

The Forces' favourite paper

Competition
Dark truth about Nazi games

● See RnR p3

Win!



Competition
Win story of wartime romance

● See RnR p5

Win!



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **August 7** 2020
No 1497 **70p**

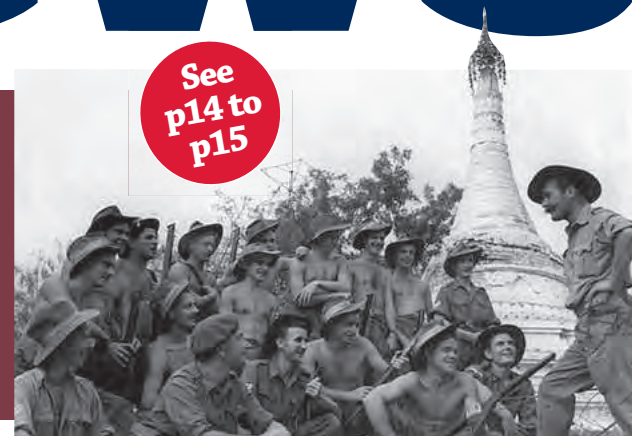
RAF News



VJ Day

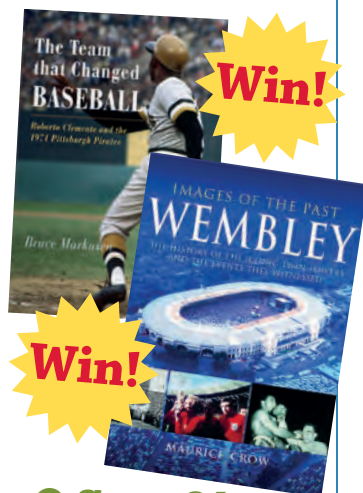
75th anniversary tribute

See
p14 to
p15



Competition
Two great sports books

Win!



Win!

● See p24

Football
Awards for five RAFFA stalwarts



● See p26

Typhoon sub alert



MARITIME PATROL: Russian IL 38



COMBAT AIR POWER: SU-27 Flanker



Simon Mander

UK TYPHOONS guarding the Baltic tracked a Russian nuclear submarine after being scrambled from Lithuania.

The vessel, capable of carrying cruise missiles, was spotted by 6 Sqn pilots during a mission to intercept an IL-38 'MAY' maritime patrol aircraft escorted by two SU-27 Flanker B Fighters.

The Russian aircraft were operating alongside the Oscar class nuclear sub, which was tracked when it surfaced heading west across the Baltic Sea.

It's the second time in a week British Eurofighters have intercepted SU-27 Flankers.

The latest incidents could be an escalation in Russian aggression coming days after Britain and the US accused the Kremlin of firing a space missile.

● Continued on p3



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“The station’s output delivering air mobility across the globe is phenomenal”

New RAF
Brize Norton
OC Gp Capt
Emily Flynn
See p10



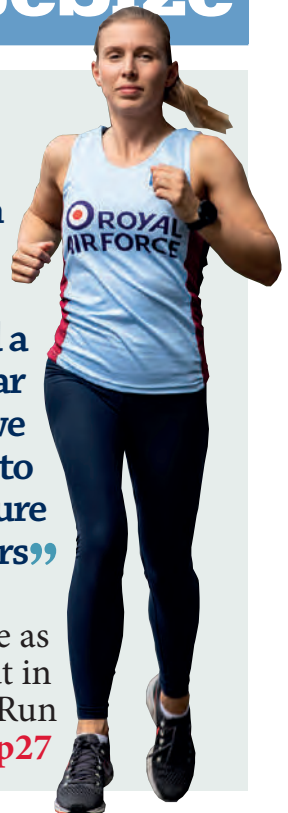
“When I saw Tanya I just knew she was Lata. She has a sense of wonder in her eyes”

Director Mira
Nair on Tanya
Maniktale
(pictured), the
star of the
BBC’s *A
Suitable
Boy*
R’n’R
p4-5



“I’m delighted that we were able to field a team this year and hope we can continue to do so in future years”

Sqn Ldr Jo Roe as
the ladies debut in
the Great City Run
See p27



RAF News

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Typhoons track Baltic sub

● Continued from p1

Russian warplanes have also been reported as carrying out major tactical flight drills in the country’s nearby Kaliningrad region.

The military formation was shadowed as it flew through international airspace.

The intercepts came during a busy period for 135 Expeditionary Air Wing, deployed on Nato Baltic Air Policing duties, which has been training with an embedded Luftwaffe detachment and hosting a visit by the Lithuanian President.

135 EAW Commanding Officer Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt said: “We had just completed a really productive Typhoon interoperability exercise with the Luftwaffe and shortly thereafter we scrambled on a live intercept, showing the whole team’s professionalism and flexibility.”

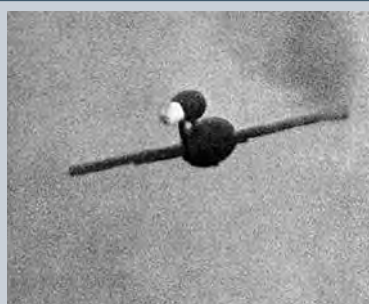
135 EAW operates from Siauliai Airbase alongside Spanish Air Force EF-18 Hornets and a French Airforce detachment based in Estonia.

The Baltic Sea accounts for up to 15 per cent of the world’s cargo traffic.



NATO INTERCEPTORS:
A Typhoon policing Nato air space closes in on a Russian SU-27 Flanker and IL-36 maritime patrol aircraft over the Baltic sea. PHOTO: MOD

This Week In History



1944

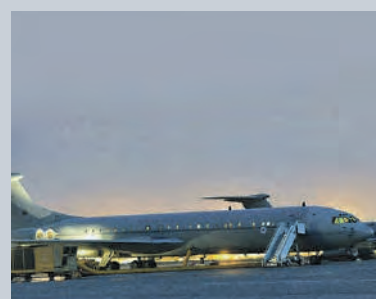
V1 sites targeted

BOMBER COMMAND continues to launch heavy raids against Nazi V1 launch sites in the Pas de Calais region. All attacks are successful but six Lancasters are lost.

1966

VC-10 arrives at Brize

THE FIRST of 14 VC-10 strategic transporters arrive at RAF Brize Norton for service with 10 Sqn. The first operational flight is flown 12 months later.



1990

RAF joins Gulf campaign

DEFENCE SECRETARY Tom King announces that British Forces are to support the US-led coalition against Saddam Hussein. An advance party leaves for Dhahran in Saudi Arabia to prepare for the arrival of the first RAF detachment.

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



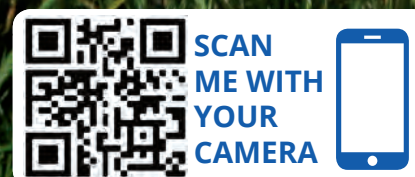
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The RAF Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1081009) and Scotland (SC038109)

Cpl Gemma takes Boris for a spin...

Staff Reporter

CPL GEMMA Connell's charity bid gets a lift with some high level peddle power from Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Chancellor Rishi Sunak at Northolt.

Pals from the 32 Royal Sqn joined her 24-hour fundraising stunt to support Great Ormond Street Hospital where her young relative is receiving treatment.

The political heavyweights saddled up to help ahead of flying out on government business from the RAF station.



News bulletin



CRISIS: Relationship breakdown blamed for being homeless

Bust-up link to homelessness

RELATIONSHIP AND family breakdowns are the main reasons military veterans become homeless, a survey by housing charity Launchpad says.

Nearly 90 per cent revealed they were either sofa-surfing or staying with friends, and 70 per cent said they were sleeping rough.

Eight out of 10 Launchpad residents said they had mental health problems ranging from anxiety to Service and non-Service-related PTSD.

More than half of those who responded said they had problems with addictions including drugs, alcohol and gambling, while 83 per cent were long-term unemployed.

Lotto gets lift

THE RAF Sports Lottery has announced more chances to win, more prizes and more charitable funding for sport and physical activities.

The changes come into effect from September 1 and the first draw for new prizes is on September 4.

To increase their ticket holding players should contact lottery organisers Sterling on: 0370 050 5893; email: rafsports@sterlinglotteries.co.uk.

Czech mates

WWII crews honoured at Honington

Simon Mander

HUNDREDS OF Czechoslovak aircrew who died fighting for Britain against the Nazis in the RAF were remembered at a ceremony at Honington.

The event marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of 311 (Czechoslovak) Sqn which suffered the heaviest losses of any formation of its kind.

Station Commander Gp Capt Matt Radnall said: "During the Second World War more than 500 Czechoslovaks serving in Allied Air Forces were killed. Of these, 273 died while serving with 311 Squadron.

"It is fitting that we mark the squadron's formation with a simple ceremony in our Memorial Garden to ensure that their sacrifice will always be remembered."

The event coincides with the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain whose top ace was 'Lone

REMEMBERED: Czech Officer lays a wreath during service to mark 80th anniversary of squadron. Above, RAF Honington Station Commander Gp Capt Matt Radnall. PHOTOS: CPL DAVE BLACKBURN



LONE WOLF: Frantisek

Wolf, Czech pilot Josef Frantisek with 17 kills in one month.

