



FEBRUARY 2015



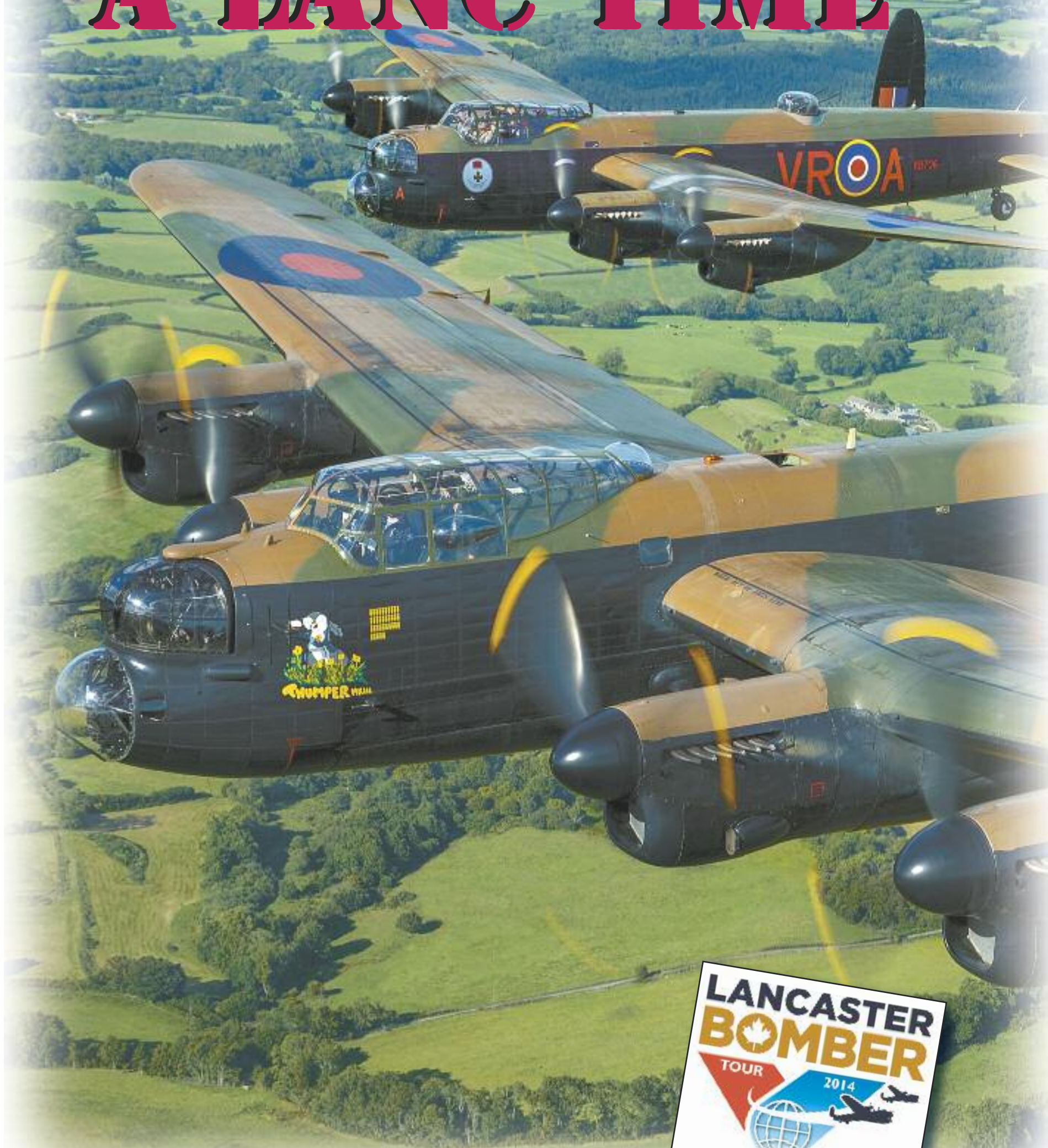
Flightlines

A PUBLICATION OF CANADIAN WARPLANE HERITAGE MUSEUM



Mailed by
Canadian Warplane
Heritage Museum,
9280 Airport Road,
Mount Hope, Ontario, L0R 1W0

ONCE IN A LANC TIME



The RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster (Thumper) flies in formation with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Lancaster (Vera) over England last summer.

