

A Birthday Celebration !



Once in a while there is a very good reason to hold a party. Sometimes it has to be a big one and Sunday the 3rd of July in Falmouth, Cornwall, was just such an occasion :

Spitfire Annie's 100th birthday.



*Above:
Annie viewing the fly-past with banner over
Falmouth Harbour*

*Right:
Receiving a card from Her Majesty the Queen*

Mrs Annie Penrose's father, Sir Robert McLean, Chairman of Vickers Aviation Ltd and of the Supermarine Aviation Works (Vickers) Ltd. named the aircraft after his "little Spitfire" of a daughter! Annie has had a lifetime connection with Spitfire and has know all the principal characters in its story. She has an encyclopaedic memory and anecdotes to fill a library.

Annie was elected as an Honorary Member of the Spitfire Society and presented with the Spitfire Society's Medallion by our Chairman on behalf of the Patrons and Members. The Cornwall Roundel organised a salute with a fly-past towing a banner reading "Spitfire Annie Happy 100" and the Mayor of Falmouth attended with a tribute from the town.

The aircraft was a Rally 180 painted in camouflage: we couldn't find a Spitfire for the day and hoped no one would notice! The superb weather brought the crowds onto the beaches and into the parks and the banner was seen by several thousands of people in the towns around the coast.



The pilot's view

Happy Birthday Annie!