

18th April 2013

70 years on - the Dambusters are remembered

Dambusters Concert – 12th May £5.00pp

Dambusters Talk – 16th May FREE

The 16th May 2013 will mark 70 years since 19 Lancaster bombers took off from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, on a mission to destroy German dams with a revolutionary 'bouncing' bomb. The brave airmen of 617 Squadron, more commonly referred to as the 'Dambusters', took part in this landmark British raid on Germany, a pioneering moment in British engineering and a significant event in Royal Air Force History.

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be marking the 70th anniversary of this event with a Dambusters themed Orchestra Concert, a special talk entitled 'Operation Chastise - 70 years on, the successful failure', a flypast from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster and a bespoke model display depicting the raids.

Dambusters Concert - The highly decorated Glebe Symphonic Winds, one of the UK's leading wind orchestras will perform for visitors on Sunday 12th May. Taking place in the Museum's National Cold War Exhibition auditorium with seating for 200 spectators, this intimate musical performance will include well known favourites such as the Dambusters March, RAF March Past and 633 Squadron. The performance will begin at 3.00pm and last approximately one hour. Tickets for this event are now on sale and cost just £5.00 per person. Spaces are limited so musical fans are advised to purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Dambusters Talk - For anyone looking to learn more about this topic, there will be a free evening talk for up to 200 visitors, entitled - 'Operation Chastise - 70 years on, the successful failure'. The subjects covered during this incisive talk on Thursday 16th May will include: The effects of the raid on the German industry; Propaganda - how Britain boasted of their success, whilst Germany played down the raids; The dampened morale amongst German citizens and troops; A slide show of images from the Museum's archive collection with some previously unseen will be shown. This event is free of charge and will last approximately 1 hour. The talk will commence at 5:15pm in the Museum's Auditorium and visitors are advised to arrive at 5:00pm ready to be seated. Anyone wishing to attend must register in advance.

Flypast in honour of the Dambusters - The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) will be supporting the Museum's '70th Anniversary of the Dambusters' event on Thursday 16th May, with a Lancaster flypast. This is the first time the Museum has seen a flypast from a BBMF Lancaster and it is sure to be a spectacular sight for aviation fans. The aircraft will perform 3 flypasts over the Museum grounds, which will take around 2 minutes to complete - a rare glimpse for visitors at this iconic aircraft type, which played a vital role in the Dambusters Raid 70 years ago. The flypast is scheduled to take place at 12.30pm weather permitting.

Dambusters Model Display - Also on display over the Dambusters Anniversary will be specially commissioned Airfix models. The display will include 19 Airfix 1:72 scale Lancaster's and a Wellington bomber, depicting the Dambusters Raid. These have been kindly donated by Airfix and built by the Shropshire Modellers' Club and can be viewed in the Visitor Centre.

To reserve your place for the Operation Chastise Talk, or to purchase tickets for the Dambusters Concert, please call the Museum on 01902 376252 or for more information, visit the Museum website www.rafmuseum.org. The Museum is open daily from 10am and entry to the Museum is FREE of charge.

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Notes to Editors:

- 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:
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
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