Photo: John Dibbs

TESTIMONIALS

from Vera's United Kingdom tour

We would like to express our delight at seeing "Vera" visiting the UK. She was based at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, 300 yards from our back garden. We saw her arrive and depart, and many times in between, we wish them a safe return, with happy memories of our village.

The Corgi model of "Vera" is fantastic and has given great delight and envy to friends and family. The crew members were very interesting to talk with. Please pass on our thanks and best wishes.

Keith & Norma Pitts



I would like to offer my personal thank you to every member of Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum for the magnificent achievement of the Lancaster 2014 UK Tour, now coming to a close as 'Vera', her crew, and all the ground support make their way home to Canada.

From aircrew, to engineers, to executive staff, support staff manning the souvenir truck and those left behind in Canada to keep things running normally at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, it is clear that you have all 'gone that extra mile' to make it all happen.

To fly across the ocean, in such a valuable and rare aircraft, to operate her so safely and magnificently alongside the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (to whom we also owe so much gratitude), to clock up so many hours and to then fly home via the same multi leg route is a magnificent aviation achievement, of which you should all be justifiably very proud.

Real old fashioned flying, in a real old fashioned aeroplane, kept going by real old fashioned engineering. To have to cope with a No. 4 engine change as well, and to get 'Vera' airborne again so quickly, shows dedication above and beyond all expectation. Awesome.

To those of us so keenly following your exploits here in the UK from when you first appeared on radar, inbound, it seems like you've been here so much longer than you have. Through your efforts we have almost become accustomed to the sight and sound of two Lancasters in our skies, and the sound of eight Merlins.

Along the way, 'VERA' has in a way become 'ours', as have all of you and as you head for home we shall genuinely miss not just your magnificent aeroplane, but all of you as well.

My personal highlight will be standing on the tall dunes at the end of Blackpool Airport's main runway, watching two Lancs approach over the shore, dark clouds behind, sunlight filtering from above and reflecting off the wings as they banked to starboard, then the roar of eight Merlins as both aircraft passed no more than 50 feet above...

For a moment it brought home the power of Bomber Command, it brought home the effort and the sacrifice. It brought home memories of exploring the old 6 Group RCAF aerodromes in Yorkshire, it made me grateful for my freedom and safety. Very emotional. Something that will be replaying in my mind for a very long time to come.

As the season comes to a close, the weather closes in, the Lancasters go into their winter servicing and overhaul and the UK skies will seem strangely quiet. The sound of those Merlins will never fade though, so looking forward, in a few years it is likely that we will see NX611, 'Just Jane' take to the air again...

Would you come back again and make it three Lan-

casters in the air together? Wouldn't that be something?

Please... think about it. At the moment, that's all we can ask, but with enough warning, if you needed volunteers to help out... shall I start the queue now?

In the meantime, we look forward to the DVD documentary of the tour. I also heard rumour of a book? (*Editor's note – there will be a book*).

Please ensure there are enough copies for us in the UK, they will be 'must buys' for so many.

To us, your visit has been a privilege. We are enormously grateful. We are very proud to have seen you.

Tim Dean

Lancashire, UK



Firstly, thank you so much for sending Vera to us. Wow! Words can hardly express how my wife and I felt when we saw her and Thumper fly together at Dunsfold at the end of August. Tears in eye, lump in throat, etc., etc.!

I was a crew member on a RAF Puma helicopter acting as photo camera-ship tasked with carrying official RAF photographers to record the arrival of Vera at RAF Coningsby on August 4.

Thanks again for bringing her here – what a sight! Perhaps Thumper can return the honour sometime?

Steph Seale-Finch (Flt Lt, RAF)

PS. My deceased father, (Cpl Vernon S Finch, 553375), served at Mount Hope from 1943 - 45 and lived in Caledonia.



I just wanted to say how wonderful it was to see the Canadian Lancaster fly alongside our British Lancaster here in England. I saw them at Southport Air Show and despite low cloud, it was still something I will never forget.

My father, Allan Holgate, is Canadian, born in Greenfield Park, Montreal and he volunteered for the RCAF at 18 years of age during WWII. He was stationed over here at RAF Linton-on-Ouse and was chief mechanic. He worked on the Lancasters until they were replaced with the Halifax bombers when the Lancasters were sent down South (Linton is in Yorkshire).

