

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“Whittle Album”



Aircraft flown by Sir Frank Whittle in 25 Year Career

Introduction

THE WHITTLE ALBUM

This album records the history, through photographs, of the many, and often unique, aircraft types that I flew during my 25 year career in the Royal Air Force.

Frank Whittle

June 1993

Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle

OM KBE CB RDI FRS FEng MA RAF (Retd)



TRAINERS



Genet Moth



Avro Tutor



Tiger Moth



Gypsy Moth



Miles Magister



Miles Mentor



Siskin 111



Siskin 111A



Gloster Grebe



Gloster Gladiator





FIGHTERS



Fairey 111F (Lion)



Fairey 111F (Jupiter)



Fairey Gordon



Spitfire



Hurricane



Meteor 111 (F9/40 with W2/700 Engines)





**BOMBERS
&
LIGHT BOMBERS**



Vickers Vildebeest



DH 9A



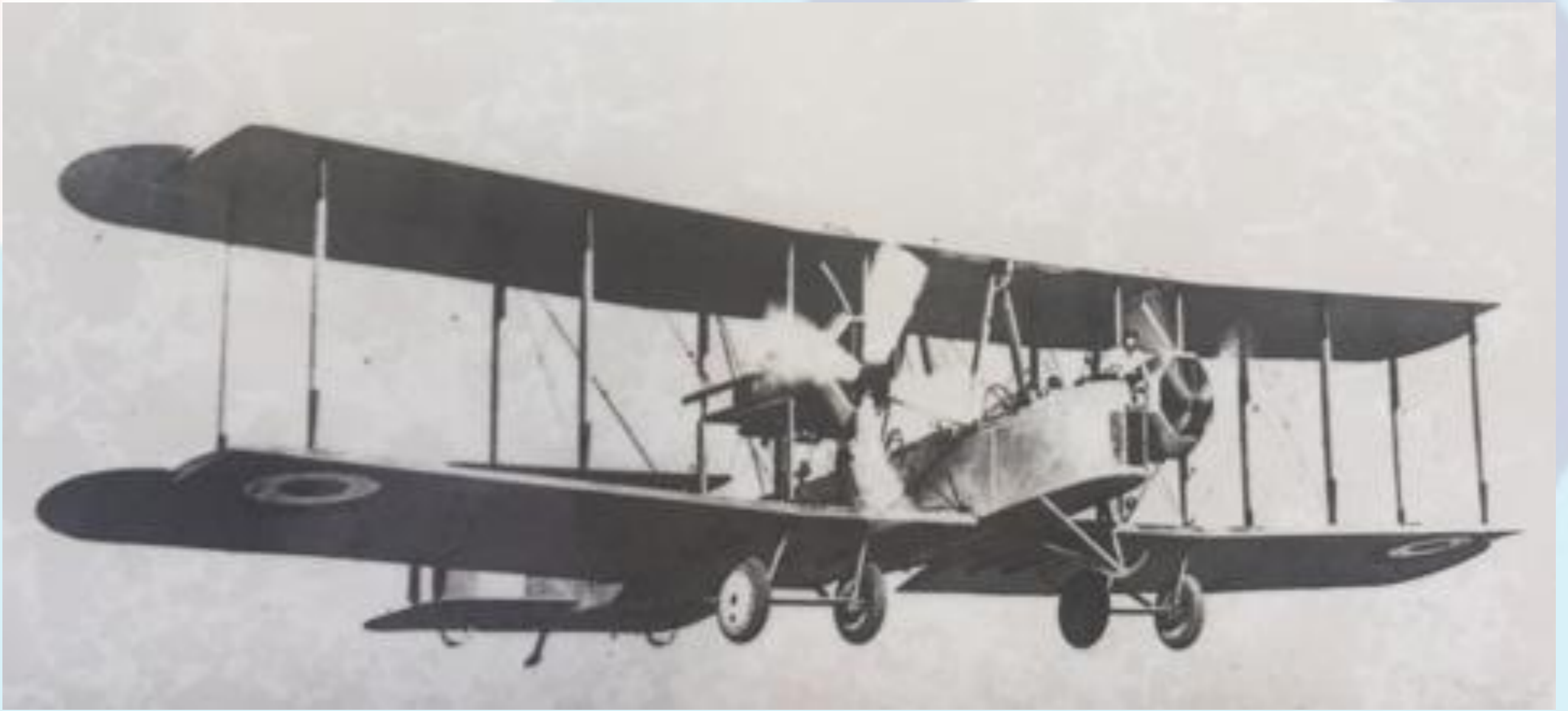
Hawker Hind



Hawker Hart



Vickers Vimy



Vickers Virginia



Handley Page Heyford



Atlas





**FLOATPLANES
&
AMPHIBIANS**



Fairey Gordon



Fairey Fleeking



Atlas



Blackburn Ripon



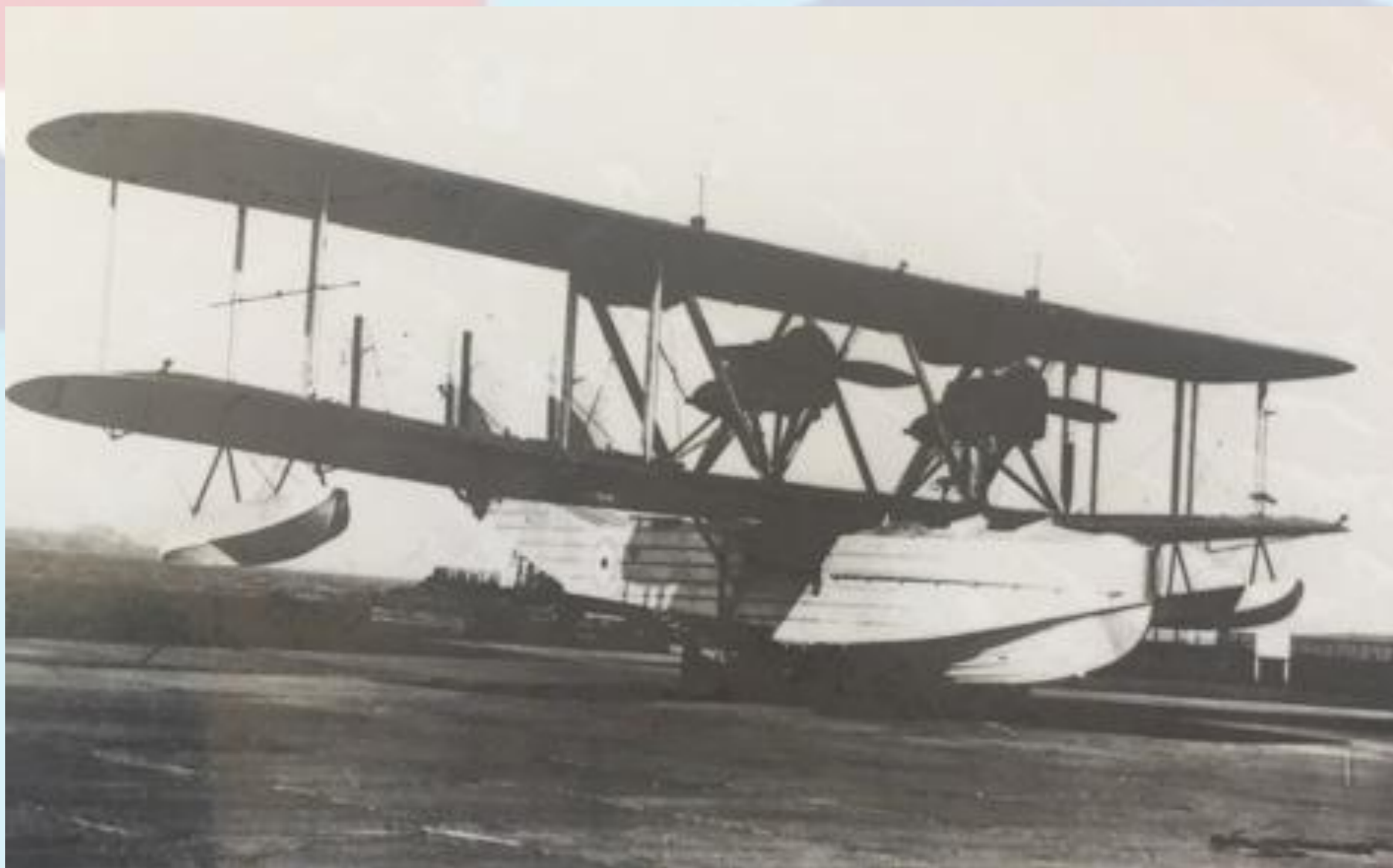
Short Gunard



Cutty Sark



A14



Southampton



Blackburn Sydney



Short A7



Air Cdre Sir Frank Whittle



OBITUARY AIR COMMODORE SIR FRANK WHITTLE OM KBE CB FR S LLD 1907 - 1996

Mr R Frank Clegg MRAeS MEMBER FROTH



Sir Frank signs the visitors book in the Founders Gallery, College Hall Officers Mess

