

## HURRICANE PLANE IN AUSTRALIA

### Gift From Britain

A Hurricane aircraft, a gift to Australia from the British Secretary of State for Air, Sir Archibald Sinclair, has arrived in Australia, and will be given exhibition flights in various centres.

This was announced yesterday by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, who expressed the gratitude of the Commonwealth for a gift of great interest and of high practical value.

The machine had already been flown on an exhibition flight, Mr. Menzies said. It had been offered to him while he was in Britain, and he accepted it on behalf of the Government and the people of Australia.

2-41

## Hawker Hurricane Sydney

An R.A.F. single seat  
the fastest aircraft ever  
Mascot aerodrome at 300 m.p.h.

The plane is a gift to Australia from the British Air Secretary (Sir Archibald Sinclair), and was flown by Wing-Commander A. J. Biggar, R.A.F.

Yesterday it flew from Melbourne to Sydney in two hours. This time included a stop at Wagga, where the machine was inspected and refuelled.

Wing-Commander Biggar said that while the Hurricane was in the air it "cruised" at 250 m.p.h.

After circling the drome, the machine nosed down, and glided from 3000ft. at 200 m.p.h. before "flattening" out for a perfect landing.

A spectator who watched the Hurricane circle Mascot yesterday, said: "The thing went so fast it was well ahead of its own sound."

Wing-Commander Biggar said: "The Hurricane's top speed is about 335 m.p.h. We use it only in short bursts."

Wing-Commander Biggar, who led a fighter squadron in England, said: "I was in a few tussles. The big stuff, unfortunately, did not come my way."

### On Inspection

Wing-Commander Biggar will leave Mascot at 10 a.m. today to fly the Hurricane to Central Flying School, Camden.

It is intended to send the plane on inspection to other flying schools.


Details of the Hurricane are: Maximum fuselage width, 3ft. 3in.; overall length, 28ft. 6in.; metal wing span, 40ft.

The Hurricane is equipped with a bullet-proof glass windscreen. Its eight Browning machine-guns fire 9600 rounds a minute through wing ports.

Fastest flying time between Melbourne and Sydney was made by the Australian assembled Bristol Beaufort.

On a recent interstate flight it left Melbourne at 8.20 a.m., and passed over Sydney 1 hour 30 minutes later.

The Beaufort has a top speed of 300 m.p.h.

 Picture, Page 3.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 30.8.41

## HURRICANE SHOWS ITS SPEED

Taking off in a flash, diving, and roaring at more than 300 miles an hour not 50 feet above a cheering crowd, Australia's only Hurricane fighter gave R.A.A.F. men and aircraft production workers at Mascot the thrill of their lives this morning.

Only person near the runway who was not on tiptoe with excitement was a 10-year-old schoolboy.

"I've seen one before," he said drily.

He is Cecil Owen, son of Mr. T. Owen, one of the executives of the Aircraft Production Commission factory at Mascot. The Owen family lived on an air station in England while Mr. Owen was carrying out liaison duties between the R.A.F. and aircraft production.

"So," said young Cecil, "I've seen plenty of Hurricanes. I sat in them. I've seen Spitfires, too, and Wellingtons—all of 'em."

### "What A Motor!"

But for hundreds of others, it was a new experience—their first sight of a Hurricane, one of the breed that helped to win the Battle for Britain last September.

There has never been a more enthusiastic band of R.A.A.F. ground staff checking over a plane. "They had no trouble in getting volunteers," said one of them. "We've been itching for something like this since we joined the Air Force. What a motor!"

The crowd was prepared for a noise, but nothing like the ear-splitting din that shattered the air when Wing-Commander Biggar, of the R.A.F., gave the Merlin engines the gun. The air for a radius of 20 feet around shivered with vibration.

In a few seconds the Hurricane was a spot in the sky on its way to Camden Air Force station.

SUN (SYDNEY) 30.8.41

## Crowd Thilled By Hurricane

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SUNDAY SUN (SYDNEY) 31.8.41

## CAPITALS TO SEE HURRICANE

From Our Special Representative

CANBERRA, Wednesday.

The Hurricane aircraft presented to Australia by the British Secretary of State for Air (Sir Archibald Sinclair) would give the R.A.A.F. an opportunity to view, study, and fly this type of plane, the Minister for Air (Mr. McEwen) said to-day.

While Hurricanes were not at present part of the R.A.A.F. equipment, many of the Australian Empire Air trainees would fly them when they went abroad for service.

Although details of plans for exhibiting the plane in Australia have not been settled, it is certain that it will be sent to each capital city.

SUN (SYDNEY) 20.8.41

## HURRICANE TO FLY OVER SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S first Hurricane fighter is due to arrive at the Kingsford Smith aerodrome, Mascot, this afternoon from Melbourne.

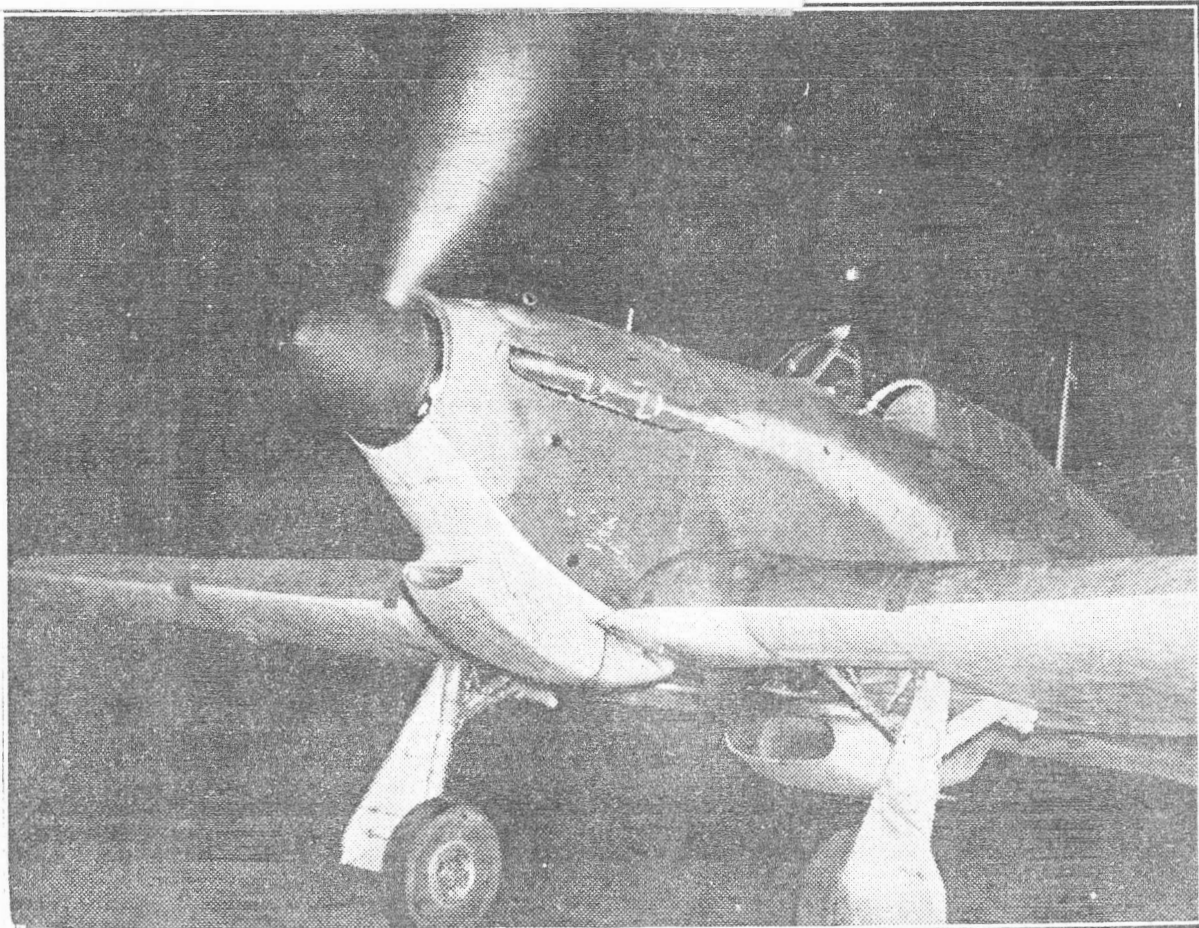
It is expected that the plane will make an exhibition flight over the city.

Presented to the Australian Government by the British Air Ministry, the Hurricane is probably the fastest warplane in Australia. It has a top speed somewhere in the vicinity of 330 m.p.h.

It is a single-engined, low-winged monoplane, with retractable undercarriage and a wing-span of about 40 feet. It has eight machine guns.

DAILY MIRROR 29.8.41

## FAST-FLYING HURRICANE



30 8. 41

HURRICANE FIGHTER, fastest aircraft ever flown in Australia, on its arrival at Mascot aerodrome yesterday. The plane covered the 500 miles from Laverton (Vic.) in less than two hours' flying time. Pilot was Wing-Commander A. J. Biggar, R.A.F.

### Thrills By Hurricane

Launching of the £100,000,000 conversion and war loan on October 8 will be heralded by a thrilling aerobatics display over the city by the Hurricane fighter plane presented to Australia by the British Air Ministry.

This was announced to-day by the Lord Mayor (Ald. Crick).

The Hurricane will be flown by an R.A.A.F. officer and during dives from 3000 feet will exceed 400 m.p.h.

Before the aerobatic display, the Hurricane will make a 50-mile sweep over the city and suburbs. At 300 m.p.h. this will take only about 10 minutes.

The aerobatic display will last 30 exciting minutes, commencing at 12.30 p.m.

Best vantage points to view it will be the Domain and Hyde Park.

Ald. Crick said he saw the Hurricane in action at Wagga

### Stunts By Hurricane

The Hurricane fighter presented by Britain to the Commonwealth will be seen in aerobatics over Sydney shortly.

This is one of many forms of publicity to be used to push the Commonwealth £100,000,000 war and conversion loan, which will open on October 7, and close not later than November 15.

In every city there will be street demonstrations and marching troops.

Sydney will have 18 "days" with processions leading to rallies in Martin-place.

Australia-wide radio hook-ups will include recorded talks by members of the fighting services overseas.

In addition to the 90,000 personal letters which the Prime Minister (Mr. Fadden) is addressing to holders of securities maturing on November 15, appealing to them to convert their holdings into the new issue, 500,000 letters will be sent to potential investors.

Town Hall rallies in capital cities will be addressed by members of the Advisory War Council

# Plane Thrills Sydney

City rooftops were the most popular vantage points with "spotters" for today's display of aerobatics by a Hawker Hurricane fighter.

HUNDREDS crowded onto roofs while thousands of others gathered in Hyde Park, the Domain and other open spaces to see the fighter's thrilling performance.

Fastest aircraft ever to fly over Sydney, the Hurricane first made an almost complete circle of Sydney between 12.10 and 12.30 p.m., flying over Coogee, Bondi, Vaucluse, Manly, Chatswood, Lindfield, Eastwood, Strathfield, and Marrickville.

The pilot of the aircraft then gave a display lasting half an hour. The Hurricane zoomed down in steep dives at speeds nearing 400 miles an hour, and rocketed up in almost vertical climbs. Rolls, spins, straight loops and inverted flying were also featured.

## Contrast In Speed

A sharp contrast to the Hurricane was provided by a slow biplane from Mascot. The fighter shot past it with such speed that it seemed to observers that the other plane was stationary.

The fighter was flown by an R.A.A.F. flying officer who was specially selected for the display.

DAILY MIRROR 8.10.41

# City Crowds See Hurricane Stunting

A Hurricane fighter performed half an hour's aerobatics over Sydney yesterday as part of the city War Loan Rally.

City workers lunching in Hyde Park had a perfect view of the display, but those at the Loan Rally in Martin Place caught only a brief glimpse of the plane.

It could be seen only for a couple of seconds as it flashed through the narrow gap made by city buildings.

Watchers on clear spaces saw the Hurricane roll over and over in "victory rolls" while travelling at 300 m.p.h., soar into an almost direct climb, and then power-dive.

While the Hurricane was stunting a trainer plane from Mascot flew sedately over the city at 100 miles an hour.

DAILY TELEGRAPH  
9.10.41

## Sydney "Roof-spotters"

See 7-Mile-a-Minute

# Thrilling Aerial Display

Thousands of "roof spotters" on Sydney skyscrapers saw Australia's only Hurricane fighter—fastest aircraft ever to fly over the city—flash across the sky at speeds up to 400 m.p.h. at lunch time to-day.

