

# NOW BUILDING IN BRITAIN!

The first UK built De Havilland  
Mosquito in 75 years...



**BE PART OF IT!**  
[peoplesmosquito.org.uk](http://peoplesmosquito.org.uk)



**THE PEOPLE'S MOSQUITO**

**To Fly • To Educate • To Remember**

**In this newsletter edition:-**

- Mosquito International Day - Education, Education, Education! -
- Mosquito Video Theatre - Air Crew Profile -
- '4 Engineers' Appeal - Official TPM Merchandise -

## Mosquito International Day

Working in collaboration with  
[The Polish Heritage Flight](#)  
and the  
[de Havilland Aircraft Museum](#),  
we are delighted to announce...

### MOSQUITO INTERNATIONAL DAY

- SATURDAY 28th MARCH -

AT D.H.A.M, SALISBURY HALL,  
LONDON COLNEY,  
ST. ALBANS. AL2 1BU.

**RESERVE THE DATE IN YOUR  
DIARIES NOW!**



Planning for this **Mosquito International Day** is well advanced and the schedule for the day, together with ticketing details will be available soon from links in an upcoming newsletter.

**Meanwhile, we are delighted to announce two early participants in what will be a wonderful tribute to the Mosquito, its designers, builders, crews and all personnel that made the aircraft such a success. *All at the home of its birth!***



#### **Colin Bell DFC BEM**

RAF veteran, TPM Ambassador and charity fundraiser.

Perhaps needs little introduction to regular readers, but at nearly 105-years of age, Colin remains as sharp as a tack and tells remarkable stories from a life lived to the full.

Colin joined the RAF aged just 19, and after his flying training joined 608 Squadron (Pathfinder Group) based at Downham Market in Norfolk. He carried out 50 bombing raids over Germany, 13 of them over Berlin.

It's always a privilege to be in Colin's company - being simply charming and infectious in character. He will have copies of his new book '**Bloody Dangerous**' with him, so will be available for signings. **An opportunity not to be missed!**



**Dr Robert Lyman MBE FRHistS**  
Writer, Historian & TPM Ambassador.

Since finishing a twenty year career in the British Army in 2001 he has published widely on the Second World War in Europe, North Africa and Asia.

He was the BBC's historical adviser for the VJ commemorations in 2015 and 2020 and is a regular contributor to documentary films on aspects of the war.

Robert will be taking to the stage to give a presentation on the range of International crews that piloted the Mosquito, giving fascinating snippets of information on the special operations they were involved in.