During the summer of 1940, a total of 932 Czechoslovak Air Force personnel arrived in Britain from France and four Czechoslovak squadrons were formed.

The crews were mostly refugees who left families behind after the

Nazis invaded their homeland.

Among the relatives attending the memorial ceremony was Tom Dolezal of the Free Czechoslovak Air Force Association whose pilot father Flt Lt Oldrich Dolezal sank the German blockade runner Alsterufer regarded as 311 Sqn's biggest wartime success.

They were joined by Czech and Slovak diplomats and the



WWII Czech List

● 311 (Czechoslovak) Sqn flew more than 1,000 Bomber Command missions and 2,111 for Coastal Command.

● Flying Liberators, 311 Sqn had the highest success rate of any Coastal Command squadron.

● Notable actions include the sinking of the 'Alsterufer' in December '42 in the Bay of Biscay, and U-Boat U-971 in February '44.

● 311 Squadron Pilot Officer Arnošt Valenta was murdered by the Nazis after the 'Great Escape'

Commander of 22 Helicopter Base, Namest, now home to the squadron's 'Biscay' Standard.

A total of 2,500 Czechoslovaks served in the RAF during World War II, more than half them as aircrew. 311 (Czechoslovak) Sqn will also be remembered in the Czech Republic on October 1 with a ceremony in Brno.



RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

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Tribute to UK crews holding Baltic line



NATO INTERCEPTOR: RAF Typhoon

Simon Mander

THE PRESIDENT of Lithuania has paid tribute to the UK Typhoon crews guarding the country's airspace and facing down the Russian military threat on its borders.

Premier Gitanas Nausėda visited 135 Expeditionary Air Wing at Siauliai Air Base on a Nato Air Policing Mission.

He said: "Lithuania appreciates what you are doing for us. We live so close to our neighbours and that creates a certain risk for us."

"The Baltic Air Policing Mission is a great example of Nato solidarity."

The President was accompanied by Defence Minister Raimundas Karoblis and Chief of Defence Staff Major General Gintautas Zenkevičius.

The British jets have been scrambled five times to intercept



THREAT: Russian Sukoi SU27 flanker



KEEPING NATO'S EASTERN PROMISE: Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt with President Gitanas Nausėda

Russian aircraft skirting Nato controlled airspace over the Baltic since starting the mission in May.

RAF Detachment Commander Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt briefed the President on an ongoing Anglo-German interoperability exercise ahead of a Luftwaffe deployment

to Estonia later this year.

He said: "He has been genuinely interested in our role, the aircraft and the morale of the personnel of 135 Expeditionary Air Wing. He asked how they were keeping in touch with family back home."

German Air Force Detachment Commander Lt Col Beckmann, who joined his RAF counterpart showing the VIPs around the

Typhoon and Eurofighter jets, said: "This has been the highlight of the already extraordinary hospitality we have felt from the Lithuanian people during our short stay"

Lossiemouth-based 6 Sqn is operating alongside the Spanish Air Force in Siauliai and the French Air Force on the Baltic Air Policing Mission from Amari Air Base in Estonia.



STARTERS ORDERS: Museum fun runners

Spitfire event goes virtual

THE RAF Museum's Spitfire 10k fundraising run is going virtual.

The change was made due to the coronavirus pandemic and online applications are now open for participants to join the virtual race on August 29 and 30.

Trophies and prizes are up for grabs, and runners who submit their times will appear on the leader board.

You can also take part by cycling, rowing or walking the dog at any time between August 29 and September 15 – the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

The RAF Spitfires rugby stars are hoping to boost the charity total and are sharing their tips on how to get ready for the race on social media.

Go to: rafmuseum.org for more details and to register.



DIRECTOR: Air Cdre Hugh Smith (pictured left) takes over from Gen Stefan Scheibl

Covid-19 hits Euro training

CORONAVIRUS HAS hit joint international military aviation training, says the outgoing Deputy Director of the European Air Group.

Handing over the post to RAF fast jet veteran Air Cdre Hugh Smith, Brigadier General Stefan Scheibl said the pandemic had led to the cancellation of meetings, workshops and exercises.

The seven-strong group promotes tactical and operational interoperability and is spearheading joint programmes including the European Air Transport Command and Personnel Recovery Centre.

Nato guardians join national ceremony to honour fallen

Simon Mander

AIRMEN on the Nato mission to Lithuania were guests of honour at a national ceremony to remember those lost at sea.

RAF detachment chief Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt joined the country's President Gitanas Nausėda aboard a former Royal Navy minesweeper for the Klaipeda Sea Festival.

During a short ceremony aboard the Lithuanian Naval Ship Kuršis, British and Spanish Air Force leaders laid wreaths on behalf of their respective countries.

Wg Cdr Gwinnutt said "It was a great honour to join the President's party aboard LNS Kuršis – a former Royal Navy warship."

"Both Air Force detachments currently serving in Lithuania with Nato are from countries with a strong maritime tradition and it was a great experience to meet our colleagues from the Lithuanian Navy."

The event was marked with a



joint flypast by an RAF Typhoon and Spanish Airforce EF-18.

The LNS Kuršis is the former Hunt-class minesweeper HMS Dulverton, which was launched in 1982 and converted into a patrol vessel in 1997.

The ship was bought by Lithuania in 2008, along with HMS Cottesmore.

Lithuanian defence chiefs are currently in talks to purchase a third Royal Navy hunt class vessel, according to reports.



REMEMBRANCE: UK and Spanish crews on Nato mission joined Lithuanian defence chiefs on-board former Royal Navy vessel



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'We faced every parent's worst nightmare...'

Tracey Allen

PROUD RAF dad Cpl Connor Keenan has launched a charity crusade to support the medics who saved the life of his newborn son Luke.

Two days into his new posting Cpl Keenan faced an emergency – Luke was born two months prematurely and spent three weeks in a hospital's special baby care unit.

Cpl Keenan said: "My wife Sam and I spent 14 hours a day at Luke's bedside during his time on the unit."

"The staff on the ward were truly amazing. We were overwhelmed by the support we received every single day."

Now the Henlow-based survival equipment technician is hitting the fundraising trail to support the unit at the Good Hope Hospital in Birmingham by cycling 300 miles in a month.

Cpl Keenan, who spent three years working with the Red Arrows before moving to Henlow, added: "The hospital's neonatal community outreach



team also came to visit Luke at home for two weeks following his discharge. They were on 24-hour call for us.

"As first-time parents with a premature baby, this was a massive comfort. My chain of command at Henlow were really supportive too."

"Luke is seven months old now.

We're looking forward to taking him to his first visit to Liverpool Football Club and swimming lessons once lockdown has fully lifted."

● To support Cpl Keenan's '300 for little champions' event go to [Justgiving.com/fundraising/BigRed07](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BigRed07)

From this...



... to this



BRIZE NORTON is in full bloom – thanks to a project to transform an office courtyard into a 'wellness' garden for medical teams at the Oxfordshire station.

The makeover, which includes a fountain and sensory planting design, was designed by Flt Lt Hanna Dawson. She said: "The contribution from all involved to make this garden a reality is a real achievement."

"We hope it will help distract from some of the day-to-day



FLOWER POWER: RAF medical chief Air Cdre Dave McLoughlin and TMV commander Wg Cdr Jo Bland

pressures of delivering medical capability on behalf of the RAF and UK Defence."



NEXT GEN: Tempest

Seven up for Tempest

SEVEN NEW companies have signed up with the £1.9-billion Team Tempest project to deliver the next-generation combat aircraft to replace Typhoon.

The firms promise to bring new innovations and designs to guarantee the new jet's combat dominance in the air.

So far Team Tempest claims it has notched up a world first within two years of launching by designing a generator that delivers unprecedented levels of electrical power.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "It's no surprise; when you attract the very best of

British engineering and design, technological leaps like these are guaranteed."

Businesses that have signed up are: GEUK, GKN, Collins Aerospace, Martin Baker, QinetiQ, Bombardier and Thales UK, along with UK universities.

Since its creation in 2018, Team Tempest has employed more than 1,800 highly-skilled engineers and programmers, which is set to increase to 2,500 by next year.

The new members will join forces on established projects run by BAE Systems, Leonardo UK, MBDA UK, Rolls-Royce and the Ministry of Defence.

F1 aces feed need for speed

UK RACE ace Williams is sharing F1 technology with defence industry chiefs to help the next generation of UK fighter jets hit hypersonic speeds.

The F1 team is working with BAE Systems on a range of battery and cooling systems which could be used on sixth-generation fighters like the Tempest, currently being developed by the RAF.

Next generation combat aircraft will need high-power and low weight to provide long-range endurance needed in future conflicts, combat chiefs warn.

The Williams designed Gen3 battery system is already powering the new Formula E World Championship race cars.

BAE Systems technology officer Julia Sutcliffe said: "Working with companies like Williams is vital to drive rapid innovation at the pace the Tempest programme demands."

