

# Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown,

CBE, DSC, AFC, MA, Hon FRAeS, RN.

*Help to inspire today's youth, by remembering yesterday's hero.*

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCES  
Association**

The charity that supports the RAF family



## Britain's Best Pilot

very short of pilots and, so, he became a naval pilot. After further intensive training for naval aviation, he joined 802 Squadron based at Donibristle. It was in the Navy he was given the nickname 'Winkle' referring to his modest stature.

After a distinguished operational tour flying from Britain's first escort carrier, his extraordinary skill at carrier deck landings was recognised and in 1942 he was posted to the Service Trials Unit where he flew a wide variety of British and enemy aircraft.

In 1943 he was selected as a test pilot and subsequently appointed Chief Naval Test Pilot at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Over the following six years he commanded the Enemy Aircraft Flight; the High Speed Flight and the Aerodynamic Flight. In the closing stages of the war, he flew a large number of key Luftwaffe aircraft including the jet powered Me262 and rocket powered the Me163.

In his test flying career, he achieved the remarkable feat of flying 487 different aircraft types and amassing a world record of 2,407 carrier deck landings. He was a past President of the Royal Aeronautical Society; an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and a Master Pilot of Russia. In 2008 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Edinburgh University. He died on the 21st Feb 2016 aged 97.

**In memory of his outstanding achievements the Edinburgh University Air Squadron RAFA Branch are aiming to raise sufficient funds for a memorial bronze statue of 'Winkle' to be located just outside the main entrance to the terminal building of Edinburgh Airport - formally RAF Turnhouse, where he learned to fly. In addition it is hoped to raise sufficient funds to enable several young people to learn to fly through Flying Scholarships.**

The Edinburgh University Air Squadron Branch, No 1377,  
Treasurer: Murray Carmichael, email: euasbranch1377@gmail.com  
Registered Charity SC.XXXXXX (Scotland.)



The Edinburgh University Air Squadron Branch, No 1377,  
Treasurer: Murray Carmichael, email: [euasbranch1377@gmail.com](mailto:euasbranch1377@gmail.com)  
Registered Charity SC.XXXXXX (Scotland.)