

ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE	WO BENTLEY ROTARY ENGINES
AUTHOR	DR TOM DINE
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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

PUBLICITY

- Published 04 August 2014 to coincide with the anniversary of commencement of the Great War 1914–18.
- Review copies to be sent to Aviation History academics, military history resources, aviation press, motor–history press.
- Twitter campaign targeting key influencers in aviation heritage, military history
- Promotional campaign website at www.wobentleyrotary.com contains more information and images. Email promotion to air heritage museums across UK.

AUTHOR

Dr Tom Dine has a PhD in Analytical Chemistry and works in the Pharmaceutical industry as a Compliance Consultant. His interest in all things mechanical dates back to childhood, the family's AC 2 Litre Saloon and a grandfather who worked in the design teams at the Royal Aircraft Factory working on such aircraft as the SE 5.

He studied at Kingston Polytechnic, part of which was the old Sopwith factory and was conveniently close to the Thames Ditton AC factory, as the family 2 litre had by then become his. He is still, after some thirty plus years in the role, the AC Owners Club 2 Litre Saloon Registrar and has a vintage AC Royal which he is currently restoring. He has been a member of a selection of motor clubs including the VCC, MGOC, ACOC, VSCC and more recently the Bentley Drivers Club.

READERSHIP

Of great interest to air heritage enthusiasts, military historians, engineers, model-makers, educational institutions & general public.

TRADE ENQUIRIES

For any enquiries about stocking this item, please contact the publisher using this email address: noel.trewhela@bdcl.org or use the form on the website listed above.



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The W.O. Bentley Memorial Foundation was founded in 1998 for the advancement of public knowledge and appreciation of WO's life, his motor cars, and many other engineering achievements. www.wobmf.co.uk