**Reserve the date - Saturday 28th March at the  
de Havilland Aircraft Museum, St. Albans.**

***Be sure to open our newsletters each week for latest news as we build the day!***

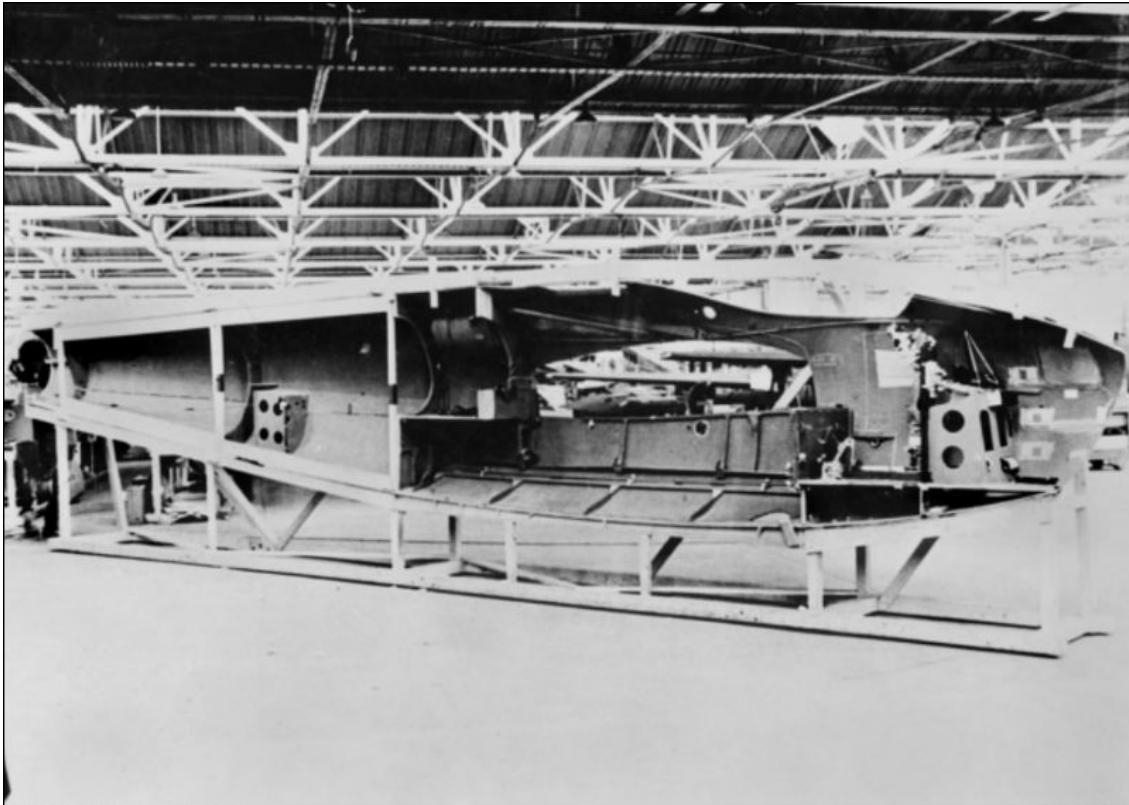
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**Education, Education, Education!**



Here is a view of the fuselage support frames that students at East Sussex College will be making for the project as part of our commitment to Educational inspiration.

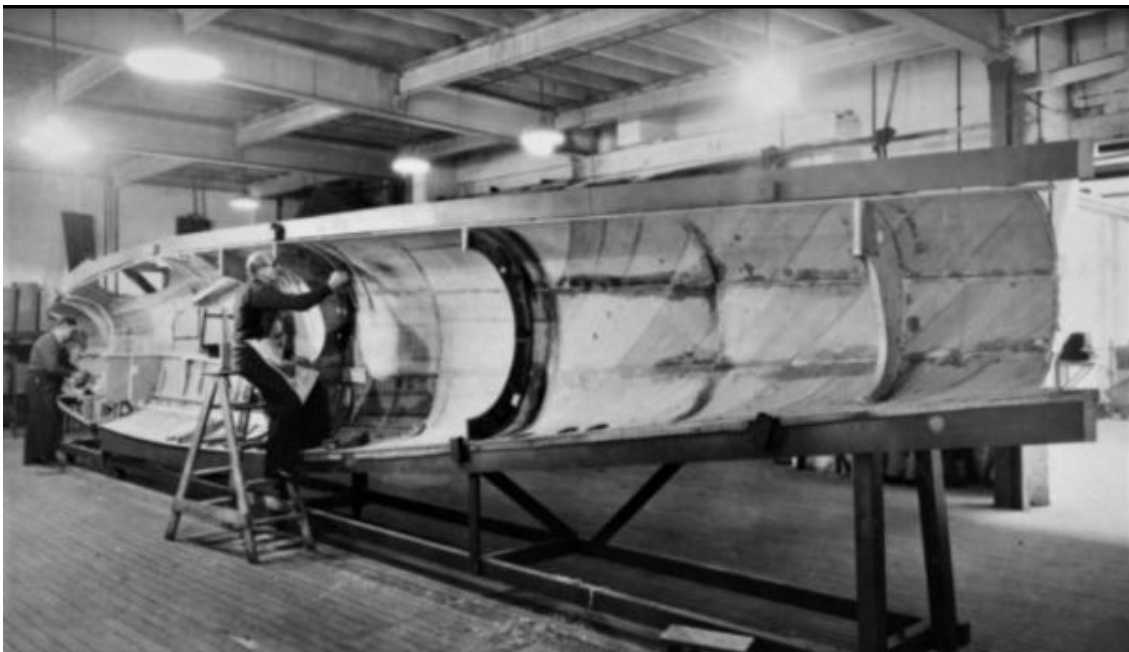
We will have more details on this association over the coming months as the fuselage build gathers pace.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03823.013

*Two support frames will be needed to bring the fuselage halves into an upright position to allow onward construction with the fitting of internal components.*



## Mosquito Video Theatre

**From Salisbury Hall to Hatfield, across the UK to Canada and Australia.**

The following video gives you a better idea of the build process ahead.

