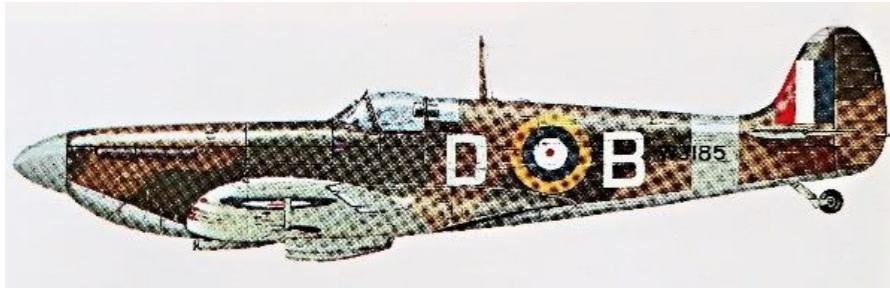


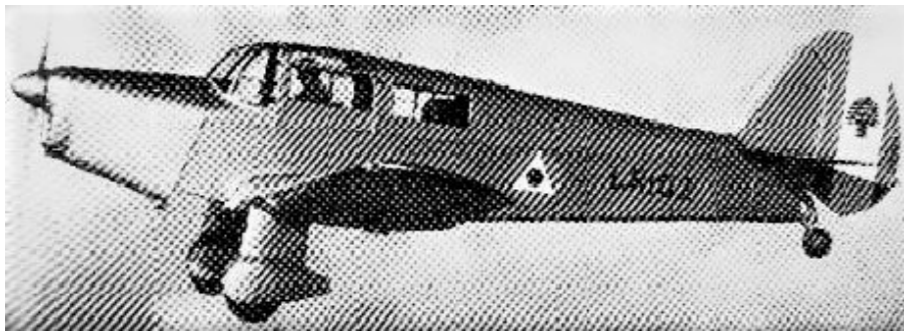
Rita Baines - Aircraft



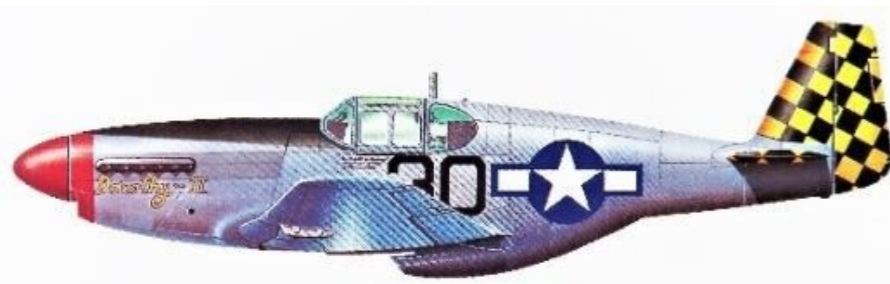
Supermarine Spitfire



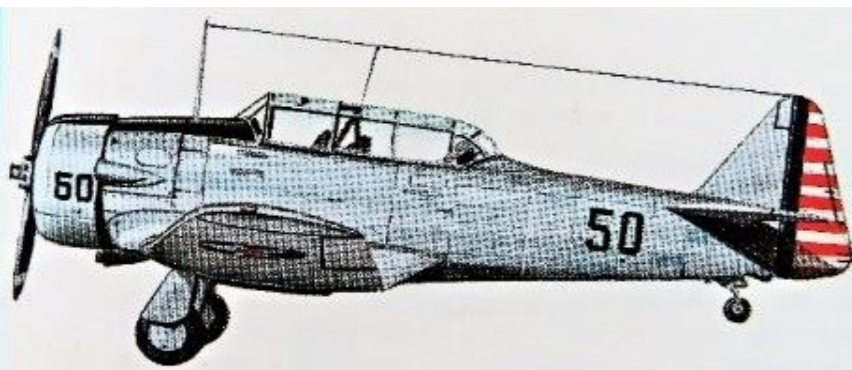
Supermarine Seafire



Percival Proctor



North American Mustang



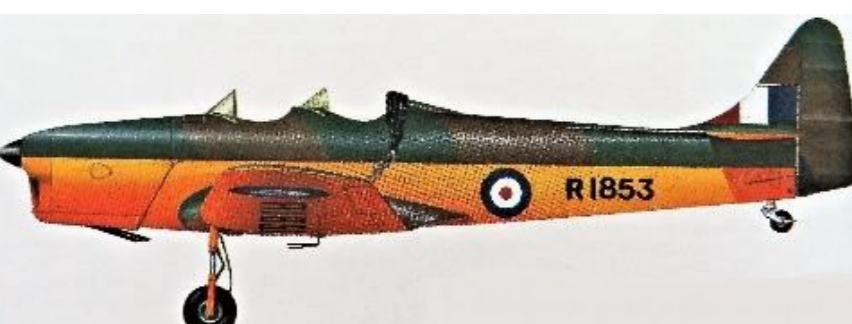
North American Harvard



Miles Master



Miles Martinet



Miles Magister

During her time with the Air Transport Auxiliary - ATA, Rita undertook 481 flights, 400 of them were solo.

She racked up 448 hours and 40 minutes flying time.

She flew over 19 types of aircraft, including 54 flights in Supermarine Spitfire variants, including the Seafire.

Pilots were based at one of 14 Ferry Pools as far apart as Hamble, near Southampton and Lossiemouth near Inverness in Scotland. Two of these Ferry Pools (Hamble and Cosford) had only women pilots, with female commanding officers. Several were near aircraft factories, which were priority targets for the Luftwaffe. The peak monthly output from the Spitfire factory at Castle Bromwich was 320 machines, so it was necessary to move combat aircraft away to relative safety as soon as they came off the production line.

