

98th ERAU Prescott Aviation History Presentation

The 80th Anniversary of "The Battle of Britain" "Leadership, Command, and Control – The Dowding Factor" Presented by Mike Lavelle



The summer of 1940 brought the greatest air battle in history to the skies above England, the Battle of Britain. How did the Royal Air Force overcome what seem like overwhelming odds against Germany's Luftwaffe? What stopped the German air offensive? Was it, British planning, command structure, aircraft, leadership or was it the Luftwaffe's aircraft limited capabilities, undefined mission objectives, and lack of leadership? Did the RAF win or did the Luftwaffe withdraw from their offensive? These and other questions will be address as the presentation reflects on the leadership of Air Chief Marshall Hugh Dowding and lessons that apply today as they did 80 years ago!

Mike Lavelle is an aviation historian and author with over 50+ years of aviation/aerospace experience, including 12 years at Cessna Aircraft Company and 24 years with the Boeing Company. Lavelle's assignments in those companies were in aircraft flight crew and maintenance training operations for both commercial and military programs. After retiring from Boeing in 2006, he became a director at the Museum of Flight in Seattle for 7 years.