

## Press release

### A brand-New Spitfire Squadron is being built in Enstone, Oxfordshire

A Squadron of 12 MK26B Spitfires is being built on the former RAF Station at Enstone in Oxfordshire. In this centenary year for the RAF the teams at Enstone are looking to add another 3 Spitfires this year to the three that are already in the hangar.



Above is just one example of what has been achieved so far, a MK26B flying over the Oxfordshire country side.

### A Fitting Tribute

The Spitfires iconic status is due to the tens of thousands of people that were involved in the designing, testing, delivering, maintaining and flying her. No other allied fighter was built the numbers that the Spitfire was (over 22 thousand), it was the only allied fighter to be in continuous production, before, during and after WW2. It became the beacon of hope and defiance in our darkest hours of 1940. We are in the process of recognising this tremendous achievement by building a squadron of 12 MK26B Spitfires that will be displayed at airshows and events all over the UK and Europe and potentially worldwide. With living history players recreating the scene of an real operational squadron during WW2.

Each Spitfire will carry the name or names of significant contributors in this special story. These people have been selected to represent the many thousands of people who were instrumental in creating or flying the Spitfire.

### The Mitchel & Royce Spitfire ([link to more detailed web page](#))

RJ Mitchel (Vickers Supermarine aircraft) and Sir Henry Royce (Rolls Royce) worked together to bring the Spitfire to life, initially this was private venture for both companies, but the Air ministry were quick to recognise a significantly important aircraft and promptly ordered 300!

### The Joe Smith Spitfire ([link to more detailed web page](#))

Not many have heard of Joe Smith but it is our belief that it was Joe and his team that made the Spitfire into the icon it has become. His team were responsible for the 24 marks of spitfire

### The Alex Henshaw Spitfire ([link to a more detailed web page](#))

Alex flew more Spitfires than another person, testing the newly manufactured Spits from Castle Bromwich and many other places. Often Henshaw flew repaired Spitfires from the Cowley works at Oxford, inverted to check all the repair debris felt out, he also barrel rolled Lancaster Bombers!

### The Molly Rose Spitfire ([link to a more detailed web page](#))

A local girl who delivered Spitfires to the operational units around the country

### The Dowding & Park Spitfire ([link to a more detailed web page](#))










Dowding was without doubt responsible for changing the tide of WW2, without his forethought it is likely that the battle of Britain would have had a very different outcome. Park was responsible for the defence of Southeast England his strategies saved our bacon.

**The Bob Doe Spitfire** ([link to a more detailed web page](#))

One our favourite fighter pilots, typically unassuming and not afraid to say how he felt. A true hero in our opinion.

**National tribute Spitfires**

9 Spitfires will pay tribute to the Pilots from the allied nations who formed Spitfire Squadrons during WW2 they are listed below. It is our intention to collate and record every single member of the squadrons that these pilots flew with, plus all the sponsors and construction team names on a scroll, to be sealed in a time capsule and secured to the inside the MK26b Spitfire.

<b>South Africa</b>	Lieutenant Brian John Lister "Piggy" Boyle	
<b>Australia</b>	Group Captain Clive Robertson Caldwell	
<b>Belgium</b>	Squadron Leader Lucien Adolphe Boussa	
<b>United States</b>	Major General Carroll W. McColpin	
<b>Czechoslovakia</b>	Captain Alois Vašátko	
<b>Poland</b>	Stanisław Skalski	
<b>Free French</b>	Pierre Henri Clostermann	
<b>Canada</b>	Group Captain Robert Wendell "Buck" McNair	
<b>New Zealand</b>	Air Vice Marshal William Vernon "Bill" Crawford Compton	

## Spitfire fund 2018

With your help we aim to raise the £660K to build the next 3 spitfires by resurrecting the Spitfire funds that were tremendously successful during the dark days of WW2, whole communities and organizations came together the raise funds to sponsor a Spitfire.



1940



2018

Below, an example of the graphical representation of each of the tribute Spitfires

## THE DOWDING & PARK SPITFIRE MK.26B



### AIR CHIEF MARSHAL HUGH CASWALL TREMENHEERE DOWDING

Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding led RAF Fighter Command throughout the Battle of Britain, and was the main architect of its successful resistance against the Luftwaffe attacks. His major contribution was to marshal resources behind the scenes (including replacement aircraft and aircrew) and to maintain a significant fighter reserve, while leaving his subordinate commanders largely free to run the Battle in detail. Though not a charismatic man, it is thanks in no small measure to him that Britain's darkest hour was transformed into its finest hour.

### AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR KEITH PARK

Air Vice Marshal Keith Park took command of the RAF's No. 11 Group, responsible for the fighter defence of London and southeast England, in April 1940. He organized fighter patrols over France during the Dunkirk evacuation, and during the Battle of Britain his command took the brunt of the Luftwaffe's air attacks. While Sir Hugh Dowding controlled the Battle from day to day, it was Keith Park who controlled it hour by hour. By war's end he had helped to win two of its most significant air battles, the Battle of Britain and the Battle of Malta.

### PILOT OFFICER FRANK WEBSTER

Frank Webster was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1939 and joined No. 610 Squadron at Biggin Hill on 28th July 1940. He flew his first operational sortie on the 24 August 1940. Two days later the squadron flew to RAF Hawkinge. During their second scramble of the day, they were met by Messerschmitt Bf 109Es of Jagdgeschwader 52 at 20,000 feet over Folkestone. Frank Webster was shot down during the ensuing dogfight and was seen by eye-witnesses on the ground to fall vertically from 20,000 feet, crashing in flames. He was 26-years old.



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