

The latter operated by BEA and BOAC used the airfield for training and fog diversions and included the Britannia with the Comet creating the first noise complaints. The diversions created another list of varied types, which included an Ilyushin IL12B and an Airspeed Ambassador. Military aircraft also visited such as the Beverley to pick up parachutists to drop at nearby Aldershot. In 1958, during a Farnborough air show, a Sea Hawk that had been displaying caught fire and headed to Blackbushe and two photos show the aircraft about to crash; the crash and the pilot on his parachute just to the south of the A30. In 1959, several flying boats and amphibians graced the sky including a flypast from the Saunders Roe Princess, and landings by a Dutch Grumman Mariner and Catalina, Short Sealand and Grumman Albatross. Also that year were visiting early jets including the Canberra,, Venom and Canadair Silver Star. In 1961 the airfield passed into the private hands of AVM Don Bennett of Atlantic Ferry Organisation and Pathfinders fame and post war British South American Airways which eventually merged with BOAC. As a general aviation airfield it held its own air show and amongst the visiting aircraft were the unusual (Reid and Sigrist RS3 prone aircraft) VFW614 and the more conventional deHavilland Dash7. Pop shows were hugely popular but caused travel chaos on the main road to Southampton and film companies have staged several aviation related epics and very recently 'Rush', the film of Niki Lauda and James Hunt, Dave provided us with photo fest of aviation, set against an airfield background that despite the odds has survived and is now well established with regular visitors and small jets.



BATTLE OF BRITAIN MASS FLYPAST

This summer, there are plans to stage a mass flypast of more than 20 Hurricane and Spitfires over Kent and other areas on the 18th August 2015 in an act of remembrance for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. All of the aircraft involved will meet up at London Biggin Hill Airport and once airborne, the aircraft will be split into three groups. The first group will fly towards the Isle of Wight via Portsmouth and the Solent, then it will return to Biggin Hill. The second group will fly over Dover, Hawkinge and the national memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. The third group will fly over West Malling, Detling and Gravesend before returning to Biggin Hill.

LIGHTNING SEEN IN ITALY

On March 12th, 2015, in Cameri, Italy, the first Italian F-35A Lightning II rolled out of the Cameri Final Assembly and Check Out (FACO) facility, the first F-35A assembled internationally and the first of eight aircraft currently being assembled. The FACO will build all Italian F-35A and F-35B aircraft, and is expected to build F-35As for the Royal



Netherlands Air Force and has the capacity to deliver to other European partners in the future. In December 2014, it was selected by the U.S. Department of Defense as the F-35 Lightning II Heavy Airframe Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade facility for the European region. The first full F-35A wing section was recently completed and will soon be shipped to Lockheed Martin's Fort Worth, Texas, F-35 production line for final assembly. The Italian F-35s will replace the Panavia Tornado, AMX and AV-8B aircraft. (Lockheed Martin photo by Larry Bramblett)

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