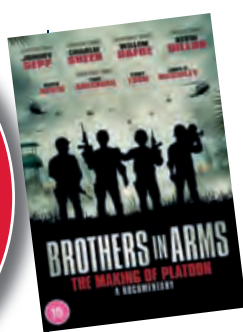


The Forces' favourite paper



DVD prizes
Platoon & Monkey specials

● RnR p3 & p5



Win!

Dance master
Gripping yarns from the Far East

● See RnR p4-5



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **October 2** 2020
No. 1500 **70p**

RAF News



Service charities Covid cash crisis



See pages
16/17

Bobsleigh
Stephens in Reds push



● See p30

Rugby Union
Mac bosses it at Bath



● See p29

Avengers assemble



Simon Mander

THE RAF'S legendary Dambusters line up alongside the US Marines 'Avengers' squadron on board HMS Queen Elizabeth as Nato prepares to launch a series of war games in the North Sea.

A total of 14 jets from 617 Sqn and the USMC VMFA-211 (Wake Island Avengers) have joined the 65,000-tonne carrier as she sails for exercises with Nato allies. ● Cont p5



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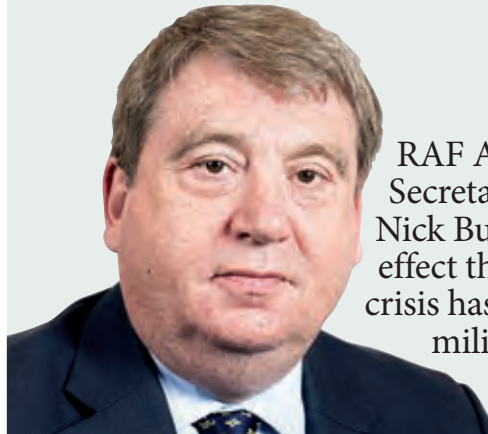
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“We didn’t want to look like a bunch of precious actors”



RAF Association Secretary General Nick Bunting on the effect the Covid-19 crisis has had on military charities
See p16-17



Stuart Hooper, Bath RFU director of rugby on awarding Cpl Josh McNally the captain’s armband
See p29



Actor Paul Sanchez on enduring boot camp to prepare for the classic war film Platoon
See R’n’R p3



RAF News

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Covid charity funding crisis

Tracey Allen

MILITARY CHARITIES are facing an uncertain future after the devastating financial impact of the coronavirus crisis.

The enforced cancellation of most fundraising events, caused by Covid-19, has seen their income drop by up to 50 per cent in some cases. One of the UK’s largest charities for military personnel and veterans, Help For Heroes, has had to close three of its recovery centres and make up to 90 employees redundant.

CEO Melanie Waters described the decision as ‘extremely tough’.

While the lockdown hit charities’ finances hard, it also prompted an increase in demand for services – especially tackling loneliness, isolation and help with mental health issues.



PROFITS PLUNGE:
Forces good causes hit by Covid

Waters said: “Demand for support rose significantly during lockdown with a 33 per cent increase in new people coming forward for support with their mental health in May and June this year compared to the same period last year.”

Major military charities including the RAF Benevolent

Fund, SSAFA and the RAF Association all said their finances had suffered.

RAFBF Controller AVM Chris Elliott said: “I don’t think any of us know how long we will be in this situation. We are expecting 2021 to be a tough year.”

● See special report on p16-17



RECOGNITION: Priti Patel

Interpreters win UK rights

DOZENS MORE Afghan interpreters who supported British Armed Forces on the frontline in Helmand Province will be able to move to the UK as part of an expanded relocation scheme.

Under new rules outlined by Home Secretary Priti Patel and Defence Minister Ben Wallace interpreters can now choose to either relocate to the UK, receive five years training and monthly payments, or 18 months salary.

The move significantly expands eligibility criteria for former interpreters to apply for the relocation offer.

Until now, former employees must have been made redundant after 2006 with 12 months or more service outside the wire on the frontline.

This Week In History



1944 Antwerp Lanc raid

A LARGE force of Lancaster bombers attack coastal gun batteries guarding the approach to Antwerp to clear the way for advancing Allied troops.

**1969
Harrier UK debut**
THE FIRST Harrier squadron is formed at Wittering. 1 Sqn becomes the first operational VTOL unit in the world.



1977 Puma Belize mission

THREE PUMAS deploy to Belize to reinforce a British Army garrison as Guatemalan troops mass on the border with the British colony.

Extracts from
The Royal Air Force Day By Day by Air Cdre Graham Pitchfork (The History Press)

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**With the help of SSAFA, RAF engineer and
single father Marcus, adopted his 18 month
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Era of big-deck, fast jet carrier ops is back



Nato flexes its muscles

ALL ABOARD: US and RAF squadrons on Big Lizzie

Continued from front page

The British and American warplanes form the largest air group of fifth-generation fighters at sea anywhere in the world.

The show of strength is the largest concentration of military aircraft to operate from a Royal Navy carrier since HMS Hermes in 1983, a year after the Falklands War.

617 Sqn CO Commander Mark

Sparrow said: "You need to go back more than three decades to find the UK operating anything on this scale or complexity and this is a first for fifth-generation carrier capability."

"The era of big-deck, fast jet carrier operations is back."

This month HMS Queen Elizabeth will be joined by seven Royal Navy destroyers, frigates and auxiliaries to form a Carrier Strike Group ready to fight on the surface

and in the air. It will be put through its paces off the north east coast of Scotland as part of Joint Warrior, Nato's largest annual exercise.

Commander UK Carrier Strike Group, Commodore Steve Moorhouse, said: "HMS Queen Elizabeth will be operating with the largest air group of fifth-generation fighters assembled anywhere in the world."

"Led by the Royal Navy and backed by our closest allies this new Carrier Strike Group puts real muscle back into Nato and sends a clear signal that the United Kingdom takes its global role seriously."

Usually based in Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona, VMFA-211 arrived at Marham two weeks ago after a 5,367-mile trans-Atlantic flight and worked up with 617 Sqn conducting Exercise Point Blank before embarking in the carrier.

Their CO, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Freshour USMC, said: "The Wake Island Avengers are looking forward to deploying alongside our British counterparts over the next few months, and we will work



tirelessly as a part of this trans-Atlantic naval force.

"We are proud to play such an important role in the generation of an ally's carrier strike capability."

UK Carrier Air Wing Commander, Captain James Blackmore, added: "This is the trans-Atlantic alliance in action, demonstrating that two close allies can not only fly from each other's carriers, but can fight alongside each other should we need to. This level of integration offers a decisive flexibility in

times of crisis, conflict or war."

As previously reported in *RAF News*, the mission will be HMS Queen Elizabeth's debut on the biannual two-week UK-led Exercise Joint Warrior, which is used by Nato partner nations and all three Services as an opportunity to practise airborne assaults, amphibious landings, evacuations and conduct live-fire training.

Big Lizzie, along with her 1,680 sailors, aviators and marines, is due to return to her home port of Portsmouth next month.



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In Brief



WWII HERO: Spitfire pilot Allan Scott

Ace Allan's final flight

SPITFIRE ACE Sqn Ldr Allan Scott, who has died aged 99, passed away before he could achieve his ambition to fly the iconic aircraft once more before he reached 100.

He took to the skies in a Spitfire last year to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day. At the time he said: "I'm looking forward to flying it again."

"I hope I don't have to wait until I'm 100. I love it. As soon as I get airborne, I'm happy."

Allan first flew the Spitfire when he was 19. In 2018 he returned to Biggin Hill – 77 years after he was posted there with 124 Sqn – to take part in a formation of two Spitfires and a Hurricane to mark the centenary of the RAF.

Chris Elliot, chief executive of the RAFBE, said: "Allan was a remarkable man, indefatigable in his championing of RAF veterans and their sacrifices during the Second World War."

● See p23 for full obituary

Herc on target on NATO air assault

Simon Mander

HERCULES CREWS joined a Nato air assault drill dropping more than 200 British paratroopers into southern Ukraine.

Brize-based 47 Squadron aircraft flew 10-hour sorties to get crack 16 Air Assault Brigade troops and their kit to the Ternivsky training area for Exercise Joint Endeavour.

The C-130Js flew in tight low-level formations at 600 feet to deliver 250 soldiers to their drop zones before completing air-to-air refuelling with Voyager tankers on the long journey home.

The manoeuvres involved 8,000 troops, including units from the US and Canada, and are the first since Ukraine became an enhanced Nato partner in June.

A 47 Sqn pilot who flew on every mission said: "It was an amazing feeling of accomplishment to get the guys out on the second we said we would."

"We air-dropped 8,000kg of equipment, including ammunition and vehicles, to help the troops achieve their task."

"We were generally arriving at the Voyager having already flown for almost eight hours, which made the refuelling challenging."

"To ensure that we could transport as many troops to the drop zone as possible we had to work with a very tight fuel plan."

47 Sqn is a highly-trained specialist unit which routinely flies in the most demanding operational environments, including most recently Operation Shader, and can airdrop stores, personnel, and carry



DROP ZONE: Troops exit Hercules over training area in south Ukraine; inset left, crews refuel during NATO drill; above left, Hercules prepares to take off
PHOTOS: CPL DANNY HOUGHTON

out tactical landings anywhere in the world.

It has flown Hercules since 1968, supporting ships in the British task force during the Falklands War, and was heavily involved

in the Iraq and Libyan campaigns.

British troops have trained more than 18,000 Ukrainian soldiers in the past five years as part of Operation Orbital, established in 2015 following the illegal

annexation of Crimea by Russia.

Last month Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announced further support in a UK-led multinational training initiative for the Ukrainian Navy.

Aristocrat, beauty queen and spy – Churchill favourite remembered

Tracey Allen

WORLD WAR II special agent Christine Granville, dubbed Winston Churchill's 'favourite spy', has been commemorated with an English Heritage blue plaque at the hotel in London where she lived after the war.

Called Britain's 'most glamorous spy' the former beauty queen, daughter of a Polish aristocrat, is believed to be the inspiration for the character Vesper Lynd in Ian Fleming's James Bond novel *Casino Royale*.

The plaque was unveiled at the Lexham Gardens Hotel (the Shelbourne Hotel when Granville lived there) in Kensington, which was at the centre of the city's post-war Polish community.

Born Krystyna Skarbek in Warsaw in 1908, Granville was Britain's first and longest-serving

female secret agent during WWII.

She joined British Intelligence after Germany invaded Poland in 1939. Her recruiting agent described her as 'a flaming Polish patriot, an expert skier and great adventuress.'

The SOE agent, who used several aliases, was issued with a British passport in the name of Christine Granville early in the war.

Her daring missions included skiing over the snow-bound Polish border, smuggling microfilm across Europe which proved Hitler's plans to invade the Soviet Union, and rescuing French Resistance agents from the Gestapo.

Clare Mulley, author of *The Spy Who Loved*, Granville's biography, said:



"Often women in the resistance are remembered for beauty and courage, while their achievements are overlooked. She was one of the most effective special agents to serve Britain, male or female."

She helped organise the defection of an entire German garrison across the Alps and saved the lives of many of her male colleagues, prompting Churchill to call her his favourite spy, and honour her with the George Medal and later the OBE.

The West London hotel – run by the Polish Relief Society – was her home from 1949 until she was murdered there, aged 44, in 1952, by an obsessed stalker.

I-SPY: Granville is believed to be the inspiration for Bond author Fleming's character Vesper Lynd, played by Eva Green, left



SECRET LIFE: Krystyna Skarbek, who became one of Britain's most effective agents as Christine Granville; inset above, biographer Clare Mulley with blue plaque at the London hotel where the Polish-born WWII spy lived after the war

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Military life as it app-ens

RAF PERSONNEL can update their Covid status, check payslips, manage leave and make claims on a new phone app launched by the MoD.

And developers want to add other services so airmen and women can book travel, order kit, apply for jobs and take part in sports and fitness programmes from their mobile.

Senior officers hope the app will enable them to track the impact of coronavirus on their units, cut time spent on admin by providing welfare and support in one place, and enable them to issue targeted alerts to their teams.

The app is available to Regulars and Reserves on most personal devices through the Defence Gateway and works without a Service network connection.

● Go to: defencegateway.mod.uk



TRIBUTE: Gravesend statue of Flt Lt Pujji

Sikhs honour DFC hero Pujji

THE RAF has paid tribute to Sikh World War II fighter pilot, DFC winner Sqn Ldr Mahinder Singh Pujji, on the 10th anniversary of his death.

A ceremony led by Air Cdre Shaun Harris was held at the statue dedicated to Pujji in The Grove, Gravesend, 10 years after he died, aged 92.

Pujji volunteered for the RAF in 1940 and went on to fly combat operations in Hurricanes and Spitfires in Europe, Africa and the Far East, serving with 6, 43 and 258 Squadrons.