"Leveraging the best technologies and processes from across the global supply chain is essential."

Williams technical director Paul



STEP ON IT: Williams Racing, backing quest for hypersonic speed

PHOTO: PA

McNamara said: "We are confident that our experience in advanced battery development and cooling technologies will allow us to deliver innovative new solutions that can be applied in the Defence sector."

"We have already seen a number of tangible benefits from closer working with BAE Systems, tapping into a rich source of experience from a range of engineering disciplines."

News

Chief's on a charge



LEEMING CHIEF Gp Capt Blythe Crawford tests out the new fast charging points as the station prepares for delivery of a fleet of electric motors.

The switch to greener power will allow the Leeming community to recharge their cars from four points and follows a trial last year.

Flynn's in at Brize Norton

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST airbase has a new boss as Gp Capt Emily Flynn becomes the Station Commander.

A former aide to the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff, she replaces Group Captain Dan James – who oversaw the delivery of humanitarian aid victims of cyclone Idai and the Oxfordshire airfield's efforts to counter the Covid-19 pandemic.

She said: "The station's output delivering air mobility across the globe and the many supported units on the station is phenomenal."



Chinook Mali dust up

Simon Mander

CHINOOK CREWS braved violent thunderstorms during operations to airlift French troops battling Islamist terrorists in Africa's Sahel region.

On one sortie a 1310 Flight aircraft flew through the night alongside French Caiman helicopters to insert 130 soldiers on a patrol, recovering them 36 hours later to the main operating base at Gao.

On another a thunderstorm developed into a 200 nautical mile-wide supercell, delaying planned airlifts until first light.

UK National Component Commander Wg Cdr Si Elsey said: "The ongoing Chinook operations in Mali are extremely challenging due to the environment in which we are operating.

"But we have managed to maintain a high operational tempo throughout, which has been acknowledged by our French Allies."

Over the past seven months personnel from Odiham's 18 (Bomber) Sqn, Tactical Support Wing and Joint Helicopter Support Sqn have kept the Chinooks airborne for 244 hours, transporting 1,511 people and 87



ANTI-TERROR MISSION: 1310 Flt Chinook supporting French forces in Mali

tonnes of weapons, equipment and supplies in 55 sorties.

Since the mission, codenamed Operation Newcombe, began two years ago the RAF has flown 2,268 hours carrying 14,070 passengers and 1,151 tonnes of freight.

Odiham personnel are the latest to return from a four-month operational tour in Mali airlifting company sized units of the French Army's Groupement Tactique Desert 1, who are re-establishing Malian Army Forward Operating Bases.

United Kingdom Special Forces



Search UKSF on MODnet
SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk

£££s for hounds



A CAMPAIGN to build a national memorial to military working dogs has netted more than £53,000 after a public appeal for funding.

The project needs £200,000 to build and maintain the site in North Wales. **Go to nmwdm.org.uk**

Chief blasts Russia space attack

Simon Mander

AIR CHIEFS have accused the Kremlin of endangering space safety.

Their comments came after US Space Command confirmed Russian military satellite COSMOS-254 released a smaller sub-satellite at high velocity close to another Russian military satellite.

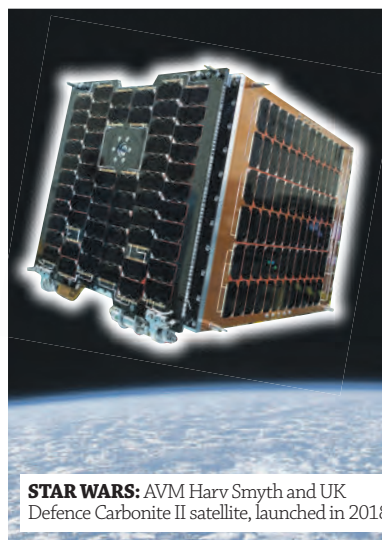
Head of the UK's Space Directorate Air Vice-Marshal Harv Smyth said: "We are concerned by the way Russia

tested one of its satellites by launching a projectile with the characteristics of a weapon.

"Actions of this kind threaten the peaceful use of space and risk causing debris that could pose a threat to satellites and the space systems on which the world depends.

"We call on Russia to avoid any further such testing.

"We also urge Russia to continue to work constructively with the UK and other partners to encourage responsible behaviour in space."



STAR WARS: AVM Harv Smyth and UK Defence Carbonite II satellite, launched in 2018



Drone rangers

Gunners launch dawn raid to test new combat kit



FP DRILL: Combat practice on Salisbury Plain used new unmanned air systems currently being tested for use by Gunners on the frontline. *Inset below, RAF quadcopter*
PHOTOS: SAC RYAN MURRAY

Simon Mander

GUNNERS USED miniature unmanned air systems and Foxhound armoured cars to repel a simulated dawn raid on an airfield during recent training.

Coningsby-based 7 Force Protection Wing, which guards RAF bases, aircraft and personnel worldwide, honed their combat skills on Exercise Blazing Chariot on Salisbury Plain.

Also taking part were Joint Terminal Attack Controllers from the Lincolnshire station who have worked with the Royal

Artillery, 3 Commando Brigade, 16 Air Assault Brigade and the Special Forces Support Group.

They were joined by Honington-based 1 Sqn who use Jackal, Foxhound and Panther armoured vehicles in high threat environments, 2623 Sqn Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment reservists, and intelligence analysts.

Force protection specialists are pioneering the use of remotely-piloted air systems to protect airfields in Britain and beyond and on overseas deployments.

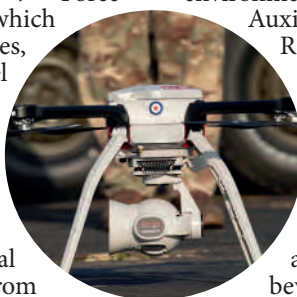
The RAF Regiment have

already used the new kit to recover an Army Air Corps helicopter following a forced landing.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory has carried out extensive trials on a range of remote devices and the RAF Regt is currently putting the Aeryon SkyRanger quadcopter to the test in battlefield conditions.

The electrically powered Canadian-built vertical take-off and landing quadcopter requires no launch equipment and has a top speed of 50kph over a 5km range.

Force Protection personnel are world leaders in defending military airfields and advise more than 20 other nations and Nato allies on countering threats from hostile forces.





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SHOW STOPPER: Parachute display team's season cancelled following Covid crisis

Falcons grounded

THE RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team have cancelled their 2020 display season.

The Covid pandemic has prevented the chute stars receiving their Public Display Authority to perform this year.

The team usually tours air shows across the UK and Europe between April and September.

Now they will continue to conduct military parachute and professional development training ahead of preparing for the 2021 season on the West Coast of the USA later this year.

Flt Lt Chris Wilce will command the team, which will include five new members.



MEDICAL EVACUATION: Patients arrive at Odiham from Channel Islands

Odiham takes on airlift role

PATIENTS FROM the Channel Islands are being airlifted to RAF Odiham after operating hours at Southampton Airport were slashed because of the coronavirus.

Two patients airlifted from Guernsey landed at the Hampshire air base to be met by a road ambulance and taken to hospital for critical care.

The moves come after the Jersey and Guernsey governments requested use of Odiham for out-of-hours medical evacuations.

Subhunters set for new £130m home



POSEIDON: Lossie base



Simon Mander

A £130 million facility for the UK's new fleet of Poseidon subhunters has been handed over to UK defence chiefs after a two-year construction programme.

The eight acre development at Lossiemouth will be home to two squadrons operating the maritime patrol aircraft and includes a tactical operations centre, three-bay hangar and synthetic training suites.

The RAF has taken delivery of two Poseidon P-8s from a total order of nine from Boeing. A third is undergoing mission equipment fitting

at the aviation giant's facility in Seattle and will be delivered later this year, the RAF said.

The aircraft have been operating from Kinloss army base during the construction of the site and will be transferred to their new home once a runway upgrade is completed.

Air Cdre Richard Barrow said: "The strategic facility is going to be an outstanding working environment optimised to support Poseidon. It will be where our crews, engineers, mission support staff and contractors will work together to deliver this essential Defence output.

"The project will deliver exactly what we need in time to meet the arrival of our new

aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth in the autumn."

The two aircraft already in service, The Pride of Moray and City of Elgin, pay tribute to the RAF's Scottish links while the third has been named in honour of World War II airman Terrance Bulloch – the highest-scoring Coastal Command pilot.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin added: "The new Poseidon fleet will reassert the UK in the maritime patrol arena. It will play an invaluable role in our national security for decades to come. The Lossiemouth facility provides the fleet with an ideal base while helping to create and sustain jobs in Scotland."

Bell tolls for Brunei jungle mission



CHOPPS AWAY: Bell helicopter is loaded onto a giant C-17 transporter
PHOTO: SGT MATTY MATTHEWS



BRIZE-BASED PERSONNEL packed a punch when the Army needed a Bell 212 helicopter to carry out medical evacuations in the jungle.

The Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit engineers and logisticians were brought in to move the aircraft (pictured above) more than 5,000 miles to Brunei.

