



Wednesday 7 September 2016

Veterans recall memories of flying, working and living at RAF Duxford at the September air show at IWM Duxford

Alongside a massed formation of 15 Spitfires, including four Mark I Spitfires, a rare formation of 1930s biplane fighters and the stunning aerobatics of the Global Stars and the Red Arrows* visitors to this weekend's air show at IWM Duxford will hear a group of veterans tell stories of their time at RAF Duxford with 64 and 65 Squadrons, serving as pilots, navigators, medics and engineers.

Les Millgate, who served as a pilot on Gloster Meteors at RAF Duxford remembered: *"From the age of probably about 5 I wanted to fly. So just about as soon as I could, at the age of 18, I volunteered for the air force. This was 1950 and that was it! So, 60 years later, here I am still talking about aircraft!"*

Stan Dell, who spent three years at Duxford as a ground equipment mechanic, said: *"I always walk around Duxford with great memories of happy times which directly led to the success I achieved in later life."*

Veterans returning to Duxford include:

- **Basil Gowling, MBE** was posted to 65 Squadron at RAF Duxford from 1954 to 1956. He flew Gloster Meteors and was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air in 1973. He was awarded the MBE in 1977.
- **Les Millgate** served as a pilot on Gloster Meteors with 64 Squadron from 1952 to 1958. After leaving the RAF, Les became an airline pilot.
- **Mike Robins** served as an Airframe Fitter at Duxford from 1958 to 1960. Mike had a distinguished RAF career, teaching at the highest level.
- **Peter Clay** was an engine fitter, working on the Gloster Meteors of 64 Squadron and the Hawker Hunters of 65 Squadron.
- **Stan Dell** was posted to Duxford, aged 18, as a Ground Equipment Mechanic on Station Flight. He was posted to 65 Squadron and spent over three years at Duxford, serving on three detachments to Cyprus.
- **Mike Hursey** served as a Machine Operator at RAF Duxford under National Service from 1956 to 1958.
- **David Brown** served at RAF Duxford from 1959 to 1961 under National Service. David was an Acting Corporal Nursing Attendant (Medic).

Veterans attending The Duxford Air Show are all members of the Old Dux Association, the veterans' organisation for RAF Duxford. Members of the Old Dux will be chatting about their experiences serving at RAF Duxford and will take questions from visitors.

The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters (Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September) is advanced tickets only. Tickets are not available to purchase on arrival at the air show. Buy online at www.iwm.org.uk

***The Global Stars display on Saturday only. The Red Arrows display on Sunday only.**

– Ends –

For further press information, interviews and images please contact:
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Notes to Editors

- The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters (Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September – advance tickets only) will showcase the outstanding speed and agility of fighter aircraft.
- Thrilling flying displays include 15 Supermarine Spitfires; The Global Stars Aerobatic Team (Saturday 10 September only); The Great War Display Team; The Red Arrows (Sunday 11 September only); glorious 1930s biplanes and a Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 aircraft in a dogfight with two de Havilland Vampires.

RAF Duxford veterans

- Veterans attending The Duxford Air Show are all members of the Old Dux Association, the veterans organisation for RAF Duxford.
- ***Meet the Old Dux takes place in the *Battle of Britain* exhibition from 11am on both Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September.*** Members of the Old Dux will be chatting about their experiences serving at RAF Duxford and will take questions from visitors.

Veteran biographies:

- **Basil Gowling, MBE** joined the RAF as a trainee pilot in 1951. He trained in Canada and then flew on Gloster Meteors. He was posted to 65 Squadron at RAF Duxford from 1954 to 1956 and continued flying fighter aircraft until 1964, including a term on Hawker Hunters. Basil was later appointed Flight Commander on a Vulcan Squadron and was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air in 1973. He was awarded the MBE in 1977. He retired as a Wing Commander in 1989, after 38 years of service.
- **Les Millgate** joined the RAF aged 18 and after two years' training was posted to No.64 Squadron at Duxford in September 1952. He served two tours with No.64 Squadron and left Duxford in 1958. After leaving the RAF, Les became an airline pilot. After he retired, he returned to IWM Duxford as a volunteer and as a member of Duxford's veterans society, the Old Dux Association.
- **Mike Robins** was a Chief Technician in the Royal Air Force. Mike joined the RAF in 1955 as an apprentice airframe fitter. As a Chief Technician, Mike served in tours of duty

in Europe, the Far East and the UK. He served as an Airframe Fitter at Duxford from 1958 to 1960. Mike had a distinguished RAF career, teaching at the highest level. He was later an advisor to the Ministry of Defence and worked at British Aerospace on the first production of the Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR1.

