

SPITFIRE

Up close and personal with our
combat veteran and film star

GENIUS AT WORK

Aeronautical Engineer
GUY BLACK unveils his rare
World War One masterpiece

PILOTS AT THE READY

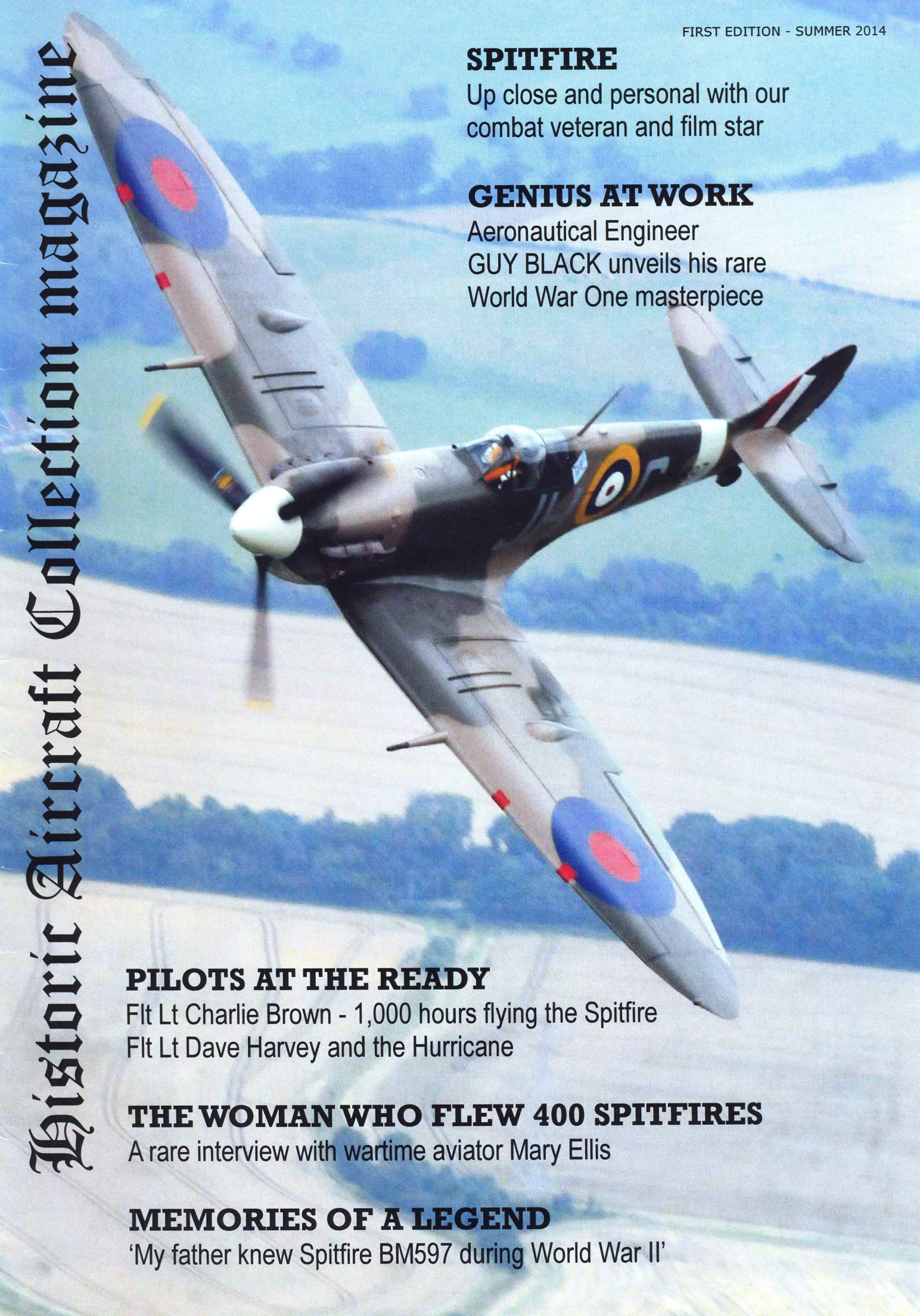
Flt Lt Charlie Brown - 1,000 hours flying the Spitfire
Flt Lt Dave Harvey and the Hurricane

