



Lower: A modern R.A.A.F. Bristol Bulldog fighter, 420 h.p., 185 m.p.h., in which Flying-Officer C. M. Henry won the aerial Derby.

A12-3 Aerial Derby 9 May 1931 Bristol Bulldog at Moonee Valley racecourse, wins outright an air race, pilot C M Henry

11.5.31 SUN

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MELBOURNE, MONDAY,

11th MAY, 1931.

AERIAL DERBY

AIR FORCE MACHINE WINS

A Fine Aerial Pageant

Ideal weather prevailed on Saturday afternoon, when the fourth annual pageant of the Victorian section of the Australian Aero Club took place at the Moonee Valley Racecourse. The keen public interest which aviation is creating was demonstrated by the magnitude of the crowd which assembled on the lawns and stands of the charming little course to see the display of acrobatics and the racing of the aeroplanes.

The programme comprised two distinct sections. There was the racing, of which only the end of each event could be seen, because on account of the limited area of the racecourse the starting and landing of competing machines took place at Essendon Aerodrome, two or three miles away, and the courses taken by the aeroplanes in their racing extended over miles of country, more or less distant. The second section of the programme consisted of spectacular demonstrations of flying and aerial tricks over the racecourse. This formed the greater part of the entertainment, though what was seen of the racing as the roaring, speedy machines swept through the air past the judge's box (from which it is customary to declare the results of a different type of race altogether) was thrilling enough. The principal race was the Aerial Derby and Derby Handicap—an event which embraced two contests conducted simultaneously between machines from three different States. The Derby (fastest time) was won by an Air Force machine—a Bristol Bulldog, piloted by C. M. Henry—with an average time of 185 miles an hour. The Derby Handicap was won by a Hawk Moth, piloted by J. Turner.