

10



58



86



26



18



38



68



CONTENTS Issue No 41

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 BEYOND BLACK BUCK?

40 years ago, during the Falklands conflict, a secret RAF proposal was put forward to use a Vulcan to bomb targets on the Argentinian mainland. Having trawled the archives to find the evidence, Chris Gibson reveals an audacious plan for a truly extraordinary hemispheric bombing raid

18 FALL OF THE PHOENIX

Lennart Andersson traces the final days of American aviator Glenn Warren Brophy, who in March 1931 set off in a Waco biplane named *Phoenix* to attempt the first non-stop solo flight from China to the Philippines

26 THE UTA STORY Pt 1: TAI & UAT 1945–62

Renowned airline historian Maurice Wickstead opens a two-part series on the history of French independent airline *Union de Transports Aériens* with the post-war genesis and development of its two major components

38 HELL'S TEETH!

Illustrator Ian Bott and Typhoon specialist Matt Bone join forces to get under the skin of the RP-3 rocket projectile, used to such devastating effect by the beefy Hawker fighter

48 AVENTURES FRANÇAISES EN VTOL

In the early 1960s the French were developing their own VTOL jet aircraft — but their test pilots required “hands-on” experience of jump-jet operations. Enter the UK's Short SC.1, as Jean-Christophe Carbonel explains

58 GUTS, NO GLORY

In May 1927, two intrepid RAF officers set a new long-distance flight record in a Hawker Horsley. A few hours later, however, it was broken by Charles Lindbergh and completely forgotten by history, as Dr Tim Jenkins relates

68 THE CASE FOR THE SCIMITAR

Former Supermarine Scimitar pilot Cdr John Ford RN (Retd) responds to Paul Stoddart's critique of the naval jet fighter in *TAH38*, and argues that it was sharper than portrayed

74 GHOST FORTRESSES OF THE APOCALYPSE Pt 1

In the first half of a two-part series on the USA's use of drone aircraft in post-war atomic weapon testing, Bill Cahill chronicles B-17 operations in the Pacific in 1946–48

86 BACK IN BUSINESS

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS concludes his three-part series on the political life of the de Havilland Comet with the development of the Comet 3 and 4 variants

96 EYES OF THE LUFTWAFFE Pt 2

Robert Forsyth and Andres Dillmann's profile of Luftwaffe reconnaissance pilot Karl Friedrich Bergen culminates with his life — and death — on the Atlantic Front in 1943–44

106 SWITZERLAND & THE SWASHBUCKLER

50 years ago the Swiss pulled the plug on procuring a new ground-attack aircraft, despite having extensively tested the LTV A-7G Corsair II. Peter Lewis tells the full story

118 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

123 LOST & FOUND

124 AROUND THE WORLD IN 28 DAYS!

David H. Stringer takes us on an ambitious — if ill-fated — global tour using scheduled air services in April 1937

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK