

PRESS RELEASE

COVENTRY'S LAST DOUGLAS DC3 DEPARTS

08:30 Tuesday 30 July west side Coventry Airport CV8 3AZ

Newquay for historic passenger flights in 2014

Coventry and Midlands media wishing to attend this historic flight should contact Malcolm Ginsberg [07973 210631](tel:07973210631) to make arrangements malcolm@ginsberg.co.uk

Next Tuesday morning Air Atlantique's Douglas DC-3 G-AMRA will depart Coventry Airport for Berlin Schönefeld closing a famous chapter in the history of the West Midlands airport. Its new owner is Air Service Berlin who plans to keep it flying as a permanent memorial to the 1948 Berlin Air Lift in which the DC3 played a significant role.

The DC3 paved the way for the modern airliner. First flown in December 1935 some 16,000 (including variants) were built until production was finally brought to an end in 1950.

G-AMRA has been based at Coventry since 1981 and since that time has performed numerous tasks including passenger services, cargo work, and research flights. It is the last DC3 to call Coventry its home.

G-AMRA was built at Douglas Aircraft's Santa Monica plant in California in mid-1944 as 43-49474 for the USAAF. However she was too late to be of much use to the Americans in World War II so she was transferred to the RAF as KK151 in November. The following March she joined the 300 Wing of the RAF in Canada and in April 1946 she was ferried to the UK to join 525 Sqn at RAF Abingdon. She later flew with 238 Sqn and 46 Sqn before being retired in 1949 and becoming G-AMRA. She passed through a variety of civilian airlines (and was even leased back to the RAF as XE280 for a period) before she joined British United Airways and British Island Airways. On 21 October 1981 G-AMRA was sold to the Air Atlantique Group.

Air Atlantique owns two further DC3s which are currently under contract to a specialist operator based at East Midlands.

With the bulk of the Air Atlantique fleet now based at Classic Air Force, Newquay-Cornwall Airport, it is expected that these two aircraft will be made available for pleasure flying from that airfield in 2014.

“In many ways it is sad to see Romeo Alpha leaving these shores”, said Classic Flight President Mike Collett. “We know that it is in good hands and will be kept flying. That is always the policy of the Classic Trust. However it is our intention to operate a passenger DC3 next year. Newquay has been a great success and our smaller de Havilland Rapides very popular for pleasure flights. The DC3 is the world’s greatest passenger aircraft. In 2014 just a very few will still be flying”.

Pilots for the final flight to Berlin are Classic Flight’s senior captains Kath Burnham and Jon Corley.

ENDS Contact can also be made via [024 7688 2613](tel:02476882613) or as above

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