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When KLM Douglas DC-2 *Uiver* placed second in the 1934 UK—Australia MacRobertson Trophy Air Race, it was, according to author James D. Kightly, tantamount to "a new bus coming second at Le Mans, having also called at the regular bus stops". He explains its significance

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In late 1940 Bill "Johnnie" Johnson became one of the first group of Army soldiers to be selected for glider training. With the help of material kept by his grand-daughter Pam Hardy, he takes us through the early days of establishing tactics for this new method of warfare

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The advance of rocket technology during the Second World War led not only to its post-war use for missiles and spaceflight, but also for some interesting civil applications, including France's work on the "fusée postale" — mail rocket — as Jean-Christophe Carbonel explains

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Ah, the azure skies of 1940, when the vastly outnumbered "Few" took on the Luftwaffe in their unbeatable Spitfires while the Hurricanes plodded after the bombers — or so go several Battle of Britain myths. But how well do these clichés stand up to scrutiny? Andy Saunders investigates

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Short Bros' unlovely Seamew is universally regarded as an aeronautical "duck egg" — yet, as Chris Gibson discovers, there were plans for a Mk 2. Was it redeemable?

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By the mid-1930s the benefits of high-altitude flying — avoiding the weather and increased efficiency — were well known. To find out more, the US Army Air Corps embarked on an ambitious research programme into aircraft cabin-pressurisation. Edward M. Young charts its progress

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December 30, 1941: Luftwaffe bombers pound the vital radio towers and oxygen plant on Malta — no oxygen for pilots, no air defence of the island. RAF technician Robert Walker was there and recalls what happened next

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While sorting through the *TAH* photographic archive, Editor Nick Stroud uncovered a collection of intriguing images taken at an event at Farnborough in July 1955. What was it? Enter the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust . . .

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK















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