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Protecting the diggers

nevford, Bacup, Lancs

ommentator's clangers

HAVING ATTENDED many air displays in the UK over the past ten years, I feel that I must comment on the poor standard of some of the airshow commentators that I have had the misfortune to listen to. It seems to me that even some of the long-standing, well-known commentators need to brush up on their facts and update their information files.

It would probably take up all the pages of FlyPost to list the many gaffes' that I have heard, but here are just a few samples of misinformation. Two commentators were talking at one of the well known shows about Charles Church's two-seat Spitfire PT462, when one of the commentators remarked, "The original twin-seat Spitfire was of course the T.8 G-AIDN, an aircraft that we haven't seen on the show circuit for a while now." Anybody with any knowledge of the vintage aeroplane scene knows full well that 'IDN has been in the USA for several years.

Another 'clanger' was, "the Skyraider flying here today carries Italian markings", when it was in fact painted in French markings. Perhaps a good set of binoculars could be bought for some of the commentators, for their eyesight seems to play tricks on them sometimes. Heard this year was a description of the BBMF Hurricane LF363, when in fact it was PZ865 that was being displayed, upon realising his mistake the commentator said "Oh, they seem to have changed the markings on this aeroplane.

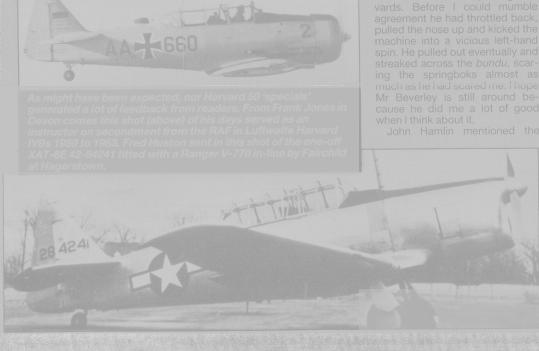
Another point I've found at air-

shows in recent years is that some displays now use two commentators, which may be a good idea for sharing the talking workload, but it seems to lead to the commentators sharing 'in' jokes, which may be funny to them, but the jokes go over the heads of the listening public.

Mind you, I'm not tarring all display commentators with the same brush, to hear a man who knows his job and makes sure his homework is done properly, one only has to visit Old Warden on a flying day and listen to how it should be done.

I sometimes think that I could do a better job than some of the people I've had to listen to, anybody out there want a volunteer?

Robert Rudhall, Tewkesbury



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