

—THERE— SHALL BE WINGS



VIVID PERSONAL
ACCOUNTS OF THE RAF
FROM 1918 TO TODAY

'Their stories make compulsive reading'
DAILY MAIL

MAX ARTHUR

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Foreword

by Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon
KGB, CBE, ADC, FRAeS, RAF
Chief of the Air Staff

In this 75th anniversary year, the Royal Air Force, like our sister Services, is reorganising to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The dismantling of the Warsaw Pact has meant the end of the Cold War; but, as subsequent events have shown, for example in the Gulf and in Yugoslavia, uncertainties and dangers remain.

The 1992 Defence White Paper set out three roles for the Armed Forces for the future: to ensure the protection and security of the United Kingdom and our dependent territories, even where there is no major external threat; to insure against any major external threat to the United Kingdom and our Allies; and to contribute to promoting the United Kingdom's wider security interests through the maintenance of international peace and stability. In all these roles, air power has a major part to play.

Air power, as *There Shall be Wings* demonstrates, can be used in peacekeeping and in crisis; it can be used defensively and offensively; it can be employed directly in the security of the home base or concentrated speedily in distant parts of the world. The 1991 Gulf conflict was a classic example of the employment of air power in a wide variety of roles. In the years to come, both in support of

NATO and in the wider security interest, the Royal Air Force will provide balanced and cost-effective forces capable of rapid reaction and deployment as required by Her Majesty's Government.

And therefore, in this our 75th Anniversary year, whilst recalling with pride our past achievements – as the many, varied experiences recounted in *There Shall be Wings* reveal – we look forward to a future in which air power will have an ever more prominent part to play in world security. I am confident that this challenge will be met by all members of the Royal Air Force, displaying the same high standards of skill and bravery so successfully demonstrated over three quarters of a century.

January 1993

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