

26 November 2018

# Experimental Jet and German bomber are highlights at open cockpit event



**Date:** 7 December 2018 / **Time:** 6pm-9pm / **Cost:** £13.50 per person

**Aviation fans will have the rare opportunity to take seat inside the cockpit of the Cold War era British Aircraft Corporation TSR2 and get a close look inside the Second World War Junkers Ju88 at the final '100 Cockpits and Cabs' event, taking place at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford on Friday 7 December.**

The event which has celebrated the Royal Air Force Centenary throughout 2018 at both its Cosford and London sites has given ticket holders exclusive access to 100 aircraft and vehicles, spanning the service's entire career. The series of events concludes at Cosford in December, themed around aircraft and vehicles from the Museum's Test Flight and War in the Air collection.

From the Test Flight collection and for the first time ever, visitors can enjoy on-board access to the **British Aircraft Corporation TSR2**, the only complete airframe remaining and one of only two examples in the world. Although never developed beyond the prototype stage, the TSR2 was one of the most exciting and controversial British combat aircraft designs of the 1960s. The increasing sophistication of air defence systems led the RAF to consider the procurement of a high speed, low level strike and reconnaissance aircraft to replace the English Electric Canberra. Christened the TSR2 (Tactical Strike and Reconnaissance Mach 2), eleven prototypes were ordered in October 1960, with the first maiden flight in September 1964. Initial reports indicated that the TSR2 was an outstanding technical success, however, political opposition to the project led to it being cancelled by April the following year. The cancellation of the project is a subject of great debate to this day.

Other Test Flight aircraft and vehicles open on the night include the sole example **British Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP)** (close view only). Built as an advanced technology demonstrator, many of the features pioneered by EAP, including the wing layout, were later refined for the Eurofighter Typhoon, in service with the RAF today. Also included in the event is the **Bristol Type 188, Short Brothers SB5 WG768** (close view only) and the **Hunting H126**.

The event theme also extends to include a selection of the Museum's War in the Air aircraft and vehicles and for the first time ever the **Junkers Ju88R-1** will be open for close viewing. The Ju88 was the most versatile German combat aircraft of the Second World War, beginning life as a bomber, before becoming a night fighter and intruder; undertook anti-shipping operations and flew long-range reconnaissance missions. It was during the Battle of Britain, that Ju88's played a major role in a number of daylight actions against British radar stations, airfields and ports. The aircraft was reasonably manoeuvrable for its size, and could take a great deal of punishment, however its lack of armoured protection and insufficient defensive armament meant that it was relatively easy prey for British fighters. At the time of the Battle of Britain the Ju88 was at the beginning of its service career and its remarkable adaptability, particularly as a night fighter, had still to be exploited by the Luftwaffe.

Also open on the night in War in the Air hangar will be fellow German fighter the **Focke Wulf FW190A-8/R6**, the **Hawker Hurricane IIc** (close view only), **Sopwith Pup** (close view only), **Boulton Paul Defiant**

**Mk1** (close view only), **Crossley Ptn 1940** and the Museum's latest arrival the **Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR3**.

To ensure visitors get the most out of the event, there will be a large team of Volunteers manning each aircraft or vehicle who will be available to answer any questions.

A total of 300 tickets are available for the event taking place on Saturday 7 December and aviation fans will have up to three hours to enjoy the exclusive after-hours access from 6pm-9pm. The Museum will close at 4pm, however the Visitor Centre and Refuel Restaurant will remain open for ticket holders, before doors to the aircraft and vehicles open at 6pm. Plus, visitors can also enjoy perusing the Museum Shop from 4.30pm and take advantage of their 10% off discount voucher!

Tickets are now available to purchase through the Museum's website [www.rafmuseum.org/cosford](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford) and cost £13.50 per person which includes parking (minimum height restrictions apply).



Attending the exclusive 'Open Cockpits and Cabs' events is an opportunity to raise vital funds for the **RAF100 Appeal**, which is a joint venture between the Royal Air Force and the four major RAF charities – the **Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund**, the **Royal Air Forces Association**, the **Royal Air Force Charitable Trust** and the **Royal Air Force Museum**. The aim of the Appeal is to raise money for the RAF family and to create a lasting legacy as we celebrate 100 years of the Royal Air Force.

Ends...

#### Notes to Editors:

- Follow the RAF Museum on social media:



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- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at: <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/about-us/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Worthington on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org)
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