



# SPITFIRE AND HURRICANE TRIBUTE

Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight



# Foreword



by  
**Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Alasdair Steedman GCB,  
CBE, DFC, FRAeS, CBIM**

*Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman was an 18-year old schoolboy when the Battle of Britain was fought. However, at the age of 20 he was a fighter pilot, initially flying Mustangs in Scotland, and then Hurricanes and Spitfires in the North African and Italian campaigns from 1942 to 1944. He well remembers the versatile Hurricane — he flew both the Mk IIb and the IIc 'Hurri-bombers' — and its thoroughbred companion the Spitfire. It was whilst flying a Spitfire Mk VIII on operations in Italy in June 1944 that he was shot down behind enemy lines. He evaded capture and the following year he was again flying Spitfires, this time on tactical and photographic reconnaissance operations in Europe. In all he was flown at least nine different Marks of Spitfire. His remarkable career, which has taken him all over the world, culminated in his appointment as the United Kingdom's Military Representative in NATO in 1977. Following retirement from active service he became Controller of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund in July 1981.*

There are several reasons why the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has a special place in my affections. It was watching the Battle of Britain over London in 1940 that inspired me to want to fly and to join the Air Force later that year. I then had the immense privilege and pleasure of operating both Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft — many Marks of Spitfire — in operations during the war. Now the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight is the source of many donations to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, of which I have the privilege to be the Controller, and 50% of the proceeds from this book will come to the Fund.

It is marvellous that those wonderful aircraft which played such a major part in gaining victory in the Second World War should still be flying under the dedicated care of the personnel of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

I warmly commend this excellent book to all interested in aviation and a key part of our history.

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Above:  
**Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman  
GCB, CBE, DFC, Controller of the Royal Air  
Force Benevolent Fund.**

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### Cover:

**Hurricane PZ865 with Spitfire P7350.**  
*Richard Winslade*

### Rear cover:

**Seven Spitfires were assembled for the  
IAT 1983. AB910 is seen here.**  
*Allan Burney*

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