THE WOMAN WHO FLEW 400 SPITFIRES

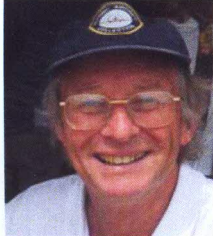
A rare interview with wartime aviator Mary Ellis

MEMORIES OF A LEGEND

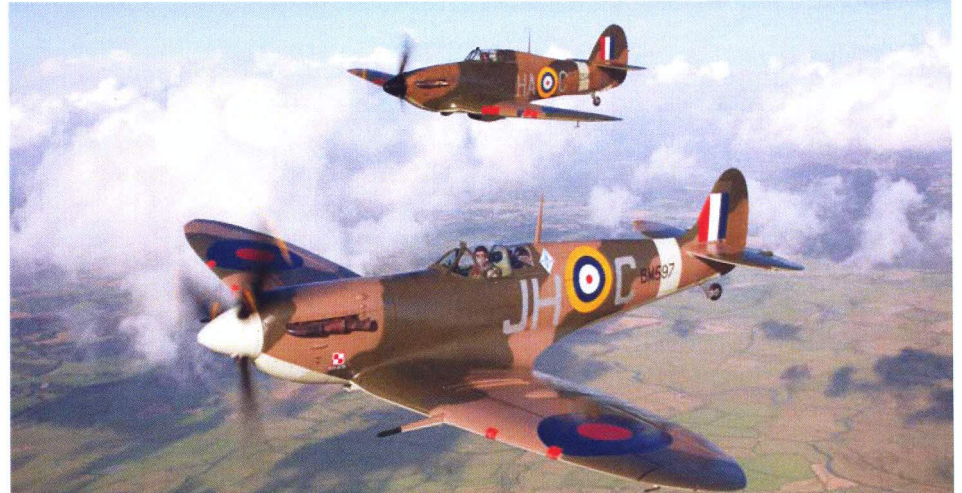
'My father knew Spitfire BM597 during World War II'



Historic Aircraft Collection



FRONT COVER PICTURE: MICK GELL

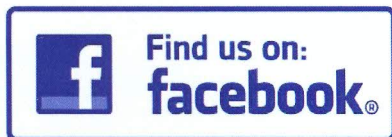


PICTURE: RICHARD PAVER

Historic Aircraft Collection -
Guy Black, Angus Spencer-Nairn,
Janice Black, and pilots Flt Lt Dave
Harvey, and Flt Lt Charlie Brown.

Historic Aircraft Collection Ltd
P.O. Box 39
Rye, East Sussex
TN31 6ZT
Tel: 01580 830215

www.historicaircraftcollection.ltd.uk



Historic Aircraft Collection volunteers
and support crew - John Black,
Geoff Bouttell, Bryan Simpson, 'Hucks'
Alistair Ferguson, David Petters, Steve
Barratt, Howard and Peta Cook, Shaun
Wilson, Derek Rusling, James Leach,
John Higgins, Mark Arnold, Steve
Burnside, Peter Holmes, Mark Bricknall,
Rob Rowley, Eileen Grover, Melody
Foreman, Nigel Polley.

A huge thank you to everyone
who bought this magazine as a
donation from each one sold will
go towards the Spitfire Engine Fund.
Your contribution will help ensure
Spitfire BM597 is fighting fit and ready
for action at air displays and events,
so once again many thanks.

Most importantly we want everyone
to know our aircraft serve as a flying
memorial to all those men and women
who died in the Battle of Britain of 1940
while fighting for our freedom.

Historic Aircraft Collection is truly
dedicated to preserving vintage
warbirds for not only our generation
but the next as well.

Do let us know then if you would be
interested in joining the Historic Aircraft
Collection Supporters Club.