On crowded city footpaths, in the Domain and Hyde Park, and in the suburbs, thousands of others risked cricked necks as they gazed fixedly for half an hour at the Hurricane as it went through an amazing catalogue of aerobatics.

Many took field glasses with them, and some lay on their backs to get a better view.

Specially selected from a batch of young airmen, each of whom would have forfeited a lot of leave for the chance, the R.A.A.F. pilot officer at the controls gave the watching thousands half an hour of thrills.

## Aerial Cocktail

The pilot was "on the dot" over the G.P.O. tower. Timed to be there at 12.30 p.m., he finished a beautiful spin and levelled up after four slow rolls as the clock chimed the half-hour.

Then he treated the crowd to an aerobatical cocktail, ingredients of which were rolls off the top, climbing turns, stall turns and dives. The dives were not so steep as some youthful followers of aviation movies could have wished, but the speed left nothing to be desired.

The young R.A.A.F. pilot held his audience, and there were no departures from rooftops until the Hurricane had contracted to a mere dot in the sky on the way back to Camden.

SUN (SYDNEY) 8.10.41

## HURRICANE "STUNTS" TO-DAY

For half an hour to-day there will be a display of aerobatics over the city by the Hurricane fighter presented by Britain to Australia.

The display will be a feature of "Navy Day"—the first of an 18-day campaign for subscriptions to the war and conversion loan.

To avoid a clash with the speeches in Martin Place, arrangements for the Hurricane's display have been put back 20 minutes.

Coming from Camden, the Hurricane will approach Sydney at 12.10 p.m. via Hurstville, Rockdale, and Mascot. At 12.15 it will begin a sweep of the city, leaving Maroubra and following a course via Coogee, Bondi, Vaucluse, Manly, Mosman, Crow's Nest, Chatswood, Roséville, Lindfield, Eastwood, Ryde, Strathfield, Canterbury, Marrickville, and then to the G.P.O.

At 12.30 the plane will begin half an hour of aerobatics over the city, and at 1 p.m. will head back to Camden.

An Air Force spokesman said yesterday that the Hurricane would be easily distinguishable because of its speed.

Speakers from the dais in Martin Place will be the Premier, Mr. McKell, the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board, Sir Claude Reading, and Commodore G. C. Muirhead-Gould, Superintendent of Sydney Naval Establishments.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
8.10.41

# Hurricane Feats Over City

Sydney residents will see Australia's only Hurricane fighter in breath-taking aerobatics over the city at lunch-time on Wednesday.

The fighter will make a 50-mile level-flying sweep of the city and suburbs at 2000 feet and later will go through aerobatics over the heart of the city at 3000 feet.

In the level-flying sweep, the Hurricane will reach about 300 miles an hour, and is expected to exceed 400 m.p.h. in dives.

The Domain and Hyde Park are officially recommended as the best vantage points from which to watch the fighter, which is the fastest aircraft ever to fly over Sydney.

Programme for the Hurricane's tour is:—

12.30 p.m.: Approach city via Hurstville, Rockdale, Mascot.

12.35 p.m.: Commence sweep over Maroubra, then Coogee, Bondi, Vaucluse, Manly, Mosman, Crow's Nest, Chatswood, Roseville, Lindfield, Eastwood, Ryde, Strathfield, Canterbury, Marrickville.

12.50 p.m.: Over G.P.O., aerobatics for 30 minutes.

1.20 p.m.: Return to Camden via Bankstown.

Slow rolls, rolls off the top, stall turns and dives will be among the manoeuvres during the display.

## New P.M.'s First Speech

Mr. Curtin will make his first public appearance as Australia's leader as the principal speaker at the demonstration in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening to officially launch the new £100,000,000 war and conversion loan.

His speech will be heard all over the Commonwealth in a broadcasting hook-up in which national and commercial stations are to participate.

Doors will be open at 7 p.m.

A high-class musical entertainment will be provided by Miss Gladys Moncrieff, Mr. Peter Dawson (with the Sydney Male Choir), Mr. Heddie Nash and the Eastern Command Band.

