



ROYAL AIR FORCE

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Y E A R B O O K

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RAF BATTLE OF BRITAIN YEARBOOK

(incorporating the Royal Air Force Yearbook 1940)

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INTRODUCTION

AIR FORCE

Formed during the latter stages of the First World War, on April 1, 1918, from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Air Force is by far the youngest of the three services but has made great strides forward since that time.

At the cessation of hostilities a mere six months later the RAF had some 22,647 aircraft on strength – more than at any other time during its entire history. Peacetime inevitably brought drastic reductions in aircraft strength and for some years there was little development although the 1930s finally saw monoplanes being brought into service.

World War Two brought expansion of the RAF once more followed again by massive disposals and scrapping. Post-war the plan was to have around 1,500 aircraft in service although defence cuts reduced this number considerably.

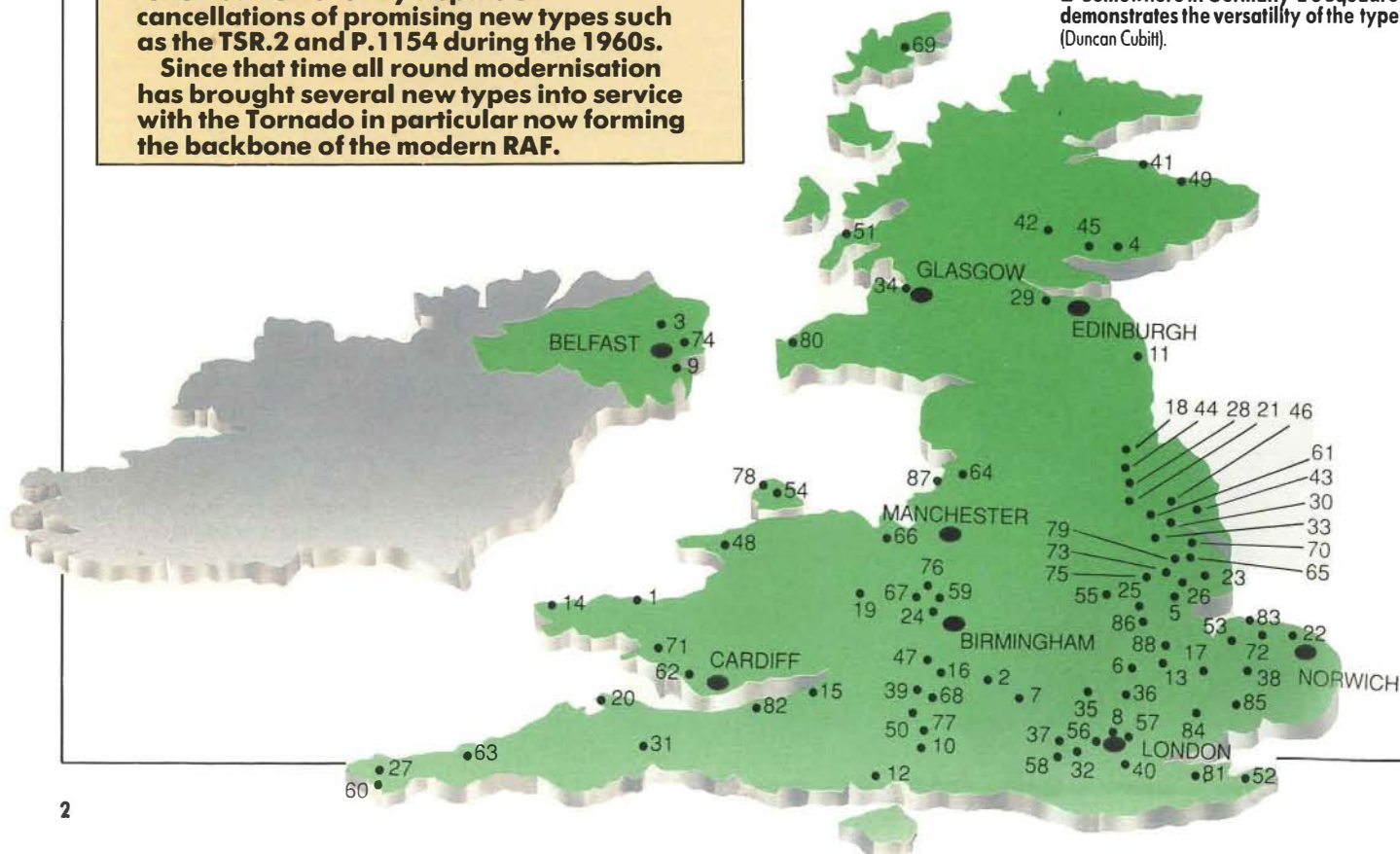
Aircraft shortages, particularly in the transport squadrons, were highlighted by the Berlin Airlift for which the USAF and many civilian operators, ironically mostly flying war-surplus RAF aircraft, had to be brought in to freight in supplies to the beleaguered city.