Mali coup call-up for UK Chinooks

Crews airlift French forces as regime falls

Simon Mander

CHINOOK CREWS are continuing to assist French forces in their fight against Islamist extremists – despite a military coup in the African state.

The latest RAF detachment, Odiham-based C Flight 18 (Bomber) Sqn, flew in after the government of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was ousted by his own troops and tanks in August.

Crews with 1310 Flight flew in to airlift French soldiers fighting

to re-establish Malian Army Forward Operating Bases for future combat operations.

British Chinooks supply troops at each new base with equipment and heavy weaponry to avoid road moves and maintain the element of surprise with night missions.

Commanding Officer Sqn Ldr Jeff Fitzpatrick said: “The Chinook offers a unique capability to our French partners.

“We can lift up to 34 fully armed soldiers, allowing them to overcome

the huge scale of Mali or, equally, several tons of food, water and ammunition – providing the flexibility for remote troops to stay in the field longer to achieve their objective.”

In addition, Tactical Supply Wing teams continue to use specialist tactics refuelling with engines running and rotors turning with French and Danish helicopter crews.

UK National Component Commander Lt/Col Steve Brining said: “Continuous training,

including when deployed on operations, serves to enhance cohesion and improves operational efficiency.”

From Gao Airfield RAF Chinooks regularly fly over land in combatant-controlled territory to assist coalition troops on Operation Barkhane.

The campaign is France’s largest overseas operation, which began in August 2014 and involves around 4,500 troops in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.



Triple scramble combats rising Russia threat

Staff Reporter

TYPHOONS SCRAMBLED for the third time in six days to intercept Russian military aircraft operating near UK airspace.

Lossiemouth-based jets launched from their temporary home at Leuchars to challenge two Russian Tu-142 Bear F sub-hunters over the North Sea.

A Voyager from Brize Norton provided air-to-air refuelling for the jets and a Nato E-3A Sentry Airborne Early Warning aircraft was diverted from a training mission nearby to provide extra surveillance.

Typically, Russian aircraft do not transmit an identification code or talk to air traffic controllers – causing civilian airliners to be re-routed to ensure flight safety.

Air Officer Commanding 11 Group, Air Vice-Marshal Ian

Duguid, said: “For the third time inside a week, the RAF has scrambled to defend the interests of the UK and Nato.

“The whole process has its roots in the Battle of Britain system perfected by Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding in 1940. Eighty years on, it remains as relevant as ever.”

Combat jets from several Nato allies including French, Danish and Norwegian aircraft, launched to assist in monitoring the Russian Tu-142s.

The latest scramble follows launches from Leuchars in response to two Russian Tu-142 Bear Fs and in a separate incident to intercept two Russian Tu-160 Blackjacks skirting Nato-controlled skies.



News

Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary



THE FEW BECOME ONE: BoB pilot Paddy Hemingway in 1940. The 101-year-old veteran is the only surviving member of Churchill's legendary 'Few'. *Main*, BBMF Spitfires and Hurricane fly over Westminster Abbey
PHOTO: PA

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thanks of a nation

The last of *The Few*, Paddy Hemingway (aged 101) took a bow for the airmen who halted the Luftwaffe as PM led tributes marking Battle of Britain 80th

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson and the Chief of the Air Staff, ACM Mike Wigston, led tributes at Westminster Abbey to the airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain as the nation marked the 80th anniversary of the epic fight to halt a Nazi invasion.

The service, held under Covid restrictions, remembered the first battle in history fought entirely in the air and which marked a crucial turning point in World War II.

During the act of remembrance the Royal Air Force Ensign and Battle of Britain Roll of Honour bearing the names of the 1,497 pilots who died

and were mortally wounded were carried through the abbey.

Following the service a formation of Spitfires and Hurricanes from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew over Westminster as a salute to the fallen.

101-year-old WWII veteran John 'Paddy' Hemingway is the last surviving member of The Few. He watched coverage of the celebrations from his rest home near Dublin, in Ireland.

The service was among a series of events held across the country to mark the anniversary. At RAF Valley, the home of

UK fast jet training, the BBMF's Spitfire XVI was joined in the skies by a 72 Squadron Texan T1.

Spitfire pilot, Typhoon Force Commander Air Cdre Mark Flewin, said: "72 Sqn was the first to launch in its Spitfires against German raiders on Battle of Britain Day 80 years ago.

"It is hard to imagine what those young pilots, with an average age of 20, were feeling; fear knowing there was a good chance each sortie might prove fatal, exhaustion from flying several combat sorties a day, awe at the great responsibility that now rested on the shoulders of these Few, or duty to serve and do their absolute best."

Charmed life of a humble hero

DUBLIN BORN John 'Paddy' Hemingway, the last surviving Battle of Britain pilot, celebrated his 101st birthday this summer.

He joined the RAF in April 1938 and within a year was flying Hurricanes with 85 Squadron in France during the 'Phoney War' – the calm before the Nazi storm.

On May 10, 1939, when the Germans advanced into the Low Countries and France, Hemingway was immediately in action and shot down a Henkel III.

Two days later he made a forced landing when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, wounding him in the leg. He joined a column of refugees as they headed westwards and rejoined the squadron.

85 Sqn lost so many aircraft that it was withdrawn after nine days and returned to Britain with just three aircraft.

On August 18, 1940 Hemingway had to bail out over the North Sea when his aircraft was hit during an attack on a Junkers 88 bomber. He recalled: "I had to bale out knowing survival rates in the North Sea were not good. After two-and-a-half hours a rowing boat from a nearby lightship bumped into me." He returned to the squadron the following day.

A week later he engaged some Messerschmitt Bf 109s when his Hurricane was attacked. The engine was hit and for the second time in eight days he was forced to bale out, this time landing on Pitsea Marshes in Essex.

He was immediately back in action, but by the end of September the exhausted squadron withdrew to the north to rebuild and convert into a night-fighter squadron.

Paddy said: "I'm only one of the 2,500 pilots during the Battle of Britain, many of whom were injured or killed. Everyone played their part.

"I feel privileged to have met so many amazing young men and pilots – many of whom perished. The Battle should be about all who served."

He was awarded the DFC in 1941 and later took command of 43 Sqn in Italy 'helping the Germans with their retreat'.

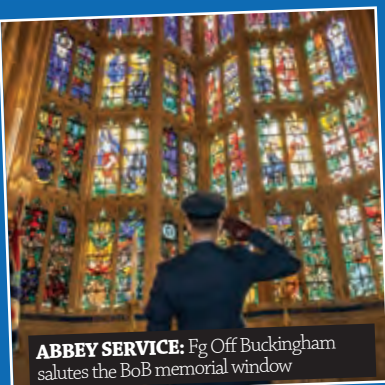
He remained in the RAF after the war, commanding 32 Sqn in Egypt before taking up Nato appointments in Paris and with the Air Ministry. He retired from the RAF in 1969 as a Group Captain.



SURVIVOR: Battle of Britain veteran Paddy Hemingway at his home near Dublin; inset below, supporting fundraising campaign to remember The Few



PM BORIS JOHNSON



ABBEY SERVICE: Fg Off Buckingham salutes the BoB memorial window



SALUTE IN THE AIR: BBMF Spitfire joined by Texan at Valley



VETS' TRIBUTE: RAF veterans at St Mawgan



BUCHAN: Anniversary projections from the RAFBF light up the sky at the radar station



HONOUR: RAF personnel at Halton House



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News bulletin



COLD WAR WARRIOR: Victor at Marham

Victor vanquished

MARHAM'S VICTOR bomber gate guardian will be scrapped after attempts to find a new owner failed.

Fans of the V-Force veteran had hoped it would get a new home when comedian Johnny Vegas said he'd adopt it but he later withdrew his offer. An MoD spokesman said: "Unfortunately, no-one has come forward who has the capability to remove and restore her so the difficult decision has been made to dispose of the aircraft."

Pole aces high at exhibition

THE CONTRIBUTION of Polish airmen to victory in the Battle of Britain is revealed in a new exhibition in London.

The Polish Embassy display includes iconic archive photographs telling the story of those who defended Britain from the Luftwaffe in the summer and autumn of 1940.

A total of 145 Polish pilots fought in the conflict, many with the legendary 303 Squadron – the most effective Fighter Command unit in the battle.

Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki said: "It is a fitting tribute to the sacrifice The Few made so that we can enjoy freedom."

"It shows the strong spirit of camaraderie between Poland and the UK in the most testing of times."



POLISH HERO: Fg Off Urbanowicz

"Our pilots demonstrated that spirit through fighting together for the freedom of Poland, the UK and Europe."

Among them was top ace Sgt Josef Frantisek with 17 kills, who, although Czech by birth, chose to stay with 303 Sqn, and Fg Off Witold Urbanowicz whose 15 victories puts him sixth in the list of the 10 highest scoring fighter pilots of The Few.

Poles shot down 203 enemy aircraft and 30 pilots lost their lives in the 16-week fight in British skies.

Low down and dirty



TRIALS TO test the RAF's newest transporter's ability to land almost anywhere have been handed over to Brize's XXIV Squadron.

Since 2018, flights to assess the A400M's performance on natural surfaces such as beaches and dirt strips have been conducted by 206 Sqn.

But the latest move means XXIV Sqn tactical instructors will now be able to develop courses and train other frontline units to use the aircraft, which has been in service since 2014.

Officer Commanding 206 Sqn Wing Commander Neil Phil said: "This milestone

demonstrates the fantastic tactical airlift capability of the A400M and its potential to make an immediate impact to operations."

"The handover to XXIV Sqn is the culmination of several years of test and evaluation and has been a true team effort."

Tributes to devout D-Day veteran who delivered hope

Simon Mander

CELEBRITIES, CHURCH leaders and aviators have paid tribute to the man behind the world's largest humanitarian airline – Stuart Sendall-King, who has died aged 98.

The former RAF Flight Lieutenant co-founded the Mission Aviation Fellowship – an international charity using aircraft to deliver food, fresh water and medicine to the most isolated and forgotten people on the planet.

During a career spanning seven decades he supported the D-Day Landings as a 247 Sqn Engineering Officer, pioneered aid missions in Sudan, was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, and was inducted into the Honourable Company of Air Pilots joining names such as Neil Armstrong and Jim Lovell.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who joined MAF missions to South Sudan and Uganda, said: "Stuart's tremendous contribution to the founding of MAF has had a profound impact on the ministry of many people across the world and the Anglican Communion."

"I was saddened to hear of his death and I



MERCY MISSION: MAF Miles Gemini flies into the Congo in 1948; inset, supporter Archbishop Justin Welby PHOTOS: MAF

pray for Stuart's family and the MAF staff at this time."

Sendall-King's eldest daughter Rebecca said: "Dad's life motto was always to be the best man he could be in God in every season of his life."

"He strived to be the best bachelor, then the best husband, the best father and finally the best widower. He was always so determined and committed to MAF. He is an inspiration to us all."

Today the Fellowship operates

138 purpose-built light aircraft in more than 26 countries, employs over 1,300 staff and partners with more than 2,000 humanitarian organisations, including UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and the Red Cross.

In his bestselling book *Hope Has Wings*, Stuart (inset, left) described the inspiring, faith-filled journey that has seen the charity fly to more remote and inaccessible destinations than any other commercial airline.

Sir Cliff Richard, who wrote a forward for the book's early publication, said: "Stuart was there



WWII VET: Flt Lt Stuart Sendall-King

from MAF's earliest beginnings.

"He shared its first exploratory flight into the heart of Africa, and experienced its triumphs, tragedies, joy and pain."

"MAF brings hope and help to people in extreme need and suffering. It is a vital story of faith – exciting yet humbling."

Stuart died on August 29 at his home in Folkestone, Kent in the charity's 75th year. He leaves behind three children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

To mark its 75th anniversary, MAF is publishing a book *Above and Beyond* dedicated to Stuart.



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Wittering controllers scoop award

Staff Reporter

AIR TRAFFIC controllers at Wittering have netted a top aviation award from the RAF's 38 Group.

Radar teams at the Cambridgeshire station have seen a surge in business and now deal with more than 45,000 aircraft movements a year.

The station is a key pilot training centre and copes with heavy transporters, fast jets and helicopter landings all year round.

The ATC unit was presented with the commendation by Air Vice-Marshal Simon Ellard.

Unit Standards Officer FS Katie Mason said: "We provide a safe



STAR ATTRACTION: Red Arrows from Scampton often use Wittering runway operating environment for our other aircraft that use the station. It's a privilege to be recognised."



Georgina coins it in

HALTON CATERING ace Georgina Pretty is minted – after picking up a new station award.

The RAF Halton hospitality star is the first to receive the Station Commander's coin, introduced this month to recognise outstanding staff.

Station chief Gp Capt Dan Startup said: "Georgina is well known around the Officers' Mess. She is one of our many unsung heroes who we want to reward."

News bulletin



CLEAN SWEEP: RAF engineer Sgt Dan Bell

Dangerman Dan's a runway success

EAGLE-EYED ENGINEER Sgt Dan Bell has kept air operations running from Gibraltar and averted a major safety alert – by tracking down potentially lethal debris on the runway.

The quick-thinking airman launched a sweep of the tarmac after realising a bolt from a road sweeper he was working on had sheared off and tracked it down. He was presented with a safety award by Cdr Steven Dainton.

Jobs blow for Forces SNCOs

A NEW REPORT reveals that the experience and skills of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers are often misunderstood and undervalued by Civvy Street employers.

The survey by Warwick University says the longer SNCOs spend in the Forces the worse their prospects may be.

Most veterans questioned found dealing with civilian life while trying to find a job 'overwhelming'.

A further 23 per cent found their lack of interview experience 'very challenging'. Negative attitudes from potential employers were also found to be a barrier to succeeding in the civilian job market.

MT duo drive to survive on drill



MT DRIVER: SAC Coleman

MT DRIVER: SAC Wandless

Simon Mander

DRIVERS ARE preparing at Wittering for operations behind enemy lines.

The station's Vigo Wood training area has been transformed into a realistic forward operating base with a military checkpoint for the manoeuvres.

Newly-qualified drivers SAC Kayleigh Coleman and SAC Ashleigh Wandless are among the personnel keeping their military

skills up to scratch on Exercise Resolute Convoy.

Kitted out in full military gear despite the earlier September heatwave the pair from No 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron have been assigned sentry and patrol duties.

Kayleigh said: "It's not as bad or as heavy as you'd think, you can adjust the webbing to make it work for you."

2MT was first formed during the Battle of Britain to ferry aircraft spares and supplies to fighter

stations in the south of England.

Today it is the RAF's road-going heavy lift capability, operating tankers to all-wheel-drive trucks throughout the UK, Europe and on worldwide operational deployment or field exercises.

The two SACs, who completed training together, recently returned from an extended deployment to the Falkland Islands.

Ashleigh, who previously worked in the oil and gas industry, said: "I joined two years ago,

almost to the day, and absolutely I'd recommend it.

"They're very sociable in 2MT and really helpful."

Officer Commanding 2MT Sqn Ldr Dan Cook said: "SACs Coleman and Wandless can already operate a diverse range of civilian and military vehicles in any environment.

"We're now ensuring they have the skills and confidence to make decisions under pressure and to protect themselves and their team."

CHARITY COVID CASH CRISIS

Groups helping Services take a huge hit because of the coronavirus pandemic

Fundraising events axed

Revenues plummet

Reserves depleted

Future uncertain

... but charities FIGHT BACK

THE COVID crisis has put the future of many military charities in jeopardy – according to experts in the sector. The charity **Help For Heroes** announced recently that it has had to close three recovery centres and make up to 90 employees redundant due to what it called ‘the devastating financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.’

Experts say it’s likely that some of the UK’s 490 military charities will have to work more closely together to ensure they have a future – and some won’t survive.

General Sir John McColl, chairman of Cobseo, the Confederation of Service Charities, said: “We ran a survey in May and 65 per cent of those who replied said due to the pandemic they had experienced a drop in income of up to 50 per cent.

“Fifty per cent said they would have to reduce their service provision by up to half in the coming year. The most worrying thing was that 30 per cent of respondents expected to have depleted their levels of reserves within a year. And 18 per cent believed they would need to merge or close.”

AVM Chris Elliott, Controller of the **RAF Benevolent Fund** revealed that, since the pandemic, the charity’s revenue has dropped by up to a quarter.

She said: “We are not unique; the coronavirus crisis has affected the charity sector writ large. Our income will be down by 23 to 25 per cent at the end of the year – that is significant for our organisation.”

Although the pandemic is forcing the cancellation of most fundraising events, AVM Elliott said the public were still continuing to donate and support fundraisers like six-year-old Jacob Newson.

Despite having to postpone his fundraising walk in Belgium twice this year, Jacob – who has raised almost £17,000 for the Fund to date – is determined to tackle the challenge later this month.

AVM Elliott said:



COBSEO: General Sir John McColl



RAFBE: AVM Chris Elliott



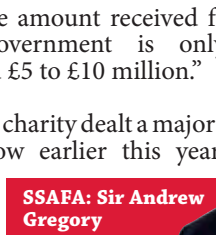
FORCES IN MIND TRUST: Ray Lock



COMBAT STRESS: Robert Walsh



RAFBE STAR: Fundraiser Jacob Newson



SSAFA: Sir Andrew Gregory



RAFA: Nick Bunting



TRIBUTE TO THE FEW: Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent is pinning its hopes on a public appeal



HELP FOR HEROES: Has been hit because many of the fundraising events it relies on have had to be cancelled due to Covid-19

“The RAF Association has played a central role in the RAF community for over 90 years and we have no intention of being beaten by Covid-19”

“We are so grateful that people have continued to give. Jacob and his family are just amazing.”

She added: “I don’t think any of us know how long we will be in this situation. We are expecting 2021 to be a tough year.”

Some charities have turned to crowdfunding campaigns to help counteract their drop in income. In 56 days an appeal to help save the memorial to **The Few at Capel-le-Ferne** in Kent raised £28,850. Now the **International Bomber Command Centre** in Lincoln has launched an appeal to raise £40,000 to help save it. An IBCC spokesperson said closure due to the lockdown had ‘decimated’ its finances, with 90 per cent of its income having been cut.

Ray Lock, CEO of the **Forces in Mind Trust**,

that helps ex-Service personnel transition successfully to civilian life, and provides funding for various projects, said: “I don’t think Armed Forces charities have done any better or worse than the other charity sectors.

“Broadly speaking we are looking at about a 50 per cent reduction in voluntary income, through things like fundraising, community events and donations. A lot of charities get income from investments and the stock market – investment income is also down.

“Where evidence has shown some charities could not survive, rather than go bust they have effectively put everything into abeyance.”

As the lockdown and ongoing pandemic has had a damaging affect on charities’ finances, he

said demand for services – especially tackling loneliness, isolation and help with mental health issues – has increased.

Another affect of the Covid crisis, he added, was that many military charities had used the crisis to focus on becoming more efficient, including accelerating online, rather than face to face, service delivery.

He said: “An independent review suggests that the Armed Forces charity sector has managed its services well during the pandemic but 31 per cent of military charities forecast reserves will be gone within a year. I think what we are going to see is that charities will work more closely together.”

He added: “There has been some government support but it’s not been massive.

“At the start of lockdown, we calculated that to keep the sector running through to the end of 2020 would take about £200 million.

“The amount received from the government is only around £5 to £10 million.”

One charity dealt a major blow earlier this year

by the withdrawal of government funds was **Combat Stress**, when it lost more than £3 million of funding support from the NHS. Having provided the charity with the money in the past to provide a six-week residential programme for veterans, it was decided after a review to use it on new services.

Combat Stress director of fundraising Robert Walsh said: “Effectively we had a bit of a hole in our income which made us have a really long look at what we do – so we had done some of our restructuring work before Covid struck.

“We had a fundraising envelope of just over £10 million so were in a more fortunate position than many others. We have a completely diverse portfolio of income streams – diversity is the key.”

SSAFA’s CEO, Sir Andrew Gregory, said: “Despite the changes we have faced since March we have continued uninterrupted to support the RAF family.

“We are looking strategically at a number of things – how charities will work better together, working with the RAFBE and the RAF Association to make sure our support is as coherent as possible. I am optimistic about the future, there are

challenges and it will be a tough few years ahead but we will weather the storm.”

Nick Bunting, Secretary General of the **RAF Association**, revealed the charity was anticipating an overall reduction in its income of £14 million for 2020 and 2021 compared to the figure it had planned for pre-Covid – a 40 per cent reduction.

He said: “Despite our best efforts in reshaping our fundraising activities and the tremendous efforts of our supporters, we expect £5-7million of this shortfall to be due to a reduction in fundraising.

“As the pandemic continues, and new ways of living start to become the new normal, it seems likely that some elements of our fundraising work may never go back to the way they were before Covid.

“We will keep our fundraising operations under review to ensure that we continue to do the best we can for our beneficiaries as circumstances change.

“Times are tough but I am optimistic about the future.

“The RAF Association has played a central role in the RAF community for over 90 years and we have no intention of being beaten by Covid-19.”

Announcements

- P6-7
- Puzzles**
- P8

R'n'R



**Win cult TV
classic complete
series: p5**

**Eastern promise – The
Singapore Grip ● p4-5**



THE NEW WAY TO CONTACT YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE

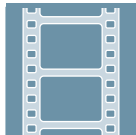
FOR ADVICE ON:

- SYMPTOMS, CONDITIONS OR TREATMENT
- REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS
- MEDICALS
- LIGHT DUTIES CHITS
- TEST RESULTS

TO GET STARTED:

1. GO TO ECONSULT AND FIND YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE
2. FIND YOUR SYMPTOM, CONDITION OR REQUEST
3. FILL OUT A QUICK FORM
4. YOUR PRACTICE RESPONDS WITH ADVICE, A PRESCRIPTION OR AN APPOINTMENT





Film Special

Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon

Cert 15 – out on digital download from Oct 5 (Kaleidoscope Home Entertainment)

Making of a Nam classic

BEING A Vietnam War veteran himself, *Platoon* director Oliver Stone demanded authenticity from every aspect of his film.

Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon, told from the actors' perspectives, is written and directed by original cast member Paul Sanchez (who played Doc) – his later credits include *Cast Away* and Marvel's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* He reunited the *Platoon* team to share personal stories on the film which launched their careers.

He said: "I couldn't wait to go, we were all tearing our hair out to get there. It was a non-union, low budget film made in a foreign country.

"If you got injured during boot camp, you were out. There were some actors who weren't happy about that and got fired and replaced early on. For those of us who really wanted to do it, there was never any doubt where we wanted to be."

As shown in the documentary, the actors took on a gruelling boot camp to understand the conditions of soldiers at war, run by Captain Dale Dye, a retired and decorated US Marine and Vietnam veteran who has consulted on countless films and television series including *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers*. He is also interviewed in the documentary. Sanchez explained:

"We got up at dawn and had to do a lot of calisthenics and push-ups, then we'd go on 12-mile

Depp, Sheen & others were band of brothers



CLOSE: Filming *Platoon*, which featured *Brothers in Arms* director Paul Sanchez, left

hikes and perform countless drills. That really wakes you up, you don't even need coffee."

Recalling the harsh conditions the cast endured while filming in the Philippines, Sanchez said: "As

Review: Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon

OLIVER STONE'S *Platoon* gets its very own fly in the ointment documentary from director Paul Sanchez in *Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon*.

The Charlie Sheen-narrated documentary hears from cast and crew, who recall the off-beat and in some cases brutal making of the cult Academy Award-winning movie that went on to be a cinematic hit and bonded them all forever.

The stars of the 1986 release – Johnny Depp, Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe – all went on to stellar careers, with

John C. McGinley (*Scrubs*), Chris Pederson (*Point Blank*) and Kevin Dillon (*The Doors*, *Entourage*) going on to have respectable ones.

Documentaries of this kind can often fall into the trap of sounding too pretentious, after all, it is only the making of a film. As soon as ex-Marine Captain Dale Dye explains his dream of making a realistic war film and how he persuaded Stone, a Vietnam veteran, to begin the project, all pretensions are gone.

Dye beats the cast into shape, making them an actual working rifle platoon. Over a hellish two-

week training camp, the crew bond. It sees them deprived of sleep and comfort, and attacked at night with flares and explosions.

But in truth, the madness began earlier with auditions featuring actor David Neidorf who plays Tex, bringing along a 357 magnum and firing it, while Sheen returns to the place where his father filmed and narrated *Apocalypse Now* a decade earlier.

Once in country the tales turn to stories of Stone being tough on them, from filming endless takes without film in the camera, to having his life saved by Depp after

a translator threatens to shoot him.

The cast form a band in their local bar, their only escape from the onset madness, but even this is impacted. Filmed in sequence, the movie saw actors leave as soon as they died on screen, so each night one less is left in the bar with the rest mourning another loss.

For all this *Brothers in Arms* suffers too much from repetition, and is mainly for dedicated *Platoon* fans.

Review by Daniel Abrahams
3 out of 5 roundels

Win!

New DVD up for grabs

PLATOON IS widely regarded as one of the best war films ever made and, it's said, changed the face of cinema forever through its raw, honest and moving portrayal of young American soldiers serving during the Vietnam War.

Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon is the feature-length story of how this four-time Oscar winning film was made, featuring new interviews with the actors who would go on to become major stars.

Narrated by Charlie Sheen (*Anger Management*, *Wall Street*), the cast and crew share stories of making this non-union, low budget, independent film. They reminisce about the gruelling boot camp, Stone's unique directing style and the harsh filming conditions that forged their eternal brotherhood.

