

VULCAN SUPPORT FROM LANCASTER AND TORNADO



Group Captain Denis Heywood
OC 617 Squadron 1967-67

RAF/USAF NAVIGATION & BOMBING COMPETITION
NAVIGATION TROPHY WINNERS 1967

Flight Lieutenant Don Exley
Pilot

Flying Officer Dick Woodacre
Navigator (Pilot)

Flying Officer Ed Carter
Co-pilot

Flying Officer Dave Moore
Navigator (Radar)

Flying Officer Ray Newman
Air Electronics Officer
Officer Commanding No. 617 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth

A flown first day postal cover has been produced by the Vulcan Restoration Trust (VRT) to help raise funds for the continued preservation and restoration of the XL426 at Southend, Essex. Depicting all-white Vulcans of 617 Squadron, the cover also features Wing Commander Guy Gibson's Lancaster attacking the Mohne Dam in May 1943. All the covers were flown in either a Tornado GR.1B of 617 Squadron or in BBMF Lancaster PA474. Signed by the winning Vulcan crew in the Navigation Trophy at the 1967 RAF/USAF Bombing Competition, the covers are very reasonably priced at just £4 each plus £1 for p&p. For details of VRT postal covers send an SAE to: VRT Enterprises Ltd, 27 Rossly Road, Hockley, Essex, SS5 5BW.

WRIGHT FLYER UNDER TEST

A TWO WEEK period of testing began at NASA's Ames Research Centre in the USA during March of the recently completed reproduction of the Wright Brother's Wright Flyer. Using the test data a second will be built and flown on December 17, 2003, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of man's first aircraft to fly. On completion of the tests the first Flyer will be transported to Hawthorne, California, and suspended in the lobby of the Federal Aviation Authority's Western Pacific Region Regional Office.

AIRFIELD CREDITS AND DEBITS

PERRANPORTH near Truro in Cornwall has recently been purchased by a group of local enthusiasts. One of only three remaining licensed airfields in Cornwall, Perranporth has hard runways and taxiways and is probably one of the best unspoilt examples of World War Two military air bases left in the UK and currently houses a flying school and gliding club. The *Western Morning News* reports that the airfield came close to realising its £400,000 asking price, attracting a great deal of interest worldwide in the

process. While one airfield's future looks assured, another area of the UK has just lost its last licensed aerodrome. The General Aviation Awareness Council announced in February that all flying training at Elmsett has had to cease, due to movement restrictions rendering it uneconomic; it has reverted to its earlier status as a private airstrip. For a short while Suffolk was without a licensed airfield, but by mid-March Beccles was relicensed and filling the void.

Former wartime airfield a rocket motor test establishment Westcott, is up for sale. Currently known as the Westcott Vent Park, the site now contains 80-75 small business tenant, employing 300 people, and is operated by Royal Ordnance Property Services. No.11 Operations Training Unit was stationed at the airfield during World War Two and Postwar it used for development of solid fuel and liquid propellant rocket motors and as such was cloaked in great secrecy. RJR

HALIFAX HELP

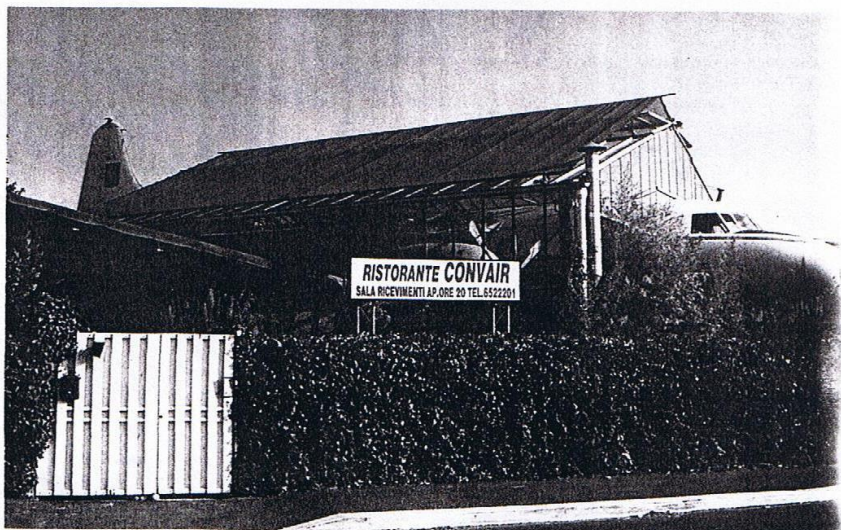
SCOTLAND-BASED Handley Page 57 Rescue organisation continues to help the restoration of the Halifax A.VII NA337 at RCAF Trenton in Canada. A recent mission has seen the recovery of a Bristol Hercules radial from a crash site on the Isle of Islay, off the western Scottish coast.

On September 12, 1943, three Beaufighters took off from RAF Port Ellen on the Isle of Islay. Two of them (LX946 and L2146) touched wings resulting in them spiralling down and crashing into a remote peat bog. Over the years, locals, walkers and travellers had cleared the site of easily salvageable debris, leaving the engines and little else.

One of the engines, from L2146, was potentially restorable. After much planning and with the considerable help of a helicopter, the Hercules engine was lifted from its resting place in January. It has since been cleaned and awaits transport out to Canada.

IAN FOSTER

WOULD YOU LIKE THE FISH OR THE BEEF, SIR?



Former Italian Air Force VIP Convair CV-440 Metropolitan MM61833 is being used as a restaurant close to the Leonardo da Vinci International Airport near Rome. Delivered from new in 1957 it was operated by 310 Stormo and used to fly regional presidents around Italy. It was retired in 1978. Its mission in life now is to serve food and drink in a rather novel setting. Roberto Arduino

da "FLYPAST" (UK) MAY '99