



CONTENTS Issue No 47

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 DEAL OF THE CENTURY?

Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS uses the available contemporary official documents to piece together the political backdrop to the aviation aspects of the UK's *Al-Yamamah* military sales programme to Saudi Arabia

20 PRIDE OF THE SQUADRON

In March 1944 RAAF Hampden pilot Jimmy Catanach was one of 50 airmen murdered by the Gestapo during the Great Escape. Kristen Alexander chronicles the flying life and shocking death of this cheerful and popular Australian

32 AMERICA'S WHIRLYBIRD AIRLINES Pt 2

In the concluding half of his series on the USA's rotary-wing airlines, David H. Stringer describes the slow but perhaps inevitable decline of the whirlybird operators

44 SURE FIRE

Continuing our series on British aerial weapons, master illustrator Ian Bott joins forces with armament specialist Mark Russell to describe the development and operation of the ubiquitous Lewis Automatic Machine-Gun

56 PUTTING ON A SHOW (NAVY-STYLE)

The late Cdr John Ford recalls coming off a carrier tour only to be tasked with organising a Supermarine Scimitar formation aerobatic display team for the 1961 season

62 COLLISION COURSE

The coming together of a Trans-Australia Airlines 727 and CP Air DC-8 at Sydney in January 1971 raised some difficult legal questions about cockpit voice recorders at a crucial time in their development, relates Dr Peter Hobbins

72 GUIDE & SEEK

Although too late to see action in the Second World War, the USAF's *Razon* and *Tarzon* radio-guided bombs were used operationally — and successfully — during the Korean conflict, as Michael Napier explains

80 THE SHAH'S URANIUM EXPLORERS

Iranian aviation historian Babak Taghvaei takes a look at the fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft used for uranium exploration for Iran's pre-revolution nuclear programme

86 MR ARMSTRONG'S STEPPING STONES Pt 1

Ralph Pegram opens a two-part series on Canadian-born inventor Edward Armstrong's ambitious inter-war scheme to develop a chain of "Seadromes" across the Atlantic

96 PUSHING THE ENVELOPE: STURGEON & WYVERN

Our series based on a set of flight-test reports written by the pilots of the Royal Aircraft Establishment's Aero Flight and presented verbatim continues with carrier trials of the Short Sturgeon I and Eagle-engined Westland Wyvern TF.1

104 METAMORPHOSIS Pt 2

Graham Skillen concludes his two-part series on the transition of the Miles Aerovan into the Shorts Skyvan

116 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

121 LOST & FOUND

122 TOUCHING THE SECRET

Colonel John W. Zink recalls his hush-hush posting to the "white world" of Nellis to participate in the flight test programme of the Lockheed F-117A Nighthawk in 1985

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK