

Dr David Baker

Potted Biography

General background

Born to a Royal Air Force family in the UK during World War 2, from the age of 9 years Baker attended a US school in England from which he received a scholarship which eventually took him to the United States as part of a NATO programme sponsored by Senator Clinton P Anderson.

David's father, Ernest William, had a 14-year career in the Royal Air Force from 1931 with several years spent in the Middle East between 1933 and 1938 on the Western Desert and during the Arab-Palestine rebellion, before a UK-based period during the Second World War shortly after he returned home to marry Gladys May Hincks in 1938. Toward the end of the war "Bill", as he preferred to be known, was with the occupation forces in north-western Europe, at the liberation of the Belsen concentration camp and at the crossing of the Rhine at Wesel. Moved by his wartime experiences, Bill became a physiotherapist and then, after putting himself through the University of London, became an Egyptologist and, with his wife May, formed with friends the Ancient Middle East Society (AMES) since when it has changed its name to the Ancient Egypt & Middle East Society (AEMES).



David Baker. Aged 14 at Skegness Aerodrome

As visiting scholar at several universities, David spent his time between the UK and the United States while reporting to NATO HQ in Brussels, gaining a PhD in Earth & Planetary Physics and engineering degrees which he used to support specialisation in human space flight architecture, vehicle design and mission strategies.

During this period David worked with NASA at several field centers from the Gemini program through the Shuttle program, and from Washington DC played a role supporting NASA budget hearings before Congressional committees and subcommittees. He also liaised with prime aerospace contractors and evaluated technology options proposed for existing and approved programs.

During the 1980s he worked closely with Chester M Lee at NASA HQ and with NASA Administrator James M Beggs on payload procurement and developed relations with government agencies in many countries around the world. Throughout the 1980s he was instrumental in discussions with the Soviet Union on the use of Proton launch vehicles for sending Inmarsat satellites into orbit and on space cooperation in general, during periods of informal liaison leading to international cooperation.

In 1984 he established a space consulting company in London where he supported the global endeavour to recruit payload operators as Shuttle users prior to the loss of Challenger and the changed role of that vehicle. Later the same year he set up a US office in Trenton, New Jersey, and was consultant to the London insurance broker Willis Faber & Dumas and to 13 underwriting syndicates. It was while in that capacity that he played a major role in halting Shuttle launches with PAM-D solid propellant apogee motors after the failure of two exhaust cones in successive deployments, calling upon the US government to finance a destructive test, which they did.

He also served as consultant to the Aussat program, Australia's national satellite program of the 1980s. With clients supporting commercial space in the banking, financial and insurance sectors in London and New York, Baker served to introduce NASA to the commercial world and vice versa, working with NASA chief engineer Stan Weiss while hosting VIP groups from the financial world in the US and the UK to the KSC for briefings and launches.

During his tenure with the US space programme, David was also contracted by the Department of Transportation to conduct independent analyses of NASA budget projections and worked with the Congressional Research Service (Dr Charles Sheldon and Barbara Luxemburg) as well as Charles Ducander of the House space committee. His work on collecting, collating and analysing NASA project information extended to reporting on retired technologies which could be reactivated for adoption on future programs.

On several occasions Dr Baker was "hired" out to the Department of Defense and during the late 1960s participated in the Igloo White operations in Vietnam, seeking ways to deliver tactical information via satellite. On another occasion, he acted as an adviser to coalition forces in the first Gulf War of 1990-91 regarding the employment of satellite systems, where he reported direct to General Norman Schwarzkopf's team. He also conducted negotiations with the Russians over the possible use of Soviet launch vehicles for Inmarsat satellites and carried out several visits to Soviet military establishments to further that activity, liaising directly with the Soviet Minister of Defense and with several aircraft manufacturers. During this activity he had the opportunity to fly on several Soviet military aircraft, including the six-engine Antonov An-225.

Historical research and writing

David joined the British Interplanetary Society (BIS) in 1965 and took an early interest in using his access in the United States to collect unclassified material in support of his general interest in archiving, analysing and reporting on past, present and future space activities of

space-faring nations. He was first published in *Spaceflight*, the magazine of the BIS, in 1969, and later in the peer-reviewed *Journal of the BIS* and in *Space Chronicle*.

Throughout the 1970s, from the US and on visits to the UK, David was retained as a consultant to the British trade journal *Flight International* supporting the technical editor Michael Wilson in coverage of the Apollo Moon missions. For several years in the early 1980s he was also retained to feed the weekly journal with news and analysis on evolving space programmes. Aware of his activities, NASA public affairs officers at KSC, JSC LaRC and JPL (including Frank Bristow, Alan Wood, Mark Hess, John McLeaish, William (Bill) O'Donnell, Dick Young, etc.) procured extensive materials which assisted with the historical archive which today consists of 50 large filing cabinets of original project documents and contractual material which informs his current activities. Over time, legions of supporters in industry have provided further materials and allowed the preservation of records and reports which appear not to be available anywhere else.