Featuring interviews with

stars including Johnny Depp (*Black Mass*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*), Willem Dafoe (*The Lighthouse*, *Murder on the Orient Express*), Kevin Dillon (*Entourage*, *Poseidon*) and Tom Berenger (*Inception*, *Sniper*), *Brothers in Arms: The Making of Platoon* has been

described as 'the ultimate tribute to one of the greatest movies ever made'.

RAF News has a copy of the documentary on DVD up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning it, just answer this question correctly:

Who directed *Platoon*?

Email your answer, marked *Brothers in Arms* DVD competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 16. Please include your full postal address.

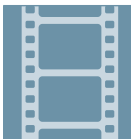


UK Box Office Top 10

1	Tenet
2	After We Collided
3	Bill and Ted Face The Music
4	Andre Rieu's Magical Maastricht: Together in Music
5	The New Mutants (below)
6	Onward
7	Rocks
8	100% Wolf
9	White Riot
10	Unhinged



Source: BFI



Film

London Film Festival

October 7-18



MANGROVE: Will be free to see at cinemas across the country in link-up with the BBC

Black activists on trial in film festival opener

THE BFI London Film Festival 2020 opens next month with the European premiere of Steve McQueen's *Mangrove*, starring Letitia Wright and Shaun Parkes, and closes with Francis Lee's *Ammonite*, starring Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan.

Over 12 days from October 7-18, the 64th LFF presents more than 50 virtual premieres and a selection of highly-anticipated new feature film previews at BFI Southbank, as well as in cinemas across the UK.

With work from more than 40 countries, the programme includes fiction, documentary, animation, artists' moving image, short film, restored classics from the world's archives and previews of several episodic/series-based works made for the small screen.

Ben Roberts, CEO, BFI said: "Although it's been born out of crisis, this year's edition of the LFF will be our most accessible yet. We have shaped a festival that suggests a future for bringing filmmakers and film lovers together."

Tricia Tuttle, the festival's director, said: "This has been such a period of uncertainty and change across the industry."

"We all want to be back in cinemas, seeing films on the big screen, together, immersed. But we also want to keep seeing new cinematic storytelling from all parts of the world, hearing different

voices and perspectives; this version of LFF delivers on both of those aims."

Mangrove will screen for free to audiences at cinemas in cities across the UK as part of a unique partnership between the LFF, the BBC and selected independent cinemas. Marking 50 years since the events depicted in the film, it tells the true story of the Mangrove 9, the group of black activists who clashed with London police during a protest march in 1970 and the highly-publicised trial that followed.

Ammonite is a fictionalised account of the life of the 19th century palaeontologist Mary Anning, with Winslet playing the pioneering scientist and Ronan as the gentlewoman who falls in love with her while staying in Mary's beloved Lyme Regis.

Another LFF highlight is the debut feature of *Doc Martin* star Caroline Catz - *Delia Derbyshire: The Myths and the Legendary Tapes* is a portrait of the electronic sound pioneer who composed the *Dr Who* theme tune in 1963. Catz is the film's writer and director and plays Derbyshire, leading a cast that features Julian Rhind-Tutt (*Harlots*, *Green Wing*) and Saskia Reeves (*Us*, *Luther*).

■ Go to: bfi.org.uk/lff for more information and booking details.



AMMONITE: The festival closes with drama about 19th century palaeontologist Mary Anning, played by Kate Winslet (pictured)

The Big Event

The Singapore Grip

Have you been Gripped?

Far Eastern tale of Brits abroad when Japanese invade

ADAPTED FROM Booker Prize winner JG Farrell's novel by Oscar-winning screenwriter and playwright Christopher Hampton (*Atonement*, *Dangerous Liaisons*), ITV's new Sunday night wartime drama features an impressive cast of top Brit actors.

The six-part series tells the story of a British family, the Blacketts, living in Singapore at the time of the Japanese invasion in World War II. David Morrissey (*The Missing*, *Britannia*) takes the role of ruthless rubber merchant Walter Blackett, head of Singapore's oldest and most powerful firm alongside his business partner Webb (Charles Dance, *Game of Thrones*).

With Webb's health failing, Walter needs to ensure their firm's future is secure. He decides Webb's son Matthew is the perfect match for his spoilt daughter Joan (Georgia Blizard, *Thor: Ragnarok*).

Matthew's idealism leaves Walter increasingly suspicious as the young man (Luke Treadaway, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*) falls under the spell of mysterious Chinese refugee Vera Chiang (Elizabeth Tan, *Coronation Street*, *Emily in Paris*).

Jane Horrocks (*Absolutely Fabulous*) stars as Sylvia Blackett, Walter's wife and Colm Meaney (*Gangs of London*), plays Major Brendan Archer.

The series, filmed in 2019 entirely on location in South East Asia, is based on the third book in Farrell's *Empire* trilogy that dealt with different facets of colonial rule.

Hampton said: "The refugee scenes are very moving. That's almost the opening image. These hapless people who are the victims of war. The whole thing begins



SYLVIA: Horrocks



INVASION: Japanese soldiers took British troops by surprise. Inset above, Elizabeth Tan as refugee Vera Chiang

and ends that way. First it is columns of refugees and then columns of prisoners. Huge numbers of people just had to surrender and spend the war in concentration camps."

Preparing for his role as Walter Blackett, Morrissey said: "The first thing I did was read the book. I knew Farrell's *The Troubles*, that was the only book of his I had read. *The Singapore Grip* is a massive book and Christopher has done a fantastic job, it's a very strong adaptation. It could easily be a 20-part series given the material."

"I did some research around the history of the time and around British colonial business practices. It was surprising historically for me about how the

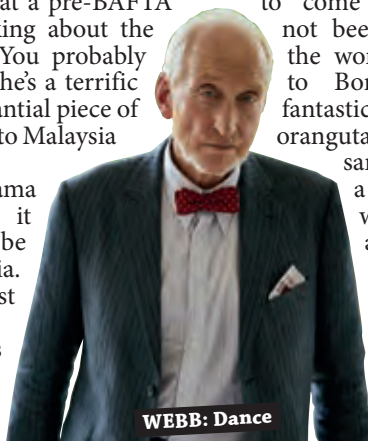
invasion by the Japanese was them just walking in. They took the British very much by surprise."

Dance said he flew halfway across the world to play Webb 'because of Christopher Hampton.'

He added: "We were at a pre-BAFTA dinner and he was talking about the series. He said to me 'You probably won't want to do it' but he's a terrific writer and this is a substantial piece of work. Plus, I hadn't been to Malaysia before."

"Although this drama is set in Singapore it was extraordinary to be filming it in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur was just astonishing."

Jane Horrocks described playing Sylvia Blackett as 'an adventure.'



WEBB: Dance

She explained: "I've not done anything on television for quite some time. As it wasn't a dark and gritty murder show, I thought it sounded good and fun. Obviously, the story has its serious points but I quite liked the family dynamic. They have a lightness and a bit of a silliness about them."

"Also, it was an opportunity to come to Malaysia. I'd not been to that part of the world before. I went to Borneo which was fantastic. We saw the orangutans in a wonderful sanctuary. I went on a rainforest hike. It was a relief to get away from the city of Kuala Lumpur, which was quite full on."

Elizabeth Tan revealed she sometimes thinks of birds



SPOILT: Joan (Georgia Blizard)

NAIVE: Matthew (Luke Treadaway)

when building the characters she plays and, for Vera, used a swan.

She explained: "Swans can be very graceful but Vera also has this dangerous side and I've heard that swans can attack people."

"Vera's also very poised. You don't really see what's going on underneath. She is always in trouble. She's in trouble with the law, with the Chinese protectorate and with the Japanese."

■ *The Singapore Grip* continues on ITV at 9pm on Sundays.



Competition

DVD

The Pity of War: Poets at the Front (Odyssey Television)



WWI poets on the frontline

JUST OUT on DVD, the illuminating and insightful documentary *The Pity of War: Poets at the Front* explores the experiences of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon and their fellow World War I poets including Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves and Vera Brittain.

The film features powerful archive footage, penetrating analysis from academics, biographers and writers including Pat Barker, Booker Prize-winning author of the *Regeneration* trilogy, and readings of the poets' works by actors Sam Marks, Tom Milligan, Joe Bannister and Katherine Manners.

The documentary concentrates on two major creative figures of the conflict - Owen and Sassoon, their visceral shock and horror of what they experienced at the Front and the scale and nature of the pain they endured. It looks at the raw power of their poetry which evoked their fears on the battlefield and challenged the jingoistic spirit of those who glorified warfare.

The documentary, from Odyssey Television, is the first in a series of Odyssey programmes about writers with *Rudyard Kipling: A Secret Life*, *EM Forster: His Longest Journey* and *What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?* coming out on DVD later this year.

We have copies of *The Pity of War* on DVD to win. To be in with a chance of owning one, send us the correct answer to the following question:

What is the name of the television company which produced *The Pity of War*?

Email your answer, marked WWII Poets DVD, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 16.



WILFRED OWEN: Witnessed the horrors of war first-hand



Competition

DVD

Monkey (Fabulous Films/Fremantle Media Enterprises): Out October 5



See the 13 'lost' Monkey episodes

Monkey took the country by storm when it was first screened on BBC2 in 1979. Thirty-nine of the original 52 episodes were shown. Movie firm Fabulous Films dubbed the 'lost' 13 episodes with the original cast in 2004.

Now all 52 episodes have been restored and are presented in a new collection available on DVD and for the first time on Blu-ray.

Scriptwriter David Weir was asked to re-work *Monkey* (a 1970s Japanese drama, based on a Chinese tale from the 16th century, about a Buddhist priest from the seventh century) for the 1970s British audience after he successfully adapted another oriental literary classic, *The Water Margin*.

Miriam Margolyes voiced many of the female characters and Andrew Sachs (Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*) voiced Horse (Tripitaka's shy talking horse who's really a water dragon). The 'lost' episodes were narrated by Bert Kwouk, best known as Cato in the *Pink Panther* films.



Netflix is now airing the second season of the new *Monkey* series *The New Legends of Monkey*.

The epic series concerns three fallen angels: Monkey (the cloud-flying Monkey God, born from an egg on a mountain top), Pigsy (the pig monster and embodiment of gluttony and lust) and Sandy (the morose ex-cannibal and sea monster) who have been

thrown out of heaven for various acts of sacrilege and general misbehaviour. They hook up with a young Buddhist monk, Tripitaka, and embark on an epic, adventure-packed pilgrimage to spread the teachings of Buddha.

Bonus features include a documentary filmed around the dubbing of the lost 13 episodes and PDF scans of all the 39 original BBC dubbing scripts.

We have a copy of *Monkey: The Complete Series* on Blu-Ray (rrp £99.99) up for grabs. For your chance to win it, simply send us the correct answer to this question:

In which year was *Monkey* first screened on BBC2?

Email your answer, marked Monkey Blu-Ray competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 16. Please include your full postal address with your entry.



TV

Time

BBC

Old pals have Time on their hands

SEAN BEAN (*Broken*, *Game of Thrones*) and Stephen Graham (*The Irishman*, *Line of Duty*) will reunite to lead the cast of *Time*, a gripping new BBC One prison drama by Jimmy McGovern (*Cracker*, *Broken*), directed by Lewis Arnold (*Humans*, *Broadchurch*). The three-part series begins filming in Liverpool this autumn.

Seen through the eyes of two very different men, *Time* is a visceral and high-stakes portrayal of life in the modern

British penal system. It's a story of guilt and forgiveness, punishment and penitence and the impact that prison has on all those who pass through it, said the Beeb.

Bean plays Mark Hebden, a teacher, husband and father, who killed an innocent man in an accident. Consumed by guilt, he accepts and even

welcomes his four-year sentence. Separated from his family, he has no idea what to expect in this

unforgiving new environment and needs to learn quickly how to survive.

Graham is Eric Reid, a prison officer. Caring and honest, Eric does his very best to protect those in his charge, something which is a daily challenge in this understaffed and high-tension world. When one of the most dangerous inmates identifies his weakness, Eric faces an impossible choice between his principles and his love for his family.

Both Eric and Mark, officer and inmate, are seemingly trapped by their pasts and unsure of their futures. Each has to not only survive,

but to find the strength and the way to move forward.

McGovern said: "The BBC have given me a brilliant young director and two of the greatest actors on the planet. I am overjoyed."

Bean and Graham appeared together in the critically-acclaimed TV series *Accused* created by McGovern.

Bean said: "Getting to be involved in a Jimmy McGovern drama again is a real privilege and it will be great to be reunited with

Stephen. Mark Hebden is another of Jimmy's complex and superbly-written characters and I am looking forward to bringing him to life on screen."

And Graham said: "It is an absolute honour to be working with Jimmy again, I'm feeling blessed. I'm excited to be working with Lewis as I have heard so many incredible things about him as a director, I can't wait to get stuck in. Of course, I am made up to be back on set with Sean."





Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page
to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

Birthdays



Masie Hodge as a young airwoman

THE RAF Association, Beccles and Southwold Area Branch, attended the 100th birthday celebrations of LACW Masie Hodge RAF at the All Hallows Nursing Home, Bungay, Suffolk. A presentation was made and a salute given to Masie in respect of her service as a Bomber Command wireless operator sending messages to crews on operations in World War II. Pictured below are President Brian Vousden and Branch Deputy Standard Bearer Brian Sillick with Masie



HAPPY 100th Birthday on October 11 to Cpl Stanley Hurley (Albie). Born in North

Devon, served in the Home Guard then volunteered for the RAF and served from 1941 to 1946 (Burma Star). Happy Birthday Albie from Margaret, Richard, Mike, Wendy, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Stan Hurley as a young airman

Death



Sqn Ldr Ian Sampson

SAMPSON Ian Walter Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) passed away peacefully in Melton Mowbray on August 10, aged 79.

Ian was born on September 24, 1940, in Uttoxeter, Staffs. He joined the RAF when he was 21, having wanted to fly since seeing bombers fly overhead at the age of four. He attended Officer and Aircrew Training at Cranwell, winning leadership and ground studies trophies. In 1964 he joined the Vulcans on 12 Squadron as AEO and later 50 Sqn.

In 1969 he began his long association with 51 Sqn, joining as AEO/Spec Op

Supervisor. Ian was Combat Survival and Rescue Officer and attended RAF Staff College. In 1979 he completed the Aerosystems Graduate Course and was awarded the RAF Aries Trophy. He returned to 51 Sqn as Projects and Airborne EW Officer.

In 1981 Ian moved to Officer Commanding Spec Op Flight 51 Sqn conducting operations worldwide and during the Falklands War. He was awarded The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air in 1983.

After the Falklands Ian moved to OC Operations (EW) Squadron and then on to OC Support EWOSE. Never one to remain grounded, he returned to 51 Sqn as Airborne Mission Commander and Special Projects Officer, including tours of Bosnia and the Gulf War. Ian retired in 1995 having accumulated over 10,750 operational flying hours.

A much loved husband, father and grandad. The kindest of men who will be greatly missed not only for his remarkable career but the professional and calm manner in which it was carried out.

Sqn Ldr Ian Sampson will forever be part of the 51 Sqn family, enshrined in its magnificent history that he helped to create.



Sqn Ldr Sampson, right, is awarded The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air in 1983 at RAF Wyton

Seeking

I AM trying to establish the identity of the pilot who gave the best Vulcan display I ever saw for a book I am currently writing on the Mildenhall Air Fetes. This display was at the 1982 event and concluded with a barrel roll – a manoeuvre which I believed to be banned. It certainly impressed the American hosts. An American airman standing beside us turned to Dad and exclaimed: "Limey, you got the best goddam air force in the world." Later we waylaid a Vulcan crewman in the static park and expressed the hope that the pilot would not be carpeted for performing the manoeuvre, to which the response was 'he won't care as he's getting out next week.' Whether that was true or just said to deter further questions I don't know but his display deserves to be recorded for posterity so I'm hoping that an *RAF News* reader from the Vulcan world may be able to reveal his identity. The aircraft which gave the display was in 44 Sqn markings. Anyone able to furnish the information can contact me at: mbritton2@aol.com

IAN Christopher Loynes (born London, October 7, 1945, died Corby, Northants, December 15, 1999), was my cousin, and unfortunately we lost touch a number of years ago; sadly, it seems that he lost contact with pretty much all the family. I'm working on our family tree, alongside which I'm writing a narrative history of the family, to 'put some flesh on the bones' as it were of family members. I've found no-one who recalls Ian and I'd hate for him to be simply forgotten – to become nothing more than a footnote. I understand that he served in the RAF – I'm told possibly somewhere on the south coast. If there are any of his old colleagues who are able to give me any information at all, I'd be most grateful. Please email me: andrewswirles@aol.com.

DOES anyone know about the special liaison unit under Victoria Station during World War II? Please email: ipmoird80@gmail.com

READER THERESA Kilbride is trying to trace her godfather, Cpl Grenville D Thomas, who served in the RAF in World War II and during the 1950s and 60s. Known as 'Buster' he joined the Service in Jamaica and was stationed at Fradley

Aerodrome, Lichfield, between 1944 and 1946 with Theresa's father Eric C. Morrison.

Buster (*below*) was also stationed in Style, Germany, in the 1950s and I was last in touch with him in 1966 when he was stationed at RAF Doncaster. Please email Theresa on: tkilbride61@hotmail.co.uk if you can help.



Reunions

RAF CHANGI Association (inc. HQFEAF). The 25th Annual Reunion and 18th AGM will be on May 14-16, 2021 at the Novotel Hotel, Bostock Lane, Long Eaton, Nottingham, just off the M1 at Jnc. 25 We are still looking for new members and are open to all ranks ex RAF/WRAF/WAAF and civilian personnel who served at RAF Changi (inc. HQFEAF) during 1946-72. For more information please contact our Membership Secretary Malcolm Flack on: 01494 728562 or email: MemSecChangi@telco4u.net or visit: www.rafchangi.com for more details.

COASTAL Command Officers' Reunion, October 10. Please contact Ray Curtis, call: 01264 735349 or email: hjn3@btinternet.com.

ASSOCIATION RAF Women Officers Annual Reunion. All RAF Women Officers are invited to attend the Annual Reunion Lunch at the RAF Club on Saturday, October 10. For more details please contact Sue Arnold on: 07740 865685 or email: suearnold474@gmail.com.

THE RAF Locking 119/219/404 Apprentice Entries 50th Anniversary Reunion will be held on October 23 and 24. An informal evening on October 23 will allow ex-apprentices to gather before the formal dinner on October 24. The formal event will take place in the ballroom of the Weston-super-Mare Winter Gardens, BS23 1AJ, for all RAF Locking 119/219/404 Entry Apprentices and wives/partners. For further details please contact Barry Cox at: barrycox124@hotmail.com.

SINGAPORE Armed Forces Reunion. Were you seconded from the RAF to the SAF at RAF Tengah between 1971-75? If so please contact Peter Priscott for a 50th anniversary reunion in August 2021. Email: peterpriscott@aol.com or call: 01842 878554.

158 Sqn Bomber Command. The 158 Association is very active and we want to contact any veteran or relative of a veteran. We are planning a reunion and memorial service for autumn 2020. Please contact: KevB@silenicus.com.

RAF Bawdsey Reunion Association. Due to the coronavirus pandemic we regrettably had to cancel the annual reunion lunch planned for June 6. Those who booked a place and paid their fee will have their money refunded. We have provisionally planned the next reunion for Saturday, June 5, 2021 and look forward to seeing our friends again then. In the meantime we wish you all a safe and healthy time during this unprecedented period. If you have any queries please email: doreen.bawdseyreunion@btinternet.com or you can call: 07513 301723.

How to use our service

There is no charge for conventionally-worded **birth, engagement, marriage, anniversary, death, in memoriam seeking** and **reunion** notices. For commercial small ads contact Edwin Rodrigues on: 07482 571535. We cannot, under any circumstances, take announcements over the telephone. They can be sent by email to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk. Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept notices submitted by post.

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Help save top Centre

THE INTERNATIONAL Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln, has launched a crowdfunding appeal to help save it, and protect its future after the coronavirus crisis had a devastating effect on its finances.

A spokesperson said closure due to lockdown has caused 90 per cent of the project's income to be cut.

The centre has won 17 regional and national awards marking it as one of the top 10 per cent of attractions worldwide.

IBCC Patron ACM Sir Michael Graydon said: "The IBCC is unique in its telling of the story of the million forgotten men and women in support of Bomber Command. Covid has put all of this work at great risk."

Celebrities supporting the campaign include John Sergeant, Carol Vorderman, authors James Holland and John Nichols and actor Colin McFarlane. Go to: crowdfunder.co.uk/save-the-international-memorial-to-the-many for more details.



Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page
to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

Charity's tribute to 'the many'

THE ROYAL Air Forces Association is inviting the public to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Britain by documenting their gratitude to the men and women who contributed to the Battle's outcome.

The charity wants people to write thank you notes to pay tribute to 'the many', as well as to 'the Few' – the RAF pilots who fought the Luftwaffe in Britain's skies between July and October 1940.

Celebrities, veterans and serving personnel, including Red Arrows pilot Flt Lt Nick Critchell, have already given tributes as part of the charity's Greatest Salute initiative.

Former RAF fast jet pilot and ex-England rugby international Rory Underwood recorded a video message. He said: "It may be 80 years since the Battle, but the heroic and selfless deeds of so many people will never be forgotten."

Rory's words, along with those submitted by everyone else taking part in Greatest Salute, will be printed and



TIME CAPSULE CONTRIBUTOR: Veteran Douglas Newham in front of a Douglas C-47 Dakota, similar to ones he flew in during World War II

put inside a time capsule to be buried at the National Memorial Arboretum this month.

It is hoped that the capsule will be dug up in decades' time so that future generations can experience the appreciation felt by people in 2020, said a RAFA spokeswoman.

Douglas Newham, 98, joined the RAF in 1941 as an Air Observer, combining the roles of navigator, bomb-aimer and gunner, initially

serving on Wellington and Halifax bombers in England and North Africa.

In his note of thanks for the time capsule he said: "It was 'the Few' – the Battle of Britain pilots – who captured the admiration and gratitude of our nation, but there were also 'the many' whose contributions to victory were also of great significance."

■ Visit: battleofbritain.rafa.org.uk for details of how to contribute to the time capsule.



FAMILY HISTORY:
The wedding of Sgt Gibbs and Cpl Bullock; inset, Gibbs in uniform

Plea to find Gibbs family

READER ALLAN Fegen writes: "I found a box of very personal information including wartime Service records and medals for SGT W. Gibbs 1163393 and his wife to be Cpl E. Bullock 2067438 in a second-hand store in the Scottish Borders. It looked like part of a house clearance.

"I have tried in vain via the local history society to track down who it belonged to at their last known address, with no success.

"The box also contains driving licences

and photographs of their wedding and subsequent family. I would very much like to return this box of important family history to someone.

"Mr and Mrs Gibbs and family were married in 1950 and guessing the age of their family now, they will be in their 60s."

Please contact Mr Fegen via email at: pandafegen@btinternet.com if you can help him reunite his find with the Gibbs family.



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Prize Crossword

No. 282

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the eight letters in yellow squares to find an RAF word

Across

- 1. Succeed at first display: it's a breeze (4)
- 8. You were warned about lids you too mishandled (1,4,3,2)
- 9. Gnat swam around station (2,6)
- 10. I am in prison with killer (4)
- 12. At first very urgent lessons cover any new aircraft (6)
- 14. Accountant's favourite time of year? (6)
- 15. Maybe faster aircraft attack (6)
- 17. 55 leave festival, creating another (6)
- 18. Without Chilean leader, peace agreement remains good (4)
- 19. RAF aircraft that's up to any task? (8)
- 21. Swashbuckling aircraft, presumably (10)
- 22. Spots some Sahara shindig (4)

Down

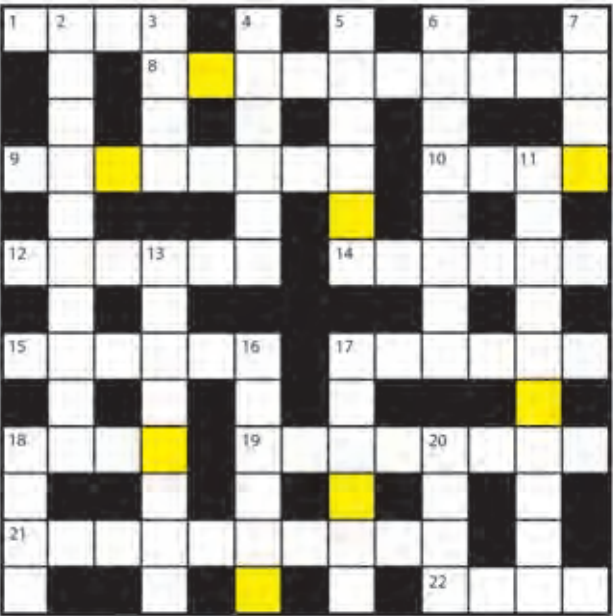
- 2. Citron rust affects RAF pilot (10)
- 3. Operatically she's over the top in a number of ways (4)
- 4. Endlessly feast on frightening sister (6)
- 5. A university lecturer is very attractive man (6)
- 6. And 7 Down. Coed owns bomb deployed on RAF site (8,4)
- 7. See 6 Down
- 11. Ex-minister about at death's door (2,8)
- 13. Come together for company beers outside Carlisle (8)
- 16. At the end of scene, Macbeth, say, is a gas (6)
- 17. Even ogre enters castle so take no notice (6)
- 18. Instrument almost underground before article (4)
- 20. Sounds like you're embracing ship from old country (4)

Name

Address

RAF word Crossword No. 282

The winners of Prize Crossword 282 and Prize Su Doku 292 will be published in our October 16 edition. Send entries to the address printed in the Su Doku panel opposite.



■ The winner of Crossword No. 281 is Miss N Tee from South London

Solution to Crossword No. 281:
Across: 6. Charles 7. White 9. Pilot 10. Air Rage 12. Eurofighter 14. Transporter 18. Falcons 19. Again 21. Cedar 22. Hornets
Down: 1. Chair 2. Ormolu 3. Jet 4. Church 5. Stagger 8. Mimicry 11. Company 13. Breaker 15. Nectar 16. Engine 17. Mirth 20. Wok

RAF term – Formation

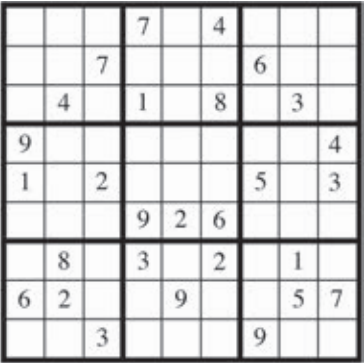


Prize Su Doku

No. 292

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Su Doku' with the number in the top left-hand corner to RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 16.



Name

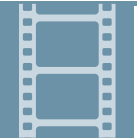
Address

Su Doku No. 292

Solution to Su Doku No: 291



■ The winner of Su Doku No. 291 is Mr E James from Oxfordshire.



Film Review
The Painted Bird

In cinemas and on demand now, certificate 15

Grim but fascinating watch

LIFE IS suffering – never has this adage been truer than in Václav Marhoul's *The Painted Bird*. A young boy is left without a guardian in war-torn Eastern Europe and so finds himself falling through the care and clutches of various people – most harbouring such a cruel sadism that it makes the occupying Nazis look simply more orderly in their approach to torture.

The boy is passed from an old crone, who believes him to be a vampire, to a jealous miller (Udo Kier), from an elderly priest (Harvey Keitel, pictured below) sold to a lecherous loner (Julian Sands), from a Nazi soldier (Stellan Skarsgård) to a twisted kind of milk-maiden. The film weaves a tapestry of malevolence that is so ubiquitous that its crossover with World War II appears incidental.

Shot in crisp black and white, there is a stunning beauty to the horror on screen, which makes it that much stranger to endure. It reminded me of the phantasmagoric Russian film *Hard to be a God*, but rather than a sprawling Boschian hellscape, this one is more pointed and concise, and without the respite of humour.

It's a gruelling watch, and, as you stay longer in the company of the tortured and tormented young boy, played phenomenally by Petr Kotlar, you become cynical of any



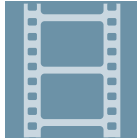
YOUNG TALENT: Petr Kotlar is 'phenomenal' as the abused child



offered kindness. You watch as he interacts with different animals, each carrying symbolic significance, none more so than the titular bird, which is painted by an elderly man who demonstrates the plight of this young boy and indeed the Jewish people: we watch the now segregated bird return to its flock unrecognised, pecked to death in a flurry of murmuration before it falls from the sky.

The Painted Bird is unrelenting, and you might wonder why the film was even made, adapted from Jerzy Kosiński's controversial 1965 novel of the same name. I have found few answers, but the images and ideas live long in the memory, though there are many you'd much rather forget.

Review by Sam Cooney
4 out of 5 roundels



Film Review
A Perfectly Normal Family

In cinemas from October 2, certificate PG

The new 'normal'

SET IN 90S Denmark, we watch the titular idyllic family through a shaky hand-held video camera – mum, dad and two young girls – as they complete the picture and bring home a puppy. Of course, this happiness can't last and there is the sudden announcement of divorce, set in motion by the father wanting to change gender.

From this point the film jumps forward in time to various intervals of Thomas (Mikkel Boe Følsgaard) during his transition but from the point of view of the children, and in particular his tomboyish daughter Emma (Kaya Toft Loholt).

At first we view a group therapy session in which everyone appears to be in denial except Thomas, for the first time perhaps, as he asks to be called Agnete. This scene is the most telling in the way that it frames its characters. Obscuring Agnete from view and focusing on Emma, who has a scarf wrapped around her head in protest, we hear the rise in emotion as people storm in and out of the room, all whilst watching this faceless solitary figure, clearly struggling to process any of this.

Each segment in time is chaptered by the same VHS-grain home video of



MODERN FAMILY: Dad Thomas has become Agnete (centre), to his daughters' bemusement

the perfect family from the beginning, when the advent of recording meant capturing moments of joy and celebration. We see Emma and Thomas playing football in the garden, and then jump back to her unwrapping her first football at Christmas, giving us some sense of the bond that is at stake.

Aside from these vignettes the style is naturalistic, and though it never loses sight of the conflict driving the film, it is the direct but gentle approach to the drama that makes it effective and feel less contrived. Based on filmmaker Malou Reyman's experience of her own father transitioning when she was young, it is the contained drama that grounds this film and makes it feel personal.

Review by Sam Cooney
3 out of 5 roundels

G-SHOCK and awe



CASIO COMPUTER Co has announced the Royal Air Force x G-SHOCK GRAVITYMASTER will be the second timepiece released in partnership with the Ministry of Defence in a deal brokered by international sports and leisure agency IMG.

G-SHOCK is an unbreakable timepiece forged from the 'Never Give Up' philosophy that makes it perfectly equipped to support UK Forces personnel on and off-duty all over the world.

The G-SHOCK concept was pioneered by Mr Ibe to create the 'unbreakable' timepiece that defied conventional watchmaking logic.

The radical design stunned the industry when it was first revealed back in the 1980s.

Nearly 40 years on the result is a range of technologically advanced watches that can resist gravity, freezing temperatures, high water pressure and magnetic fields.

G-SHOCK is already the watch of choice for many in the Armed Forces and this limited-edition release builds on the partnership as an official licensee of the Ministry of Defence.

Designed in conjunction with the RAF the watch has been built to withstand the extreme environments faced by frontline pilots, using a carbon core guard structure.

Combined with world-renowned G-SHOCK shock resistance this creates a structure that is highly vibration resistant.

The bezel boasts three layers of resin with carbon fibre inserts and a semi-transparent top layer to reveal the carbon material inside.

This special-edition timepiece

Casio joins forces with the MoD to launch 'unbreakable' timepiece for the frontline



features many design elements inspired by military war birds.

The three buttons on the right are a stylistic nod to a helicopter control stick and the stealth colourway draws inspiration from the Eurofighter Typhoon.

The GRAVITYMASTER model also features a Quad Sensor system which

features compass, altitude, barometer and temperature measurement read-outs along with an accelerometer that keeps track of step count, all in a compact figuration.

This makes it easy to keep tabs on the natural environment and to maintain logs of all activity for comprehensive flight mission support.

The timepiece features location and activity-tracking technology through the Quad Sensor system.

As part of the Bluetooth® connectivity capabilities via the G-SHOCK Connected App, it is equipped with a mission log, location indicator, auto altitude calibration and calorie indicator.



x G-SHOCK spec check

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**For more details go to:
www.g-shock.co.uk/mod**



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Photo feature



HUNDREDS OF RAF recruits have completed their Phase 1 training at Halton this summer. Graduation Day is a proud moment for Forces rookies and their families, however, due to Covid regulations, graduation parades have been held in isolation at the RAF's Buckinghamshire training station.

GRAD WE MADE IT: Thompson Intake recruits hit the parade ground after completing Phase 1 training
PHOTOS: KATE RUTHERFORD



ARNOLD INTAKE



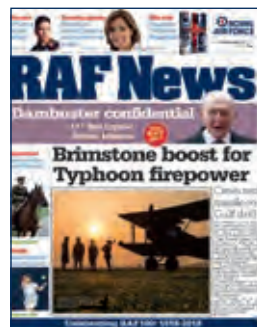
DOUGLAS INTAKE



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By Simon Mander

Personnel **Feature**

Championing end to mental health stigma

**THERE'S HELP
OUT THERE:**
Don't suffer alone

FIVE CHAMPIONS have been appointed to combat mental health problems among Air Force personnel and their civilian colleagues.

The move comes as latest research showed cases of airmen and women reporting difficulties were 'significantly higher' than in the other three Services.

According to a study published in June, in 2019/20 14.3 per cent or around one in seven RAF personnel sought general medical help for a mental health problem compared to almost 13 per cent of sailors, 12.4 per cent of soldiers and 8.3 per cent of Royal Marines.

“If you had a broken leg you wouldn't hesitate to seek help, don't wait because you can't see what's wrong”

AVM Tamara Jennings

The Champions group is headed by Director Legal Services Air Vice-Marshal Tamara Jennings, who has spent a year volunteering with homeless people, served twice with the Army on operations, and has run the RAF Service Complaints Team.

She said: "Once approached I was taken by the main reason for a champion; to reduce the stigma around mental health by getting people to talk about it at all levels, to normalise it.

"I know the statistics will show that we are broadly comparable to civilian society, but there may be people who haven't yet sought help because they are worried about doing so.

"To them, I would say, if you had a broken leg you wouldn't hesitate, don't wait because you can't see what's wrong."

The most recent Armed Forces Mental Health Survey found:

- RAF personnel referred for specialist help for mental ill health was 2.8 per cent, a fall from 3 per cent the

previous year.

- More women (5.6 per cent), than men (2.3 per cent), and more other ranks (3.2 per cent), than officers (1.8 per cent), had problems.

- Adjustment disorders and depressive episodes were the most prevalent conditions.

AVM Jennings is backed by veteran Tornado Navigator Air Cdre Richard Moir, who served with No II (Army Cooperation) Sqn and flew bombing missions with 617 (Dambusters) Sqn in Iraq.

Other ranks are represented by Warrant Officer Daniel Biggs, recently returned from an operational tour with the United Nations in South Sudan, who has developed medical plans to support personnel on missions around the world.

The two MoD civilian champions are Air Command finance chief Sue Jeacock and civilian workforce head Jacqui Toogood.

Former soldier Sue has personally seen the devastation combat stress wreaks on sufferers and their loved ones

She said: "I witnessed this first-hand with my son, who was a civil servant working on operational tours in Afghanistan and developed PTSD resulting in several years of mental health issues. This was not detected early enough, which had repercussions on family members, not just the individual.

"I volunteered for this role as I wanted to do more, particularly now, when people's mental health and wellbeing is being affected more than under normal circumstances.

"There is less certainty, the worry of illness, the separation of families, the inability to undertake activities which combat the effects of stress, like socialising, working out and holidays.

"Even the inability to come into the office to work has caused some of my team to feel isolated and lonely, leading to, in some cases, mental ill health."

Jacqui said the Covid-19 pandemic made her come forward.

"Throughout the coronavirus outbreak checking in on family, friends and colleagues has been more important than ever. I believe all of us can appreciate some negative impact on our own wellbeing during self-isolation and social distancing."



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Sqn Ldr Allan Scott DFM

Obituary

Malta Spitfire ace dies aged 99



FREQUENT FLYER: Spitfire ace Allan Scott at Biggin Hill in 2018 before his flight in another of the iconic aircraft, inset. And, below, as a post-war pilot

SQUADRON LEADER Allan Scott, who has died aged 99, shot down at least five enemy aircraft over Malta making him a Spitfire ace.

He joined the RAF in March 1941 to train as a pilot and later joined 124 Squadron in early 1942. During his six months on the squadron he shared in the destruction of a Junkers 88 bomber over Clacton-on-Sea. In June 1942 he was ordered to Gibraltar.

The island of Malta was under siege from relentless bombing attacks and additional fighters were desperately needed. Thirty-two Spitfires were embarked on the aircraft carrier *Eagle*, which then sailed eastwards into the Mediterranean.

Early on the morning of July 21 Scott and his fellow pilots took off from the deck and the 30 that became airborne successfully set off for Malta in four groups.

As the formations passed Cape Bon in Tunisia a cultured English voice gave them a heading to steer north-east. It was a German spoof to lure them to enemy-held Sicily. The Spitfire leader was suspicious and made a radio call to Malta. He was answered by a voice he recognised when the correct heading for Malta was given.

Scott was soon in action, first with 603 Squadron and then with 1435 Squadron. On August

Allan shot down at least five enemy aircraft over the besieged Med island

10 a convoy of 50 ships entered the Mediterranean with crucial supplies for the beleaguered island. The merchant ships of Operation Pedestal came under intense attack and losses were high.

As the remnants approached Malta, fighter cover became available. On the 13th, Scott shot down a S.79 bomber of the Italian Air Force. He flew more patrols in support of the convoy until the few remaining ships, including the oil tanker *Ohio*, reached the safety of the island's Valletta harbour.

Later in August, Scott shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109 but the most intense period of fighting was to be in October,

which became known as 'The Last Blitz', when the Axis air forces mounted a concentrated bombing campaign.

Malta's fighter pilots were scrambled three or four times each day but, by the 21st, the enemy raids began to reduce. In a period of a few days, Scott shot down three more Bf 109s, probably two more and damaged a third.

He also shot down two Junker 88 bombers.

In December he was awarded an immediate DFM, the citation concluding: 'he has exhibited the greatest

courage and determination to engage the enemy.'

Scott returned from Malta at the end of 1942 and became an instructor at a fighter-training unit. He was later commissioned and joined 122 Squadron, equipped with Spitfires. He flew intruder missions over northern France attacking road and rail transports from low level.

In January 1944 the squadron received long-range Mustang fighters and Scott flew bomber escort missions. In the build up to D-Day the Mustangs were fitted with bombs and Scott flew dive-bombing sorties.

In July 1944, he undertook a test pilot's course and for the rest of the war he tested a wide variety of aircraft at maintenance units before they were ferried to squadrons. By the time he left the service in late 1947 he had tested more than 80 different types of aircraft.

After a brief period as an airline pilot Scott rejoined the RAF in 1950. In October 1953 the Tiger

Moth bi-plane he was flying suffered a structural failure and crashed. Scott was severely injured and was unable to return to flying for two years. He later served in Iraq and flew transport aircraft worldwide. In 1963 he transferred to the air traffic control branch and retired from the RAF in 1976.

He retained his great interest in flying. On his 70th birthday he flew a Tiger Moth and to celebrate the RAF's 100 Anniversary in 2018 he flew in a two-seat Spitfire.

He had hoped to do so again to celebrate his own 100th birthday next year. A few years ago he commented: "Flying a Spitfire to me was wonderful, it becomes part of you."

A modest, unassuming gentleman, Scott rarely spoke of his wartime service. In his retirement he became a supporter of the RAF Benevolent Fund, and the current Controller of the Fund, Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliott, described him as: 'indefatigable in his championing of RAF veterans and their sacrifices.'



Help us to help Veterans with unclaimed pensions



● IT PAYS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PENSION: Maj Gen Neil Marshall

In difficult times like these, some are experiencing greater hardship than they should.

I'm referring to those Veterans that have unclaimed pensions because they are unaware that they may have qualified for a preserved pension based on previous service; and those who cannot be traced by the MoD's Pension Administrator.

We estimate there are around 8,000 such unclaimed pensions, some of which are quite substantial.

The Forces Pension Society works in conjunction with Veterans' Gateway – the first point of contact for those seeking support – to help those who may be eligible to claim their pension.

Since 2017, we have dealt with around **6,000** enquiries from Veterans or their families and have confirmed entitlements for more than **850** Veterans.

And the amounts involved are not insignificant. For example, recent successes include an individual who left the Army in 1988 after 12 years' service. He received an annual pension of £5,000, a lump sum of £15,000 and two years' back pension.

Of course different pension

An appeal from Maj Gen Neil Marshall, CEO of the Forces Pension Society

We estimate that there are around **8,000** unclaimed pensions - some quite substantial

schemes have different rules but if you know any Veterans who served under AFPS 75 or 2005 who have turned or are approaching 60 and have not claimed their service pension, please encourage them to visit the Veterans' Gateway website – www.VeteransGateway.org or call them on 0808 802 1212.

Additional helpful information can be found on our website: www.forcespensionsociety.org

As I remind people repeatedly, **"it pays to understand your pension."**

● If readers would like further information please contact Veterans UK at www.VeteransGateway.org or call 0808 802 1212.

ADVERTORIAL



SUPPORTING THE FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that acts as the pension watchdog for the whole military community; it is the trusted source for independent, Armed Forces pension advice.



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Lost your account card? No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelComE account number and a password to reset your PIN.

Toast of the town

‘Marmite’ SUV will delight Honda fans

THERE ARE cars that are a bit, well, Marmite. You love them or hate them. Honda’s CR-V is not the kind of motor to start a punch-up in the pub. Honda sells hundreds of thousands of these SUV crossovers every year to people who want something reliable and practical.

It’s a great car for doing the school run, towing a caravan or pulling a horsebox and you can be confident that it will never miss a beat.

It’s now in its fifth-generation and has become one of the world’s best-selling compact SUVs. There are many reasons for this but top of the list is that it’s pretty agile for its size.

On The Road

Honda claims the CR-V is the most dynamic car in its class. It has a relatively stiff steel chassis with a wheelbase that pushes the wheels well to the corners. As a result, it may look like a big SUV but behind the wheel it feels far more like a car than many of its rivals.

It’s not quite as sharp as Mazda’s CX-5 but it clings on to the tarmac well and the steering is nicely weighted.

The tidy handling doesn’t come at the expense of comfort either because the ride is helped by hydraulic suspension bushings that iron out bumps well. Rear seat passengers won’t need to reach for the sick bag on fast winding roads and wind and road noise are minimal.

On the performance front the CR-V is exactly what you might expect, it’s no slouch but it’s not exciting either. Our car was the top of the range EX CVT all-wheel drive petrol. Even in this version 0-62 is a lengthy 10 seconds, with a top end of 124mph. The plus side of that is fuel economy is a respectable 39.8mpg on a combined cycle so it’s not going to break the bank.

The engine is the same 1.5-litre turbocharged four-cylinder unit that’s found in the much lighter Civic. There’s no longer a diesel engine available so buyers will either have to be content with this or choose a petrol, non-plug-in, hybrid option that produces 181bhp via a 2.0-litre petrol-electric combo.

The CR-V’s transmission comes in the form of either a CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) auto with paddle shifts or a six-speed manual. Our car had the CVT with All Wheel Drive (AWD).

TIM MORRIS
Motoring
Correspondent



Japanese car manufacturers currently love CVT gearboxes but I’m really not a fan. Floor it and you get a real over revving effect that feels a bit like a badly slipping clutch. It’s not an experience that I ever really enjoy but in Honda’s defence the CR-V’s box isn’t a bad one.

Personally, I’d still choose the six-speed manual every time because Honda makes some of the best manual gearboxes in the world.

Exterior styling

The CR-V is a practical family SUV so it’s not the most eye-catching car on the road but it has a set of carefully crafted contour lines to add definition to the front end and draw the eye to muscular haunches around the wheel arches.

It’s a trick that works well because although the fifth-generation CR-V is the same length as the previous model it looks bigger. The pronounced side steps and the 19-inch alloy wheels help to complete the picture.

Inside

Space is important in a family car and the CR-V hits the sweet spot. The wider track and longer wheelbase provide masses of legroom and you can opt for a third row of seats that fold flat into the boot floor. These are only really suited to smaller children where fitted but they do turn the CR-V into a seven-seat people carrier if needed.

The dashboard is similar to the new Civic and everything is logically laid out. It’s smart and well-built with nice materials, but it’s not quite as slick as the i-Cockpit in Peugeot’s 5008.

The infotainment system works well once you’re used to it but it’s not the best in class so don’t expect lightning fast operation or razor-sharp graphics.

The front seats are comfortable and, thanks to a good range of adjustment, it’s fairly easy for most drivers to get comfy.

The boot is the motor car equivalent of a C17 in proportions. That’s to say the load bay is a class-leading 1,860mm long with all the seats folded, giving a total of 1,756-litres of usable volume.

There’s plenty of storage in the



BIG BEAST: CR-V looks decent, has a good engine (inset), plenty of room (below) and a comfortable cabin (bottom)

Verdict

Pros

- Comfortable
- Solid handling
- Good rear passenger space
- Huge boot

Cons

- Mediocre infotainment system
- Noisy under heavy load
- Expensive, ours was £40k+

Overall

The latest CR-V is a big leap forward and a strong rival for Skoda’s Kodiaq, Hyundai’s new Santa Fe or Land Rover’s Discovery Sport and one of the most sensible buys in this segment. Honda builds things to last and the CR-V feels well put together. It’s spacious, comfortable and holds the road well for a large SUV. It knows what it’s supposed to be and does it well.

cabin too, with cubby holes aplenty that can swallow all the clutter a family can throw at them. The centre console can be configured through three modes and can even accommodate a laptop or a small flight bag if needed.

Safety

The ‘Honda Sensing’ suite of safety tech is fitted as standard to all CR-Vs. This includes collision warning, automatic emergency braking, lane keeping and adaptive cruise control. You can also opt for blind spot assistance.



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Sport

5 pages of **RAF Sport** starts here

● Training pays off for polo stars: P30

RUGBY UNION

Taking charge

McNally skippers Bath

P29



CAPTAIN MARVEL: McNally talks to his team pre-match after being named captain of Bath RFC for its Round 19 clash with Worcester Warriors

PHOTO: BATH RFC

CRICKET

It all adds up for RAF cricketers

IT WAS LUCKY seven for the Service's cricket stars as they secured back-to-back wins beating Honourable Artillery (HAC) CC by seven runs, *Continued on page 31:*



MOTORSPORT

Kennedy rides in to bolster RAF

Service team to run with two riders for remainder of 2020 as BSB champ joins

THE SERVICE British Superbike team Royal Air Force Regular & Reserve Kawasaki have announced they have boasted their ranks for the remainder of the 2020 season with the signing of double BSB champion Jack Kennedy.

The Dubliner will ride a Kawasaki ZX-10RR and will contest the races at Oulton Park, Donington Park and Brands Hatch alongside current team member Ryan Vickers.

Team owner Lee Hardy said: "Signing Jack was a great opportunity to look at expanding the RAF Regular & Reserve Kawasaki team back to two riders with a plan to carry this on into 2021.

"I spoke with Ryan and explained the situation and he was very supportive of my decision to bring Jack into the team.

"Moving to two riders will be beneficial for the RAF and generate added exposure for not only the RAF but all of the team's sponsors. I am looking forward to the rest of the

season and working with two great riders."

Kennedy, who won the British Supersport Championship in both 2018 and 2019, started the year with the Santander Salt TAG Racing Yamaha team, but following their withdrawal from this year's series after Snetterton last month, the 32-year old was given permission to seek an alternative team.

Lee Hardy's set-up have subsequently stepped up to a two-rider team again, as they did in 2016 when they ran Alistair Seeley and Jake Dixon. Kennedy's first taste of the RAF Kawasaki ZX-10RR will come at Oulton Park.

With excellent results at the venue in the past, he is looking forward to making his debut. He said: "I'm really happy to be joining the RAF Regular & Reserve Kawasaki team and am extremely grateful that they stepped in with the offer to ride for them for the rest of the season. As we stand, I'm fit and absolutely raring to go."

■ See page 28 for the full Silverstone report:



NEW BOY: Kennedy is all smiles after signing

PHOTOS: TIM KEETON - IMPACT IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

Sport

MOTORSPORT

Bad breaks halt Vickers' charge

Single point for RAF rider Ryan

Staff Reporter

HQ Air Command

THE TOUGH times continued for Ryan Vickers and the RAF Regular & Reserve Kawasaki team during round three of the 2020 Bennetts British Superbike Championship at Silverstone.

Having struggled with crashes in the previous round at Snetterton, Vickers left the Northamptonshire venue with just a single point for his efforts.

Vickers, who now sits 13th in the standings on 28 points, said: "It was a tough weekend and I struggled to find a set-up I was happy with. We struggled in race one so 15th was all I could do.

"I felt a lot more comfortable on the Sunday. The first race started well, but the fuelling issue I had returned, so I had little option other than to retire.

"The team worked really hard for the final race and we made significant changes, but that then brought some further additional problems, so it was a very disappointing end to a disappointing weekend overall.

The weekend got off to a slow start as the Thetford rider found the going difficult during free practice and qualifying, placing him 16th as he struggled to find a good set-up.

The 21-year-old got shuffled back to 19th place on the opening lap of Saturday's 25-lap race as he encountered a

fuel issue but, handling his bike, he worked his way up to 15th for a championship point.

With two 30-lap races on the Sunday, Vickers started the first from 18th and gained two places off the grid. Just a lap later he moved up into the points places.

Vickers continued to make good progress pushing up to 11th. With his eye on a top 10 finish he was forced to retire with just two laps to go when the fuel issue reared its head once more.

The team made further changes to the bike for the third and final race, which included reverting to their 2019 fuel tank, but with no testing time, Vickers again found the going tough, finishing in 17th place.

Team owner Lee Hardy said: "It wasn't quite the weekend we'd planned, and it really was as tough as they get for both Ryan and the team.

