

## **Historic images released by MoD to mark Royal Air Force centenary**

To mark the centenary of the Royal Air Force, the world's first independent air force, the (UK) Ministry of Defence have brought together a series of impressive photographs, showing the development of the Service, and its people, across the years.

The images in the collection, offer an amazing insight into the RAF, showing snapshots of the people and equipment that have enabled successful operations from the air over the last century.

Harland Quarrington the MOD's Chief Photographer offered his thoughts: *'This was truly a challenging but hugely rewarding task, often it proved massively difficult to identify the history of an image. In many cases a tail number, or Squadron crest would be the only clues, but we stuck at it and with the help of our RAF friends managed to finalise this wonderful package – we are very proud of the results and of the Royal Air Force.'*

Here we publish with grateful thanks to the MOD media service and the Air Historical Branch a representative selection of the pictures showing the first half century of the RAF.

Picture captions

### ***RAF 100 A DDC-45163760***

*WAAF plotters pictured at work in the underground Operations Room at HQ Fighter Command, Bentley Priory, NW London. A senior officer studies the unfolding events from the viewing deck above.*

*Photo: MOD Crown Copyright 2018 ©.*

### ***RAF 100 B Image: DDC-45163717***

*Pictured is Squadron Commander EH Dunning attempting to land his Sopwith Pup (N6453) on the flight deck of HMS Furious for the second time on 7 August 1917, five days after his first success.*

*Photo: MOD Crown Copyright 2018 ©.*

### ***RAF 100 C Image: DDC-45163636***

*Image of de Havilland Mosquito FB.VIs of 248 Squadron attacking a German 'M' Class minesweeper and two trawler-type auxiliaries in the mouth of the Gironde River, off Royan, France, on 12 August 1944. Bombs can be seen straddling the vessel, which later blew up.*

*Photo: MOD Crown Copyright 2018 ©.*

***RAF 100 D Image: DDC-45163619***

*The Coronation Review of the Royal Air Force by HM Queen Elizabeth II celebrating her coronation early that year.*

*Photo: MOD Crown Copyright 2018 ©.*

***RAF 100 E DDC-45163617***

*Pictured for the 20th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 1960 is a unique line-up of RAF fighters from the Battle of Britain to the present day (in 1960).*

*Photo: MOD Crown Copyright 2018 ©.*