SUN (SYDNEY) 6.10.41

## HURRICANE TO TOUR CAPITALS

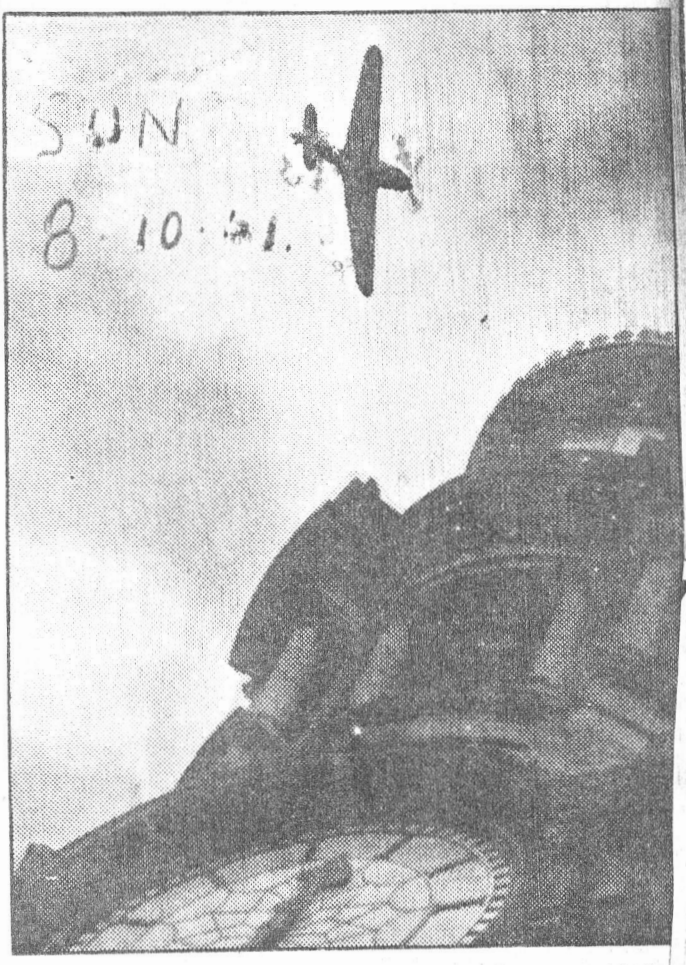
Following yesterday's thrilling display over the city, the Hawker Hurricane Fighter will be flown to other capital cities to give similar exhibitions.

The fighter will also be taken to all R.A.A.F. training schools throughout the Commonwealth to give trainees some idea of the fighting craft they will meet overseas.

Since it is the only Hurricane in Australia the plane is flown by only half a dozen Air Force officers. Yesterday it was flown by a 27-years-old R.A.A.F. flying officer, whose identity has been withheld by authorities.

The officer enlisted at Point Cook in 1935 and graduated in 1936 as a

## AEROBATICS OVER SYDNEY



The amazing air stunts of a Hurricane plane provided a spectacular lunch-hour entertainment for crowds in all parts of the metropolitan area to-day. A picture taken from Martin-place, with the G.P.O. tower in the foreground

SUN (SYDNEY) 8.10.41

# Hush-Hush On Fighter Pilot

The Air Force rule of hush-hush on names cloaks the identity of the pilot who thrilled thousands of Sydney residents yesterday with breath-taking aerobatics in Australia's only Hurricane fighter.

But it can be said that he was a 27-year-old flying officer of the R.A.A.F.

But the Air Force rule of anonymity cloaks his name.

An instructor at Camden station, and described as "an exceptionally good pilot," he was selected for his long experience and because of his great skill in aerobatics.

He has flown a wide range of aircraft, including Tiger Moths, Avros, Wapitis, Demons, Wirraways, Fairey Battles, and Air Speed Oxfords.

He entered Point Cook in 1935

## Queue Up

He was selected for yesterday's flight from a large number of pilots at Camden, who would have given up leave, pay, and many other privileges for the chance.

There is a story in Air Force circles that pilots at Camden are so keen to "have a crack" at the Hurricane that they are even unwilling to go on leave for fear that they will "miss their place in the queue."

Significant feature of yesterday's great display was that an Australian pilot in a country which owns only one Hurricane was able to handle the famous fighting plane so skilfully.

It was pointed out to-day that for men versed in handling Wirraways, the control of Hurricanes is not a very difficult matter.

Remarkable indication of the speed of the aircraft was given by the fact that on some occasions it covered half the city area to complete a loop.

Air Force authorities intend to send the Hurricane to every R.A.A.F. flying training school in the Commonwealth to show