

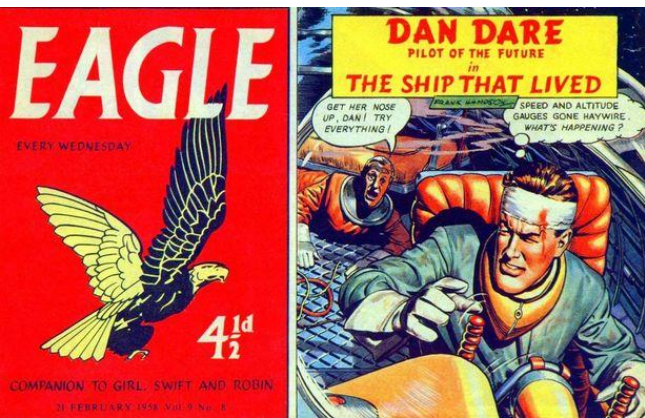
History on Your Doorstep

Tameside Inventors & Inventions

Frank Hampson (1918 - 1985) - Eagle Comic & Dan Dare



- Hampson was born at 488 Audenshaw Road, Audenshaw, near to Manchester (now Tameside), and was educated at King George V School, a grammar school in Southport. His brother Eric was killed in a naval action during the Second World War. He married Dorothy Mabel Jackson in 1944 and in 1947 they had a son, Peter.

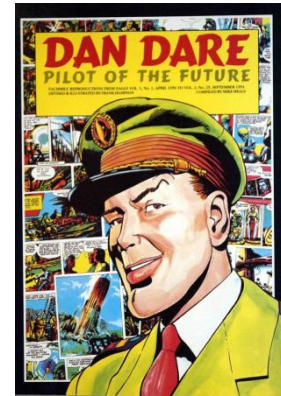


- In 1949, in collaboration with Anglican vicar Rev. Marcus Morris, he devised a new childrens' magazine, the *Eagle*, which Morris took to the Hulton Press. In April the following year, a revised version of the *Eagle* hit the bookstalls. Its most popular strip was Hampson's creation *Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future*. He wrote and drew Dan Dare's Venus and Red Moon stories, plus a complete storyline for Operation Saturn. However, Hampson drew only part of the Saturn story and his script was altered when he passed the strip to assistants.

Frank in his workshop



- Hampson instituted a studio system where, originally in Southport and later from his home in Epsom, Surrey, as many as four artists might work on two pages of the strip at any one time. When Hulton Press was bought up in 1959, and the *Eagle* moved to a new publisher, Hampson's studio system was disbanded due to its cost.



- Partly due to his own mismanagement, Longacre Press had taken over the publishing of the *Eagle*, he was forced to resign and all his new strips were impounded by the legal department. The remainder of his life Hampson went freelance illustrating for Ladybird books and others

Baa Baa Black Sheep.
Illustration for
Ladybird Book of Nursery Rhymes



- Hampson was voted *Prestigioso Maestro* at an international convention of strip cartoon and animated film artists held at Lucca, Tuscany in 1975. A jury of his peers gave him a *Yellow Kid Award* and declared him to be the best writer and artist of strip cartoons since the end of the Second World War.



Yellow Kid Award won by Frank Hampson in 1975

- Frank died in July 1985 in Epsom, Surrey