



CONTENTS Issue No 36

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 THE WESTLAND AFFAIR

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS examines the notorious political events of 1985–86 and the long-term effects they had on the future of Britain's defence industrial base

20 THE ORIGINAL PHOTO BOMBERS

Bill Cahill explores the part played by the Boeing RB-29 Superfortress in the birth of Strategic Air Command's global reconnaissance capability

32 CES HOMMES MAGNIFIQUES: JEAN DE CHAPPEDELAINE (AGAIN)

Jean-Christophe Carbonel's series on France's "magnificent men" concludes with a return to de Chappedelaine, and his attempt to exploit the "Magnus Effect" with the Aérogyre

40 HUNTER 80

Using declassified tactical documents, Peter Lewis opens a two-part series on Switzerland's "Hunter 80" programme, in which the Hawker fighter was re-roled as a "mud-mover"

50 A MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

In his final article, the late Melvyn Hiscock recalls a series of conversations with illustrious company on the subject of a long-range photo-reconnaissance Spitfire "what if?"

56 THE GOLDEN AGE?

The Short Empire Flying Boats of Imperial Airways typified elegant, exotic travel in the 1930s — but was it really as glamorous as it seemed? Ralph Pegram investigates . . .

70 THE WORLD'S SMALLEST FIGHTER FORCE

In 1955 the small Central American nation of Costa Rica acquired four F-51D Mustangs; two were lost in accidents and the other two rarely flew, as Leif Hellström explains

72 A QUESTION OF CALIBRE

Armament specialist Mark Russell addresses a reader's query regarding the 1930s RAF's decision to stick with rifle-calibre ammunition, even well into World War Two

84 THE COMPAÑIA DE AVIACIÓN FAUCETT STORY

Maurice Wickstead chronicles the genesis and evolution of Peru's *de facto* national airline, established by American expatriate Elmer "Slim" Faucett in 1928

94 VICTOR/MARTEL

The use of the Shrike anti-radar missile by Vulcans in the Falklands in 1982 is well-known; the fact that plans were made to equip the Victor with the Anglo-French Martel for the same mission is not, as Tom Withington reveals

104 AMERICAN AVIATORS IN JAPAN Pt 1

In the first half of a new series, Edward M. Young details the pre-First World War Oriental aerial adventures of James "Bud" Mars, William B. Atwater and Charles F. Niles

114 CANADA'S ICE PATROL

Nick Stroud looks into the story behind an intriguing batch of Douglas DC-4 negatives found in the *TAH* archive

120 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

125 LOST & FOUND

126 MONSIEUR DELPRAT'S FLYING SUMMERHOUSE

Moving house — literally; Philip Jarrett brings to light a proposal for an extraordinary Edwardian flying machine

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK