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Chair: Check this  
may be fair story  
to bolster up N.A.T.O.  
24 APR 1959

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WETHERSFIELD, ENGLAND: Some thirty Italian officers and airmen are flying all the way from Rome to Essex for the giant NATO Open Day at the American air base at Wethersfield on May 9. Saturday -

They will be the pilots and ground crew for Italy's crack aerobatic team, the Black Lancers. Flying F-86E Sabre Jets, their famous six-plane performance will be a featured attraction at the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing's annual air show.

Other aircraft will be flying in from NATO countries all over Europe to help the 20th celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Among them will be jets from Holland, Norway, and Canada, the Italian Fiat G-91, America's F-101 Voodoo, and many RAF jet fighters and bombers.

Most dramatic of Britain's representatives will be the daring nine-plane Hawker Hunter team from the RAF's 111 Squadron. Closer to the ground but high on the list of Britain's contributions to the air display will be the Army Helicopter Team from Britain's Army Air Squadron 651 at nearby RAF Station Debden, Essex. In their performance they will demonstrate the Army Helicopter Roll and "balloon popping." The Army's small liaison plane, the "Skeeter", will also be performing.

In addition to the Voodoo, USAF planes definitely scheduled to take part include the F-100D Supersabre, the B-66 Destroyer, the KB-50 refueler; the C-119 and C-130 giant cargo ships; and the T-33 Starfire.

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In a rare performance a KB-50 will fly-by refueling a Supersabre, a Voodoo and a B-66 all at the same time.

Another highlight of the air show will be an over-the-shoulder demonstration of Low Altitude Bombing - the famous LABS manoeuvre now utilized by pilots of the 20th and other USAF units. The air show begins at 2.00 p.m.

On the ground there will be displays which, according to Open House Project Officer Lt. Col. Bill Myers, "should be more varied and more exciting than ever before. We plan to start things off with a 'real bang'", he says, "but how big a bang, we can't reveal till Open Day."

Spotlighting the NATO and Anglo-American theme on the ground will be a large display of photographs and letters of greeting sent from mayors of New England towns to Essex towns of the same name. The letters were solicited by Wethersfield's Open House committee, and they will be used to graphically illustrate the natural bond that exists between England and America.

They will be set under plastic on six-foot display boards. Maps of England and America will be set on either side with lines connecting namesake towns.

Replies have already been received from such towns as Chelmsford, Mass.; Braintree, Vermont; Dedham, Mass.; and Wethersfield, Conn. Aerial photos, town seals, and illustrated booklets will be included in the display. After Open Day the material will go to the respective Essex townships.

One complete hangar will be devoted to this and other static displays,

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including: a pictorial history of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing; cutaway models of jet engines provided by the Rolls-Royce company; USAF and RAF jet pilot survival equipment; a J-57 Pratt-Whitney jet engine; and a Supersabre completely equipped with full armament, rockets and pods.

There will also be a wide display of new-model American automobiles, plus the Jaguar and the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL. A special speed test of the 300 SL will be given on the runway.

An unusual static display will be a rotating altar prepared by the Wing Chaplain. It will be decorated in Air Force colors of blue and silver and will display both Protestant and Catholic worship elements.

Among the many buildings open to the public will be the Machine Accounting Section where modern computing machines will demonstrate problems of electronic message-transferral and mathematics.

In addition to the static displays there will be plenty of action on the ground. When the gates open at 10.00 a.m. an American softball game will begin between teams from Wethersfield and RAF Bentwaters. Following that, at 11.30, the opening game of the UK Baseball season will be played between Wethersfield and RAF Sculthorpe.

Bright red crash trucks will give a demonstration of flight-line fire-fighting; RAF alsatian guard dogs will perform and British bands will provide lots of music.

To handle the several thousand vehicles expected the Essex County Constabulary have assigned three times as many police as were used with

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last year's crowd. Traffic direction will begin within ten miles from base and all vehicles will be routed through the main gate on the Wethersfield-Finchingfield road. From there, traffic will be one-way through the base until the flying show begins.

Hot dogs, sandwiches, tea, coffee and snacks will be available throughout the day at more than 30 concessions set up for the occasion. A special refreshment treat will be cotton candy.

Among the many civic and military dignitaries scheduled to attend are Major General Ernest Moore, Third Air Force Commander; Col. Sir Stuart Mallinson, Chairman of the Essex Anglo-American Liaison Committee; Col. Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex; and Mr. Brian Harrison, Member of Parliament for Maldon, Essex.

Last year a record crowd of 61,000 attended the show at Wethersfield the largest crowd ever to attend an Open Day at a UK American base in one day. The event was hailed by British papers as "one of the finest displays of air power in Britain, second only to the Farnborough Air Show."

"The aim of our Open Day this year is two-fold," says Col. Raymond F. Toliver, 20th Tactical Fighter Wing Commander, "first, to provide an insight into NATO, the USAF, and the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing; and secondly to further the excellent Anglo-American relations we currently enjoy with our British hosts."

AIR SHOW SCHEDULE

| <u>TIME</u> | <u>EVENT</u>                   |                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1355        | 8 F-100 TAKE-OFF               | 55TH TAC FTR SQ        |
| 1400        | WELCOME - PARTNERS FOR PEACE   |                        |
| 1405        | SA-16 & T-33 JATO T.O.         | USAF AIR RESCUE        |
| 1410        | CHIPMUNKS ACRO DEMO            |                        |
| 1415        | 16 F-100 FLY-BY                | 55TH & 79TH TAC FTR SQ |
| 1420        | FLEET AIR ARM ACRO TEAM T.O.   | 736 RNAF SQ            |
| 1425        | MID-AIR REFUELING              |                        |
| 1430        | FLY-BY - METEOR & SHACKLETON   |                        |
| 1435        | FAA ACRO DEMO.                 |                        |
| 1445        | ITALIAN BLACK LANCERS T.O.     | ITALIAN AIR FORCE      |
| 1450        | HUNTER & L-20 T.O.             |                        |
| 1455        | FAA & F-100 LAND               |                        |
| 1500        | BLACK LANCERS ACRO DEMO.       |                        |
| 1510        | HUNTER ACRO DEMO.              | F/L GOODWIN            |
| 1520        | BLACK LANCERS LAND             |                        |
| 1525        | CRASH FIRE DEMO.               |                        |
| 1535        | HELICOPTER & LIGHT PLANE DEMO. | 651 LIGHT AIRCRAFT SQ  |
| 1605        | RAF FIGHTER COMD ACRO DEMO.    | 111 SQ                 |
| 1620        | G-91 ACRO DEMO.                |                        |
| 1630        | LABS DEMO.                     | 55TH TAC FTR SQ        |

(THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)