

2 June 2018

## Museum lecture series continues with two new RAF talks

Academics, military enthusiasts and interested members of the public are being invited to attend two FREE forthcoming lectures this month focusing on two very different RAF subjects. The lectures form part of the 2018 series of lectures from the Royal Air Force Museum's Research Programme and will explore the use of Benzedrine in the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War and Cold War Chipmunk Air Reconnaissance around Berlin.

**'Amphetamines and Air Power: The use of Benzedrine in the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War'**

**Date:** 7 June 2018

**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.00pm

**Cost:** FREE

**Location:** University of Wolverhampton, MC001, Millennium City Building, Wolverhampton Campus

The first of two lectures is being held on Thursday 7 June at the University of Wolverhampton and is a continuation of the joint partnership between the University's Department of War Studies and the Royal Air Force Museum. This evening lecture commencing at 6.30pm will examine how Amphetamine, a powerful stimulant that affects both wellbeing and wakefulness, was used extensively in the military context during the Second World War. The lecture entitled **'Amphetamines and Air Power: The use of Benzedrine in the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War'** will be presented by Dr James Pugh, a Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Birmingham.

In this lecture, Dr Pugh will explore how recent research has revealed much about how the Royal Air Force (RAF) used the drug on operations, yet we know comparatively little about how amphetamines were understood or utilised by organisations connected to the RAF. Orientating itself in the broader social and cultural climate of 1930s Britain and Australia, this talk will explore how knowledge about amphetamines moved between the RAF and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) during the Second World War.

While telling an unknown story about the RAAF's use of the drug during the conflict, the talk illuminates the networks along which research and operational data travelled. These pathways enabled researchers, administrators and aircrews to reflect on the challenges and risks – medical, ethical and operational – of using amphetamines during sorties. Based on original research from UK and Australian archives, the talk enables us to reflect on the enduring relationship between drugs and war, and the particular operational pressures facing RAF and RAAF aircrews during a global conflict of unprecedented scale and intensity.

## **'Cold War Chipmunk Air Reconnaissance around Berlin'**

**Date:** 15 June 2018

**Time:** 12.30pm – 2.00pm

**Cost:** FREE

**Location:** RAF Museum Cosford, National Cold War Exhibition Lecture Theatre

On Friday 15 June, Group Captain Andrew Pennington (ret'd), who served in the RAF between 1968 and 2005, specialising in intelligence duties, will be presenting the second 2018 Cold War lunchtime lecture, being held in the lecture theatre at the RAF Museum Cosford at 12.30pm. Entitled '**Cold War Chipmunk Air Reconnaissance around Berlin**', Group Captain Andrew Pennington (ret'd) will speak on Allied intelligence gathering operations by the British Commanders' in Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany (BRIXMIS) during the Cold War period.

Immediately after the Second World War the Soviets and the western allied occupying powers formally agreed to guarantee access to Berlin by British, US and French aircraft through three air corridors and a 20-mile radius Berlin Control Zone, the BCZ. This covered both East and West Berlin and some surrounding areas. Taking advantage of this, from the mid-1950s the British exercised their right of access on a regular basis by flying Chipmunk training aircraft over all areas of the BCZ, which included many important Soviet military bases housing a wide variety of units, vehicles and aircraft. The Chipmunk crews used hand-held cameras to discretely photograph these targets, resulting in comprehensive order of battle information and outstanding technical-quality images which were highly prized by the allied intelligence agencies.

The Chipmunk operations were carried out by members of BRIXMIS - the British Commanders' in Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany. This was a part of the intensive intelligence collection operations by BRIXMIS and its associated French and US Military Liaison Missions throughout the Soviet Occupied Zone of Germany, otherwise known as the German Democratic Republic. This lecture will look at the historical context of Allied intelligence collection operations by BRIXMIS both on the ground and in the air, discuss the operational and political limitations of Chipmunk reconnaissance operations in the BCZ and show examples of the imagery collected by BRIXMIS during its operations between 1946 and 1990, but concentrating on the 1980s.

As spaces are limited to both lectures, organisers advise visitors to book their FREE tickets in advance via the Museum's website to avoid disappointment [www.rafmuseum.org/cosford](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford). Additional information about both lectures and the Museum's Research Programme is also available online.

Ends...

### **Notes to Editors:**

- For more details about the RAF Museum's Research Programme, please email the RAF Museum's Archive, Library and Research Manager Nina Hadaway at [nina.hadaway@rafmuseum.org](mailto:nina.hadaway@rafmuseum.org)
- The **Trenchard Lectures in Air Power Studies** form a part of the RAF Museum's Research Programme for 2018. The Trenchard Lectures in Air Power Studies are held in conjunction with the Royal Aeronautical Society and the War Studies Department at the University of Wolverhampton.
- The **Cold War Lunchtime Lectures** are delivered by emerging and established researchers. They explore key events and air power developments from the Cold War period. For further details about the RAF Museum's Research Programme please contact [research@rafmuseum.org](mailto:research@rafmuseum.org)

### **About Dr James Pugh:**

Dr James Pugh is a Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Birmingham. His research interests include the histories of both air power and drugs, especially in the context of the two World Wars. He has written a monograph on the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War and has also published on the use of amphetamines by the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy during the Second World War. He is currently researching and writing a history of amphetamines in Britain in the 1930s and 1940s. You can find more detail about James' research [here](#) and [here](#). You can find James on twitter: [@psy\\_historian](https://twitter.com/psy_historian)

**About Group Captain Andrew Pennington (ret'd):**

Andrew Pennington served in the RAF between 1968 and 2005, specialising in intelligence duties. These included imagery analysis, intelligence in support of tactical air reconnaissance in West Germany, intelligence staff duties and signals intelligence. After training in Russian language, he worked in 26 Signals Unit on Teufelsburg in West Berlin, and subsequently trained military attaches before spending 3 years as a member of the British Commanders' in Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany (BRIXMIS), again based in Berlin.

He has commanded the Joint School of Photographic Interpretation and the Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (Northern Ireland) as well as graduating from the RAF Advanced Staff Course. He retired from the RAF as a Group Captain in 2005 after a tour in the Defence Intelligence Staff as Assistant Director (Intelligence) – Geographic and Imagery Management.

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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 Morgans on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)