

# Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown's medals now on display



Medals which belonged to Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown CBE (1919-2016) are being prepared for display at the National Museum of Flight in East Fortune, East Lothian today; the first anniversary of his death.

Captain Brown, a former Royal Navy test pilot who is often referred to as Britain's greatest ever pilot, died on 21 February 2016. His medals and log books were secured for the nation in November by The National Museum of the Royal Navy with the support of an anonymous donor, for display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton. They are now going on display in Scotland for the first time, and can be seen at the National Museum of Flight until 30 June.

Assistant Curator of Aviation Ian Brown



This photograph of Capt Brown CBE was taken on his visit to the National Museum of Flight in September 2015.

Captain Eric Brown CBE  $\text{\textcircled{D}}$  who is often referred to as Britain's greatest ever pilot  $\text{\textcircled{D}}$  is reunited with the Messerschmitt Me 163B-1a Komet at the National Museum of Flight in East Fortune, East Lothian, 70 years after he first flew the highly volatile rocket-powered

aircraft. The 96-year-old former Royal Navy test pilot Ⓓ who flew 487 different types of aircraft; more than anyone else in history – visited the Museum as part of a £3.6 million redevelopment of two nationally significant Second World War hangars, which incorporates interactive digital displays showing archive footage and interviews exploring the history, technology and personal stories behind each aircraft. Captain Brown flew the German aircraft on 10 June 1945 after capturing it at Husum, Schleswig Holstein, at the end of the war.

Steve McLean, General Manager at the National Museum of Flight said: *“We are delighted to have the opportunity to display Captain Eric Brown’s medals at the National Museum of Flight. We seek to tell the human stories behind some of our aircraft, and it is a privilege to help tell the extraordinary story of the greatest pilot in our country’s history. Our visitors can already view footage of Captain Brown discussing his extraordinary career, so it’s wonderful that they will now also have the chance to view these fascinating medals up close.”*

Born in Leith, Captain Brown remains the Royal Navy’s most decorated pilot. He flew 487 different types of aircraft; more than anyone else in history. He completed 2,407 aircraft carrier landings and led an extraordinary life; he interrogated Hermann Göring and was one of the first British servicemen to arrive at the *Bergen-Belsen concentration camp*.

He was the subject of a 2014 BBC2 documentary *Britain’s Greatest Pilot: The Extraordinary Story of Captain Winkle Brown*. Today’s pilots are able to fly far more safely thanks to the techniques and technologies he helped to test.

Matthew Sheldon, Executive Director of Heritage at The

National Museum of the Royal Navy said: *“Eric ‘Winkle’ Brown has made a national, and indeed international impact across his career; his life is truly the story of a pioneer of flight so The National Museum of the Royal Navy is very pleased to be able to loan these artefacts to support telling his story in Scotland.”*

The National Museum of Flight is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am-4pm until the end of March. It is open daily from 10am-5pm from April to October.

Tickets: Adult: £12, Concessions: £10 Child: £7 (under 5 free), Family: £31 (2 adults and 2 children), Members: Free, Group rates available.

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-flight/>

Neil Hanna Photography

[www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk](http://www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk)

07702 246823