A membership fee of £30 per year
will mean a further boost to the Spitfire
Engine Fund and will also help fund
more action-packed editions of our
new magazine. We will also let you
know about competitions, special
events and supply all Club members
with lively HAC news bulletins too.

We look forward to hearing from you
and don't forget to let us know all of
your Spitfire and Hurricane stories.

E-mail: melodyforeman@btinternet.com

Features

Spitfire BM597.....	4 - 6
Flt Lt Charlie Brown.....	7 - 9
'My father knew Spitfire BM597 during World War.....	10 - 12
Hurricane Z5140.....	14
Flt Lt Dave Harvey.....	15
Wing Co. Bob Foster AE DFC.....	17
World War One Flying Memorial Trust.....	18 & 19
Genius at Work.....	20 - 23
Historic Aircraft Collection Operations Manager.....	24 & 25
The Hawker Fury.....	26
Restoring Hawker Biplanes....	27 & 28
The Hawker Nimrod II.....	29
The Fieseler Storch.....	30
'Spitfire Girl'.....	32-35

Historic Aircraft Collection magazine

EDITOR MELODY FOREMAN MCIJ

Contact: melodyforeman@btinternet.com

Copyright: Melody Foreman and Historic Aircraft Collection. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part is forbidden without the consent of the Editor.



PICTURE: MICK GELL

High flying aviator with a licence to thrill

THIS summer popular Historic Aircraft Collection pilot Flt Lt Charlie Brown clocked up **one thousand hours** at the controls of Spitfire BM597.

Such a remarkable achievement was announced on the HAC Facebook page and within seconds many, many sincere messages of congratulations hit the cyberspace airwaves.

Comments like 'Brilliant stuff Charlie!' from HAC fan Michael Tozer, and 'Charlie's got 1,000 hours of heaven time before the rest of us. Tally-Ho!' posted by Don Baldwin, reveal just how much Flt Lt Brown's skills in the Spitfire have impressed so many of us over the years.

Modest, quietly spoken and utterly dedicated, Flt Lt Brown is, as one aviation colleague remarked, 'so in tune with BM597 he can feel exactly what the engine is doing, wanting and needing. Charlie knows the Spit so well he's in tune with BM597's every move.'

And for everyone who has witnessed the amazing sight and sound of BM597 roaring overhead then that's thanks to the skill and expertise of Flt Lt Brown as he puts this famous Spitfire through her paces.

'With many fans reckoning he's got 'the best job in the world' it's important to

point out Flt Lt Brown has been a pilot with the Royal Air Force since 1981.

During that distinguished 33-year career he has flown the Tornado GR1, Jet Provost, Bulldog, Chipmunk, Tucano, Firefly and Tutor.

Charlie is currently stationed at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire and is a leading examiner with the RAF Central Flying School.

Spare time for Flt Lt Brown means working as Chief Flying Instructor at RAF Cranwell Flying Club and taking to the skies as a regular display pilot at Duxford air shows as chief aviator with Historic Aircraft Collection.

Charlie's pals say he is also a devoted family man and recently became a proud grandfather. He also enjoys time out on his bicycle.

Where he gets the time to groom his truly amazing, instantly recognisable moustache is a mystery.

He told me: "During war time pilots grew moustaches for a good reason. They help absorb the perspiration from the upper lip and prevent the goggles from misting up too much!"

When Flt Lt Brown took part in last year's Action Stations! Company 'Fly with a Spitfire' events he met World War Two RAF veterans including Spitfire pilot Flight Officer Maurice Macey DFM.



When the two Spitfire pilots got together there was lots to talk about!

Maurice informed Charlie he was a former member of 127 Squadron and flew a Spitfire Mk V during his wartime service in Egypt. Back in England he flew a Spitfire Mk IX and was shot down over enemy occupied France in August 1944. Meeting Maurice proved an honour for Flt Lt Brown who then flew Spitfire BM597 alongside Maurice who was seated in a helicopter. Both pilots sped across Battle of Britain country. Maurice was thrilled to be so close to the Spitfire in action again.

Continued on page 8

Full glory: Above Flt Lt Charlie Brown in the cockpit of Spitfire BM597, and meeting Flt Officer Maurice Macey DFM in 2013.

Historic Aircraft Collection Spitfire Pilot - RAF Flt Lt Charlie Brown

There was another highlight for Flt Lt Brown last summer when he met his long-time friend and former Spitfire pilot Mary (Wilkins) Ellis.

Revered by many as Britain's 'first lady of aviation' Mary 95, flew more than 76 different types of aircraft during world war two with the Air Transport Auxiliary.

In May 2013 she arrived at Lydd Airport, Kent, keen to see Charlie fly Spitfire Mk Vb BM597.

When it was time for Mary to jump into the helicopter to fly right beside Charlie in the Spitfire, she was overjoyed.

"Charlie is a hero to me!" she revealed.

"There is no one I know who can handle a Spitfire quite as brilliantly as Charlie."

From the helicopter Mary watched the Spitfire in action as she sped over Battle of Britain country including the White Cliffs of Dover, the South Foreland lighthouse and Dover Castle.

Flt Lt Brown also roared the Spitfire over the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone.

Mary, who flew 400 Spitfires during World War Two, said: "It was a truly splendid flight. I absolutely loved it. Charlie of course was superb. How he did such incredible moves with the Spitfire I will never know. He is a brilliant pilot. I never tire of watching him fly."

At Pent Farm, near Postling, near Hythe, Kent, the veteran aviatrix met her hero pal Charlie and enjoyed her ground viewing of the Historic Aircraft Collection Spitfire BM597.

Flt Lt Brown is delighted to know former ATA First Officer Mary thinks so highly of him.

After her busy career as an ATA ferry pilot, Mary became Europe's first woman air commandant as head of Sandown Airport, on the Isle of Wight, from 1950 - 1970. In 1947 she was one of the first women to fly the Spitfire's jet-powered successor, the Gloster Meteor.

She said: "It was so good to see the Spitfire and Charlie, and I was delighted to meet so many wonderful people."

Melody Foreman



PICTURES: MELODY FOREMAN

'It was so good to see the Spitfire and Charlie and I was delighted to meet so many wonderful people from the Historic Aircraft Collection' - ATA First Officer Mary (Wilkins) Ellis who is featured in this magazine on pages 32 - 35.



Summer splendour - top, Flt Lt Brown at the controls of Spitfire BM597.

Above - Spitfire BM597 lands at the atmospheric Pent Farm in Kent - right at the heart of Battle of Britain country.

Below- Top flight piloting by Flt Lt Brown as the Spitfire makes for a flypast over Pent Farm in June of this year.



Advertise your business here and help support the HAC Spitfire Engine Fund. Interested? Contact - melodyforeman@btinternet.com for details. Thanks!

Meet supersonic pilot Flt Lt Dave Harvey

AS a young trainee RAF pilot on his way to flying instruction class Dave Harvey was often bewitched by the imposing sight of a Spitfire Mk Vb acting as a Gate Guardian at the Church Fenton base in South Yorkshire.

He'd admire the precision of the design, marvel at the simple elegance which enhanced her superiority in the skies, and most importantly he'd always remember just what an important role the aircraft had played during world war two.

"I also thought how one day I'd like to pilot a Spitfire, and/or any fighter aircraft from the Battle of Britain days, and I never ever forgot that ambition," he says.

Three decades later after an amazing career which led him to become the RAF's chief Hawker display pilot, Flt Lt Dave Harvey experienced his dream. What made it even more magical was the Spitfire he was to fly was the very same one he knew from his early flying days at RAF Church Fenton!

His story gets better! For the Mk Vb soon to allow Dave into her cockpit was the famous Historic Aircraft Collection Spitfire BM597.

"It was a tremendously special moment for me," says Flt Lt Harvey. His chance to really get to know BM597 came when he was contacted by HAC operations chief, Janice Black.

