



CONTENTS Issue No 29

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 1939: WAS THE RAF READY FOR WAR?

80 years ago Neville Chamberlain declared that Britain was at war with Germany; the RAF had been preparing for an air war since its inception — but was it ready for the specific kind of air war it was facing?, asks Greg Baughen

22 ATOMIQUE!

With the 50th anniversary year of the first flight of Concorde coming to an end, Jean-Christophe Carbonel waves it off with a look at Sud Aviation's ambitious 1958 nuclear-powered "Super-Caravelle" delta-wing proposal

28 UNBROKEN

The story of American pre-war athletics star and wartime bombardier Louis Zamperini has always held that the two Consolidated B-24s that nearly cost him his life were named *Super Man* and *Green Hornet*; in fact, neither is correct, as B-24 specialist Bob Livingstone reveals

40 GARUDA'S "HAMBLE BOYS"

Sudiro Sumbodo explains how Indonesia's first generation of commercial pilots learned their trade at "Britain's Air University" — Air Service Training at Hamble — in the 1950s

48 THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS turns his attention to the procurement of the Hawker Siddeley P.1127, and how close the world-beating Harrier came to being cancelled

58 TWA'S SKYLINERS

Renowned airline historian Jon Proctor details the often-forgotten and little-covered career of the Martin 2-0-2 and 4-0-4 "Skyliners" in TWA service

68 THE WORLD'S FIRST . . . ?

In 1911 Bristol co-founder Stanley White created the world's first commercially available aviation logbook; his grandson, Sir George White, shows us a rare example

74 GOING WITH THE FLOW?

Continuing his occasional series casting new light on developments in aerodynamics, Matt Bearman chronicles Britain's pre-war explorations into the concept of "laminar flow" — and how America became obsessed with it

88 SOLDIER OF MISFORTUNE

French aviation historian Joël Mesnard tells the blighted story of the handsome, but ill-fated, SNCASE SE.116/117 Voltigeur twin-engined post-war ground-attack aircraft

100 THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

When a container ship was captured by the Khmer Rouge in May 1975, the Phantoms of the USAF's 432nd TRW were called in to support operations off the coast of Cambodia; Bill Cahill describes three action-filled days

110 SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Ricardo M. Lezon traces the start-stop-start story of an RAF Mosquito's record flight to Buenos Aires in 1946

118 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

123 LOST & FOUND

124 SAY CHEESE!

Ed Wild opens a two-part series on his recollections of flying overseas for Hunting Surveys Ltd with his first DC-3 trip abroad, to the fleshpots of Iran and the Middle East

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK