



**Major Kuwait-UK exhibition to take place over the National Day and Liberation Day holidays**

**The British Embassy is delighted to announce the opening of a major historical exhibition celebrating the close links between Kuwait and the United Kingdom. The exhibition is a collaborative project between the British Embassy, the British Royal Air Force Museum and the Kuwait House of National Works.**

As part of Kuwait's successful 50/20 celebrations in February 2011 the Kuwait House of National Works signed a partnership agreement with the British Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum. The goal of this agreement is to engage in collaborative work that showcases the close historical links between Kuwait and the UK. The two organisations – with the co-operation of the British Embassy in Kuwait – will stage an exhibition running from 23-27 February highlighting the part played by the RAF in supporting and protecting Kuwait over many years. The exhibition, which will be staged at the 360 Mall, will feature a 70 year-old Spitfire fighter aircraft as its central focus.

The Spitfire's direct relationship with Kuwait can be traced back to World War 2, when donations from both the Kuwaiti and expatriate British communities paid for 10 Spitfire aircraft for the RAF's war effort. Historical RAF photographs from 1944 (which will be on display at the exhibition) show representatives from the RAF displaying a Spitfire in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Left: HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pictured with an RAF Spitfire, May 1944

Right: arrival of the Spitfire at Al Mubarrak Airbase, February 2013

The exhibition will be a celebration of the strong political, defence and business relationships that the two states have enjoyed over many years. The Spitfire exhibit will be complemented by an accompanying business-focused exhibition showcasing present-day British companies and products, with displays by Foster + Partners architects and McLaren Automotive\* reinforced by the successful 'Britain is GREAT' campaign.

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The exhibition will be opened on 23 February 2013 by His Excellency Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Sabah, Minister of Information; His Excellency Frank Baker, British Ambassador; and Air Vice Marshal Peter Dye, Director General of the Royal Air Force Museum. It will run for five days over the National Day and Liberation Day holidays in the main atrium at the 360 Mall, one of Kuwait's most popular shopping centres.

Ambassador Baker commented: "It is of course a high priority for the British Embassy to continue to celebrate the enduring relationship between Kuwait and the UK, so we are proud to support the efforts of the RAF Museum and Kuwait House of National Works in bringing this exciting project to the Kuwaiti public at the 360 Mall. It is vital that this and future generations remember our shared history – in this case a reminder of the close ties that have bound Kuwait and the UK in defence of our nations in times of trouble. The Spitfire will of course be a magnificent centrepiece to the exhibition, representing the very best of past UK expertise. And with present-day British innovation also on display in the shape of McLaren's cars and Foster + Partners' architectural designs, we hope that visitors will also take away the message that Britain's reputation for technological excellence remains as strong as ever."

#KuwaitSpitfire  
@ukinkuwait

\*Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive is the sole dealer of McLaren Automotive Ltd., and the exclusive importer of BMW Group in Kuwait

شركة على الغانم وأولاده الوكيل الحصري والموزع المعتمد **McLaren Automotive Ltd.** و مجموعة BMW في الكويت

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