













CONTENTS ISSUE NO 50

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 SOWING THE WIND

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS takes an in-depth look at the political and industrial manœuvring behind the development of the European Fighter Aircraft in the 1980s — a road that would ultimately lead to Typhoon and Rafale

22 A PRINCE AMONG PILOTS

In 1942 Thai prince "Nicky" Varanand joined the RAF, with which he flew "Spitbomber" sorties over Normandy in 1944 before taking part in clandestine operations behind the lines in his native Thailand. Edward M. Young tells the unique story of a Thai citizen flying RAF wartime ops

34 OLD BOTTLE, NEW WINE

By the mid-1950s powerplant technology was moving at lightning speed in the USA; Tony Buttler FRAeS examines seven standard production jet fighters which were used as testbeds for the most advanced jet and rocket engines

46 THE MAPLE LEAF AIRLINE Pt 3

Airline historian Maurice Wickstead concludes his three-part history of Trans-Canada Air Lines, picking up the story at the end of the Second World War, when the airline expanded to become a truly world-class carrier

56 HELL'S CAULDRON

Continuing our series on the history and development of Britain's aerial weapons, using the stunning artwork of lan Bott, Chris Gibson describes how the combination of the mighty Avro Lancaster and the bombs it carried in its capacious bomb bay created a devastating weapon of war

66 THE ROAD TO ANDOVER

James Jackson examines the UK's military Light Cargo Requirement of the late 1950s, which pitted the British Avro 748 and Handley Page Dart Herald against each other — plus a wild card: Canada's DHC-4 Caribou

78 THE GRAND TOUR Pt 2

100 years ago Argentinian Pedro Zanni and his mechanic Felipe Beltrame set off from Amsterdam in a Fokker C IV biplane on their attempt to circumnavigate the globe. Ricardo M. Lezon concludes his two-parter using Zanni's own recollections of the pair's ultimately ill-fated adventure

92 TIP OF THE ASSEGAL Pt 2

Andrew Thomas rounds off his history of de Havilland's twin-boom Vampire in Rhodesian service, which included regular combat in border patrols and cross-border strikes

100 HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST AVIATOR

He is one of the world's best-known film stars from the golden age of Hollywood — but James Stewart was also a lifelong aviator, military and civil, as James Kightly relates

110 DEADLY SABRE DANCE

In November 1954 Air Cdre Geoffrey Stephenson was killed flying a USAF F-100 Super Sabre in the USA. John Shields investigates an accident still shrouded in mystery

120 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

125 LOST & FOUND

126 CHARLIE FIVE

Former Fleet Air Arm pilot the late Cdr John Ford brings us aboard *HMS Ark Royal* in a Supermarine Scimitar

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK