

Black History Month

Teacher Pack



For Black History Month 2019, we are highlighting the contributions and achievements of African, Asian and Caribbean peoples to the RAF story.

Map



Instructions

Use the map to help you explore some of the amazing RAF stories linked to African, Asian and Caribbean people. The symbols on the map relate to the stories told below.

- Find this person's silhouette in the exhibition – read their back!
- ▲ Find images or information in the exhibition
- ▲ Find items in the collection which relate to this story

You can find out more by visiting www.rafmuseum.org.uk or www.rafstories.org

Hangar 1



Vishwaananda Kisten

Royal Air Force (RAF) Chef



Corporal Pascal Zgambo

Pascal was born in Malawi but settled in the UK in 1999.

After studying at the University of East London he joined the Royal Air Force.

Pascal's role in the RAF is to champion apprenticeships for trainee Chefs and Logistics Caterers.



Corporal Sonia Campbell

Corporal Sonia 'Sony' Campbell is an Aerospace Systems Operator.

Find her in the exhibition to discover more.



Taila-leigh Grose

Taila-leigh joined the Air Training Corps in 2016.

Read her back to find out what she gets up to as an Air Cadet.



Flight Lieutenant Vincent Bunting

Vincent left Jamaica to join the RAF in 1940. He was selected as a fighter pilot, flying Spitfires and Mustangs.

In 1945, while leading a section of Mustangs from his Squadron, he shot down an enemy Fokke Wulf 190.

He is pictured here with his Group Captain Adolph 'Sailor' Malan, who went on to fight against apartheid in his native South Africa.

Vincent left the RAF in 1948.



Squadron Leader Philip Louis Ulrich Cross

Squadron Leader Philip Louis Ulrich Cross was the most decorated (medals awarded) Caribbean Airman of the Second World War.

Find him in the exhibition to discover more about his RAF Service.

Hangar 2



William Robinson Clarke

William 'Robbie' Robinson Clarke became Britain's first black pilot, earning his wings in 1917.

Robbie served in the the Royal Flying Corps and RAF during the First World War.

Discover a bit more about Robbie near the SE5a aircraft or on our website.



Hardit Singh Malik

Hardit Singh Malik flew Sopwith Camels in France and Italy during the First Wold War.

Find out a bit more by looking on his back.



Indra Lal Roy

18 year old Indra Lal Roy joined the Royal Flying Corps in April 1917. He was killed in a dog fight just over a year later and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions.

'A very gallant and determined officer, who in thirteen days accounted for nine enemy machines. In these several engagements he has displayed remarkable skill and daring, on more than one occasion accounting for two machines in one patrol'.



Harry Fusao O'Hara

Harry began flying training with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 having previously served with the Indian Army. He qualified right here in Colindale at the London and Provincial flying school.

There is a photo of Japanese pilot Harry Fusao O'Hara on the wall of faces.

Hangar 6



Flight Lieutenant Trevor Edwards

Trevor considered himself to be 'a very ordinary London kid who was trained by the RAF to do very extraordinary things.'

Trevor joined the RAF in 1985, initially in the RAF Regiment and later he was selected to fly Jaguar jets, like the one in this hangar.

You can hear him talking about his experiences at rafstories.org



Flight Lieutenant Joan Ochuodho

Joan was born in Kenya but came to the UK as a student and joined the RAF when she was 24.

Use the touch screens in the RAF Life section of the exhibition to find out what life was like for her on deployment and at home.



Flying Officer Colin Ihe

Colin joined the RAF in 2015 and works in logistics, this means getting vital equipment to the right place at the right time.

The Hercules and Chinook aircraft in this hangar are used to transport people and supplies.



Flying Officer Charles Ihe

Charles might look familiar, he is Colin's identical twin brother.

Charles and his brother are both part of the RAF BAME Network and hope to inspire people from a range of backgrounds to join up.

Hangar 3,4,5

The Museum's Second World War aircraft collection is on display in these three hangars. This is just a small selection of the men and women who joined up to do their bit for the war effort. You can find out more about their stories on our website – search 'Pilots of the Caribbean'.



First black African RAF pilot and officer

Flight Lieutenant Emanuel Peter John Adeniyi Thomas

- Born in Nigeria
- First black African to qualify as a pilot in the RAF in 1942
- Also the first black African to be commissioned



Female instrument repairer

Leading Aircraftwoman Lilian Bader

- Born in Liverpool – Dad from Barbados, Mum British
- Joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in 1941
- Worked as an Aircraftwoman repairing instruments on Airspeed Oxfords



First Jamaican to win Olympic gold

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Wint

- Flew Spitfires
- First Jamaican to win Olympic gold
- Trained as a doctor and surgeon after the war



First Prime Minister of Barbados

Flying Officer Errol Walton Barrow

- Born in Barbados
- Joined the RAF in 1940
- A Navigator who survived six crashes and two bullet wounds in the shoulder
- Became the first Prime Minister of Barbados



Founder of Britain's first black arts centre

Flight Lieutenant Cy Grant

- Born in British Guiana
- Trained as a navigator
- Shot down and captured by the enemy



Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant John J Blair

- Born in Jamaica
- Served with 102 Squadron
- Was awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross – you can find an example in the collection)