Flying Spitfires was an amazing thing for women to do, and so they were given a great deal of publicity, to the irritation of some of the men!

Some flights were short hops of less than half an hour, others were considerably longer. Sometimes there was more than one flight in a day.

Rita flew without radios, with no instrument flying instruction and at the mercy of the British weather.

She often had no prior knowledge of the particular type of aircraft that she was flying. Ferry Pilots Notes – pocket-sized flip pads of basic dos-and-don'ts for every aircraft in service were invaluable.

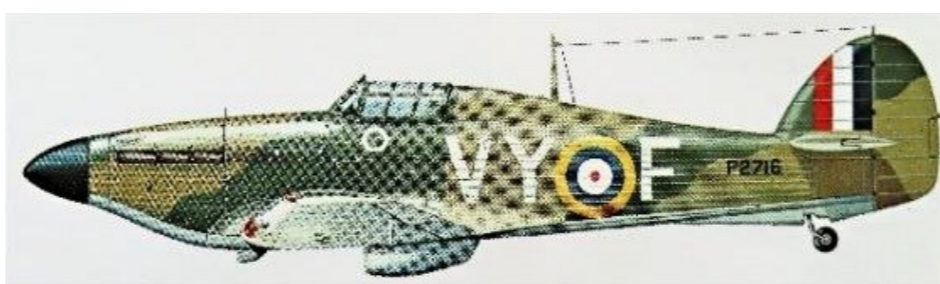
During the war ATA employed 168 women, including pilots from America, Canada and Chile.

The female pilots became known as the “ATA-girls” The acronym also jokingly stood for “Always Terrified Airwomen” and “Anything to Anywhere”.

If she was flying near to Trentham, on course to Meir aerodrome, she made a point of buzzing golfers out on the golf course. The shout would go up: “Look out, it’s Rita again!”



Grumman Hellcat



Hawker Hurricane



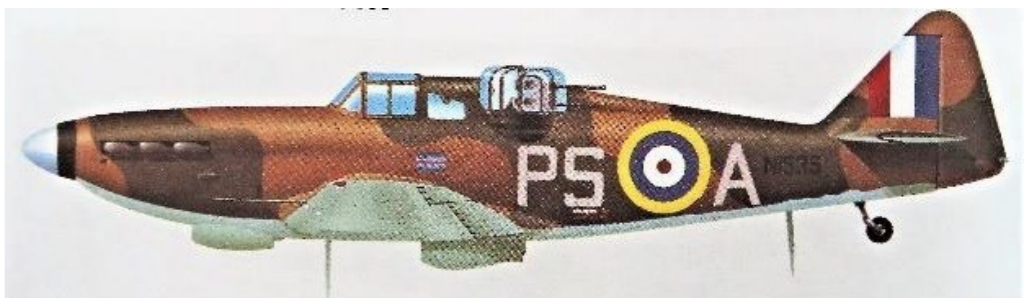
Westland Lysander



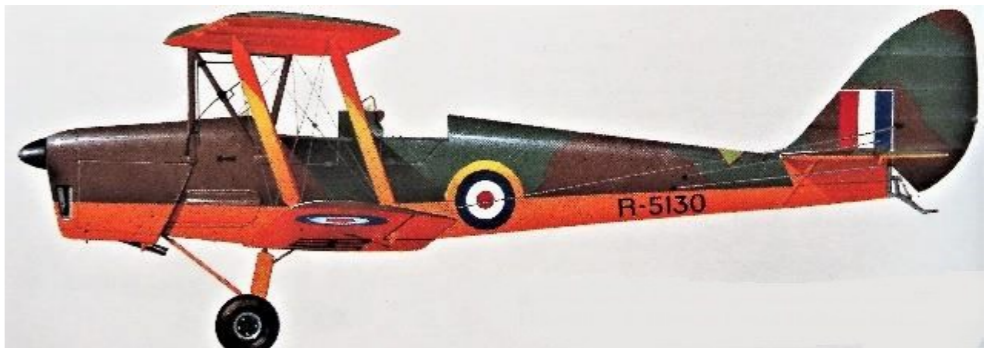
Airspeed Oxford



Avro Anson



Boulton Paul Defiant



de Havilland Tiger Moth



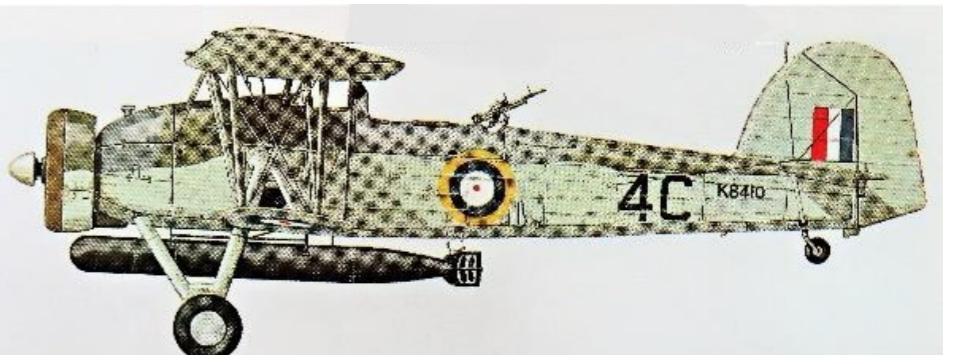
Fairchild Argus



Fairey Barracuda



Fairey Firefly



Fairey Swordfish