

RAF Waddington 2011

Text:	Urs Schnyder
Pictures:	Urs Schnyder



It was very noticeable on this year's airshow that most front line combat aircraft were tied up in the **Lybian campaign**. To compensate, there were more historic jets present at the show. For me personally this was rather a plus. On Saturday the weather was rather good with just the occasional dark cloud passing overhead. Fortunately they kept the rain for themselves.

RAF

The first plane of the RAF to display was the AWACS that gave a short demonstration and then landed. The only frontline combat aircraft on display were two Tornados which showed a tactical mission profile as used in Afghanistan. One of them flies the attack while the other flies cover. They were also the only fast Jets the RAF had on display. Everything else was tied up in Lybia.

Perhaps one reason why there was a display of a Beech King Air. The first time I have seen such an aircraft at a RAF display.

Impressive as always was the Chinook display. It is always surprising what can be done with a helicopter of this size.

Last but not least there were displays by the two trainers Hawk and Tucano.



Boeing E-3D Sentry 8 Sqn.
(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Boeing E-3D Sentry 8 Sqn. (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Panavia Tornonado GR.4 15 Sqn
(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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Boeing Vertoll Chinook HC-4
(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Embraer Tucano T.1 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Embraer Tucano T.1 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Beech King Air T.1 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Thunderbirds

The Thunderbirds had their only show in UK for 2011 at Waddington. For the public they were surely one of the attractions of the program. They were also the reason that one of the car parks had to be evacuated for their demonstration. The reason for that was a bit unclear, since their show was mostly in front of the audience.

After they were announced and entered the taxiway, they remained there for an estimated 15 Minutes, presumably to do their pre flight check.

Their flight demonstration wasn't bad, but it has to be said that while flying their tight formation, they only fly straight ahead or rather in a giant circle. The formation was formed far out of sight of the audience. When they did formation changes in front of the audience the distance between the aircraft was rather bigger than in most other teams.

Unfortunately they generated so much smoke that after a few passes it was impossible to take good pictures.

I could also do without their sound show of the Thunderbird legend. The whole thing is simply ridiculous if you know a bit about American history



(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Red Arrows

In my opinion still one of the best aerobatic teams with nicely executed formation changes always in view of the audience. The crossovers of the two solo pilots were always timed to happen exactly in front of the public. Simply great.



(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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(Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Warbirds

There can be no RAF display without the **Battle of Britain Memorial Flight**. Let us hope that they continue to fly for some time and will not be affected by financial cuts. Where else can you see a **Lancaster** in formation with a **Spitfire** and **Hurricane**.

There was also a two seat Spitfire displaying and the **B-17G "Sally B"**. Of the latter it is not known how long it will continue to fly because EU regulations require the same insurance cover as for airliners. This is actually the case for all warbirds with more than one engine.



Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress "Sally B" (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress "Sally B" (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Supermarine Spitfire (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Battle of Britain Flight (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Battle of Britain Flight (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Battle of Britain Flight (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Classic Jets

The Highlight of the day was surely the **Avro Vulcan**. Who would have thought that one of these would still be flying 30 years after their retirement? It is always impressive to see how agile this big aircraft is. Another highlight was the formation of five **Hunters** as well as the two norwegian Vampires.



Avro Vulcan B.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Avro Vulcan B.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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Avro Vulcan B.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Hawker Hunter FGA-6 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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Hawker Hunter (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Hawker Hunter FGA-6 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



De Havilland T- Vampire (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



De Havilland Vampire (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



De Havilland F- Vampire (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Belgium

The Belgians are like always good supporters of air shows. Their Demonstration F-16 had the most colorful paint scheme of any aircraft in the air show.



Lockheed F-16A Fighting Falcon (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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Lockheed F-16A Fighting Falcon (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

Royal Navy

Since the Sea Harriers have been taken out of service the Navy is a **helicopter only** service. However, you can also give an attractive demonstration with them as proved by the Merlin and the Lynx Team. The two Lynxes have also received a very attractive paint scheme that shows a lynx of course.



Eurocopter Merlin HM.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Eurocopter Merlin HM.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Eurocopter Merlin HM.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Eurocopter Merlin HM.2 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



Westland Lynx HMA.8 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)



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Westland Lynx HMA.8 (Photo courtesy Urs Schnyder)

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