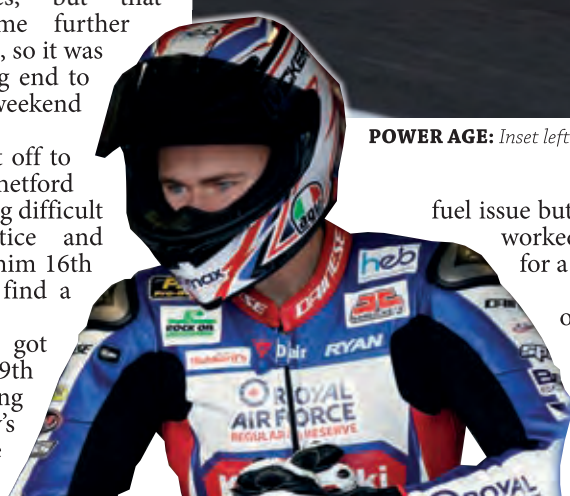
"It was not at all what we set out to achieve so we'll work hard ahead of the next round, where we'll be firmly looking at getting Ryan back into the top 10."

■ The next round takes place at Oulton Park, Cheshire.



POWER AGE: Inset left, a focused Vickers prepares to head out on the track in Northampton; above, taking a corner at speed

PHOTOS: TIM KEETON/IMPACT IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY



GETTING READY TO RUMBLE: Vickers leaves the pits during a frustrating weekend

Doyle's at it again

SIGNING OFF his 690th documented sporting challenge, AC Paddy Doyle tackled the RAF Spitfire 10km low technical mountain bike event, setting a course record carrying a 20lb backpack.

Doyle, pictured right, reset the bar on his chrome framed bike in 36 minutes and 20 seconds, he also came seventh out of 14 cyclists who completed the 10km on the Spitfire challenge leaders board.

A field of 1,951 runners and cyclists completed the event nationally over a two-week period.

Doyle continued setting his record-breaking feats along the Heart of England Way footpath at Rowington, Warwickshire with a 15km course best in 45 minutes and 53 seconds and the 22km in one hour, nine minutes and 58 seconds.



He said: "It was a good feeling to set a course time on my chrome mountain bike and achieve my career 690th documented fitness endurance feat and world record.

"The next 10 strength speed stamina records will be tough, to reach another milestone of 700 sporting titles."

Sport

RUGBY UNION

Mac's band of brothers

Captaincy role for RAF man



COIN TOSS: McNally looks on as the referee tosses the coin pre-kick off of the RAF man's first game as captain; *right*, leading the charge on the Round 19 win PHOTOS: BATH RFC

Daniel Abrahams
HQ Air Command

A POWERFUL 40-15 win was the perfect way to mark his first time as captain of Bath Rugby Club for Cpl Josh McNally.

The talismanic RAF man led out his club side for their Gallagher Premiership Round 19 win over Worcester Warriors at their Recreation Ground home.

He said: "Captaining Bath against Worcester was an opportunity I was extremely grateful for, but with the experience around the squad taking the field, and the correct leaders in the right positions, all that was left for me to do was the coin toss really.

"I think since returning after lockdown there has been a different energy around Bath Rugby and I think people are starting to see that on the pitch.

"I was extremely grateful for the opportunity, it starts a very exciting six weeks ahead"

"The performances we are starting to put out there have been fantastic, and it's testament to how hard the boys have been working.



"It's been a gruelling schedule, that has tested us mentally and physically, but I think we have embraced the challenge extremely well.

"A very exciting six weeks are ahead."

McNally's men were shown live on BT Sport as they moved to within a point of fourth-placed Wasps, having burst ahead with two tries



inside the first 20 minutes through Tom Ellis and Elliott Stooke.

Bath went on to score a further four tries, with five conversions from Josh Matavesi as McNally's night was rounded off in style.

Bath Director of Rugby Stuart Hooper (pictured left)

said: "I was delighted to ask Josh to lead the side, he is part of our senior player group and he has earned a lot of respect since he moved here from London Irish.

"He is also a very respectful guy, who the other lads look up to.

"This was a great opportunity which he took well and we are looking for much more of the same from him in the future."

Follow Bath Rugby on Twitter @bathrugby and RAF rugby union @RAFRugbyUnion.

COMPETITION

Learn what it takes to be the Tour winner

FEW CYCLISTS will ever be as good as the 2020 Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar, but with Paul Knott's TdF Road Cycling Training Guide you can at least find out what it takes.

RAF News has teamed up with Wellbeck Publishing to give away five copies of the Official Tour De France Road Cycling Training Guide.

The hardback book features expertly written sections on training planning, types of training, nutrition, deciphering data, rest and recovery, psychology and off-bike training programmes tables.

Knott does a great job transferring professional level tips designed to win Grand Tours, Queen and other prestigious events, or at least compete in them,

into amateur level everyday usage.

Many cycling guides feature diet tips and talk about data and training, but none offer them with the precise approach of Knott's title – for example, the *Day In A Day*, where team

Lotto Soudal rider Adam Hansen explains his full diet needs and usage pre, post and during races in the fantastic *How The Pros Prepare* section.

The *Rest and Recovery* section is equally as brilliant, no book provides this level, for example the

Cool-Down techniques, which is eye-opening and vital to know, if you are pushing yourself further in the sport.

The information featured would

be so difficult to acquire... unless you happen to have a professional rider as your neighbour. Once you've consumed all this content, Knott closes the book with details on overseas training camps and getting out on the pedals.

For a chance to win a copy of *TdF Road Cycling Training Guide* by Paul Knott, simply answer this question correctly:

Who is the 2020 Tour de France champion?

Email your answer, marked TDF book competition, to sports@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 12.

Please remember to include your full postal address with your entry.

Follow Wellbeck Publishing on Twitter @wellbeckpublish.



GREATEST SHOW ON THE ROAD: Stunning mountain stage PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Win!

Sport

POLO



RIDE ON TIME: Above and right, the Service's teams take full advantage of the good weather and excellent facilities at Druids Lodge

Druids camp sees RAF's stars shine

Training weekends set teams for 2021

Staff Reporter

HQ Air Command

THE SERVICE'S polo stars benefitted from back-to-back training weekends in Wiltshire coupled with a series of matches to prepare for the coming season.

The camp at Druids Lodge Polo Club, Salisbury, saw the RAF Polo Association's (RAFPA)

intermediate and senior teams work through skills sessions under the watchful eye of coach Giles Ormerod.

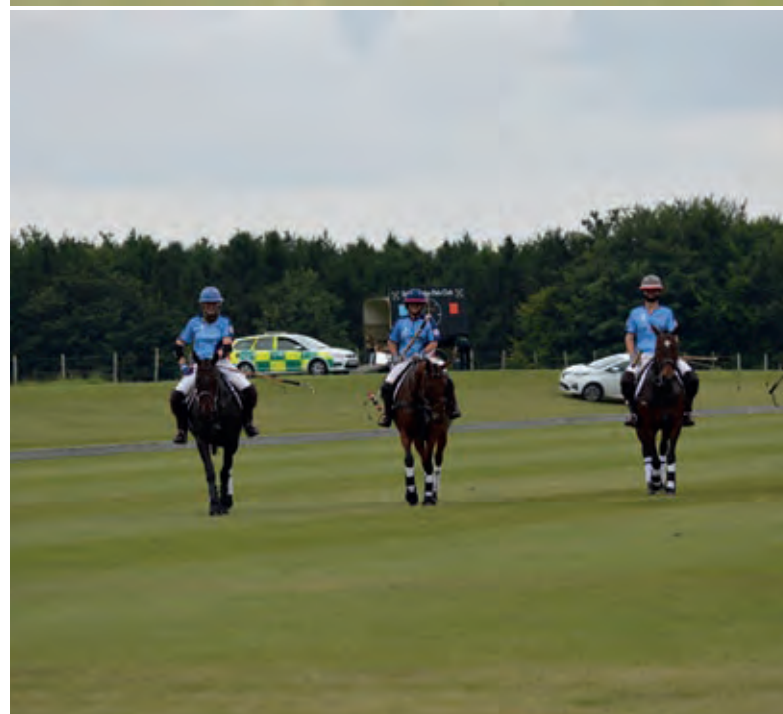
A team spokesman said: "With social distancing in place and numerous rule changes to reduce player contact, this has been a valuable opportunity to bring both the teams together to enhance individual and team skills in view of

the 2021 season and Inter-Services matches.

"The coaching was exceptional, and we closed out the camp with two games, against Druids."

Despite losing both matches, the team scored in the first and battled well throughout.

■ Follow RAF Polo on Twitter @RAFPoloOfficial.



BOBSLEIGH

Red route to victory for bobsleigh team

THE SERVICE'S bobsleigh stars went head to head with their GB counterparts in a Red Arrows challenge to push the famous T1 Hawk aircraft at RAF Scampton.

The international bobsleigh team laid down the challenge to shove the iconic five-ton jet, plus a truck, adding another seven tons. The GB team of L/Cpl Nick Gleeson, Privates Luke Dawes and Olly Butterworth and REME Taylor Lawrence completed the 30-metre push in 44.9 seconds.

The RAF team were up next, led by Cpl John Stanbridge, and completed in a slower time of 58.52 seconds, but in the lighter push, without the truck, the RAF team set a winning time of 17.08 seconds, beating the GB time by just 0.24 seconds.

The overall result was originally meant to be decided on the heavier push, but Jamaican international L/Cpl Shanwayne Stephens took a win where he could, saying: "No, we definitely won. I'm happy with that, the



PUSH IT: L/Cpl Shanwayne Stephens & Cpl John Baines get stuck in; inset, the team post-event
PHOTOS: SAC KATRINA KNOX

clocks don't lie."

Cpl Stanbridge, who has headed up the team's charge for GB and possible Olympic selection, said: "The help from the Red Arrows is really appreciated. It was great to

see how they work and it's great to see our sport exposed to a wider audience through this team up."

■ Follow RAF and GB Bobsleigh on Twitter @RAFBobsleigh and @TeamGB.

CRICKET



IN A SPIN: Waddington bowling attack skittled Northolt cheaply to secure the John Wells Trophy at RAF Vine Lane
PHOTO: SAC ROSE BUCHANAN

RAF Waddington sealed a comfortable 51-run win over Northolt to take the John Wells Trophy Challenge Final (RAF T20 Cricket 0Final) for the first time since 2017.

Waddington batted first to open the final at the home of RAF cricket, RAF Vine Lane, Uxbridge, scoring 170 for six. Their bowlers restricted Northolt to 119 for six with some tight bowling and agile fielding.

Sport**Captain McNally's debut win for Bath**

● Sport P29

**BSB champ rides in for RAF racing team**

● Sport P28

**WIN TDF training books**

● Sport P29

**CRICKET**

RAF's lucky sevens

Narrow win at HAC HQ, belies dominance of Service bowlers

Continued from page 27:

Team manager Sqn Ldr Jim Iago said: "That was a hard-fought win and we deserved it in the end, let's make sure we push this energy into the next few games and ensure we come out with as many wins as we can."

The opportunity to play at the Artillery Ground, Finsbury Barracks – one of the oldest grounds English cricket can offer – was too good to miss for Iago's men, who, having won the toss, chose to bat in near perfect conditions.

After losing an early wicket, team captain SAC(T) Tom Shorthouse took the reins and played a great knock alongside Flt Lt Tom Berzins to take the visitors to 63-1.

Berzins then fell LBW to Mitchel for 32 with the run rate ticking over nicely. The hosts were struggling to make any further inroads into the Service side's batting, before a fantastic one-handed pick up and run out by Sean Parry saw the end of SAC Jack Harrison.

Harrison's wicket sparked a collapse in the RAF's middle order as SAC(T) Shorthouse was dismissed for a well-made 70, and Sgt Ben Peel and LCpl John Iniff both went without scoring. Up stepped Flt Lt Avish Patel to steady the ship with a rapid fire 38, carrying the RAF to a respectable total of 203.

During lunch RAF Coach Cpl Arron Ward emphasised to the team the need for the bowling to remain tight throughout, and the fielding to be clinical. His words were backed up as the opening bowlers Sgt Kieran Pearce and LCpl Iniff dismissed the top order to leave the HAC 33-3.

Next to the crease for the HAC was the pair of Sean Parry and Liam Casey who took the game under control scoring 56 and 71 respectively. Good shots and tired fielding saw them reach 133-4 before SAC Harrison bowled Parry hitting the top of his off stump. Harrison struck again quickly to leave HAC faltering at 134-5.

Had catches been taken and chances gone the way of the RAF it would have been an early finish, however, continued doggedness of



DRIVEN PERFORMANCE: Main, SAC(T) Tom Shorthouse, RAF team captain, prepares to drive a shot at the beautiful HAC HQ, right, Sgt Kieran Pearce runs on from the Pavilion End, inset, the RAF players celebrate taking another wicket on their way to a seven run win
PHOTOS: SAC CONNOR TIERNEY AND SAC SHAUNA MARTIN.

the HAC batsmen saw them take the game to the final over.

Flt Lt Patel took the initiative with two quick wickets, while Sgt Pearce returned to the attack to skittle Casey.

With just nine runs required off the last over Patel held his nerve, dismissing the final two batsmen with two balls to spare.

■ Follow RAF Cricket and RAF women's cricket on Twitter @rafcricket @RAFLadiesCC.



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