

22 May 2018

NEW display commemorates 100 years of the RAF

Date: Now open

Cost: FREE

A bold new display celebrating and commemorating the centenary of the Royal Air Force is now open to visitors at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford.

Entitled '**RAF Stories: The First 100 Years 1918-2018**', the new display showcases the diversity and history of the RAF through the use of personal stories and a collection of previously unseen artefacts. It has also been carefully designed to offer a compelling snapshot of the RAF's principle roles:

- **Prepare:** The RAF's Red Arrows display team represent the pinnacle of the services training and ethos. A Red Arrows pilots' flying suit and distinctively marked helmet feature as part of the display.
- **Attack:** A selection of objects illustrating the RAF's attack role ranging from an early aerial reconnaissance camera to an arming key for a nuclear bomb are now on show.
- **Defend:** The Battle of Britain in 1940, which tested the RAF's defensive abilities to the limit, is represented in the display including rare and unique artefacts.
- **Support:** Featured in the display will be the story of a ground crewman Antony Ford who served on the Operation Bushel famine relief effort in Ethiopia in 1984-85, as well as a helicopter winch operator's rescue strop and an air-to-air refuelling.

RAF Museum Assistant Curator, Clare Carr said:

"Items for the new display have been carefully selected for their potential to engage visitors with a fresh perspective on the RAF story. Some of the more unusual items include rock blown from the Mohne Dam during the renowned Dambusters raid of 1943, a set of wire cutters smuggled into a POW camp, contents from a Christmas gift box given to personnel serving in Iraq in 2004, and a parachute release handle used by a pilot to escape his crashing Hurricane during the Battle of Britain. Many of the objects look perfectly ordinary but have remarkable stories to tell."

The new display comes ahead of the newly transformed London site which formally reopens in June. The ambitious multi million-pound redevelopment of the London site will feature new immersive galleries, freshly landscaped green spaces, and themed restaurants.

The '**RAF Stories: The First 100 Years 1918-2018**' display is supported by **National Lottery Players** through the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and founding sponsor **BAE Systems**. It is part of the RAF Museum's RAF Centenary Programme across its two sites in London and Cosford.

The Museum is open daily from 10am and entry is FREE of charge. For more information visit www.rafmuseum.org/cosford.

Ends...



Notes to Editors:

About RAF 100:

COMMEMORATE, CELEBRATE, INSPIRE: On 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force will be celebrating its 100th birthday. To mark this occasion, we want to reflect on our history and our achievements. We also want to celebrate the work the RAF is currently doing and look forward to the next 100 years. The centenary itself will be marked by special events, activities and other initiatives at local, regional and national level running from April to the end of September 2018. www.raf.mod.uk/raf100

About Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF):

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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

