

10**24****64****54****76****90****100**

CONTENTS Issue No 25

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 THE CASE FOR APPEASEMENT?

Greg Baughen digs deep into the archives to reveal how a pair of "dodgy dossiers" commissioned by the British in 1938 to assess Germany's strategic bombing capability may have led to appeasement at Munich that September

24 THE VISCOUNT COMES TO AMERICA Pt 2

Commercial aviation specialist David H. Stringer continues his three-part series on the trio of American airlines that bought the state-of-the-art propliner direct from Vickers with Continental Airlines and its "Jet Power Viscount IIs"

34 THE SOVIET SAM-JAMMER

In 1970 the Soviet Air Force introduced a specialised electronic-countermeasures variant of its Yakovlev Yak-28 bomber — the Yak-28PP — into service. Babak Taghvaei chronicles its 25-year career in the USSR and Ukraine

44 BERLIN OR BUST

In the second article in his three-part chronological series on the wartime use of air transport by the Axis forces — or lack thereof — Ray Flude details Japan's first and only attempt to get a delegation to Berlin by air in 1943

54 MAKING A PIG'S EAR FROM A SILK PURSE . . . ?

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS takes an in-depth look at the political aspects of Britain's procurement of the USA's F-4 Phantom — and why deciding to fit the homegrown Spey engine caused severe headaches in Whitehall

64 FILL 'ER UP!

Brian Gardner profiles the use of three Handley Page Harrows by Flight Refuelling Ltd during 1938–40 to investigate — and accomplish — the world's first commercial service employing air-to-air refuelling

76 RAF FAR EAST FLIGHT Pt 1: UK—SINGAPORE

In December 1928 four Southampton flying-boats of the RAF's Far East Flight completed a remarkable 27,500-mile cruise from the UK to the Far East and Australia. Trevor Lipscombe celebrates the 90th anniversary of the FEF's epic feat with the first half of a two-part article on the tour

90 TRAGIQUE — THE SUD-EST SE.1010

French aviation historian Joël Mesnard tells the short, tragic story of the elegant — but dangerously unstable — one-off SNCASE SE.1010 four-engined survey aircraft

100 FROM SKATE TO SEA DART

Convair's 1950s XF2Y Sea Dart waterborne jet fighter is relatively well-known; what is not is the extensive research path taken by the company to get there. Matthew Willis examines the obscure Skate, Cudda and Betta projects

112 CHANNEL-HOPPING WITH BEA

The John Stroud Archive continues with a whistle-stop tour of the Channel Islands made by John aboard a BEA Dragon Rapide in April 1947, as Nick Stroud relates

118 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

123 LOST & FOUND

124 THE MELON RUN

In 1965 McAlpine Aviation staff pilot Ed Wild was tasked with organising a ferry flight of four de Havilland Doves and two Herons from Jordan back to the UK — in formation

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK