



THE W O BENTLEY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

NEW BOOK FROM THE W O BENTLEY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

ABOUT US

The Foundation's objective as a Charitable Trust is to guard and promote the heritage and understanding of all things Bentley. We maintain a Museum, Library and Archive for the preservation and study of our Collection. We publish books and present films, lectures and exhibitions. We provide information to public and press.

We embrace the racing history of Bentley cars, and the life and career of W O Bentley as engineer of railway locomotives, cars and aero engines. We are supported, in the main, by volunteers and work closely with the Bentley Drivers Club.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Foundation will launch their latest book **W O Bentley Rotary Aero Engines** on 2 August 2014 at the BDC Silverstone Race Meeting.

This will commemorate the start of World War 1, and mark the extraordinary contribution made by W O, whilst serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, to the improvement and development of rotary aero engines. His dedication and technical achievements saved the lives of many aircrew.

WO Bentley Rotary Aero Engines

Dr Tom Dine

WO Bentley is best known for engineering the Bentley car – the ultimate luxury sporting marque known for high performance and quality. But WO Bentley's genius shone first in the very early days of flight. The faster, stronger aero-engines he developed saved pilot lives and helped Britain to victory in WW1.

After cutting his engine design teeth on railways with GNRC, his war work began in 1915 when he was commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve to develop aero-engines for the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). Bentley was not just responsible for the Bentley Rotary 1 (BR1) and Bentley Rotary 2 (BR2) but his ideas ensured that Rolls-Royce and Sunbeam aero-engines were fitted with aluminium pistons and that 30 more BHP were wrung from the French designed Clerget engines.

His tenacious engineering approach, and insistence on better performance, gained him a formidable reputation as an engineer. Countless tests and re-tests before allowing an engine into production ensured his work was recognised for saving many pilots' lives during the Great War.

And it was this contribution to Britain's war effort of which he himself was most proud, despite his later fame for introducing Bentley cars to the world's motor-sport spotlight.

"Thus to be posted to a B.R. squadron soon became the ambition of every knowledgeable scout pilot." RL DAVIDSON, NEW STATESMAN, JULY 1926

Continued 2 Technical Specification of book

TITLE: WO BENTLEY ROTARY ENGINES

AUTHOR: DR TOM DINE

PUBLISHER: WO Bentley Memorial Foundation

FORMAT: Hardback with dust-jacket

PRICE: £55

ISBN: 978-0-9540901-6-6

SIZE: W x H 210 x 280 mm

EXTENT: 230+ pages

ILLUSTRATION: Fully illustrated with photographs, diagrams, illustrations.

Contains A1 size General Arrangement drawing, and DVD of 200 approx page Appendices

CATEGORY: Technology & Engineering, Aviation History

PUB DATE: 2 August 2014 to commemorate beginning of WW1

Obtainable from:

The W O Bentley Memorial Building

Ironstone Lane

Wroxton

Banbury

Oxfordshire

OX15 6ED

Tel: +44 (0) 1295 738886

E-mail info@bdcl.org

Website: www.wobentleyrotary.com