David Baker's first book "*The Rocket - The History and Development of Rocket and Missile Technology*" was published in 1978 by New Cavendish books in the UK. With 300,000 words it was followed in 1981 by a 750,000 word volume "*The History of Manned Space Flight*", revised and updated four years later. He also had published two 500,000-word chronologies for New York publisher Facts on File covering events in the history of aviation and in space and rocketry. After working closely with Gen George Keegan, Chief, US Air Force Intelligence, on the militarisation of space, in 1981 he had published "*The Shape of Wars to Come*", which subsequently went into four editions by three publishers.

Baker has also written many books for the US school library market covering aspects of space and on aerospace-related subjects but also, and throughout, he has used his science (planetary physics) to write books about the Earth and the solar system. Beginning in 2010 he began writing books for Haynes Publishing in their Workshop Manual series, a cover title for books about the engineering aspects of specific projects. To date he has had 15 Haynes books published and is under contract to complete several more on a rolling basis.

As a professional writer and historian, from 1999 to 2006, Baker was Editor of the annual *Jane's Space Directory*, expanding it from 560 pages to 955 pages in six years. In 2009 he became Editor of *Aviation News* and since 2011 he has been Editor of *Spaceflight* magazine. He received the 1998 Rolls-Royce Award for Best Propulsion Submission as the Royal Aeronautical Society's Journalist of the Year and the Arthur C Clarke Award for his work on the *Jane's* directory. He was elected a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a member of the US Air Force Association. In 2017 he was awarded the American Astronautical Society's Frederick I. Ordway III award "for sustained excellence in space coverage, through books and articles, as well as engagement in the early US space program".

David has taken his historical analysis into the classroom, having taught part-time for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Upper Heyford), at Nottingham University in the UK, and several other colleges and institutes since the 1970s. He has taken more than 100 "class" sessions on educational cruise ships for Cunard, Seaborne, Saga and Fred Olsen ships, and has been appointed "astronomer in residence" on one of the Viking cruise ships for 2020. He has made several hundred appearances on radio, TV and podcasts since the early 1980s helping explain and interpret frequently fast-moving space news events. He is frequently asked to give lectures and talks at schools, universities, residential colleges and various educational institutions.











Married and living in South East England, David is working on a three-volume industrial, political, engineering and programmatic history of the Apollo program and has completed three books, for separate publishers, describing the Apollo 11 mission for its 50th anniversary in July 2019. He also has long-term projects on hand for publication examining the changing trends in spacecraft engineering and the impact of technology on program decision-making and is researching an interpretation of risk-shaping in aerospace and nuclear weapons technology during the critical Eisenhower/Kennedy years in the Cold War.

David has always had a wide and eclectic mix of interests, conducting research into Neolithic megaliths and stone circles while analysing their architectural form and possible association with astronomy. During his early life, and before going to the United States, he had a passion for speed in all its forms and was one of the first in the UK to get his hands on a four-cylinder 250cc Honda racing motorcycle on which he competed at Oulton Park among other circuits and raced against the famous Bob McIntyre (whose rear tyre he became familiar with, he says!).

Baker also had a passion for horses and participated in a cattle drive when having to travel up from Kansas to Nebraska for a non-urgent visit to the headquarters of Strategic Air















Command at Omaha during the early 1960s. Contrastingly, David learned the piano and the violin and turned down a position with the UK's National Youth Orchestra to go to the United States, a decision which he says he has never once regretted. Nevertheless, he would often "tinkle the ivories" after lazy evenings with academics from the George Washington University!

Books published to September 2018 (110):

08/06/2018		9781785211393	1785211390		Nuclear Weapons	2017	100	Registered
08/06/2018		9781785210655	1785210653		NASA Skylab	2018	100	Registered
08/06/2018		9781911276586	1911276581		Fifth Generation Fighters	2018	100	Registered
08/06/2017		9780857333971	0857333976		Mikoyan MiG-29 fulcrum manual	2017	100	Registered
08/06/2017		9781785210648	1785210645		NASA Mercury 1956 to 1963	2017	100	Registered
08/06/2017		9781911276326	1911276328		US Air Force 70 Years	2017	100	Registered
25/01/2017		9781785210860	1785210866		US Spy Satellites	2016	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781605960296	1605960292		Journey to Mars	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781605960258	160596025X		Probing Space	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781605960227	1605960225		Living on the moon	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9780500650141	0500650144		Space academy : How to fly spacecraft step by step	2013	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781852771058	1852771054		Victory on the Air	1995	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780946219261	0946219265		Space.	2011	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781909128729	1909128724		Rocket Planes	2015	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780883320945	0883320940		Larousse Guide to Astronomy	1980	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780600566410	0600566412		The Hamlyn guide to astronomy	1989	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780805011975	0805011978		The Henry Holt Guide to Astronomy	1990	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154835	1595154833		Department of Defense and State Department	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154859	159515485X		Hideouts and Training Camps	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154880	1595154884		Hijacking and Security	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154866	1595154868		Infiltration and Spying	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154873	1595154876		Suicide Bombers	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154842	1595154841		The Department of Homeland Security	2005	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154897	1595154892		Biological, Nuclear and Chemical Weapons	2006	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781595154828	1595154825		CIA and FBI	2006	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781600442469	1600442463		M1126	2006	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781600442483	160044248X		M1a1 Abrams	2006	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781600442490	1600442498		M2A2	2006	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781600442476	1600442471		M113	2006	100	Registered

