









# CONTENTS ISSUE NO 43

# **3 EDITOR'S LETTER**

## **6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE**

## **10 TEDDY PETTER & THE CASE FOR SHORTER STEPS**

Giant technological leaps for jet fighter development — or short manageable steps instead? Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS explores the UK's 1950s procurement dilemma

### **20 EXCESSIVE FORCE Pt 1**

Lennart Andersson opens a two-part series on the attacks made by Japanese military aircraft on the airliners of China's CNAC and Eurasia companies during 1937–41

## **30 A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH**

Continuing our series on British aerial weapons, using the illustrations of Ian Bott, Barnes Wallis specialist Iain R. Murray takes a technical look at the *Upkeep* weapon used in the famous Dambusters raid 80 years ago

## 40 OOH-LÀ-LÀ, C'EST LE QUATRE-MILLE!

Joe Coles shares his passion for Dassault's Super Mirage 4000, relating how the cutting-edge delta combat aircraft became a victim of a classically French existential crisis

#### 48 RAISING STEAM

During 1898–1912 Swedish inventor Carl Richard Nyberg turned his attention to building steam-powered flying-machines; none was successful, as Jan Forsgren relates

## **56 STRIVING FOR ACCURACY Pt 1**

In the first half of a two-parter on the RAF's post-war drive to increase bombing efficiency, James Jackson examines the development of new systems for conventional bombing

#### **66 SPARTAN'S OLYMPIC HOPEFUL**

The elegant 1930s Spartan Executive light tourer is fairly well-known — but did you know it was used as the basis for an armed military version? Dan Hagedorn reveals all

## 76 STORMING PERFORMANCE Pt 2

In the concluding half of his two-part re-assessment of the Westland Whirlwind fighter, Paul Stoddart FRAeS considers whether fitting new engines might have made a difference

#### 86 FULL TILT

Intrigued by a 35mm slide which came to light during a trawl of the *TAH* photographic archive, the Editor set about finding out more about the Weser P.16 tiltrotor

### 92 WINGS ARE THE WHEELS OF TODAY!

Ralph Pegram brings his series on the slow development of British freighter aircraft to a close with a survey of the wartime designs mooted by forward-thinking manufacturers

#### **104 ARGENTINA'S BIG CATS-**

With the introduction of the Grumman Panther jet fighter into service in 1958, and later the swept-wing Cougar, the Argentinian Navy laid claim to "top cat" status in the region

#### **114 NIMEWACS ANYONE?**-

Chris Gibson continues his occasional series on naming RAF aircraft with the — ultimately pointless — search for a moniker for the ill-starred British Aerospace Nimrod AEW.3

# **120 ARMCHAIR AVIATION**

# 125 LOST & FOUND

#### **126 MY FIRST DECK LANDING**

Former Fleet Air Arm pilot Commander John Ford recalls deck-landing training with the US Navy in Florida in 1954

## **130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**