"She had seen my work with the **Hurricanes** at various air displays and invited me along to fly the Hawker Hurricane from the Collection. That was in 2005, and then she introduced me too to her Spitfire. Funny how my friendship with that particular aircraft went way back! It was amazing! Now I have a chance to fly the Spitfire every now and then."

Flt Lt Harvey was eight years old when he was first inspired to join the RAF. His father took him to the cinema to see the new film, *Battle of Britain*, which was released in 1969.

"Oh I had the Airfix kits too," he says, "and when I saw the film I was massively motivated."

By 1977 he had joined the Air Training Corps and won a flying scholarship which led to him gaining a pilot's licence when he was barely out of his teens.

"I got through my 'O' Levels and 'A' Levels at school but I wasn't really an academic type back then and yet I was thinking about going to college.

"I just couldn't give up the idea of flying though so I thought I'd save up some



Hawker aviator supreme Flt Lt Dave Harvey and the HAC Hurricane Z5140.

'A lot of young men who took part in the Battle of Britain were just 18 or 19. Their bravery is unforgettable'

money and I got a job in Lloyds Bank. I worked there for 18 months and then applied for the RAF. We were at war over the Falkland Islands then, back in 1981," he says.

Training as an RAF pilot led him to spend eight years with a Jet Provost, and then he advanced onto 'The Hawk'. He also flew an **F4 Phantom** on an operational tour as part of 111 Squadron.

When he was based in Scotland during the Cold War he often experienced that call to 'scramble' as Russian military aircraft had been seen in our skies looking for our submarines.

"We had to intercept them and let them know we were about in the area," he says.

What did you do when you flew over to them? I ask. "Oh, there was quite a bit of bonhomie really. We'd wave through the window at the Russian pilots, and they'd wave back. After all were all just doing the same job! We wanted them to know we were keeping an eye on them!"

As one of Britain's top Hawker pilots Flt Lt Harvey amassed a wealth of experience and was able to work as a flying instructor. His expertise was then to include radar targets before moving on to fly a Tornado F3.

With the Tornado Multi-Role **Combat** aircraft reaching speeds of up to 1,452 mph does he ever, when on the ground, think about that fact and get overwhelmed at the thought of such power? "No, it's not about the speed, it's about the control and how that instrument performs. That is what I am aware of mostly," he replies.

Ask him how he felt when he first stepped into the cockpit of the vintage Hawker Hurricane he now flies at the amazing Action Stations! experiences and he admits to some trepidation.

"Of course there was a lot of prep involved before I flew her and lots to understand about her make up so I had a good idea about what it might be like before I took off. I do remember thinking though once I was airborne....er I've got to get her back on the ground, and of course there was no runway as such, just as during the war pilots landed on a grass field, and landed into the wind. That's what I had to do too." During his piloting with the Historic Aircraft Collection, Flt Lt Harvey has flown at air shows in Poland and Moscow, Russia, and is a regular star of the skies at many top UK aviation events including the Duxford air displays.

What he loves about days with Historic Aircraft Collection is meeting visitors at the ground viewing events. "I get to talk to some World War Two veterans too, and their families which is great. I remember from my time twenty years ago with 111 Squadron I'd meet pilots who had flown in the Battle of Britain, and they'd come over and say hello because the Hurricane had so many memories for them."

He explained: "What the Historic Aircraft Collection team doing is keeping incredible aircraft flying so people remember the sacrifice so many pilots and ground crew made for this country. A lot of the young men who took part in the Battle of Britain were just 18 or 19. Their bravery is unforgettable."

HAWKER

Historic Aircraft Collection Hurricane Z5140 Photo Album



PICTURES: MELODY FOREMAN



Top - Full Propeller action from Hurricane Z5150 with Flt Lt Dave Harvey set to take off. **Middle - time to re-fuel** after a smooth landing. **Bottom - fans enjoy a ground viewing** of this legendary warbird at Pent Farm, Postling, Kent.