Two weeks ago, we took him to a Canadian memorial service at Allerton Castle, near Ripon, North Yorkshire (where Dad lives in a Royal British Legion home). The Lancasters were supposed to fly past but unfortunately the weather let us down and the flypast was cancelled, much to Dad's great disappointment.

However, he wore his medals and enjoyed the day and was featured on our local television news program.

He is almost 91 years of age and suffers from severe dementia, but can still tell his story about the war with great clarity. He loved the Lancaster and the Halifax and was always sad that there isn't a working Halifax left.

We used to take him to see the non-flying Halifax at Elvington War Museum at York but he is too frail now to travel far. He was most disappointed that he couldn't go to Southport with us to see the Lancasters there, but it is a two hour journey and too much for Dad.

I hope your Lancaster has a safe journey back to Canada. I've been over several times to visit Dad's family there and think it's a lovely country.

Maureen Dowson

I felt I must make my own personal thank you for bringing your magnificent Lancaster to the UK this summer. I, along with my wife, my two children, one of eight years and one of four years of age watched in awe at the arrival of Vera and Thumper to the Combined Ops show at Headcorn Aerodrome in Kent.

As a huge fan of the Avro Lancaster, I knew that seeing two flying together would be a sight not to miss, and we were not disappointed.

Nothing prepared me for the feeling of emotion upon hearing and seeing these two amazing planes together. I stood watching and recording the display, but could also see other adults standing close to me wiping tears from their eyes like I was. A combination of reflection, memorial, and feeling lucky to be there!

Vera's presence in the UK this summer has been a dream come true for me, and I'm sure for many hundreds of other enthusiasts here.

I closely followed Vera's flight both here to the UK, and her return journey back to Hamilton on Flight Radar 24 and Plane Finder, and it was great to be able to keep an eye on her journey, making sure Vera and her crew was safe at all times.

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all of the crew, and the rest of the staff and ground crew that made this fantastic tour happen.

I hope one day the people of Canada can also see two Lancasters fly together.

I feel privileged to have witnessed such a spectacle in the skies, memories that will stay with me forever.

Duncan Prebble



When the idea of bringing Vera over to visit us and tour with PA474 originated, did you realize the amount of support and attention your team and aircraft would attract? When I first heard you were coming I thought it would be popular but I have been surprised and humbled by the amount of interest these two aircraft have attracted over here.

I would like personally to give a massive thank you for all the hard work and time you've all put into making this six weeks possible. Every person who has watched will never forget.

Thank you for sharing the last six weeks of Vera's life with us and I hope your team over here have enjoyed being the superstars they have been. You've all – CWHM, BBMF RAF & Linc's Aviation – paid a fitting tribute to each and every one of the 55,500-plus lost souls from Bomber Command.

John Kirk



You have made many new friends here and I will hope most of them, including me, will stay in touch with you when you return home. I would like to thank the sales team, the pilots and everyone connected to Vera a huge thank you for allowing us in England and other islands you have been to, to see the Lancaster in the air over our skies. You have made many people happy and I for one will like to wish you all a safe trip when you depart these shores and fly home to loved ones, taking our hospitality and love with you and much, much more.

John Robert Meugens



Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Flightlines

PUBLISHED BY



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Photo: John Dibbs

Thank you to each and every one of you for bringing your Lancaster to the UK. The sight and sound of the pair of Lances has been a wonderful and at times emotional sight. I attended as many events as possible but one small flypast by the Lancasters over Ludford Magna whilst returning to Coningsby seemed to encapsulate just what debt we owe to our respective veterans.

The surviving veterans of 101 Squadron which was based at Ludford Magna gathered together to watch the flypast and to see the emotions in their eyes and faces was truly humbling.

Phil Chester
Nottinghamshire, UK



Iam just sending you all my heartfelt gratitude for allowing your Lancaster to grace our skies in the UK, along with our Lancaster, it has been a most truly brilliant summer.

My late father was a tail-end-Charlie in Lances in WWII, sadly he passed away before he could see this great tour, but I know he would have been so proud.

My son and I were lucky enough to view Vera close up and meet some of your crew, for which we will be forever grateful.

Once again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and send you all our love and hope that one day we will all meet again.

Sheelagh Dower



Iwould just like to say a big warm thank you to you all. My Great Uncle Sam flew with 12 Squadron and we know very little about him (my Nana never spoke about him, too upset Bless) apart from he never came home so I have kept his memory alive through the Lancaster and thanks to you and the BBMF the next two generations can carry his memory forward.

We travelled from West Yorkshire on the day you arrived and we saw you from a distance due to our English weather but we saw you and we were so proud. We then went to Southport on the 20th for my daughter's 13th and my son's 18th birthdays and we thought the weather would spoil the day but no, there you were with Thumper and I cried from the minute I saw you until the minute you left. Thank you ever so much for the memories. Safe journey home and we will never forget.

Sharon Beaumont

From the desk of the President and CEO

"Once in a Lanc Time"

Over the last several months since the return of our own Canadian Lancaster "VRA", affectionately now known as "VeRA", we have all had some time to reflect on the considerable achievement and success of this special tour and "Act of Remembrance". Looking back I can remember the myriad of meetings, discussions, pre-planning sessions, and the very serious deliberations about whether we could successfully complete this Trans-Atlantic mission.

While many members and supporters of the museum were quite positive about the possible tour, there were a few dissenters that made their objections known. As result of this opposition I felt responsible to carefully and thoroughly re-evaluate the plan to take "VRA" to the UK.

As part of my review I made a

personal call to the individual who many will regard as the cornerstone of the Lancaster restoration project, Mr. Norm Etheridge. When I asked Norm for his thoughts and opinions about the possible tour, without hesitation Norm said "Dave – why do you think we restored her?"

It was then that I knew it was the right decision for the right reasons, at the right time and place, with the right people; and as they say "the rest is history".

In closing I am very proud of everyone at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, whether on the "Tour Team" or the "Home Team". Together we made the "Once in a Lanc Time" tribute possible in recognition of those who gave so much for our great nation!! Well done.

Per Ardua ad Astra
Dave Rohrer



Iwould just like to say a huge thank you to all involved in bringing 'Vera' to the UK and my home, Jersey, this summer. The BBMF are always special to see for me as I see them as a tribute to my parents (now deceased) who were both ground crew in the RAF in WWII based at RAF Lindholme.

To see Vera with them this year made it extra special and I am eternally grateful to you. Once again, a huge thank you and I sincerely hope she makes it back safely to her home in Canada.

Andy Lane
Jersey, Channel Islands



I'd like to thank everyone for sending Vera over to England. It made my year seeing her with Thumper and the BBMF and especially seeing the two Avros

with Vulcan XH558 and then the three Lances event with NX611 Just Jane. A truly memorable summer that couldn't have happened without Vera. Thank you again.

Vicki Teresa Corcoran



Thank you for all you have done over the summer period. I've been to many air shows this year and travelled a few miles doing so, including Sunday 21st September. If you remember, my friend and I had a long drive up to the Derwent Dam and then met you all at Petwood Hotel.

It was a good day and thank you for your time – it made our day seeing you guys in the flesh, not forgetting the breathtaking moments from all the fly pasts.

God bless you all and a very safe trip back home.

Jamie Burton

ONCE IN A LANC TIME

Vera's United Kingdom tour



At left:

The much anticipated original departure date of August 4th from Hamilton was delayed by one day due to a finicky #2 engine that just wouldn't start. The crew worked tirelessly into the early hours of the next day to have it ready. Photo: Al Mickeloff



There was no way the crew were going to get lost on this trip. Upgrades for the trip included a brand new Garmin 796 as well as a transponder mode S, HF radio, satellite phone and narrow band VHF to name a few. Now is that the Grand River or the St. Lawrence River? Photo: Matthew Munson



A sight to behold! No one ever thought it would happen. Photo: Darren Harbar



Every
VeRA
Memor



There wasn't much time off and the days were long for the Retail and Marketing crew, but they did stop for a few minutes to visit a castle. Photo: via Keith Clifford



Above:
During a local flight from Durham Tees Airport, the supercharger in the #4 engine let go. Photo: Richard Levett

At right:
The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight stepped in and loaned us a Merlin, and the crew had the engine changed and operational in 4 days! Photo: David Thompson



Above:
While many people were involved in the tour to make it a success, it wouldn't have happened without Dunc Mason (left) and the support of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight as well as Richard Lake (right). Without Richard's initial vision, the tour wouldn't have taken place. Photo: Al Mickeloff

At left:
A spectacular view of the BBMF Lancaster from Andrew Mynarski's position, the mid-upper gun turret. Photo: Al Mickeloff



Three Lancasters at East Kirkby – Just Jane, Thumper and VeRA. Photo: Steve Kirk





After a little more than an 8 hour flight from Goose Bay, the crew were relieved to touch down at Keflavik, Iceland. Photo: Martin Keen



August 8th, arrival day at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – the weather didn't want to cooperate, but the crew managed to find a hole in the weather and land at a rain-drenched Coningsby. They were rewarded with the opportunity to meet many Bomber Command Veterans on hand for our arrival. Photo: Keith Clifford



Airshow appearance featuring both Lancasters, Thumper in the lead and following, also included the accompaniment of two Battle of Britain fighters. Photo: Daniel Kennedy



At left:
Our Retailer Trailer travelled many miles attending airshows. By the time the tour was over, pretty much everything had sold out.

Below:
The Retail Trailer at the Bournemouth Airshow, one of the many seaside airshows it attended. Sales were brisk at every show, especially Duxford. Photos: Keith Clifford



Above:
Vulcan leads both Lancasters in formation. Photo: John Dibbs

At left:
Many donations were received to help pay for the damaged engine including one from the Lincolnshire Lancaster Association for \$10,695 – the number representing the number of Canadians who lost their lives in Bomber Command. Photo: Mick Fox

Below:
Gala in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight hangar. What an evening! Photo: John Goodman



At left:
The visit to Durham Tees Airport (known as Middleton St. George) was especially emotional, being the former base for 419 RCAF Squadron and the entire Mynarski crew. A flypast by the Lancaster over the Andrew Mynarski statue took place during a poignant ceremony. Photo: Keith Clifford



Andrew Scoley created this message in a stubble field near RAF Waddington for the Lancaster's journey home. Photo: Tim Taylor

At right:
Sadly, the tour had to come to an end. VeRA lead the departure formation from Coningsby, escorted by Thumper, two Spitfires and two Hurricanes. What a sound and sight and a few tears! Photo: John Goodman



Testimonials

• continued from page 3

I'd just like to say thank you and that it's been an immense privilege to have you and your Lancaster visit us here in England. I've seen you fly four times and will hopefully make it five at Southport on Sunday. Each time, I've had a lump in my throat, a tear in my eye and heart full of pride.

I bought some merchandise at East Kirkby in the hope that my small contribution may go some way to offsetting the unplanned cost of your mechanical problems. I would like to wish you a safe journey home. And finally I'd just like to say... 'Don't leave us'.

Gareth Williams



How do I begin to say thank you. From 1985 - 1990, I was on the BBMF Lancaster and the sight of your beautiful aeroplane flying in perfect formation with BBMF will be a memory I will cherish for the rest of my days.

Many thanks and I wish you continued success with all you aim to achieve.

Steve Kingman
Chief Engineer, Grace Spitfire



You have done Vera, all who have flown in her and all those who shared her time in MSG both in the present and in the past, very proud. The time was right for this adventure. I am glad we all have shared in it.

Thank you for making the dream of one grateful engineer come true. Our family has been watching your adventures every day on the tour website. The outpouring of affection for Vera and Thumper was palpable and that has touched Norman in such a special way.

You created a memory for so many both in Canada and the UK that will last long after Vera has retired and for that you should be extremely proud and satisfied.

Thank you again.

Phil Etheridge
Son of Norm Etheridge,
Chief Engineer, Restoration of Vera



I wondered if you could pass my thanks on to your respective teams and crews of the Lancaster bombers. We attended the Flying Proms at the Shuttleworth collection yesterday in the UK. The display by the two Lancasters was absolutely outstanding! Whoever proposed this idea should get the highest praise. Once again, brilliant concept and so professionally delivered. Well done to all.

Wayne Allen



I have just returned from the Dawlish Airshow in Devon and just wanted to say a big "thank you" to you for sending Vera over to the UK. The moment when the two Lancs appeared accompanied by the BBMF's Spitfire and Hurricane was just magical – the restrained and reserved British crowd broke into applause and cheered! Rather pointless as the aircrew couldn't hear, but we did anyway.