The team used an exact replica 'mock up' of a Globemaster in a hangar to practise on before loading the real thing.

Military and commercial contractors will travel to Brunei to offload and assemble the helicopter at the Army Air Corps training base.

A hard-fought Victory over Japan



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Wg Cdr CM Lander, Commanding Officer of 1307 Wing (*extreme right*), briefing RAF Regiment gunners at Meiktila, Burma, in February 1945, shortly before the Japanese counter attack in March. No. 1307 Wing, which consisted of 2708 Field Squadron along with Flights from Nos 2941 and 2968 Field Squadrons and 2963 Light Anti-Aircraft Squadron, was tasked with the defence of the strategically important airfield at Meiktila. A fierce three-week battle eventually ended with the Japanese being driven back, but resulted in the death of 'Bill' Lander who, along with his runner, Leading Aircraftman Dakers, were killed by enemy snipers during a patrol on March 24. The men pictured are (*front row, left to right*): Cpl JC Harrison, Plt Off EJ Rooney, LAC LB Clarke, Cpl T Jones, LAC AM McDonald and LAC W Glover. Standing (*left to right*): LACs W Austin, JC Donovan, H Hunter, W Nuttall, EF Dann, JP Ward, WW Ellis, AJ Cone, EF Bowkett and Cpl ET Webb.

PHOTOS: AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH (RAF)



SHELLED: The crew of Douglas Dakota III, KN232, of 238 Sqn – left to right: Fg Off J Creech (Nav), Plt Lt TJ Bayliss (pilot) and LAC I Fiddes (nursing orderly), in a bomb crater by their damaged aircraft after it was attacked by the Japanese at take-off at Meiktila, Burma, on March 23, 1945



FIRST KILL: Squadron Leader JH 'Ginger' Lacey, CO of 17 Sqn and veteran of the Battle of Britain (*left*), congratulates Pilot Officer AD Witteridge of 155 Sqn at Sapam, Burma, on shooting down his first Japanese aircraft in Nov 1944



CLOSE AIR SUPPORT ROLE: OC 34 Squadron briefs his Hurricane pilots prior to a sortie



CELEBRATIONS: Groundcrew of 356 Sqn based at Brown's West Island, Cocos Islands, celebrate in front of one of their Consolidated Liberator B.V.I.s on hearing the news of the surrender of Japan, August 14, 1945. *Below*, senior RAF officers at the base cancel all planned operational sorties from the airfield following the announcement



RADIO TIMES: Flight Sergeant RL Stainthorpe and Sergeant JB Brown, members of a Royal Air Force wireless unit attached to a British Army column operating in North Burma, arrange for food and supplies to be dropped, May 1944

BOMBER AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS BOARD									
DUTY	CAPTAIN	SQDN	W/T	CALL SIGN	TAKE OFF	TOT	E.T.A	BASE	REMARKS
SHIPPING SINGAPORE 15-8-45	S/L ALCON	U 99	FTGX	0800	1430	2030			
	F/L ARCHER	F 99	FTGY	0801					
	W/L WEBSTER	H 99	FTGB	0802					
	F/L DAVY	M 99	FTGC	0803					
	S/L STUART	GN	0804						
	F/O BAXTER	GZ	0805						
	F/O DUNN	GK	0806						
	F/L WILSON	GF	0807						
	F/O MASON	GS	0808						
	F/L MACLEOD	GT	0809						
CANCELLED	F/O BRADLEY								
	F/O WILLIAMS								
	F/L FOSTER								
	F/L BRAY								
	S/L PAYN								
	S/L EVANS								
	F/L DOUGHTY								
	F/O MYERS								
	F/L WALKER								

BY GRAHAM PITCHFORK
Aviation historian, author and Air Cdre (Ret'd)



AS THE fighting in Europe entered its final phase of World War II, fierce battles continued in the 'Forgotten War' of South East Asia. By late 1944, the British Fourteenth Army, commanded by General Slim, had begun its advance southwards to clear Central Burma, by which time the Allied Air Forces had gained dominance by engaging Japanese aircraft in combat and by flying interdiction missions against Japanese-held airfields.

This air superiority was crucial for the Dakota squadrons to successfully resupply the Army with a huge number of airborne drops. Thousands of tons of supplies were delivered to the ground forces as they advanced to Mandalay.

The further south the Army advanced, so the need for air supply increased and two additional Dakota squadrons were formed to meet this demand.

Squadrons of fighter-bombers and dive bombers conducting close air support missions, sometimes attacking enemy positions just a few hundred yards ahead of the advancing troops, providing further support.

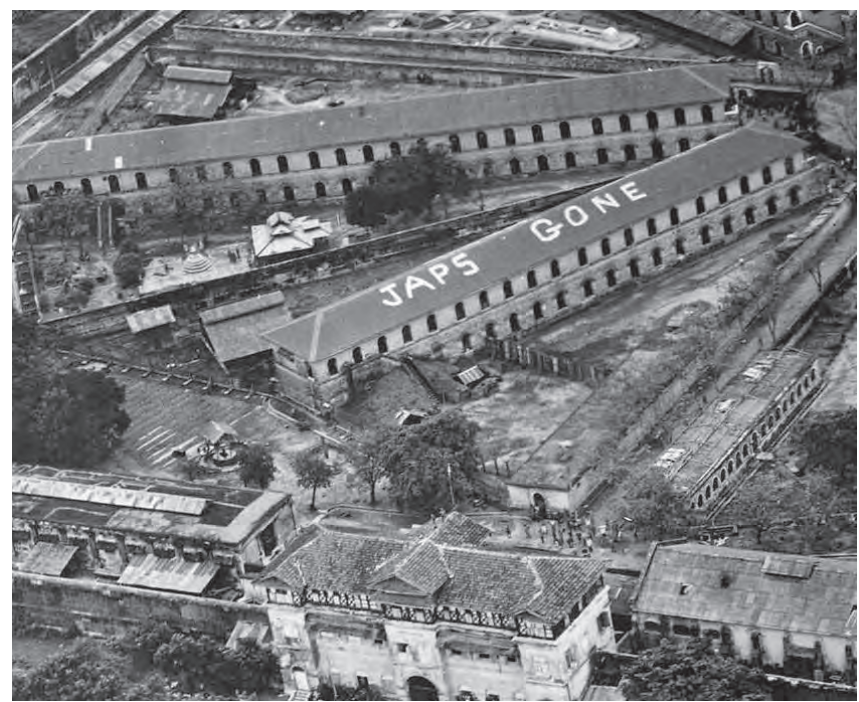
Meanwhile, Beaufighter squadrons flew long-range interdiction sorties against the Japanese supply lines, attacking trains, road transport, coastal shipping and river craft with rockets and cannons.

Mosquito photographic reconnaissance squadrons identified targets crucial to the Japanese resupply operations and Liberator squadrons, operating from India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), flew long-range bombing missions to destroy bridges and the railways from Bangkok to Rangoon.

The Liberators also attacked strategic targets further afield, some as far as Singapore and others in Siam (now Thailand), to lay mines in harbours in Malaya and Siam, while others attacked shipping. Crews were sometimes airborne for almost 20 hours.

The attacks by Beaufighters, Liberators and USAAF Mitchel bombers crippled the Japanese supply lines and this, together with the constant and increasing airborne resupply of Allied troops, (60,000 tons in February), were to prove a crucial factor in the eventual success in Central Burma.

As the Army advanced, it was essential to capture airfields for the



THE ALL-CLEAR: PoWs at Rangoon Gaol let Allied pilots know their captors have fled, May 1945

shorter-range aircraft and men of the RAF Regiment were involved in an epic battle to capture, and hold, the airfield at Meiktila in March. Soon afterwards, the airfield became a crucial airhead for the further advance to Rangoon, which began on April 12.

The docks and supply dumps at Rangoon were bombed, and the efforts of the Tactical Air Forces and the Combat Cargo Task Force (joint RAF and USAAF) were redoubled. By early May, Allied forces were closing in on Rangoon.

On the afternoon of May 2, Wg Cdr A.E. Saunders, flying a 110 Squadron Mosquito over Rangoon, saw a large white notice on the roof of Rangoon gaol – 'Japs Gone'. He landed at the nearby deserted Mingaladon airfield, and was the first to enter the city where he met the Senior British Officer and 1,400 PoWs who immediately set about clearing the airfield to allow transport aircraft to land. The following day, British and Indian troops entered Rangoon.

One more battle had to be fought before Burma was entirely free. Large numbers of Japanese, still capable of fighting, had been swept aside in the advance southwards. By now, most of the USAAF had been withdrawn to support operations in China, but RAF squadrons continued to air drop supplies, provide close air support and interdict the routes leading into Siam.

By early July, the last desperate efforts of the Japanese had been brought to a halt and it was the turn of the Burmese guerrillas, supplied and supported by the RAF, which hounded the enemy as it tried to escape.