It's not quite as easy as the commentary might have you believe - part of the wartime propaganda machine - letting people know the allies were pushing forward in their war efforts.



An original, unedited newsreel from 1944.

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## Air Crew Profile - by Jeremy Walsh

**The Conscientious Objector Musician with Motion Sickness  
Awarded the DFC Twice**



*L-R: Russ Bannock and Bob Bruce with their usual Mosquito, 'Hairless Joe' HR147/TH-Z.  
'DND Photo PL-33041 from 'RCAF History and Heritage'.*

Robert 'Bob' Bruce was not an archetypal aircrew recruit. As he said, 'In 1939 I was a graduate of Edinburgh University, with a First in Music, a brilliant outlook and no money.' Bob had been deeply influenced by the poetry of Wilfred Owen, who was killed in action in November 1918, and decided, as a conscientious objector, to join the Friends Ambulance Unit. They were, in his opinion, 'as gallant a bunch as any military.' However, two-and-a-half years later, married, with a baby boy and approaching twenty-six, he reached the conclusion that the war was 'ruinous', and that he had to play a more active role and be 'part of the ruin.'

Bob joined the RAF, volunteered for aircrew and trained as a navigator. Two years later, now in Nova Scotia, still suffering at times from motion sickness, Bob was teamed with a Canadian pilot, Russ, to fly Mosquitos. Bob was almost twenty-eight, but 'Russ, on the other hand, was young in years – twenty-three – and old in flying experience and leadership.' Russ had received his 'wings' in June 1940 and had then been instructing since that time. By June 1944 Squadron Leader Russ Bannock and Pilot Officer Bob Bruce had completed their intruder conversion course at No. 60 OTU at High Ercall. They were then posted to No. 418 'City of Edmonton' (RCAF) Squadron at RAF Ford and were soon operational.

Bob Bruce and Russ Bannock flew their second op ten days after D-Day. As Russ recalled. 'On the night of 16 June, we were departing on a night intruder

sortie and, while over Beachy Head at about 2,000ft, we spotted what we thought was a burning aircraft flying at high speed below us and going inland. We called sector ops to alert them of the aircraft in distress, but they replied that we were witnessing Hitler's new secret weapon, the V1 Flying Bomb.'

Their squadron was tasked with trying to destroy these terror weapons. The problem was that the Flying Bombs flew faster than their Mosquito FB.VIs. Russ summarised, 'As we were patrolling at 2-3,000ft and the V1s were travelling at about 400mph between 500-1,000ft, we were unable to catch up before the V1s crossed the coast. Our Mk.VI Mosquitos could only attain about 380mph at full power.' With obvious limitations in their current tactics, the following day Russ and Don MacFadyen, a colleague in 418, developed a concept of stooging over the English Channel at 10,000ft to watch out for a V1 launch in France, then converting height to speed to intercept the flying bomb and destroy it. It worked! The V1s were given the code name 'Divers'.



*Hairless Joe's nose art included a record of V1 rocket kills.*

**- DISCOVER MORE ON MOSQUITO 'HAIRLESS JOE' HERE -**

On 20 June, Russ and Bob shot down their first V1. 'Bob Bruce and I vividly recall the occasion when we came up behind the first V1 that we intercepted from directly behind. Its pulse-jet engine streaming a long flame reminding us of looking straight into a blast furnace.' It exploded right in front of them. They

quickly realised that survival depended on them refining their technique. Another 418 crew, Jas Jasper and Archie Martin, recorded their first Diver victory as well. Jas highlighted the importance of quickly catching up with the V1. 'At night, it was difficult to estimate your range accurately, although you had a rough idea. You saw the fire and just put your bead on it. Of course, we dived on the V1s to get a speed advantage. If you tried to catch them in straight-and-level flight, they'd be over the coast before you could catch them. You didn't want to chase them over the coast where the balloon barrages and flak would take over.'

