

## WHEN THE RAF CAME TO TOWN

In this RAF Centenary year, Bernard Martin offers a personal pictorial parade of aircraft that were brought to London for closer inspection by the public. In the past, exhibits have been slightly more interesting than a “plastic” Red Arrows Hawk in Downing Street !

### **K9942 Spitfire 1 Displayed on plinth outside Air Ministry building in Whitehall 15.09.59**

*Built under AM Contract No: B527113/36 dated 03.06.36 at Supermarine, Woolston. F/f 21.04.39 at Eastleigh.  
Entered service 24.04.39 with 72 Sqn Church Fenton. To 52 MU Cardiff 26.08.44 for storage on behalf of AHB.  
Allocated RAF serial 8383M 05.09.73.*



ROYAL AIR FORCE  
BATTLE OF BRITAIN EXHIBITION  
AIR MINISTRY, WHITEHALL  
14-20 SEPTEMBER 1959. OPEN 10AM TO 6PM DAILY  
ADMISSION FREE →

## **P2617 Hurricane 1 Displayed on Horseguards 15.09.59**

*Built under AM Contract No: 962371/38/C23(a) by Gloster Aircraft Co at Brockworth. TOC 19.01.40 at 20MU Aston Down & then to 6 MU Brize Norton and entered service 14.04.40 with No.615 (County of Surrey) Squadron for operations in France. To 52 MU Cardiff 26.08.44 for storage on behalf of AHB. Allocated RAF serial 8373M 05.09.73*





**XF362 Hunter F.4 Displayed on Horseguards 15.09.59**

*Built under MoS Contract No: 6/Aircraft/9817/CB7(a) dated 24.08.53 by Hawker Aircraft Ltd at Blackpool. Entered service 27.02.56 with 112 Sqn. Later repurchased by Hawker Aircraft Ltd and refurbished for Abu Dhabi AF as 705 and later to Somalia as CC-707.*



**XJ916 Sycamore HR.14 Displayed on Horseguards 15.09.59**

*Built by Bristol Aircraft Co. at Filton and delivered 29.11.56. Allocated to Manston Fire School 29.04.68 and later scrapped.*



**NV778 Tempest 5. Displayed on Horseguards 14.09.68**

*Built by Hawker Aircraft Ltd at Langley. Initially issued 05.11.45 to MoS Controller, R&D at Napier, Luton for Sabre IIA engine trials. To Hawker Aircraft at Langley 24.03.50 for conversion to Target Towing role including Sabre IID engine. During 1958 was reconstructed from the remains of several aircraft lying at Shoeburyness ranges, using some 85% of NV778. Allocated RAF serial 8386M 05.09.73*





**RD867 Beaufighter X. Displayed on Horseguards 14.09.68**

*Built by Bristol Aeroplane Co Ltd at Old Mixon, Weston-super-Mare as last of a batch RD130-RD867. Delivered 08.45. Converted to Target Towing role and served in Malta. Donated in 1969 to Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, Rockcliffe, Ottawa in exchange for a Bolingbroke.*



**TA639 Mosquito B.35 Displayed on Horseguards 14.09.68**

*Built by de Havilland Aircraft Co Ltd at Hatfield. To 27MU Shawbury 13.04.45 for storage. To Brooklands Aviation Ltd., Little Staughton 19.05.52 for conversion to Target Towing role. SOC 31.05.63 and allocated RAF serial 7806M 06.05.63. Returned to flying in subsequent months on loan to Mirisch Films for 633 Sqn and Mosquito Sqn films. To RAF Museum charge 05.06.67 after Maintenance Command refused to carry out repair to flying condition due to glue-joint deterioration.*



**WV398 Hunter F.4 Displayed on Horseguards 14.09.68**

*Built under MoS Contract No: 6/Aircraft/6867/CB.7(a) by Hawker Aircraft Ltd at Kingston/Dunsfold. F/f 29.08.55 and entered service with 26 Squadron. Repurchased by Hawker 01.73 and converted to T.68 2-seater for Swiss AF as J-4203.*