The attacks by Beaufighters, Liberators and USAAF Mitchel bombers crippled the Japanese supply lines and this, together with the constant and increasing airborne resupply of Allied troops, (60,000 tons in February), were to prove a crucial factor in the eventual success in Central Burma. As the Army advanced, it was essential to capture airfields for the



BURMA, MARCH 1945: The new Allied Air Commander-in-Chief South East Asia, Air Marshal Sir Keith Park (*right*), talks to Air Vice-Marshal SF Vincent, AOC 221 Gp (*centre*), and Gp Capt H Goddard, while visiting units on the Mandalay Peninsula

On July 21 the Japanese Army made its last desperate attempt to escape across the River Sittang, but Thunderbolt and Spitfire squadrons carrying bombs hounded it. Ten days later, the enemy remnants crossed the river and by August 4 the long battle for Burma was over, when preparations were made for the invasion of Malaya.

Before this could begin, the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and a second on Nagasaki, on August 9. Five days later, Emperor Hirohito accepted the Allied demand of unconditional surrender and World War II was over.

The RAF squadrons immediately redirected their energies to the most extensive mission of mercy by bringing relief and liberation to the tens of thousands of Allied prisoners of war and internees in the many Japanese prison camps scattered throughout the vast territories of South East Asia.

The RAF's role in Burma was immense and can best be summed up by quoting Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, Air Command, South East Asia, who recorded in his official despatch: "The Burma campaign should make its mark in the annals of history as a triumph of air power and as a feat of endurance of Allied land forces."



Win wartime
romance ● p5

R'n'R

Announcements

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Puzzles
- P8

Indian summer of
love ● A Suitable Boy p4-5

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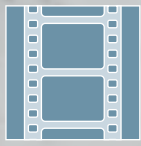
Search: Ford Military Sales



[†]**Selected vehicles only. Eligibility criteria applies. See ford.co.uk/militarysales for more information.**

Model shown is a Focus ST-3 5-Door 2.3L Ford EcoBoost 280PS with a 6-Speed Manual Petrol transmission with optional Full LED Headlamps. Fuel economy mpg (l/100km): Combined 34.4. *CO₂ emissions 179g/km.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. *There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures. The CO₂ figures shown, however, are based on the outgoing test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration.



Film review

Clemency

Cert 15 – out now.

Silence is golden

Understated acting makes for death row classic



QUIET DIGNITY:
Bernadine
(Alfre Woodard)

CHINONYE CHUKWU'S *Clemency* is a death row drama, focused not directly on the morality or process, but on the toll it takes on all of those involved, even on the periphery.

The film opens to an execution in process. A large tattooed Latino man lies afraid on a metal gurney in an enclosed room, when a curtain is pulled back to reveal the witnesses and distressed family.

Given an opportunity to make a last declaration, he recites the Lord's Prayer into the microphone, which the warden takes away right around the mention of forgiveness.

Icy and professional, this is the twelfth execution that Bernadine has overseen. Priding herself on being able to see each prisoner through the process with dignity, she has a distance-keeping formality. When the lethal injections begin, and the doctor fails to find a vein, leaving the subject in agony, Bernadine draws the curtain, left to confront the grim reality with her staff but without letting on that it's having an effect.

Alfre Woodard captures Bernadine through her defiant strength of character, chipped away but pitifully maintained. This is all communicated non-verbally, through micro-expressions and reactions – the final scene in fact playing out on her face, telling us everything we need to know



DEATH ROW: Anthony Woods (Aldis Hodge)

without actually saying anything.

She gives very little away, to Anthony Woods (Aldis Hodge) – the much-debated subject of the next execution she will oversee, to the media knocking on the door and the protestors on the doorstep. Even her beleaguered husband (Wendell Pierce) pleads with her to retire, seeing that she has become an 'empty shell'.

Stripped back to one-on-one exchanges, with a powerfully minimal score, it is not the film's dialogue which informs your opinion but the emotions that you perceive behind it. Cloaked or suppressed, the silence forces you to scrutinise characters' motivations or sincerity.

The guilt of Anthony Woods becomes irrelevant as you see the turmoil brought upon a community, and the intricate ways in which it breaks people down.

4 out of 5 rounds

Review by Sam Cooney



Competition Books

Hitler's Olympics: The story of the 1936 Nazi Games
(pen-and-sword.co.uk £12.99)

Win!

The Nazi Games

THE OLYMPIC Games have always had a history littered with dark undertones, none more so than the ones held in 1936.

Anton Rippon, respected journalist and author of *Hitler's Olympics: The Story of the 1936 Nazi Games*, does a terrific job of reassessing the Games that surely holds the title of the most controversial of all.

This new title from Pen and Sword illuminates the time and turmoil of the rumbling events in Germany that would, under the guidance of Adolf Hitler, lead to World War II. It shows how in just four years the Games were used as a political tool for the first time.

The book includes 200 superb photographs, covering the impact of the Games during its build-up and then two-week staging across the globe.

Rippon does a superb job

trawling the setting for the Games, with some incredible stories such as the Germany versus England football international match, to be played at Tottenham Hotspur's White Hart Lane Ground – a club famous for its long ties with the British Jewish community. The game, one of numerous curtain-raisers for the Berlin event, even saw the swastika flown above the ground.

We also see how the Games was the first to feature an Olympic torch, an idea by Hitler himself to advertise the Nazi party across the world.

All these little gems are uncovered by an author at the top of his game, and starkly projected against the country that would brush its rife policy of anti-Semitism under the carpet, while the world looked on for two sporting weeks.

While the dazzling event, the



PROPAGANDA GAMES: Hitler used the Olympics to promote the Third Reich

first to be shown on television, took place, the fallout for athletes banned from attending on religious grounds, or simply because they had a conscience, was immense.

The personal and international cost that the massive coup the Games proved to be for Hitler and his Nazi party is one the world's governments turned a blind eye to, but it's a subject Rippon doesn't shy away from digging into.

Hitler's Olympics is a tough read in many ways, but it is also illuminating and one not to be missed.

Review by Dan Abrahams

Win the book

WE HAVE copies of *Hitler's Olympics* (rrp £12.99 paperback, pen-and-sword.co.uk) to win. For your chance to own one, just send us the correct answer to this question:

What ground did Germany play England at football at as an Olympic warm-up?

Email your answer, marked *Hitler's Olympics* book competition, to: sports@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by August 21. Sorry, but we're currently unable to accept competition entries by post.



TV
Theroux
BBC

Theroux the looking glass

BBC TWO has announced *Louis Theroux: Life On The Edge*, a four-part series looking back at the award-winning film-maker's body of work spanning 25 years.

He has become synonymous with documentaries involving subcultures, people on the fringes of society and subjects who live with mental health issues.

Louis (right) said: "For years I've wanted to go back and make sense of the programmes I've made, find out what happened to some of the contributors, update their stories, and see what all these many hours of making TV might add up to."

"Lockdown gave me the time and space to do this."

A broadcast date for the series is yet to be announced.





TV
New shows
Comedy and drama



EMILY ATTACK: Making a show of herself

Atack's back

THE EMILY ATTACK SHOW is coming to ITV2 later this year.

The actress, writer and TV personality will star in her own show, performing her stand-up comedy and sketches and skits about life as a young woman. She will also show off impressions of celebrities, from Gemma Collins to Holly Willoughby.

The six-part series is due to air this autumn. Each episode covers a different theme, including Dating, Going Out, Friends, Family, Image and Adulthood.

Emily said: "It's a dream come true, since I was a child this is the kind of television I've wanted to make and be part of. I can't quite believe it."

Having played Charlotte in the hit sitcom *The Inbetweeners*, she went on to appear on *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* in 2018 and *Celebrity Gogglebox* with her mum, actress, comedian and singer Kate Robbins.

Maybe Peter's aiming to be leader of the House



AMBITION: Peter (Laurie) in *Roadkill*

BBC ONE has released a first look image of Hugh Laurie (*The Night Manager*, *House*) in *Roadkill*, a major new four-part political thriller created by respected playwright, screenwriter and director David Hare.

Laurie stars as Peter Laurence, a self-made, forceful and charismatic politician. Peter's public and private life seem to be falling apart – or rather are being picked apart by his enemies. As the personal revelations spiral, he is shamelessly untroubled by guilt or remorse, expertly walking a high wire between glory and catastrophe as he seeks to further his own agenda whilst

others plot to bring him down.

However, events show just how hard it is, for both an individual and a country, to leave the past behind. With enemies so close to home, can Peter Laurence ever out-run his own secrets to win the ultimate prize?

The cast includes Helen McCrory (*Peaky Blinders*), Sidse Babbett Knudsen (*The Accident*, *Westworld*), Saskia Reeves (*Us*, *The Child in Time*), Patricia Hodge (*A Very English Scandal*, *Miranda*), Ophelia Lovibond (*W1A*) and Pip Torrens (*Poldark*).

Filming took place in London last year. A broadcast date is yet to be announced.

Mac gives Wheel a spin

THE EVER-POPULAR Michael McIntyre is to host a new, feel-good game show for BBC One.

The *Wheel* promises a mixture of contestants, celebrity guests and laugh out loud moments as the show brings a new spin to Saturday nights on the channel.