I can't imagine what it has cost to bring her over, but believe me it's worth every penny (or cent). The moment was very emotional – I've never heard 10 Merlins before and the sound was unbelievable. Once again, a superb event which we'll never forget.

Phil Webb



Congratulations on FM213's flight to Coningsby last week, a truly inspiring and fantastic achievement by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum! We are really looking forward to seeing her fly with the BBMF Lanc over the next six weeks.

Ian Thirsk
Head of Collections
Royal Air Force Museum London



Recently I have been to Eastbourne, Beachy Head and saw the awesome sight of two Lancs, plus two Spitfires come off the head at low level over the sea/bay towards me. It reminded me of the film "Dambusters" when the Lancs dropped onto the Moehne Dam and flew across the lake, towards the camera, totally "spine chilling."

Not satisfied with one air display, I went to former RCAF base at Dunsfold Surrey, to "Wings & Wheels" yesterday, where we had the same tremendous display.

Now I was standing at the flight line in rows of spectators 25 deep. When the balbo was sighted a deep silence fell over the crowd and everyone just listened and watched in complete quietness. I have never seen any aircraft display ever achieve that effect.

We had six beautifully executed passes of Vera and Thumper with and without Spitfire/Hurricane escort. I looked around the crowd alongside and there were veterans of WWII with tears running down their faces, overcome with emotion, all of us silently in awe and respect for the memory of the brave, injured and fallen of Bomber Command crews from UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Empire.

The effect of the display cannot really be described; words such as "awesome," "tremendous," "spine chilling" and "epic" come to mind.

Now I would like to thank Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, its members, supporters and sponsors, and the much respected Canadian peoples for maintaining and sustaining your Lancaster and graciously allowing it to fly with us for a season. It will be sorely missed on its return.

As our commentators said, it is the experience of a lifetime to see it, and is certainly one in my 67 years of plane watching – unique and unforgettable. I shall be going to more shows to see it again (and again) before they return. I hope one day to visit it on its home ground (and get a ride).

Robin Dawson



Yesterday I left home at 7 a.m. and spent over three hours standing on crowded trains and stations before arriving at the packed seaside town of Dawlish, where I stood for a further eight hours in various uncomfortable places before eventually finding

a seat on the return train at around 8:15 p.m. I crawled into bed around 10:30 pm.

Thankfully today was Sunday, as all I have left is the energy and constitution of a wet lettuce. I'm not looking forward to work tomorrow. It was all your fault!

The price of my red panda sunburnt face and every aching bone and sinew was more than worth it to witness the unique and all too brief sight and sound of our beloved Lancaster in company with your beautiful Vera.

I never dreamed that I would see two Lancs in the air together – even during the course of the day standing hot, tired and sore through displays which held no interest for me, it was almost too much to hope for that it would actually happen – too many variables, any one of which could ruin the day.

But I have that treasured memory now, filed among the most special moments of my life.

Mere words are painfully inadequate to express the emotions these two splendid old ladies aroused as they flew into view along the coast – the spontaneous applause from tens of thousands of spectators cannot be captured on 'paper.'

So proud and pristine with the sunlight gleaming on their wings, so perfectly displayed in their formation, the symphony of the Merlins in the ears, the triumph of Vera's epic voyage to join us. I couldn't stop the tears – which explains why all my photos are blurred, didn't get one decent picture – but I've got the memory.

A whole weekend's worth of time dedicated and condensed into that 10 minutes of perfection, even to the extent of thinking the unthinkable thought of wishing the Spitfire and Hurricane would stop 'wasting' our precious time and bring the two stars back, the rarity of rarities. Wow.

So, inadequate as words are, I'd just like to say a huge heartfelt, enormous, gigantic – the most massive you could possibly ever imagine – thank you to everyone involved in sharing Vera with us. We love her.

May she always have blue skies and always come safe home.



I have been lucky enough to have been able to spend some time inside Hangar 1 at Teesside Airport since Saturday when your engineers first started working on the Number 4 engine. From a personal point of view, I have to say that your engineers have performed a minor miracle with so limited resources and so far from home that I cannot speak highly enough of them. They are without doubt an asset to your museum!

