield. ~~Landing cancelled... Bad Weather.~~

Event 9

1810 hours

RETRIEVING A GLIDER. ~~Cancelled owing to Bad Weather.~~

~~A Dakota will pick up a Hadrian glider, parked on the airfield, without landing. This is the method employed for retrieving serviceable gliders after their operational use, usually in fields and broken country where the tug could not land.~~

Event 10

1812 hours

THE HELICOPTER.

A helicopter will be put through its paces by a pilot provided from Transport Command.

Event 11

1819 hours

HIGH SPEED FLYING.

A Meteor IV of the Empire Flying School will give a demonstration of high speed flying, in the region of 600 m.p.h. This event concludes the demonstration.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

CALL SIGNS

If conditions permit, it is hoped to broadcast the R/T communications between the Controllors and the aircraft during the marshalling period, and later during the flypast, individual and supply dropping events.

The Ground control stations, the formations, and the single aircraft in the individual events, each have a separate call sign, as follows:—

GROUND STATIONS.

CONTROLLERS	}	NELLY VESPER
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AIRCRAFT.

Event 1	SUNDERLANDS		Call Sign —	WORKSHOP		1
	LANCASTERS		"	"		2
	LINCOLNS		"	"		3
	BEAUFIGHTERS		"	"		4
	MOSQUITOS		"	"		5
	SPITFIRES		"	"		6
	HORNETS		"	"		7
	METEORS		"	"		8
	METEORS		"	"		9
	VAMPIRES		"	"		10
Event 2	METEOR III		"	GOODCARD		1
Event 3	LINCOLN		"	"		2
Event 4	VAMPIRE		"	"		3
Event 11	METEOR IV		"	"		4

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Whitehall 7501.
Extns. 143
27
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Directorate of Public Relations,
Air Ministry,
Parliament Square House,
Parliament Street,
London, S.W.1.

15th April, 1947.

Dear Sir,

An air training exercise will take place at R.A.F. Station, Halton at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 18th April 1947, and you are invited to send a representative/s to cover the operation.

The exercise will last for 60 minutes, divided into four phases, as follows:-

Phase I. Formation fly-past by aircraft of Coastal Fighter and Bomber Commands.

Phase II. Demonstration by individual aircraft of Fighter and Bomber Commands.

Phase III. Demonstration of Supply and paratroop dropping by Transport Command.

Phase IV. Helicopter demonstration by Airborne Forces Experimental Establishment and a demonstration of high speed flying by a Meteor IV from the Empire Flying School.

After the fly past there will be three individual demonstrations as follows:-

- ✓ (a) Acrobatics by a Meteor Mark III.
- ✓ (b) A Lincoln aircraft flying on 4, 3, 2 and 1 engine/s.
- ✓ (c) Acrobatics by a Vampire.

|| The Secretary of State for Air, the Rt. Hon. P.J. Noel-Baker,, Chief of Air Staff, Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Tedder, and Chief of the French Air Staff, General J.L. Piolet will be present.

R.A.F. Transport will leave the Air Ministry, King Charles St., at 2.45 p.m. sharp on Friday 18th April and will return to London as soon as the flying is over.

I should be grateful if you could inform me not later than 10.30 hrs. on Thursday 17th April whether you desire to send a representative/s in order that the necessary transport, etc., can be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

B. J. Lawrence

News Editor,

British Paramount

Sq. Ldr. Clayton