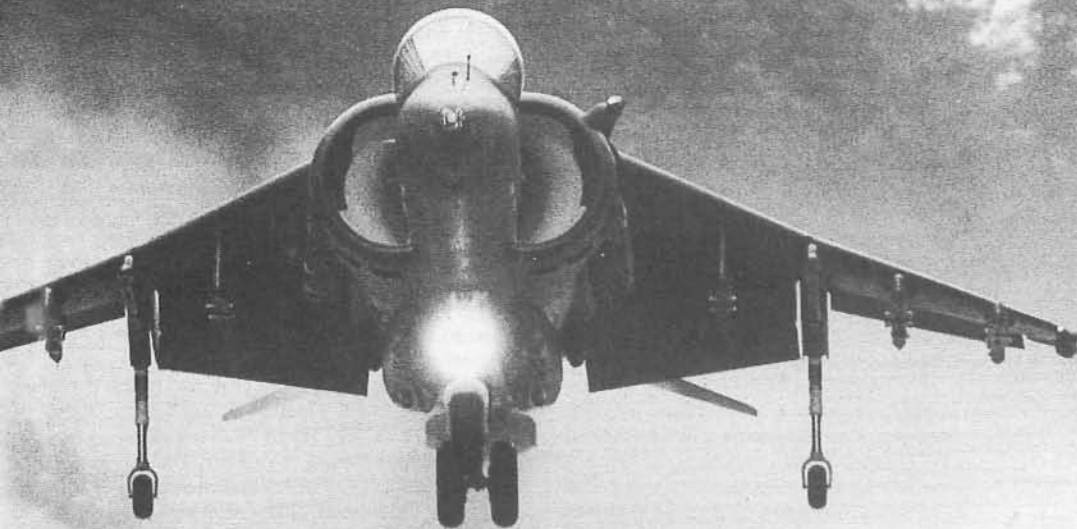
The 1950s brought the jet era and considerable re-equipment as the remaining outdated types left over after the war were gradually replaced. This was followed however by a spate of cancellations of promising new types such as the TSR.2 and P.1154 during the 1960s.

Since that time all round modernisation has brought several new types into service with the Tornado in particular now forming the backbone of the modern RAF.



■ 'Somewhere in Germany' a 3 Squadron Harrier demonstrates the versatility of the type as it lifts (Duncan Cubitt).





GR.5
off an autobahn.