David Thompson



I just wanted to drop you a short note to say a big 'thank you' to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, supporting organizations, ground staff and brilliant crew for the wonderful UK Tour of your beautiful Lancaster.

I thought I was going to be in the wrong place at the wrong time for the whole tour, but at the very last minute managed to catch up at East Kirkby on 14th September. We had a fantastic day and I know that it will be a day etched in the memories of my children too.

The interest, fun and emotion the tour has generated in the UK is amazing and as I write they are still to run the Derwent Dam, which I think may just bring that area of Britain to a standstill, as I suspect there may be more than the half million people who attended for the Dam's Raid 70th last year!

Gutted I can't be there but I volunteered to work today before I knew of arrangements.

Due respect has been paid to all of the brave bomber crews of WWII including Andrew Mynarski VC. Job done! Safe journey home for Vera and her crew.

David Richardson





A spectacular arrival flypast for the many fans gathered at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Photo: Derek Mickeloff



Canadian enthusiasts were excited to see VeRA back home. Photo: Lisa Sharp



Dawn welcomes home her Dad, Leon Evans, after almost two months away. Photo: Lisa Sharp



We raise a bottle to thank our wonderful sponsor for the tour, Thwaites and their Lancaster Bomber Ale. Photo: Derek Mickeloff



Almost all of the the entire UK team were on hand for the arrival back home. A fantastic job well done by both staff and volunteers. Photo: Parr Yonemoto

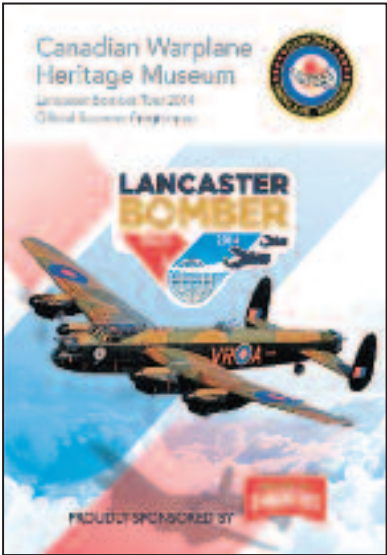


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Lancaster Tour 2014 - Official Souvenir Programme

\$9.99

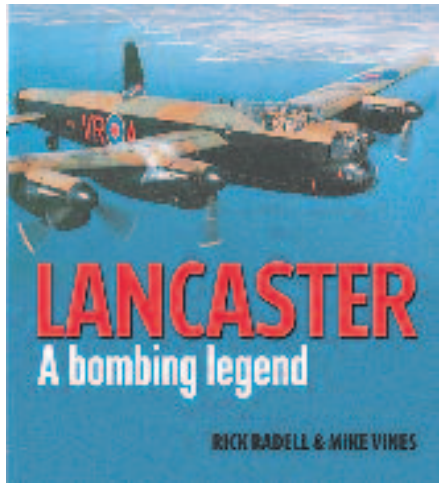
Our 52-page Official Souvenir Programme includes articles about Andrew Mynarski, Ropey, Lancaster Maintenance & In the Cockpit, Our Three Lancasters, History of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, as well as a written and pictorial history of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Avro Lancaster. The Souvenir Programme also features some pretty stunning photography!



"The Three Sisters" Squadron

The print features the BBMF Lancaster, Vulcan XH558 and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Lancaster commemorating the historic Avro bomber flight on August 21, 2014. Size: 16.5" x 11.5".

\$21.99



LANCASTER: A bombing legend

by Rick Radell & Mike Vines

This beautifully photographed softcover book pays tribute to the Avro Lancaster and is packed with full colour photos of the two only flying aircraft. The most impressive pictures feature the aircraft in flight, showing off their distinctive profiles to best advantage. The set of pictures showing the Lancaster in the company with the rest of the Battle of Britain fighters give a really good feel for the relative scale of these classic aircraft. The book contains a section of close-up pictures of the Lancaster, looking at the cockpit, bomb bay, guns and controls, invaluable for anyone looking to model the Lancaster. The final chapter of the book pays tribute to the original crews of the Lancaster, and the enthusiasts who maintain the only two flying survivors. 128 pages.

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Embroidered with the Lancaster Tour 2014 (horizontal logo), our navy blue cap features "Tour 2014" on the adjustable Velcro closure, white and navy sandwich peak and navy eyelets.



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