29/02/2016		9781600442452	1600442455		M109 Paladin	2007	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781590367711	1590367715		Rockets	2008	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781605960234	1605960233		International Space Station	2009	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780857338105	0857338102		Planet Earth	2015	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9780857337672	085733767X		North American X-15	2016	100	Registered
29/02/2016		9781590367674	1590367677		The Shuttle	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781590367704	1590367707		Living in space	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781590367728	1590367723		Rockets and launch vehicles	2009	50	Registered
29/02/2016		9781590367780	1590367782		Satellites	2009	50	Registered
15/06/2015		9781844258666	1844258661		NASA Space Shuttle manual : An insight into the design, co>	2011	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857332189	085733218X		International Space Station manual : An insight into the h>	2012	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857333872	0857333879		Apollo 13 manual : an engineering insight into how NASA sa>	2013	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857333704	0857333704		Mars Rovers manual : 1997-2013 (Sojourner, Spirit, Opportu>	2013	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857334053	0857334050		Soyuz manual : all models, 1967-2013	2014	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857333711	0857333712		Space rockets owners` workshop manual : space rockets and >	2015	100	Registered
15/06/2015		9780857337979	0857337971		Hubble Space Telescope	2015	100	Registered
07/03/2002		9781861260789	1861260784		Messerschmitt Me 262	1997	100	Registered
07/03/2002		9781861260949	1861260946		Grumman F-14 Tomcat	1998	100	Registered
07/03/2002		9781840282573	1840282576		Inventions from outer space: everyday uses for NASA technol>	2000	100	Registered
13/06/1997		9781859150177	1859150179		Adolf Galland: authorised biography	1995	100	Registered
13/06/1997		9780816018536	0816018537		Spaceflight & rocketry: a chronology	1996	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780904568103	0904568105		The rocket: the history and development of rocket & missil>	1978	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780904568233	0904568237		Space shuttle	1979	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780904568226	0904568229		Space shuttle	1979	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780904568301	090456830X		The history of manned space flight	1981	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780850594836	0850594839		The shape of wars to come	1981	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780812828528	0812828526		The shape of wars to come	1982	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780812862218	081286221X		The shape of wars to come	1982	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780600206514	0600206513		The shape of wars to come	1982	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780947703004	0947703004		Conquest	1984	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780711204034	0711204039		Conquest	1984	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780517543771	051754377X		The history of manned space flight	1985	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780603039348	0603039340		Space shuttle	1986	100	Registered
30/06/1994		9780865929715	0865929718		Experiments in space	1986	100	Registered

30/06/1994		9780865929739	0865929734		Eyes in the sky	1986	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865929692	0865929696		Family of the sun	1986	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865929746	0865929742		Observing the earth	1986	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865929722	0865929726		Voices in the sky	1986	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865929708	086592970X		Weightlessness	1986	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923553	0865923558		Bombers	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923560	0865923566		Helicopters	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923515	0865923515		Land-based fighters	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923522	0865923523		Navy fighters	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923546	086592354X		Research planes	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923539	0865923531		Spy planes	1987	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924079	0865924074		Believe it or not space facts	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865928718	0865928711		Danger on Apollo 13	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924048	086592404X		Exploring Mars	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924093	0865924090		Factories in space	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924062	0865924066		I want to fly the shuttle	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924055	0865924058		Journey to the outer planets	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924086	0865924082		Peace in space	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780866253352	0866253351		Soviet forces in space	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780866253314	0866253319		The soviet air force	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865928732	0865928738		Discovering the titanic	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865928725	086592872X		From space to the seabed	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865920491	0865920494		The Rourke dinosaur dictionary	1988	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925335	086592533X		Airborne early warning	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925311	0865925313		Airlift	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925328	0865925321		Anti-submarine warfare	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923720	0865923728		Earthwatch	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923713	086592371X		Exploring Venus and Mercury	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923737	0865923736		Flight to the stars	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925359	0865925356		Future fighters	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925366	0865925364		Ground attack planes	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924017	0865924015		Living in space	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865923744	0865923744		Living on the moon	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865925342	0865925348		Navy strike planes	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924000	0865924007		Starwatch	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924239	0865924236		Air defense weapons	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924215	086592421X		Army air support	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924192	0865924198		Artillery	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924208	0865924201		Main battle tanks	1989	100	Register
30/06/1994		9780865924185	086592418X		Rockets and missiles	1989	100	Register

30/06/1994		9780865924222 0865924228		Tracked vehicles	1989 100 Register
30/06/1994		9780866250856 0866250859		Cruisers	1989 100 Register
30/06/1994		9780866250863 0866250867		Hunter-killer submarines	1989 100 Register
30/06/1994		9780866250849 0866250840		Nuclear carriers	1989 100 Register
30/06/1994		9781871547061 1871547067		Manfred von Richthofen: the man and the aircraft he flew	1990 100 Register
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30/06/1994		9780816018543 0816018545		Flight and flying: a chronology	1994 100 Register

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