McIntyre (pictured) said: "I am thrilled to

be hosting a show that does reinvent the wheel. Contestants will be competing to win big money, celebrity experts will have their knowledge put to the test, and I will desperately be trying to avoid too many puns. "I simply can't wait to get behind the wheel, I'm dizzy with excitement."

Broadcast dates for *The Wheel* will be announced in due course, said the Beeb.

The Big Event A Suitable Boy

SEE YOU LATA...

Tradition and modern world collide in 50s India

SCREENWRITING SUPREMO Andrew Davies – responsible for the TV adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice*, *War and Peace* and *Sanditon*, among others – is the man behind the small screen version of Vikram Seth's epic novel *A Suitable Boy*.

The six-part series, set in India in the 1950s, is directed by Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding*, *Salaam Bombay!*, *Mississippi Marsala*) and is her television series debut.

Shot on location in India last year, the period drama is currently occupying the prime-time Sunday evening slot on BBC One.

Tanya Maniktala stars as 19-year-old university student Lata who appears to have her life already mapped out thanks to old traditions and an overbearing mother who wants to find her a suitable husband.

Torn between romance and responsibility and inspired by rebellious writers and daring new ideas, Lata is determined to decide her own future in a newly-independent India, boldly breaking free of its past.

Connected to Lata through their siblings' marriage, wayward Maan (Ishaan Khatter) wants every drop of excitement from life. However, when he becomes infatuated with the glamorous courtesan Saeeda Bai (Tabu), the consequences could be catastrophic...

Davies (pictured inset below right) said: "I first read Vikram Seth's lovely novel about 20 years ago when somebody asked me if I wanted to adapt it. I had the great pleasure of reading it and, at that time, I just felt it was perfect as it was, that maybe nobody should adapt it. Then in 2019 I got asked again. I had adapted *War and Peace*, a Russian masterpiece, and *Les Misérables*, a French masterpiece, so I thought it was a good time to work on an Indian masterpiece, and it's been such a joy.

"At the heart of this very simple story, there is a girl called Lata and the question of who is she going to marry, if anybody? It is all set against all the turmoil of an emerging nation, India, in 1951, just a few years after partition with all these stresses, strains and political difficulties.

He revealed: "The adaptation process was pretty difficult as there is so much story in the novel [Seth's book is one of the longest novels in the English language]. I concentrated on the two characters of Lata and Maan and restricted myself to the aspects of the story that they concern. That was the guiding principle; it was a long process to distil it down to six hours."

He added: "It's been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to work with Vikram. I was so honoured that he approved of me to adapt his wonderful novel. He's been a delightful companion, very generous and sharing. Of course, he's so knowledgeable about the project that I've been able to draw from him personally, as well as from the book, so it's been great. I've made a friend in him, which is lovely.

"I would like the audience to be thrilled and moved, and also to learn something about what India has gone through in the last 50, 60 or 70 years. It's a great story and it's got such lovely characters. It is funny as well – I think our audience will laugh a lot."

Nair described *A Suitable Boy* as 'an extraordinary tale of love and friendship across class and certainly across religion'.

She added: "It is a massive yet intimate saga of four interwoven families across northern India, four years after Indian independence from the British. Vikram



FUTURE MAPPED OUT: University student Lata (Tanya Maniktala) is determined to do things her way – whatever her mother might say



GLAM: Lata's sis-in-law Meenakshi Meera (Shahana Goswami)



HEDONISTIC: Maan Kapoor (Ishaan Khatter) is irresponsible yet charming



MUM: Lata and Rupa (Mahira Kakkar)

She said: "I must have seen more than 500 young women, and they were all extraordinarily talented. But when I saw Tanya Maniktala [inset right], I just knew this was Lata. She has a sense of wonder in her eyes, a sense of being curious about the world and yet, a very self-possessed sweetness. That is very real and genuine and not acted. It was very difficult in modern India to find a young woman who had not seen the world, and so was protected from it, and yet had this intelligence about it."

She added: "*A Suitable Boy* has been one of my favourite novels since the day it was written. I read it repeatedly and felt as if it was my best friend. I felt a sense of great companionship and understanding and a sense of evoking a time in India in which I longed to have lived. I just vowed to direct the adaptation of it, but it was too big at the time for me to get my hands on it."

"It really gives me extraordinary pleasure and pride to have the privilege of directing this show, because it is something that has inspired me so much. It also gives me this vast canvas, as I have 113 actors in the show and six hours to let the story unfold."

■ *A Suitable Boy* continues on BBC One at 9pm on Sundays.

Jewel in the crown



Competition
Clouds of Love and War
unicornpublishing.org

New WWII tale of love

RACHEL BILLINGTON'S new novel, *Clouds of Love and War*, follows the story of Eddie Chaffey, a young Spitfire pilot in the Battle of Britain. He is loved by Eva, who knows that Eddie's dangerous world in the sky is always the most important part of his life.

Eddie and Eva meet on the eve of World War II. He wants only one thing: to be a flyer, finding escape from his own complicated family in the clouds. But the Battle of Britain makes a pilot's life a dangerous way to flee reality.

Eva has her own passionate longings: to become a painter. When Eva's Jewish mother disappears into Germany, she is left alone with her elderly father. Both Eddie and Eva come of age at a time that teaches them that happiness is always fleeting but there are things worth living – or dying – for.



WINNING IT: Author Rachel Billington on a Spitfire and, right, her new book



Billington said: "In *Clouds of Love and War* I try to balance a detailed and highly researched picture of life as a Spitfire pilot in 1940 with the struggles and ambitions of a young woman too often on her own. I hope the result is both a gripping story of war and a sensitive story of a love that struggles to survive."

Prolific author Billington has written more than 30 books including historical novels and stories for children.

We have copies of *Clouds of Love*

and *War* (unicornpublishing.org) up for grabs. For your chance to win one, simply send us the correct answer to the following question:

What sort of aircraft does pilot Eddie Chaffey fly?

Email your answer, marked Rachel Billington novel competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by August 21.

Sorry, but we are currently unable to accept competition entries by post.

Children will be chuff chuffed with this DVD

IVOR THE ENGINE has been delighting children and adults for more than three generations.

This extraordinary engine – who lives in the 'top left-hand corner of Wales', sings in a Welsh male-voice choir and has a dragon housed in his firebox – was invented, or perhaps discovered, by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin more than 60 years ago. *The Complete Collection*



contains 24 colour episodes.

In the 1950s Postgate and Firmin's production company Smallfilms set out to produce affordable animation. Together they created shows loved by generations including *Bagpuss* (voted No.1 in a 1999 BBC poll of children's programmes), *The Saga of Noggin the Nog* and *The Clangers*.

Ivor The Engine was originally made in black and white in 1959, in a tumbledown cowshed in Kent. The stories,

including some new ones, were refilmed in colour in the 1970s, but were still animated by the simple direct method (cardboard cut-outs painted with watercolours and the use of Blu Tack) which gave the series its original charm.

It was inspired by an engine driver friend of Postgate who talked about engines coming to life when you spent enough time with them – and the poetry of Dylan Thomas.

Many of the characters were voiced by Postgate as low-tech sound effects including the sound of Ivor's puffing. The music was composed by Vernon Elliott, predominantly featuring a solo bassoon reflecting the three notes of Ivor's whistle.

Ivor The Engine was nominated for a Bafta award in 1978. Postgate and Firmin were jointly presented with the 2007 Action for Children's Arts JM Barrie Award 'for a lifetime's achievement in delighting children'. Postgate died the following year, and Firmin received a special award at the 2014 Bafta Children's Awards. Firmin died in 2018.

We have two copies of *The Complete Collection* (rrp £19.99), released on August 10, to win. For your chance to own one, just send us the correct answer to this question:

What was the name of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin's production company?

Email your answer, marked *Ivor The Engine* DVD competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by August 21. Sorry, no postal entries at this time.



Music
Sea Girls
Album and tour

Head-liners

YOUNG INDIE guitar band Sea Girls will release their debut album *Open Up Your Head* on August 14.

The LP will be available in special coloured vinyl, limited edition picture disc, on CD, cassette and digital.

Frontman Henry Camamile said his and lead guitarist Rory Young's writing – and the band's performing – comes right from the heart.

He explained: "I don't buy all the love and flowers stuff. Real relationships fall apart, you get hurt and you have to deal with it so you do what you have to do to



SEA GIRLS: O2 Brixton Academy date

get over it. I think what has saved me is music."

Renowned for their frenetic, sweat-drenched, sold-out live shows, the band will kick off their rescheduled April UK dates by upgrading the venues to play their biggest headline shows to date, in November.

The tour will see them play three bigger venues including a night at London's O2 Brixton Academy, on November 6.

■ Go to: seagirls.net for more details.