BASE DECODE

1 – Aberporth, Wales (RAE)
2 – Abingdon, Oxon (Maintenance Unit)
3 – Aldergrove, Northern Ireland
4 – Arbroath, Scotland
5 – Barkston Heath, Lincs (Relief landing ground for Cranwell and 85 Squadron Bloodhound base)
6 – Bedford, Beds (RAE)
7 – Benson, Oxon (Queens Flight)
8 – Bentley Priory, London (HQ 11 Group)
9 – Bishop's Court, Northern Ireland
10 – Boscombe Down, Wilts (A&AEE, ETPS and SAOEU)
11 – Boulmer, Northumberland
12 – Bournemouth/Hurn, Dorset
13 – Brampton, Cambs (HQ Support Command)
14 – Brawdy, Wales (also 11 Group forward operating base)
15 – Bristol/Filton, Avon
16 – Brize Norton, Oxon
17 – Cambridge, Cambs
18 – Catterick, Yorks
19 – Chetwynd, Salop (Relief Landing Ground for Shawbury)
20 – Chivenor, Devon
21 – Church Fenton, Yorks
22 – Coltishall, Norfolk
23 – Coningsby, Lincs (also Battle of Britain Memorial Flight)
24 – Cosford, Salop (also 2 School of Technical Training)
25 – Cottesmore, Leics
26 – Cranwell, Lincs
27 – Culdrose, Cornwall (Sea King Training Flight)
28 – Dishforth, Yorks (Relief Landing Ground)
29 – Edinburgh/Turnhouse, Scotland

30 – Elvington, Yorks (Relief Landing Ground for Linton-on-Ouse)
31 – Exeter, Devon
32 – Farnborough, Hants (RAE and Institute of Aviation Medicine)
33 – Finningley, Yorks
34 – Glasgow/Abbotsinch, Scotland
35 – Halton, Bucks (1 School of Technical Training)
36 – Henlow, Beds
37 – High Wycombe, Bucks (HQ Strike Command)
38 – Honington, Suffolk
39 – Kemble, Glos (Maintenance Unit)
40 – Kenley, London
41 – Kinloss, Scotland (also Nimrod Major Servicing Unit)
42 – Kirknewton, Scotland
43 – Leconfield, Humberside
44 – Leeming, Yorks
45 – Leuchars, Scotland
46 – Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks
47 – Little Rissington, Glos
48 – Llanbedr, Wales (RAE)
49 – Lossiemouth, Scotland
50 – Lyneham, Wilts
51 – Machrihanish, Scotland (Exercise base)
52 – Manston, Kent (Fire Services Central Training Establishment)
53 – Marham, Norfolk
54 – Mona, Wales (Relief landing ground for Valley)
55 – Newton, Notts
56 – Northolt, London
57 – Northwood, London (HQ 18 Group)
58 – Odiham, Hants
59 – Peplow, Salop (Relief landing ground for Shawbury)
60 – Predannack, Cornwall

61 – Rufforth, Yorks (Relief landing ground)
62 – St Athan, Wales (Maintenance Unit and 4 School of Technical Training)
63 – St Mawgan, Cornwall
64 – Samlesbury, Lancs
65 – Scampton, Lincs (also Trade Management Training School)
66 – Sealand, Wales
67 – Shawbury, Salop
68 – South Cerney, Glos
69 – Stornoway, Scotland (11 Group forward operating base)
70 – Sturgate, Lincs (Relief landing ground for Scampton)
71 – Swansea/Fairwood Common, Wales
72 – Swanton Morley, Norfolk (also Central Servicing Development Establishment)
73 – Swinderby, Lincs
74 – Sydenham, Northern Ireland
75 – Syerston, Notts (also Central Gliding School)
76 – Ternhill, Salop (Relief landing ground for Shawbury)
77 – Upavon, Wilts (also HQ 1 Group)
78 – Valley, Wales
79 – Waddington, Lincs (Vulcan Display Flight)
80 – West Freugh, Scotland (RAE)
81 – West Malling, Kent
82 – Weston-super-Mare, Avon
83 – West Raynham, Norfolk (85 Squadron Bloodhound base)
84 – Wethersfield, Essex
85 – Wattisham, Suffolk
86 – Wittering, Cambs
87 – Woodvale, Merseyside
88 – Wyton, Cambs



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