



Pre-War Prescott, Saturday 18th July, 2015

IMPORTANT UPDATE

www.prewarprescott.com



1940 Hawker Hurricane Mk. 1 R4118 UP-W with a close escort from a different era,
a 111 Squadron Tornado F3 from RAF Leuchars. Both now retired.

Guys,

Pre-War Prescott events are developing faster that I can put out Newsletters. This special announcement requires an immediate electric communiqué to all interested parties.

As you probably already know, Mk. 1 Hawker Hurricane and Battle of Britain veteran R4118 has been booked to give us a very special private air display during our Saturday evening Battle of Britain 75th Anniversary Victory Party at Prescott on Saturday 18th July. Special arrangements have been made with Royal International Air Tattoo Operations at RAF Fairford to allow the Hurricane to depart immediately after the close of the air display on Saturday and transit to Prescott, then recover back to Fairford before Air Traffic Control closes so that it is positioned with its ground crew for Sunday's air display. In addition to this, application has been made to the Civil Aviation Authority for the Prescott display and all other operational aspects have been seen to in order to ensure that the aircraft arrives as scheduled over the hill during our evening Battle of Britain celebrations.

With five kills to its name and having been shot down itself during the height of the battle, R4118 is unique in that it is the **ONLY** combat fighter surviving in airworthy condition today from the Battle of Britain anywhere in the world, and so could not be more appropriate for our Anniversary celebrations.

As you can probably imagine, none of this comes without significant cost. The Hurricane's owner, Peter Vacher is generously providing the aircraft to us at half the usual display fee, due to the proximity – some 17 nautical miles – from RAF Fairford. But the cost is still more than £1,600 plus the CAA display permit fee. Additionally, SU Carburettors, our headline sponsor, is unable to support us this year due to their own business constraints, which leaves a significant hole in our finances this year.

So we have an opportunity for you! We are looking for stout gentlemen (and ladies!) who would be prepared to make a donation to help support the Hurricane display. 75% of funds raised will go towards the display costs, and 25% will go to Pre-War Prescott's designated charity, the RAF Charitable Trust, who also run RIAT and are working so hard behind the scenes to bring us the Hurricane on Saturday evening.

All donors, regardless of the sum, will receive a personalized letter of thanks from the RAF Charitable Trust. In particular, we are appealing for donations of £100 from **TWENTY FOUR** individuals or sponsorship from companies, who will additionally be rewarded with:

- A copy of one of two very special books, autographed for us by their respective authors – see below.
- A draw ticket, offering a one in 24 chance of winning a magnificent pewter model of R4118 and personally autographed by Wg Cdr Bob Foster DFC – see below. (The draw will take place at the Prescott Clubhouse on the evening of Saturday 18th July, but if you cannot attend in person, your rewards will be shipped to you at no cost.)

If you would like to help by supporting the air display and also making a donation to the RAF Charitable Trust in this manner, please complete and return the donation form found at the end of this communiqué. You may also Gift Aid your donation – please contact us for details. Sincere thanks for your enthusiasm, understanding and generous support.

Ian Grace





This is the exquisite and incredibly accurate and detailed pewter model, hand-crafted by Diverse Images of Cullompton, Devon to 1:48 scale and authentically marked as R4118 UP-W of 605 Squadron in 1940. This was the personal aircraft of 20-year old Pilot Officer Bob Foster during the Battle of Britain. In this aircraft, Bob claimed three of R4118's five Battle of Britain victories. The model is one of a limited edition of just 50 and comes with Bob's personal autograph preserved under perspex, pilot and ground crew figures, display base and a certificate of authenticity. Our model will take six weeks to construct, so will be ready just in time for Pre-War Prescott. For full details, see:

<http://www.pewteraircraft.com/RAF/HURRICANE%20I%20148%20B%20FOSTER/HURRICANE%20I%20FOSTER.htm>





This is Peter Vacher's book in which he describes in his own words the incredible story of the discovery, recovery from India and meticulous restoration to 1940 Battle of Britain specification of R4118. In 2002, after more than six years of committees, red tape, Indian Air Force resistance, ten trips to India and much patient and delicate negotiation, Peter was given just 24 hours to remove the derelict aircraft! Then the truly difficult process of restoration began. Four years and 32,000 hours of restoration later, R4118 took to the skies again, becoming a living memorial to one of the most dramatic and dangerous periods in British history. Along the way Peter reunited three wartime pilots - Peter Thompson, Bunny Carrant and Bob Foster - with R4118, three heroes who had fought in her during the war. Just twelve new copies of this book exist and we have secured all of them for Peter to autograph for us.



ONE OF THE MANY WHO FOLLOWED "THE FEW"



The wartime memoirs
of
Warrant Officer William Clark

Now aged 94, Will Clark was a young 18-year old lad in 1939 who spent many hours watching over the hedge at Gravesend airfield in Kent as the Tiger Moths of 20 ERFTS flew their circuits and bumps, dreaming of the day that he could take his place in the air. In June 1940 that dream became a reality and he commenced his RAF pilot training. Too young to become involved in the Battle of Britain, Will nevertheless had an extremely busy war as a Hurricane pilot and PoW. He initially trained on Tiger Moths at 7 EFTS Desford, a few miles west of Leicester. He fought in the desert, flew a long-range Hurricane off the Ark Royal and delivered it to the beleaguered island of Malta, was shot down in his 274 Sqn Hurricane over Libya on 28th January 1942 and spent the rest of the war in various German prisoner of war camps, ending up at Stalagluft III until it was liberated by the Allies in 1945. Will has provided us with the last twelve copies of his 230-page wartime memoirs which he has also autographed for us. There are few first-hand memoirs of the wartime exploits of a Hurricane pilot that are more moving.

For more on Will see:

<http://dhmcc.com/Honorary%20Members/William%20Clark/Bill%20Clark.html>

Before you go any further, we strongly recommend you take a look at the following link, which provides a fascinating insight into the heroic restoration of R4118 – a unique British treasure:

<http://www.hawker-restorations-ltd.co.uk/images/articles/flypastjun05.html>

And watch and listen to her grace the skies here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6m7z2HPW34>



Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC with his Battle of Britain logbook and his Hurricane R4118. Born in 1920, Bob passed away last September, aged 94. Watch him recount his story of joining the RAF, his flying training and facing the enemy at:

http://www.storyvault.com/video/view/joining_the_raf_and_facing_the_enemy1

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Hawker Hurricane R4118 - Display Donation

(Please return this form with your donation to the above address by **14th July 2015**)

Name, address, tel. no., e-mail: _____

I would like to make a donation to the R4118 display and to the RAF Charitable Trust:

I enclose a cheque payable to Ian Grace for: £ _____
(Payments may also be made via PayPal to kangamingo@gmail.com)

I wish to pledge a donation, to be paid by Saturday 18th July for: £ _____

For those donating or pledging £100 or more, please declare your preference of book:

'Hurricane R4118', by Peter Vacher _____

'One of the Many that Followed the Few', by WO William Clark _____

I understand that 75% of my donation will help support the display, and 25% will go directly to the RAF Charitable Trust.

Lest We Forget