

## NAL Sound Archive

The National Aerospace Library (as described in *AEROSPACE* January 2020 pp 50-51) is developing an aeronautical sound archive based on historical sound recordings held in the Library's archives which have been recently digitalised and are being released in batches via the Royal Aeronautical Society's SoundCloud site, alongside the Society's podcasts of current lectures.

The National Aerospace Library Sound Archive is a real 'Who's Who' of aviation personalities and historical subjects based on original recordings held in the Library's archives and is available to listen to via the Royal Aeronautical Society's SoundCloud website:

[www.aerosociety.com/podcast](http://www.aerosociety.com/podcast)

Included among the latest releases are a 2006 sound recording of Dr Don Richardson HonFAIAA HonFRAeS in which he recounts on the parallel evolution of the Hiller X-18/Fairchild C-123 – the specific link to the video/sound recording is (just click on the arrow button to 'Play'):

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/audio-classic-lecture-series-from-glanders-to-jets-the-insiders-guide-to-the-hiller-x-18-the-fairchild-c-123-by-dr-don-richardson-hon-fraes/>

Dr Richardson's lecture has been released alongside recordings of a 2007 lecture by Sir Brian Burridge FRAeS in which he reviews the future direction of air power requirements and a 2009 lecture by Gordon Bruce FRAeS in which he describes the long aviation history of the Shorts company.

A quick link to the historic lectures and speeches available so far (including Sir Frederick Handley Page, Igor Sikorsky, Jeffrey Quill, Peter Twiss, Charles H Gibbs-Smith, Andrew Brookes, Silvius Dornier, Sir Richard Glazebrook, Commander Graeme Rowan-Thomson, Keith Hayward, Sir Dermot Boyle, Philip Wills, Chris Yeo, Captain John Cecil Kelly-Rogers, Col Al Worden, Peter Hearne, Sir George Edwards, John Farley, A W 'Bill' Bedford, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Christopher Bartlett, Andy Sephton, Dr Ron Smith, A R Collar, Sir Vernon Brown, Air Commodore F R 'Rod' Banks, L S Snaith, Peter Reese, Mike Hirst, Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert de La Ferte, Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard,



*Top: The sole Hiller X-18, 57-3078, experimental tilt-wing aircraft is described by Dr Don Richardson in a 2006 lecture. RAeS (NAL).*

*Above: Scott Crossfield in the cockpit of the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket after the first Mach 2 flight in 1953. NASA.*

(Sir Peter Masefield, Alan Mulally, Sir Charles Masefield and Sir Ralph Robins) is:

<https://soundcloud.com/aerosociety-podcast/sets/classic-lecture-series>

A quick link to the extended interviews available so far (including interviews with Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown, Chuck Yeager, Scott Crossfield, Handel Davies, Al White, Bill Humble, Pete Knight, Dick Johnson, Philip Lucas, Peter Bugge, Col Emil 'Ted' Sturmthal, Harald Penrose, John Morton, D P Davies, Jeffrey Quill, John Cunningham, Sir Barnes Wallis, R A C Brie, Sir Harry Ricardo, Clayton Knight, Henry Knowler, Mike Savage, Hugh Dibley, Sir Geoffrey de Havilland and Col Joe Kittinger) is:

<https://soundcloud.com/aerosociety-podcast/sets/an-interview-with>

For example, the interviews with Captain Eric Brown and Sir Barnes Wallis are available to listen to via the following links:

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/audio-the-capt-e-brown-interview/>

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/audio-the-sir-barnes-wallis-interview/>

In addition, historic sound recordings from a 1959 BBC radio series have also been added to the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive.

Produced for BBC Overseas Service by R A Symes-Schutzmann, the radio documentary series was a group of talks on the development of British aviation broadcast by BBC External Services in 1959 in the series 'English Talks for Asia'.

With the programmes linked by Charles Gibbs-

Smith, they include recordings of Lord Brabazon, Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, Major G P Bulman, Sir Harold Roxbee Cox, Sir Graham Sutton, Sir Alan Cobham, Captain O P Jones, ACM Sir Alec Coryton, Hayne Constant, Sir Robert Watson-Watt, A A Lombard, Sir George Edwards, Captain John Cunningham and Geoffrey Hall discussing the development of British aviation from their own personal perspectives.

All six episodes in the series – based on the original recordings held in the archives of the National Aerospace Library – are now available to listen to via the Royal Aeronautical Society's SoundCloud website:

[www.aerosociety.com/podcast](http://www.aerosociety.com/podcast)

The specific link to the recordings is as follows (just click on the arrow button to 'Play'):

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/audio-archive-recording-powered-flight-the-british-contribution-to-flying>

Sound recordings of six lectures by leading aviation historians Dr Peter Jakab, Dr Richard Hallion, Dr John Ackroyd, Philip Jarrett, Gordon Bruce and Professor D I A Poll describing the achievements of the Wright brothers and the early development of aeronautics up to that time have also recently been added to the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive and are also available to listen to via the Royal Aeronautical Society's SoundCloud website:

[www.aerosociety.com/podcast](http://www.aerosociety.com/podcast)

The specific link to the recordings is (just click on the arrow button to 'Play'):

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/audio-classic-lecture-series-the-beginnings-of-powered-flight-the-wright-brothers-contribution-to-aviation/>

All the historic podcasts released via the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive can also now be downloaded for free via iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/aerosociety-podcast/id1216235459?mt=2>

The intention of the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive project is to create a historically significant oral history archive which makes the voices of the past (pilots, engineers, scientists etc) 'alive' once more to inspire and inform current and future generations and the sound archive has attracted a number of favourable comments/interest via social media.



Top: The 1931 RAF High Speed Flight. Left to right: Flt Lt E J Linton Hope, Lt G L Brinton RN, Flt Lt F W Long, Flt Lt G H Stainforth, Sqn Ldr A H Orlebar, Flt Lt J N Boothman, FO L S Snaith and Flt Lt Dry (engineer).

Above: The Short Biplane No2 which won the Daily Mail £1,000 prize for the first flight of one mile in a closed circuit by a British pilot in an all-British aircraft on 30 October 1909. Horace Short is on the right.

Below: Gp Capt John Cunningham, CBE, DSO\*, DFC\*, HonFRAeS, 1917-2002, with the high-altitude de Havilland Vampire. RAeS (NAL).



As permissions are received from either the original speakers, or the family descendants of them, to digitally release these historic recordings, further content will continue to be added to the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive.

For any enquiries about the National Aerospace Library Sound Archive please contact the librarians (E: [nal@aerosociety.com](mailto:nal@aerosociety.com)) who would wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mike Stanberry FRAeS who has devoted numerous hours to 'sound-editing' each of these recordings before they are digitally released.

If these recordings or extracts from these recordings are to be reproduced in any way acknowledgement should be made to the 'Royal Aeronautical Society (National Aerospace Library)' as being the source of the original.