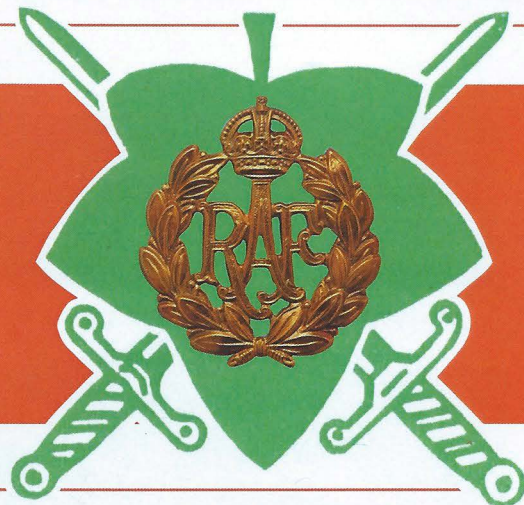


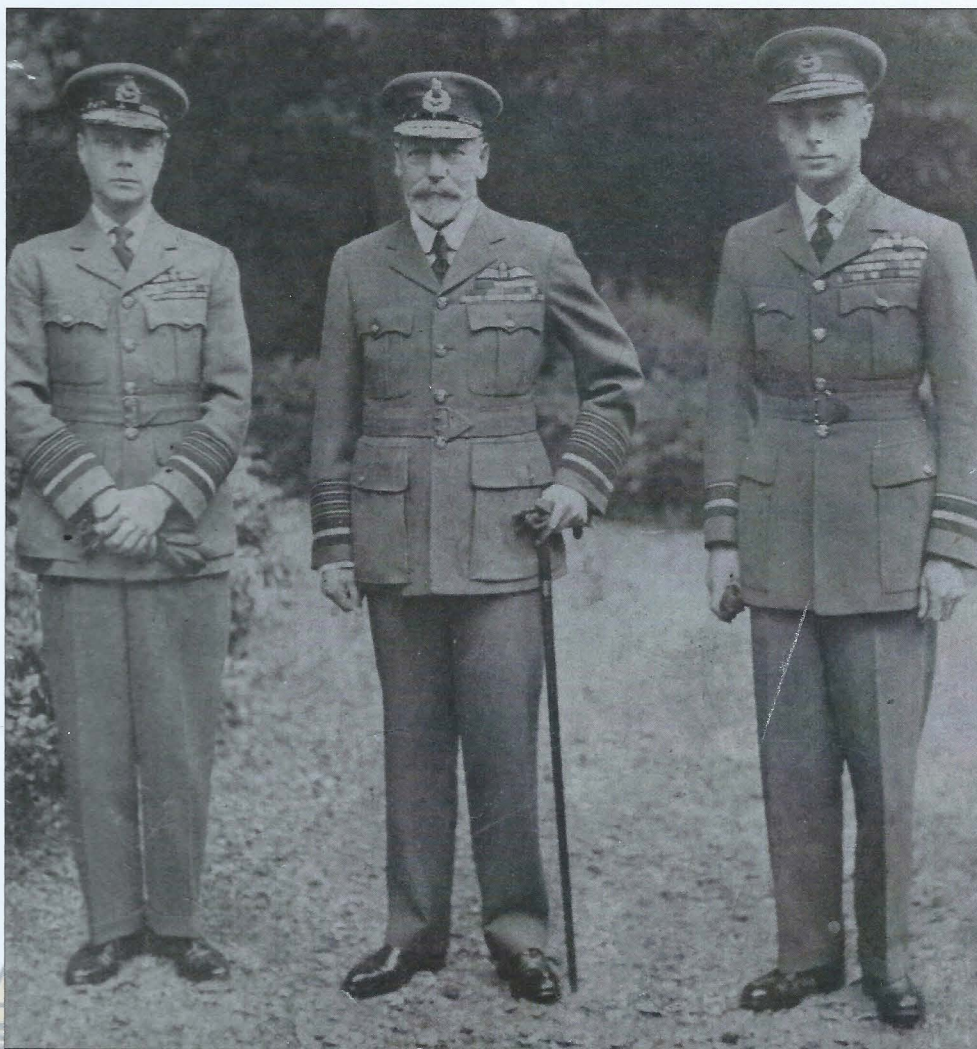
# THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



*PER ARDUA AD ASTRA*

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROYAL AIR FORCE UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA**



*Three of our Monarchs in RAF uniform, only two of them entitled to the pilot's badge they all wear.*

The origins of the Royal Air Force whose centenary we are celebrating lie in two companies of the Air Battalion, Royal Engineers formed in 1911 - one for airships, one for aeroplanes - and the Naval Flying School established by the Royal Navy at Eastchurch in 1910 to teach naval officers to fly. Subsequent discussions by the Committee of Imperial Defence recommended the establishment of a flying corps which was duly formed in April 1912 as the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). Authorised in July that year the RFC's Naval Wing - which tended to ignore its Army counterparts - received official recognition as the Royal Naval Air Service in July 1914. This special issue of our journal illustrates just some of the uniforms and insignia worn by these early fliers and their successors in the Royal Air Force since its formation as the world's first independent air force in April 1918.