













# CONTENTS ISSUE No 10

#### **3 EDITOR'S LETTER**

# **6** AIR CORRESPONDENCE

# 12 ON HEAVEN'S DOORSTEP

Worcestershire-based author Tony Buttler investigates local reports of Cyril Uwins's record-setting flight to 44,000ft over Evesham in a Vickers Vespa in September 1932

### **20 HOW NOT TO CHOOSE A FIGHTER**

Gregory Alegi provides fresh insight into Italy's disastrous wartime procurement of a series of promising fighters powered by Germany's state-of-the-art DB 605 engine

## **34** ECHOES FROM DAWN SKIES: BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Our serialisation of British pioneer F.W. Merriam's long-lost manuscript of memories from his contemporaries continues with recollections by Ronald Kemp, and of F.P. Raynham

## **40 SELL IT TO THE MARINES**

Chris Farara opens our two-part section on the AV-8A Harrier with the story of the type's development up to its introduction into US Marine Corps service . . .

#### 48 BIRD OF PREY

... at which point Lon Nordeen takes over to detail the invaluable jump-jet's career with the "Flying Leathernecks"

## **56 THE POLKA DOT RIDGE-RUNNERS**

The RF-51D Mustang pilots of the USAF's 45th TRS arguably flew the most dangerous low-level missions of the entire Korean conflict, as Doug Gordon relates

**64 "THERE WERE FINS, WINGS AND COUNTLESS OTHER THINGS . . ."** Philip Jarrett presents a selection of magnificent original photographs collected by mechanic George Wright in Egypt during World War One

## **72** AN EYE FOR DETAIL: GET CRUNGE!

Next up in Juanita Franzi's series on lesser-known airframes and their markings is an RAAF Mirage III that, albeit temporarily, became the mount of "AVM Hannibal Crunge"

# 74 FOLLAND'S FORGOTTEN MONOPLANES Pt 2

The second of Ralph Pegram's three articles on the little-known Gloster monoplane designs of Henry Folland

# **84** "SOME SUPREME EFFORT . . . "

In June 1942 an Allied airlift of global proportions was mounted to resupply British forces in North Africa in the wake of the fall of Tobruk. Ray Flude tells the full epic story

# **96 THE SHAH'S SKYHOOKS**

Further to our history of the Cessna CH-1 Skyhook in *TAH3*, Iranian aviation historian Babak Taghvaee tracked down Iran's first helicopter pilot, Col Gholam-Reza Rahbariyan, to find out more about the type in Iranian Gendarmerie service

#### 106 AGAINST ALL ODDS

David H. Stringer concludes his definitive two-part history of the USA's post-war non-scheduled airlines — or "non-skeds" — from the Korean conflict to deregulation

## **118 ARMCHAIR AVIATION**

## 123 LOST & FOUND

## **124 ALIAS THUNDERBIRD 6**

Pilot, airshow commentator and part-time air-traffic controller Melvyn Hiscock reveals the alter ego of Tiger Moth G-ANFM, and explains how Joan Hughes landed herself in trouble with the aircraft in 1967 — by failing to land

#### **130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**