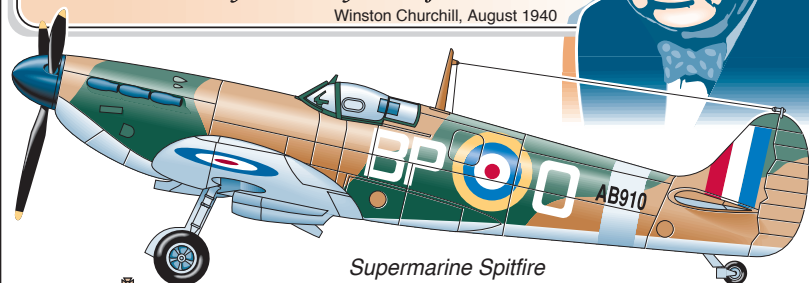


The Royal Air Force celebrates 75 years

The RAF was formed in April 1918 by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Service. However, pride in their 75th anniversary is tempered by dismay at the cutbacks demanded by government changes in British defence policy

'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few...'

Winston Churchill, August 1940



Supermarine Spitfire



The Royal Air Force – global commitments

Personnel: 82,121 (including 6,914 women) – Jan 1993
To be reduced to 75,000 by 1995. **Aircraft:** 793.

The RAF is comprised of three equal-status divisions, **Strike Command** (High Wycombe), **Support Command** (Brampton) and **RAF Germany** (Rheindahlen)



Canada:
Tornado detachment

Belize:
Harrier,
Puma,
Rapier

Falkland Islands:
Phantom,
Hercules,
Sea King,
Rapier

Ascension Island:
Hercules detachment

Gibraltar:
Jaguar

Bosnia:
Hercules
aid missions

Cyprus:
Phantom, Tornado,
Wessex helicopters

Germany: Tornado,
Harrier, Rapier

Turkey: Jaguar,
VC-10 tankers

Iraq:
Tornados enforcing
'no-fly' zone

Somalia:
Hercules
aid missions

Hong Kong:
Wessex
helicopters

SOURCE: International Institute for Strategic Studies

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