

ROD DEAN - AVIATION CONSULTANT

AVIATION TALKS



I have been actively involved in aviation for over 60 years as both an RAF fast jet pilot and, for 40 years, as a display pilot, mainly flying vintage piston and jet engine aircraft. In particular, I have flown a wide variety of World War II fighter aircraft such as the Spitfire and Mustang and numerous jets including the Meteor, Vampire, Venom, F-86, T-33 and, of course, the Hunter.

The attached C.V. outlines my aviation career in more detail.

I have had many articles published in respected aviation magazines such as Pilot, Today's Pilot, Aeroplane, Flypast and Classic Aircraft and I published my first book – **"Fifty Years of Flying Fun"** – some time ago. The articles and the book focus on my experiences in flying and displaying over many years.

In response to requests from a number of colleagues I have developed a series of talks, again based on my broad aviation experience. Over the past few years these evening talks have been given to a wide selection of different audiences including various aviation societies and model aircraft clubs and prestigious organisations such as The Royal Aeronautical Society branches in various parts of the country, the Society of Friends of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, a number of Air Britain branches, The Midland Air Museum (combined with the Rugby Aviation Group) and The Vulcan Restoration Trust, the organisation preserving the Vulcan at Southend Airport, etc. These talks, which I try to give in a relaxed but informative style, have been consistently well received and repeat bookings from virtually all the above venues, and many others, are sure sign that the presentation has gone down well.

I have eleven presentations available and any can be given as required. The presentations are:

"Flying the Hunter and Other Things!" – a look at my 39 years (and nearly 3,000 flying hours) involvement with the magnificent Hawker Hunter, including my time flying the aircraft in Aden, Bahrain and Oman as well as at RAF Chivenor and Brawdy and, more recently, flying the civil registered aircraft.

This talk, the first I developed many years ago, has recently been significantly upgraded. There was always a problem with this talk in that there was far too much information for a short talk so I have now totally rearranged it so there now are three versions available for organisers.

Firstly, there is the shortest version which covers my involvement with the Hunter in the R.A.F. but has no supporting video content – this lasts about 1 hour 40 minutes.

Secondly, there is much the same as above but including video content and lasting about two hours.

Finally, there is the full version. This covers not only my military flying but also my civil involvement with the Hunter. This lasts between three hours thirty minutes and four hours and because of this it needs to be given over two sessions, ideally on consecutive months. Interested organisers are welcome to discuss the arrangements, and possible reduced fees, for this pair of talks. There are, of course, extensive PowerPoint presentation to support all of these talks.

"Flying and Displaying Vintage Piston Aircraft" – exploring the last 40 years display flying with particular emphasis on the classic vintage aircraft such as the Mustang, Hurricane, Spitfire and many others. Also includes a detailed technical review of a number of the big piston engine fighters.

"Flying and Displaying Vintage Jet Aircraft" – a talk covering my introduction to display flying in the Hunter in 1972 and 73 at RAF Chivenor through displaying vintage jet aircraft such as the Vampire, Venom, Meteor, T-33 and F-86A plus, of course, civil registered Hunters. Includes a number of short videos and technical details on the various aircraft.

In addition to the above, I have developed eight technical talks covering a detailed and in-depth look at the development and technical features of specific aircraft types. These talks focus on the technical aspects of the aircraft, such as problem areas in development and solutions to these (Hunter gun firing difficulties and shortage of fuel and the erroneous view that the Mustang was a failure until it was fitted with the Merlin engine, for example) rather than looking at operational factors except where these influenced development.

The talks have the following titles:

“Hunter Technical Details”

“The Spitfire and Seafire”

“The Gloster Meteor Development”

“The Wooden Wonder – Development of the de Havilland Mosquito”

“The Development of the F-86 Sabre”

“The North American Mustang”

“Sydney Camm and His Monoplane Piston Fighters”

“Grumman Piston Engine Fighters”

All these presentations are supported by numerous electronically presented photographs. Each is in the region of 2 hours duration but can be trimmed a little if needed. Should you wish to book me for a presentation, I can provide a digital projector, screen and computer. A sound system would be helpful depending on the size of the room and audience.

For full details on my fees and availability, and to discuss your particular requirements, please contact me either by e-mail at roddean79@gmail.com or by phone on **07731 477156**. I look forward to hearing from you.