There is no doubt that I was both very fortunate and privileged to have been so closely associated with Sir Frank Whittle. A wonderful friend and a man who became the greatest engineer of this century, he was a modest genius and had many attributes other than just sheer technical brilliance. He had, in addition, courage, determination, dignity and generosity, together with an infectious sense of humour.

Sir Frank was an inspirational team leader and gentleman, a man of many talents. Those who worked for him in his pioneering days will readily recall these outstanding qualities. He expected commitment, dedication and loyalty from his

colleagues, which he received, but did not suffer fools gladly. Employees who worked for Sir Frank and his company, Power Jets Ltd, formed an Association known as the 'Reactionaries', following the first flight of the Gloster E/28 at Cranwell on 15 May 1941. They are still together and celebrate the event each year as close to the date of the first flight as possible, and they still retain the greatest respect, admiration and affection for Sir Frank to this day.

I first met Sir Frank some 52 years ago as an Engineer Apprentice with Power Jets Ltd at Whetstone near Leicester. It was my good fortune to form a close association with him in 1980, when



Sir Frank, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Cowles prior to attending a Dinner 'Celebrating his Life's Work', at RAF Cranwell

Sir Frank was a devoted Englishman and exceedingly proud of this country of ours, and never stopped talking about it. Furthermore, he had tremendous respect for the RAF which he held in high esteem, and considered it to be the finest Service anywhere in the World. Incidentally, he always gave credit both privately and publicly to the training that he received both as an Apprentice and as a Cadet at Cranwell for his success. One thing he did always regret however, was that he never did not make a major contribution to Britain's War effort in World War II as he had hoped.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that he did not leave this country out of bitterness as some people have suggested, but felt he took up an appointment as a Naval Research

he visited the UK to attend a celebratory function that I had instigated in conjunction with a fellow Reactionary. This was Sir Frank's first visit to the UK since his marriage to his American wife Hazel in 1976. Since then, for the past 16 years Sir Frank and Lady Whittle have been my house guests on many occasions, and my wife and I have enjoyed a whole host of subjects never ceased to amuse me and in my many conversations with him, he was always informative, articulate and very interesting to listen to. His relating of stories of his past were full of the smallest details such as names, places, and dates etc. His memory was quite exceptional, especially when one takes into account his extensive itinerary over so many many years. On numerous occasions I have been present with his friends and others who were reduced to fits of laughter following the telling of his many funny stories, usually of his flying days at RAF Cranwell.

Professorship with the US Naval Academy at Annapolis and to be with his American wife. Notably in 1946 he was upset when both he and his company, Power Jets Ltd lost the right to build Aero Engines. After all it had been his life's work since the 1930s following years of continued struggle to bring his ideas to fruition. Neither did he suggest that he never received the acclaim he deserved. In fact he received a great many awards worldwide which adorn his home, although some were a little late in coming. He was also proud to be the first Old Cranwellian to be Knighted in 1948 by King George VI. However the Award of the OM in 1986 was his greatest thrill and he was absolutely delighted to receive the Award from Her Majesty.

Some months before Sir Frank passed away he made arrangements for all his historic papers etc relating to his life's work to be given to the Nation. These are now located at Churchill College Cambridge University.

Until 1995, when his eyesight started to fail, he was an avid reader of all sorts of material, and in addition was kept very busy dealing with mail from around the Globe. He did worry that he might suffer in the later years of his life from memory loss and to counteract this he read and studied quite extensively, alternatively spending his time solving puzzles in order to keep his mind active. He certainly had no need to worry, his brain and mind were active right up until the end.

I, along with many thousands of others will regret his passing. Sir Frank was a credit to this Country and the Royal Air Force in which he served with distinction and love. He was a wonderful human being, a great friend and my life has been enriched by having known him.