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## NEW BOOK LAUNCH - 'ATTAGIRLS'

*by* Paul Olavesen-Stabb

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Attagirls, based on the incredible true story of 22-year-old Molly Rose, a pilot at the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) during WWII, will be published on 1st August 2021.

Official Media Launch event will be held at The RAF Club, Piccadilly, London on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### About the Book:

In a world consumed by war, a small group of young women take to the skies to 'do their bit'. Their bravery and determination play a vital part in changing the course of history.

During WWII, 22-year-old Molly Rose, a flight engineer and pilot in her family's aviation business, joins the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), an organisation tasked to deliver aircraft from factories and maintenance units to the RAF's front-line squadrons. Accepted into an intense training program and posted to an 'all women' ferry pool, Molly has to adapt quickly to an organisation made up of pilots from diverse backgrounds including Britain's social elite, all of whom share the same insatiable appetite to fly.



Flying without armament, radios or navigation equipment and subjected to the daily dangers of adverse weather, friendly fire, barrage balloons and marauding German fighters, Molly's emotions and flying skills are put to the ultimate test when the unthinkable happens.

This is a story of love, passion and overcoming adversity both on the ground and in the air.

Foreword by Minnie Churchill DL.

Introduction by Richard Poad MBE.

Author Paul Olavesen-Stabb says: *"The more that I researched the personalities of Molly and the other characters and the more I wrote, the more I realised that this is an inspirational story to women and girls everywhere. I focussed not only on the challenges that the Attagirls faced as pilots, but also the challenges of being a woman in what was then the male-dominated world of the RAF."*

*"This is a story about a person who experiences extreme personal tragedy but still 'carries on' through those challenges in a way that sets an example to us all. It is indeed a true story, albeit unbelievable."*

**More details at: [www.aetheris.co.uk](http://www.aetheris.co.uk)**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Paul Olavesen-Stabb, author

Paul was born in England and is a film producer, writer and partner at Aetheris Films and Aetheris Publishing. He recently produced *The Moor with One Big Mop*; and which has since been Oscar qualified.

Paul is also co-writer of the *Attagirls* screenplay and producer of the feature film.

Paul started his production career as the founder of Bahama Locations, a Caribbean-based agency for location management and reduction of production budget lines via contras. He was thereafter co-founder and Executive Producer at Ritz Entertainment in L.A.



Paul was co-creator & producer of *Hesteliv* ("Horselife") - a three-part documentary for TV2 Norway, which was hosted by HRH Princess Märtha Louise of Norway.

He has over 20 years of experience as an Executive Producer / Director with a career spanning the UK, Norway, USA and Caribbean. He is finance focused and holds a double Masters Degree in Business (MBA hons) from ESCP-EAP, Paris - one of Europe's leading business schools.

In addition to Paul's film experience, his TV work includes documentaries; sport; entertainment; commercials; celebrity charity events; live music festivals; and multi-national VNRs.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Author Statement – Paul Olavesen-Stabb – Attagirls**

I first heard about the Air Transport Auxiliary ('ATA') after a party in London. After hearing the World War 2 story of a group of brave young women who risked their lives against incredible challenges both on the ground and in the air, I was hooked, and I knew that Attagirls would be my next film.

My enthusiasm went even further into overdrive when I met Graham Rose, Chairman of the ATA Association and the son of the heroine of the Attagirls story. During what I thought would be a regular recce trip to the ATA Museum in Maidenhead to gather some facts, dates, etc., Graham happened to mention the remarkable story of his mother in a matter-of-fact way and with such modesty that it really was one of those life-changing moments for me.

Over the next 18-months, I joined my business partner RAF Squadron Leader (rtd) Andrew Rawcliffe in the south of France where we wrote the feature film screenplay. Once complete, we pitched the idea to a few studios both in the USA and the UK and we were in production discussions when the COVID pandemic put a stop to everything.

I was determined not to waste time sitting around during one lockdown after another and so I decided to adapt the screenplay as a novel. It was during this past year that I've been able to further research the personalities and depth of the characters and the more I wrote, the more I realised that here was a story which could be inspirational to women and girls across the world. Rather than focus on the class differences that permeated the ATA, as many of the girls were from privileged backgrounds, hence having access to aircraft before the declaration of war, I focussed instead on the challenges of being a woman in what was then the male-dominated world of the RAF.

In addition to the daily dangers that the pilots faced, such as rogue Luftwaffe aircraft, adverse weather conditions, barrage balloons, 'friendly' air fire, and flying without weapons, radio or navigation equipment, they also had to defend themselves on the ground against endless criticism from all directions ... the press, the public, some members of Parliament and even from various sources within the RAF itself.

Having two daughters myself, I am no stranger to the challenges that young girls face in today's world, and throughout the writing, my main goal was to give my daughters and girls all over the world an inspirational story. I know that there are already many inspirations available other than my writings, but this is a story about a person who experiences extreme personal tragedy but still 'carries on' in a way that sets an example to us all. The book is a gift to my daughters and to all the other girls out there who may at some point need to find courage under pressure ... those who are being told that they're not good enough for one reason or another. I hope that this book changes things for them ... redefining their habits of freedom for many years to come.