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FULL SCALE REHEARSALS

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ALSO -
11th Sept. } 12.30 or
13th } 5 P.M.
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24.8.53 - No. 18

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO. 35060

Diary.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN FLY PAST

SOUND

LARGEST JET FORCE EVER OVER LONDON

A Hurricane and a Spitfire, symbolising the fighters of 1940, will fly over Whitehall at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15 to herald the first all-jet fly-past in commemoration of the Battle of Britain.

Following the two veterans will be a force of 252 Meteors, Sabres, Canberras and Seahawks, the largest force of jet aircraft seen over London. The U.S.A.F. is providing one formation of Sabres at the invitation of the R.A.F.

The Hurricane and Spitfire will fly side by side at 184 m.p.h., at a height of 1,000 feet. The jet aircraft, in eleven formations spaced at half-minute intervals, will fly at 345 m.p.h., with alternate formations at 1,700 feet and 1,200 feet. First will be six formations each of 24 Meteors of Fighter Command, followed by 12 Seahawks of the Fleet Air Arm; then two formations each of 24 Sabres of the Royal Canadian and the United States Air Forces. Finally there will be two formations each of 24 Canberras of R.A.F. Bomber Command.

The fly-past route is from Southend Pier to Whitehall, a distance of 35 miles. The aircraft will pass over Canvey Island, Stanford-le Hope, to the south of South Ockendon and Rainham, over the Royal Albert and Victoria Docks, Poplar and London Bridge Station. They will make their final approach over County Hall, and fly over the Westminster end of Whitehall. The Spitfire and Hurricane, operating from R.A.F. Station, North Weald, will join the route at Stanford-le-Hope.

In the event of unsuitable weather, the fly-past will be postponed until 5 p.m., and if conditions do not improve, until September 16 at 12.30 or 5 p.m. A rehearsal of formation leaders and deputy leaders will take place at 3 p.m. tomorrow (August 25). Full-scale rehearsals will terminate at Hornchurch.

The fly-past will be controlled by the Air Officer Commanding, No. 11 Group, Fighter Command (Air Vice-Marshal the Earl of Bandon, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.)

13.9.53. No. 1.

Air Ministry News Service

A.M.B. No. 35115

PUBLIC TO SEE FLYING BOAT ON THAMES

A Sunderland flying boat of R.A.F. Coastal Command, which last year made the historic first landing on Britannia Lake in Greenland will be moored near the Tower of London, during Battle of Britain Week (Monday, September 14 to Sunday, September 20) as one of the many R.A.F. aircraft on public view in different parts of London.

On Horse Guards Parade, the years between 1940 and 1953 will be spanned by the victors of the Battle of Britain, the Spitfire and the Hurricane, with one of their opponents, a German Mc. 109, and by two jet fighters in present-day service - a Meteor Night Fighter and a Vampire 5. Also on the Horse Guards Parade will be the Derwent Jet engine display vehicle which was part of the static display at the Queen's Review of the Royal Air Force at Odiham this year.

In Battersea Park, a Meteor 4 Jet aircraft will be sited close to the entrance of the Festival Pleasure Gardens accompanied by a static display of aircraft models and aero engines, including Avon, Derwent and Whittle engines. Both the Horse Guards Parade and Battersea displays will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day with aircrew in attendance.

At the end of Battle of Britain week, on Friday and Saturday (September 18 and 19) a representative cross section of aircraft in present-day service in R.A.F. Commands in the U.K. will be seen at London Airport. This display is expected to include a Canberra Jet bomber, a Meteor 8 and an R.C.A.F. Sabre Jet fighter, a Venom Jet night fighter and a Hastings Transport aircraft.

A photographic exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day next week, except Sunday, in the Assembly Hall, Air Ministry, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

/The

The central feature will be colour transparencies of the Battle of Britain Memorial Window in Westminster Abbey. In addition there will be 200 photographic enlargements, some in colour, depicting the achievements of the R.A.F. in 1940, outstanding events of 1953 and a pictorial review of the work of all Commands of the R.A.F. today. The colour section is devoted to the Queen's Review of the Royal Air Force at Odhiam on July 15. Another feature will be a selection of new air-to-air studies of the latest aircraft on order for the Royal Air Force. On Tuesday, September 15, 252 jet aircraft, the largest force of jet aircraft ever seen over London - heralded by a Hurricane and a Spitfire - will fly over London at 12.30 p.m.

The R.A.F. Central Band will give lunch-hour performances in Trafalgar Square on September 15, outside the Royal Exchange on September 16 and on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral on September 18.

Seventy R.A.F. Stations in all parts of the country will be open to the public on the "At Home" day on Saturday September 19. Cheap day tickets will be available, at a single fare and one-half for the return journey, to most railway stations near the "open" R.A.F. Station within a 30-mile radius.

On Sunday September 20 there will be the annual Thanksgiving Service which will take place this year at St. Paul's Cathedral as Westminster Abbey is closed. Before the Service, Air Chief Marshal Sir William F. Dickson, Chief of the Air Staff, and Sir Thomas White, High Commissioner for Australia, will lay wreaths on the R.A.F. Memorial on the Embankment.

Information Division,
Air Ministry,
Whitehall Gardens,
London, S.W.1.

Four Air Forces Will Take Part In Big Fly-Past

By CYRIL BIRKS

"Evening News" Air Correspondent

THE first of a series of rehearsals over London begin to-morrow for the Battle of Britain fly-past on September 15, the date now fixed for the anniversary of the air war fought by "The Few" in the late summer of 1940.

Flying with the Royal Air Force in mass formation will be units of the Fleet Air Arm, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force.

THE FIRST FIVE Leaders Only

It is planned for the aircraft to take off from bases south and east of a line drawn from Poole to Hull, and to converge over Southend Pier for the run-in to London. The fly-past will be timed to be over Whitehall about noon. If the weather is bad on September 15 the fly-past will be postponed to the next day.

Formation leaders and deputy formation leaders only will fly in the first five rehearsals. They will cover the whole route to-morrow and on Thursday, and then on September 1 and September 3.

Later there will be six full-scale rehearsals which, instead of going through to London, will disperse at Hornchurch.

Aircraft will fly between 1,000 and 2,000 feet and formations will pass over at 30-second intervals.

THE OFFICE DOG

~~Drawn~~

Bring up
4th Sept.

E News.

24/8/53

Location for rehearsal photo.

Frank.
D. Pl.

1940 PLANES TO LEAD FLY-PAST

LARGEST JET FORCE

A Hurricane and a Spitfire, fighters of 1940, will fly over Whitehall at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15, to herald the first all-jet Battle of Britain fly-past. Following will be 252 Meteors, Sabres, Canberras and Seabees, the largest force of jet aircraft seen over London.

The United States Air Force is providing a formation of Sabres at the invitation of the R.A.F. The Hurricane and Spitfire will fly side by side at 194 m.p.h. at 1,000ft.

The jet aircraft, in 11 formations spaced at half-minute intervals, will fly at 345 m.p.h. Alternate formations will be at 1,700ft and 1,200ft.

The fly-past route is from Southend Pier to Whitehall, 35 miles.

D. Tsel.

25/8/55