

R.A.F. AT HOME THRILLS RISING GENERATION

Youngsters were present in force at Norton, near Sheffield, for the Battle of Britain at home. Canberra bombers flew over.... Now ~~Meteor jet fighters~~. (Something slower was provided by training planes, in which jet aces of the future first get the feel of the air.

Between fly overs the stage was taken by the police dogs that guard R.A.F. aerodromes. Anybody wanting to borrow a Meteor without permission should wear two padded sleeves.

The Air Training Corps Display was watched by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, an old R.A.F. man himself. It must have pleased him and all flying men present to see the youngsters of today thrilled by the R.A.F.

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(LONG VERSION)

For the young sparks there couldn't have been a better show that the Royal Air Force at Home staged to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. All roads led to NortonRd Station from Sheffield itself and the surrounding districts. On this Saturday every year R.A.F. stations throughout the country welcome the public. A few millions of the youngest admirers of our youngest Service weren't born when the Battle of Britain was fought in 1940; all the same they're old enough to be thrilled by aircraft and the men who fly them. For grown up people, too, it's quite an experience to see the aircraft at close hand. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were the guests of the Station Commander. Councillor Oliver Holmes is an ex-R.A.F. man himself. Canberra bombers led the fly over.... Meteor jet fighters.

(boy) Quite a contrast was the Chipmunk trainer. The day hasn't yet come when you learn flying in a jet plane....

(A Harvard, another trainer, gave a display of flying made easy.... The Chipmunk again.

The Royal airforce police dogs very nearly stole the show, ~~from the aircraft~~. It's almost incredible how they're trained to do complicated drill at the word of command. Their main job is to guard aerodromes, which have to be larger and larger as aircraft become faster and which would need whole regiments to safeguard them if it weren't for the dogs.

(237) Speak for the Station Commander.

(aft shake hands) Each dog has his own master (called handler) for whom he's docility itself. But let an intruder get on the airfield and it's a very different story.

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Now came/Universal Freighter, largest aircraft of its kind in the world. It can carry 130 men, as a double-decker bus.

R.A.F. cadets had their turn in the afternoon's display. They're not yet world champion gymnasts, but their instructors say they're good beginners, making rapid strides.

(Mayor) Now by way of variation came a Lincoln bomber.

A Washington, one of the heaviest among piston-driven aircraft. Round off to a great afternoon.