Your Announcements

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

Death

CHEESEMAN Peter Roy Stafford WO (Ret'd) passed away after a short illness in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on July 26 aged 88. He was born on July 18, 1932 in Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield and joined the RAF when he was 18. He was one of the original aircrew on 120 Sqn Shackletons at Kinloss and later joined 72 Sqn at RAF Odiham, where he flew as Winchman on the Wessex. He never learnt how to swim and it was always something of a joke with his colleagues and then his family that he had that job. He retrained as an Air Traffic Controller and finished his career at RAF Watton/Eastern Radar in 1976. He served tours in Northern Ireland and the Middle East and with his family did a tour of Aden before being evacuated due to the troubles increasing. Peter was very proud of his RAF career and the fact that he had travelled to many places across the globe. He maintained his interest in aircraft, particularly the Shackleton, as shown by his many models and pictures of the plane he had in his bedroom that he called 'The Hangar'. A much-loved Dad, grandad and great-grandad who will be greatly missed for his humour, his intelligence and the much-loved stories of his RAF career. He has left a huge gap in the lives of his family.



WO Peter Cheeseman, centre, in front of one of the Shackletons he flew in

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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Reunions

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.

237 OCU. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the eighth annual 237 OCU Groundcrew Reunion will now be held on Saturday, September 5 from noon at The Compleat Angler, 120 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1NS. Ex-237 OCU members of all trades and any era welcome. Just turn up and join in. For more information, please search for 237 OCU on Facebook, email me at: 237OCU@gmail.com or contact Si Roberts at 1 Manor Gardens, Carnoustie, Angus, DD7 6HY or please call: 07546 400085.

158 Squadron 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 Saturday, June 6. Those who have 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.

COASTAL Command Officers' Reunion, October 10, 2020. 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. We meet for pre-lunch drinks from 11.30 followed by lunch. All will be made very welcome, especially new members of the Association. For further details about the lunch or the Association of RAF Women Officers, 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.

Seeking crew's family

READER Pat Vinycomb wants to trace the descendants of her father Sqn Ldr Stanley Booker's crew, whose 10 Squadron Halifax 111 MZ630 was shot down over St Andre De L'Eure, France on June 3, 1944. Along with pilot Fg Off Alexander Murray, wireless operator WO John Williams, who were killed in the crash, and Pat's father, navigator Fg Off Stanley Booker, the

crew were flight engineer Sgt John Osselton from Staines, Surrey, rear gunner Sgt Terrace Gould from Caerphilly, air gunner Sgt Clifford Hallett from Chard, Somerset and bomb aimer Sgt Ernest 'Snooky' Stokes from Catford, London. Stanley Booker, now 98, (pictured below as a young airman) was 22 when the Halifax crashed. It was flying from RAF Melbourne to Trappes in France following a successful bombing raid on marshalling and railway yards.



Please email Pat on: patvinycomb@gmail.com if you can help.

Aeroboot at NAM

AN aeroboot aviation and avionics outdoor sale will go ahead at Newark Air Museum on September 26, on the museum's Southfield site. This charity fundraising event has attracted interest from a wide range of sellers and around 70 per cent of the spaces have already been booked, said organisers.

The aeroboot will be a stand-alone event, with no general access to the main museum site or facilities. The £3 admission ticket will allow buyers a discounted admission to the museum, but this will need to be made via the new Covid-secure one-way system. The funds raised from the event will be used to support the development of additional facilities.



SALE: An aeroboot at Newark Air Museum last year

Visitors will be able to search through a selection of aviation and avionic items including books, paintings, prints, DVDs, plastic kits, die-cast models, clothing, radio equipment and aircraft parts. Regular updates and sellers' information are being posted on the museum website's news page. Go to: www.newarkairmuseum.org for more information.

Different firefighths

A FORMER RAF Regiment officer has taken on a new role as a trainee firefighter. Ex-Flt Lt Mick Gilmore, 52, served 32 years in the Air Force but not wanting to put his feet up just yet decided the Fire Service would be the perfect challenge for 'civvie street'.

Mick (below right) joined the RAF at 20 and served tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Falklands, taking part in exercises in the Arctic Circle, USA, Gibraltar, Germany, Denmark, France and South Africa.

He met royalty during RAF service, and even found time to appear on TV's *The Generation Game*, *Hearts of Gold* and as a contestant on the *24 Hour Quiz*.

Before leaving the RAF, Mick took up partner Jan's suggestion to apply to Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service as an on-call firefighter at his nearest station at Eardisley in Herefordshire.

He began training at 'Station 48' in February before it was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. He said: "I was wondering

what to do after RAF service and Jan's suggestion to become an on-call firefighter really appealed, it sounded like a good match for my skill set and experience.

"Visiting my local fire station and meeting firefighters there soon confirmed that. I really enjoyed the initial training and the chance to see what they do.

"I like to keep busy and I always attend drill nights to receive more quality training from the highly-experienced crew at Station 48."

He added: "I'm looking forward to completing my training at the earliest opportunity and deploying on my first 'shout'."



newarkairmuseum.org for more information.

Admin Association

THE RAF Administrative Apprentice Association welcomes all Administrative apprentices who trained as Suppliers or Clerks at RAF St Athan, RAF Bircham Newton, RAF Halton, RAF Ruislip or RAF Hereford. Further details of YOUR Association can be found at www.rafadappassn.org.

For sale

SERGEANTS' Mess uniform for sale, small size. Chest 34, waist 32, trouser length 28. Email Mrs Jean Grimshawe at: chirogirl2@outlook.com; call: 07544 338869.

Catering Association

MEMBERSHIP is open to serving or former Warrant Officers or Flight Sergeants in Trade Group 19 and to former RAF Catering Officers.

Please email: janedjones6@tiscali.co.uk or you can call: 01487 823480 for more information and an application form.



Your Announcements

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

The play's the thing

CUMBRIAN WRITER Matthew Wignall has won a national competition to write an audio drama based on the Battle of Britain.

Matthew, whose grandfather, Robert William Gibson, served as a wireless and electrical mechanic at RAF Silloth during World War II, won with his play *A Gingerbread Man in the RAF*. The drama follows the fortunes of Pilot Officer Gallimore and the implications his actions have for a modern-day couple.

The competition was organised by the RAF Benevolent Fund to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle.

A support worker for adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs, Matthew (inset) said: "I feel very honoured to have my play chosen. I wanted to explore how the past not only shapes the world we live in but can influence and inspire us to

confront and overcome our own struggles and challenges.

"I also wanted to pay tribute to the fact that, if it weren't for the actions and sacrifices made during those few months in 1940, our lives would be very different. We owe that generation so much. Past events have a huge influence on all our lives, and perhaps none greater than the Battle of Britain which was a true turning point of the Second World War."

The audio drama will be a bonus episode of the Fund's second series of its All Stations podcast.

A drama teacher has published a play about Spitfire designer R. J. Mitchell. Sales of the play, *Mitchell's Wings* by Johnny Carrington, will raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Johnny, (above, right) from Southampton, said he was inspired to write the play after discovering that although many of his pupils could recognise a Spitfire, none of the students



knew that it first flew from nearby Eastleigh airport or that the designer lived in Southampton.

He added: "As an aviation fanatic and a drama teacher, writing this play seemed like the perfect solution to raise the profile of this local treasure. I wanted to use real testimonies to tell the story, so I started by interviewing Gordon Mitchell, R. J. Mitchell's son.

"Many of the pilots were barely 18, with so much resting on their shoulders. It should inspire young people that they are also capable of resilience and courage in their own walks of life."

■ *Mitchell's Wings* is available to buy from Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3jfad9A>.



Cover marks milestone

THIS YEAR marks the 75th anniversary of British Forces in Germany and to celebrate this historic milestone BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to be issued on August 25.

Since 1945, British Forces have served in Germany in the form of the British Army of the Rhine and later as British Forces Germany.

The cover shows the formation badge of 21st Army Group, which has represented British Forces during the 75 years of service in Germany. Listed on either side of the badge are some of the many BFPO locations synonymous with British Forces and their families in North West Europe.

A bespoke Royal Mail personal smiler* stamp bears the crossed national flags of the

UK and Germany, symbolising friendship. This stamp will be cancelled by the BFPS uniquely numbered 3229 special handstamp.

The standard version of the cover costs £9, while the limited edition - of 75, signed version - is £18. All covers include an A4 double-sided information insert telling the story of British Forces in Germany since 1945, presented in a protective cellophane sleeve.

A very limited quantity of the bespoke Smiler* stamps used on these covers can be ordered in full sheets (of 20) at £38 and half sheets (of 10) at £20. The covers and stamp are available from the BFPS online shop (bfps.org.uk) or by post. Send a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS, The Old Post Office, Links Place, Elie, LEVEN, KY9 1AX.



