



# CONTENTS Issue No 1

## **3 EDITOR'S LETTER**

## **6 THERE I WAS...**

### **8 MESSERSCHPITTS AT FIVE O'CLOCK!**

Yellow noses, crosses, swastikas . . . but not on Bf 109s. Nick Stroud looks back at a surprise airshow act

### **14 THE TRAGEDY OF FLIGHT THREE**

Michael O'Leary investigates the TWA DC-3 crash that killed Hollywood film star Carole Lombard

### **24 THE FLYING BILLBOARD**

What's 378 feet long, has three engines and floats?

### **26 SURPRISE, SURPRISE!**

EE Lightning vs Lockheed U-2 in 1962: we tell the full story using official declassified documents and the recollections of those who were there — on both sides

### **38 NORTHERN EXPOSURE**

Jan Forsgren reveals how Gladiators and Harts fought in the Finnish—Soviet Winter War of 1939–40

### **46 AMERICAN CLASSICS**

Rare photographs of flying-boats and floatplanes from the Alpha Archive

### **48 FLYING THE FURROW**

Derek O'Connor charts the creation of an unusual inter-war navigational aid across the Middle East

### **58 HEF AND THE BIG BUNNY**

High-altitude hedonism with Hugh Hefner and the Playboy empire's innovative DC-9 corporate jet

### **70 UNDER THE WINDSTOCKING**

More rare photographs, this time lesser-known civil inter-war types, from the collection of Philip Jarrett

### **76 ONE FURIOUS SUMMER**

The story of Capt Peter W. Brooks's Hawker Fury FB.60 ferry-flight from the UK to Pakistan in 1949, told through his own meticulously-kept journal and photographs

### **90 WHY WAS THE MERCURY SO LONG-LIVED?**

Graham Warner relates why Bristol's Great War-vintage Mercury engine enjoyed such a long career

### **100 RYAN AND THE TRIANGULAR PTERODACTYLS**

Doug Moore describes how the genius of Francis Rogallo led to the birth of "the craziest kite in the sky"

### **109 OUT OF THE BLUE**

How Papa Smurf saved the T-45 Goshawk, by Mick Oakey

### **114 TO BELFAST VIA CALCUTTA**

Guy Warner takes a look at the experimental Short Calcutta service operated between Liverpool and Belfast in 1928

## **122 BOOK REVIEWS**

## **124 LOST & FOUND**

## **126 FROM PENTHOUSE TO WORKHORSE**

Jonathan Pote recalls an encounter with a Boeing 307 Stratoliner in Laos in the mid-1960s

## **130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

