

16 July 2014

## Three iconic First World War Aircraft arrive at RAF Museum Cosford

On Tuesday 15 July staff at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford received three iconic First World War aircraft, which will form the centre of a new First World War Exhibition. The Bristol M1c, the Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter and the Sopwith Pup are due to go on display within the Museum's War Planes Hangar in December 2014.

The **Sopwith Pup** is an original aircraft which was active during the First World War. The Pup, thought of by its pilots as the perfect flying machine, was used extensively by the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps both at home and abroad. The Bristol M1c and Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter are full scale reproductions.

The aircraft were transported from the RAF Museum London, along the M1, M6 and M54 motorways by two low loader lorries. Delighted members of the public and Museum staff welcomed the aircraft arrivals late afternoon, before they were placed inside the Museum's Conservation Centre. The Sopwith Pup will undergo some minor fabric repair work to the tail before going on public display later this year.

The three aircraft are to be exhibited as part of the Museum's First World War Exhibition, opening in December 2014 which will allow museum audiences to discover and explore the unique and often overlooked role of air power during the First World War through the incredible stories of the men and women who took part. The exhibition '**First World War In The Air**', was made possible with a grant of £898,558 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

**Alex Medurst, RAF Museum Cosford General Manager said:**

"These three iconic aircraft will provide a dramatic focus for our upcoming First World War exhibition. The Museum at Cosford looks forward to sharing them with its visitors and marking the historic anniversary."

For more information or to request hi-res images please contact: [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)

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**Notes To Editors:**

- [www.rafmuseum.org](http://www.rafmuseum.org)
- First World War In the Air opens December 2014
- Follow us on Facebook – The Royal Air Force Museum
- Follow us on Twitter – @RAFMUSEUM
- Follow us on Instagram – rafmuseum

- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum images & logo available at:
  - <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact
  - LONDON - Ajay Srivastava on 020 8358 6410 or email: [ajay@rafmuseum.org](mailto:ajay@rafmuseum.org)
  - COSFORD – Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)
- All images used should be credited: '©Trustees of the Royal Air Force Museum'
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge for media

### **About Heritage Lottery Fund**

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 36,000 projects with more than £6bn across the UK. We have already supported £56m of First World War related projects from across the United Kingdom and will continue to support as many applications as we can afford that want to commemorate the centenary. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on twitter @heritagelottery #understandingWW1

On 4 August 2014 it will be 100 years since Britain entered the First World War. Within government the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is leading plans to build a commemoration fitting of this significant milestone in world history. As the Prime Minister made clear when he launched the programme in October 2012, the main theme will be remembrance with a particular focus on bringing the centenary alive for young people. There will be a number of national events across the four years, as well as cross-Government programmes to help deliver this. Further details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>

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