- **Peter Clay** was posted to Duxford on completion of his Boy Entrant's training one week short of his 17th birthday in 1958. Peter says: *"it was a magical world to a young man."* Peter was an engine fitter, working on the Gloster Meteors of 64 Squadron and the Hawker Hunters of 65 Squadron. As Peter remembered: *"the mixture of...people was unbelievable from old wartime men to national service men and even auxiliary air force men..."* Peter was posted to 64 Squadron as Meteors were replaced by Gloster Javelins. Peter moved from Duxford in 1961 to serve across the world in the RAF.
- **Stan Dell** joined the RAF in 1957 at the age of 17. Stan was posted to Duxford, aged 18, as a Ground Equipment Mechanic on Station Flight. He was posted to 65 Squadron and spent over three years at Duxford, serving on three detachments to Cyprus flying on de Havilland Comets, Blackburn Beverleys and Bristol Britannias. When Duxford closed in 1961, Stan was posted to 56 Squadron at Wattisham but it didn't have the special atmosphere of Duxford and he was pleased to be demobbed.

Of his time at Duxford, Stan says: *"Duxford was a fighter station with a big hitting history, already becoming legendary. Everyone who served here until it closed had either served or grown up during the war. We were conscious of being in an air force that was still run by heroes and our station commanders were all wartime fighter pilots."*

- **Mike Hursey** served as a Machine Operator at RAF Duxford under National Service from 1956 to 1958. When he was demobilised in 1958, Mike worked for MOD Woolwick on a secret project called Yellow Fever, a mechanical computer which controlled a Bofors Gun.
- **David Brown** served at RAF Duxford from 1959 to 1961 under National Service. David was an Acting Corporal Nursing Attendant (Medic).

Exciting activities across the museum at The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters

In addition to *Meet the Old Dux*, there is a wide range of exciting activities across the museum at The Duxford Air Show, including:

- Musical entertainment from the RAF Wyton Band and nostalgic 1940s-style performers The Bluebird Belles.
- Living history groups representing the Royal Air Force and the Home Front during the Second World War.
- Talks by Colonel Richard Graham about flying the SR-71 Blackbird, next to the aircraft he flew.
- A cutting-edge Boeing Insitu ScanEagle, displayed in the *American Air Museum* by kind permission of Boeing. The ScanEagle is an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Unmanned Air Vehicle, designed to launch and recover without the need of an airstrip.
- A large-scale model of a B-29 Superfortress aircraft, which visitors can have a go at building.

- A Meet the Fighters enclosure, where visitors can get up close to a replica Supermarine Spitfire and an authentic North American P-51 Mustang.
- All flying is subject to weather, serviceability and operational commitments.
- Tickets for The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters must be booked in advance; no on the day tickets are available. Tickets are now on sale at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/events/iwm-duxford/airshows/2016/the-duxford-air-show>

Ticket Prices

Ticket prices for The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters (Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September)

- To purchase tickets go online to: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/events/iwm-duxford/airshows/2016/the-duxford-air-show>

Day Ticket

Adult (16 years and over)	£29.50
Child (5 – 15 years)	£19
Child (under 5)	Free
Disabled Visitor (Proof of disability allowance required)	£19
Carer (One free Carer ticket per disabled visitor)	Free
Family (two adults, up to three children)	£83
Parking charge	£5

Weekend Ticket

Adult (16 years and over)	£42.50
Child (5-15 years)	£28
Child (under 5)	Free
Disabled Visitor (Proof of disability allowance required)	£28
Carer (One free Carer ticket per disabled visitor)	Free
Family (two adults, up to three children)	£120.35
Parking charge	£10

Group Tickets

Groups of 10 or more paying visitors. To book, call the Box Office on 01223 499 353, open from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Ticket prices for Groups 10+ (per person)

Adult	£24.25
Child (5-15 years)	£15.60
Disabled Visitor (Proof of disability allowance required)	£15.60
Gold Pass Group	£75
Registered Tour Guide	Free

(one per group Parking Charge (Vehicle 10-35 seats inc driver)	£10
Parking Charge (Vehicle over 40 seats inc driver)	£15

It is also possible to purchase, in advance, tickets for the seating enclosure at The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighters (£5 per day; £10 for a weekend seating enclosure ticket) and The Duxford Air Show: Meet the Fighter souvenir programme (£6 per programme).

IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War. Its story reflects the landmark achievements made in aviation history. IWM Duxford is Europe's premier aviation museum, where historic buildings intersperse with state-of-the-art exhibition halls, including AirSpace and the American Air Museum. Historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Through the rich displays of aircraft and the powerful stories of the men and women involved, we tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war, on people's lives and on the social and economic history of the region. With one of the finest collections of tanks, military vehicles and artillery in the UK, we also show the impact of technological development on war and conflict.

Open Daily:

Summer 2016: 12 March to late October 10am to 6pm. Last entry at 5pm.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country. For more information visit www.1914.org

