ACTION STATIONS REVISITED

Michael J F Bowyer

Many readers will fondly remember the original *Action Stations*, one of the most successful aviation books of all time. *Action Stations Revisited* is derived from that book but covers an even greater area than the original volume. Here, Mike Bowyer reviews the histories of 130 airfields in an area extending from the M11 motorway to Lincoln with the western edge skirting the line of the A1.

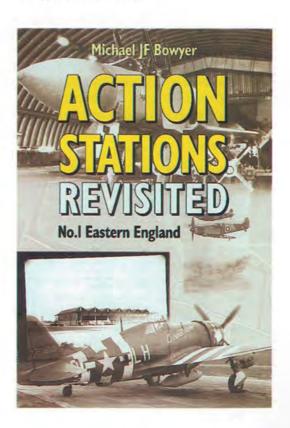
Due to the release of relevant records, *Action Stations Revisited* places more emphasis on the post-war history of the airfields. Special topics explored include the extension of airfields in the 1950s, the rapid response modifications found at many of them and measures taken to 'harden' airfields against heavy attacks. Salient features of each airfield are given, together with places of aeronautical or special interest found close by. The book also includes many previously unpublished photographs and numerous plans and maps.

Mike Bowyer's output of aviation books and magazine articles has been considerable and undoubtedly influential within the field. It was the low passage over Cambridge of the airship R101 which awoke his interest in aviation. His first aeronautical excursion was to see that giant airship depart on its ill-fated voyage and he's been sky gazing ever since! When his eyesight was irreparably damaged by his illness in 1938, Mike realised that a flying career with the RAF was impossible. However this did not stop him recording all he could about the Service, an undertaking which he started in 1935. He started writing in 1947 and his book and magazine output has been prolific.

In this volume Mike Bowyer has drawn upon over 60 years of personal recording, recollection and knowledge of official sources. He has completely revised the text of the original *Action Stations* incorporating much new information which has appeared in the intervening 20 years. The success of the original volume was amazing and, appearing as the 20th century ends, this revised version will provide a vital record of the many advances witnessed in the region with Britain's busiest skies.

The original *Action Stations* was a major contribution to aviation literature; *Action Stations Revisited* will certainly be an equally indispensable companion.

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