Within 418 Squadron, Russ Bannock became the pre-eminent V1 specialist. As Bob Bruce recalled, 'Our first V1 destroyed was on 20 June 1944. By 28 August 1944 we had destroyed eighteen over the sea, and one whose speed was much reduced by our fire before we ran out of ammo. We were frustrated to watch it limp over the English coast before it exploded on the ground. As navigator, I had little to do but record the time and position of the kills and recover those parts of my body which had dropped into my boots as we pulled out of the dive.'

Bob Bruce and Russ Bannock continued flying Mosquitos together until the end of the war. Flight Lieutenant Robert Bruce was awarded the DFC twice. Wing Commander Russell William Bannock was awarded the DFC twice, as well as the DSO. Together, they had shot down nineteen V1s and nine enemy aircraft, destroying an additional two aircraft on the ground.

Post-war, Bob Bruce returned to his music, becoming a lecturer at Cardiff University. Between 1953 and 1957 he composed his Symphony in B flat. When he had the opportunity to have it recorded in 1999 in Warsaw, he dedicated it to Russ, because the final movement in particular was inspired by Bob's wartime experiences as an intruder. The event which he was trying to capture in the movement was the destruction of a Messerschmitt Bf 110 on the ground. The climax is a harsh stuttering evocation of the Mosquito's 'four 20mm cannon .... firing under one's feet!'

*Our thanks as always, to well-renowned author Jeremy Walsh for providing this feature. He has written many books which are available [in our web shop](#) - or from the merchandise section at the bottom of this newsletter.*

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## '4 Engineers' fundraising continues

**We will have the latest totaliser next week.**

**Can you help 'top-up' our funds today or over the weekend?**

Keeping the momentum with fundraising will hopefully get us on track at month end when we will reveal the latest appeal progress.



**Donate For 1 Engineer**



**Donate For 2 Engineers**



**Donate For 3 Engineers**



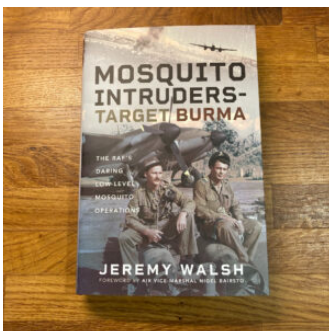
**Donate For 4 Engineers**

- DISCOVER MORE ON OUR '4 ENGINEERS' APPEAL HERE -

*Thank you for anything you can gift today.*

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## Official TPM Merchandise



**'Mosquito Intruders - Target Burma' by Jeremy Walsh (Author Signed)**

£20.00

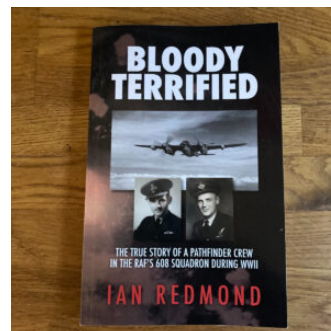
[View](#)



**Wingleader de Havilland Mosquito - Part 3 - FBVI Intruders and 2nd TAF' by Ian Thirsk (Author Signed)**

£19.95

[View](#)



**'Bloody Terrified' - Ian Redmond**

£12.45

[View](#)



**Polo Shirt - TPM Mosquito Intruder - Black**

£23.99

[View](#)



**The Union Jack Mosquito T-Shirt**

£16.99

[View](#)



**Polo Shirt - TPM Mosquito Intruder - Red**

£23.99

[View](#)



**Mission Patch Pint Glass with Bottle Opener**

£19.99

[View](#)



**Premium Mission Patch Baseball Cap - Grey**

£14.99

[View](#)



**Mosquito Intruder Mug - Racing Green**

£7.99

[View](#)

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