Search UKSF on MODnet
SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk



Crossword

No. 279

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the 11 letters in yellow squares to find an aircraft

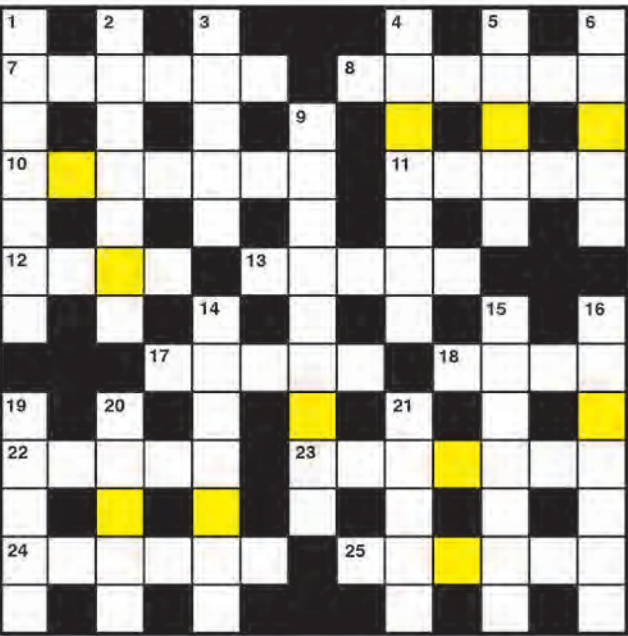
Across

- 7. It follows 12 in its oddness (6)
- 8. Charm Diana's branch (6)
- 10. Win over the French viper, perhaps (7)
- 11. Drive beef-producer (5)
- 12. Little Mancini needs number (4)
- 13. Amin to send back blockhead (5)
- 17. Hundred left tree cover (5)
- 18. Small car, obviously (4)
- 22. Birds make criminals lose their head (5)
- 23. Cob tore around at this time of year (7)
- 24. Edward and Sophie's helicopter (6)
- 25. Initially manufacturer uses exotic seeds, lovely in cereal (6)

Down

- 1. Save pin, broken on Boris' plane (7)
- 2. See 5 Down
- 3. Oddly freer, Capone goes wild (5)
- 4. Sortie young girl and I go on (7)
- 5. And 2 Down. Does rep feel clean going round this memorial site? (5-2-5)
- 6. And 15 Down. Where high-fliers gather in Estonia (7,3,4)
- 9. See 14 Down
- 14. And 9 Down. Laggard loiters to construct WWII plane (7,9)
- 15. See 6 Down
- 16. IRA radio loses nothing causing RAF attack (3,4)
- 19. William says wearing one makes the head uneasy (5)
- 20. Code TV detective lived by? (5)
- 21. Drink favoured by southern profiteer (5)

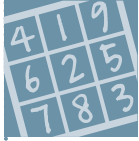
Due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept Crossword and Su Doku entries by post, so for the time being, please complete them just for fun. We will resume sending prizes for winning entries as soon as possible



Solution to Crossword No. 277:

Across – 7. United 8. Flying 10. Bus Stop 11. Sushi 12. Coot 13. Adder 17. Japan 18. Ohio 22. Hours 23. Albania 24. Venice 25. Salome
Down – 1. Outback 2. Mission 3. Perth 4. Blister 5. First 6. Again 9. Spadeadam 14. Ransack 15. Phantom 16. Voyager 19. Shove 20. Burns 21. U-boat

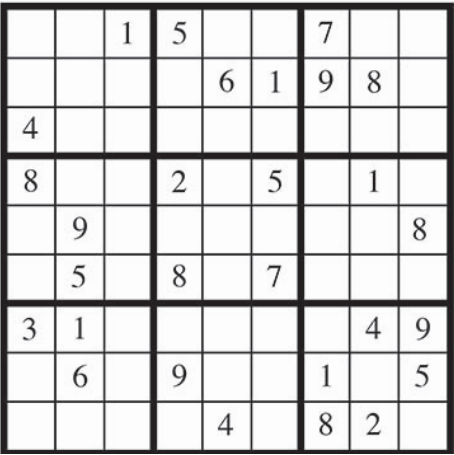
RAF word – Reservist



Su Doku

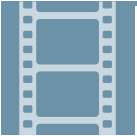
No. 289

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.



Solution to Su Doku No: 288

8	1	5	2	9	6	7	4	3
6	7	4	8	5	3	9	2	1
2	9	3	7	1	4	5	6	8
3	5	7	1	6	8	2	9	4
1	8	9	5	4	2	6	3	7
4	6	2	3	7	9	8	1	5
9	2	8	4	3	5	1	7	6
5	3	1	6	2	7	4	8	9
7	4	6	9	8	1	3	5	2



Film review

The True History of the Kelly Gang

Available now on DVD, Blu-ray and digital download. Cert. 18

Kelly's eye, number one

Oz classic something to Crowe about

WORK of sublime elegance, that unfolds into an extraordinary cinematic experience, Justin Kurzel's *The True History of the Kelly Gang* will leave you stunned.

From the opening title sequence which states 'Nothing you are about to see is true', to the raw punk-driven soundtrack bullet-ridden ending, this film is an Australian classic. Built on English acting foundations, *Kelly Gang* is written and directed with a natural, in-depth understanding of the country it is set in, and time in which it's framed.

The legend of Ned Kelly has been recorded in countless songs and flawed movies, such as Mick Jagger's 1970 film biography, and is in many ways the Australian Robin Hood story. Kelly was a poor boy who rose up to fight the

British Colonial Forces, before being hanged for a series of robberies and shootings.

Kurzel (*The Snowtown Murders*, *Macbeth*), has thrown off the shackles standard approach to the Kelly story, delving into the character's inner machinations and surroundings against a template of corrupt and cheap rule, which knows no depth to lower itself to.

George MacKay brilliantly plays Ned, who we see untwisting his body in the opening shots. This physical acting encapsulates the growth of a young man spat out in a hate-filled family scenario, by a mother Ellen (Essie Davis – *The Babadook*) who is a narcissistic femme fatale. Ellen is fighting for scraps of recognition and fame. She seems to know the arrival of the British is her chance to

be a catalyst to spark others into revolution, namely her poor son. Add into the mix Australian screen titan Russell Crowe (*inset left*) as outlaw Harry Power, who becomes a mentor to the young Ned. The scenes between Mackay and Crowe smack of Crowe's early screen appearance as Hando in the incendiary *Romper Stomper*. Charlie Hunnam (*The Gentleman*) plays Sergeant O'Neill, an authority figure turning the unfolding chaos



ENEMY OF THE STATE: Kelly (MacKay) with his gang, also below



to his potentially cruel and lascivious gains.

Sadly for Ned (Mackay), O'Neill is a much-watered down version of authority when it comes to fellow Brit actor Nicholas Hoult (*Skins*, *X-Men*), who plays the corrosive police constable Fitzpatrick, a duplicitous user of his power and political landscape.

The tale from here twists and turns into one of total degeneration, where Kelly, looking for sanity in an insane world, joins the Sons of Sieve. This small, reactionary group go on to become the Kelly Gang and cross the horizon point into history in a blood-fuelled finale.

Terrific.
5 out of 5 roundels

Note: The film contains continuous strong language and sexual references and nudity.

Review by Dan Abrahams



TV

New show

American Tabloid

Welsh and Easton Ellis join forces

BESTSELLING AUTHORS Irvine Welsh and Bret Easton Ellis are to co-create a series based on national tabloid press culture in the US, it has been announced.

Burning Wheel Productions are currently finalising talks with the literary giants for the series, with the working title *American Tabloid*.

Shelley Hammond of Burning Wheel said: "To do this production justice we always knew we would require writers who don't hold back and go way further than most would dare."

"We are just beyond delighted that we are ready to agree a deal to make this happen with the incredible talent of Bret and Irvine. This would be the first time the two have collaborated professionally – and with the support to allow creative freedom we are confident spectacular things will happen."

Welsh (*top*) is best known for *Trainspotting* and Easton Ellis (*above*) for *American Psycho*.





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Jacob's on the record-breaking run

Tracey Allen

SIX-YEAR-OLD FUNDRAISING star Jacob Newson is getting ready for a record-breaking mission – walking the gruelling escape route used by a downed RAF pilot on the run from the Nazis in World War II.

The aviation-mad youngster and his dad Andrew will be walking the escape route in Belgium and France taken by RAF fighter pilot Al Deere, shot down 80 years ago.

Last year Jacob raised £6,500 for the RAF Benevolent Fund climbing Pen-y-Ghent, one of the highest peaks in Yorkshire.

Now he's planning to be the youngest person ever to walk the entire British Army evacuation front used during Operation Dynamo, in an RAF flying suit, to raise £15,000 for the Fund.

Andrew said: "He will be walking the escape and evasion route of Pilot Officer Al Deere, just over 80 years to the day he crashed in Belgium and escaped back to Britain from Dunkirk to fight in the Battle of Britain."

"Jacob is walking the 25km distance over two days.

"His start point is the exact crash site where the Spitfire still is today, around 30 metres under the sand. At the halfway point we are going to camp for the night and finish on the East Mole at Dunkirk the following day. Al Deere became a



Battle of Britain Ace with 54 Sqn, Jacob is wearing their Sqn crest on his flying suit."

He added: "Jacob has been training very hard during the last few months doing lots of walking and cycling and we climbed Pen-Y-Ghent again last month as part of his fitness programme."

By the end of the Dunkirk evacuation New Zealander Deere had claimed seven enemy aircraft destroyed and two shared destroyed. He

was awarded the DSO, OBE, Croix de Guerre and the American DFC. He served in the RAF until 1967, retiring as an Air Commodore after 30 years distinguished service.

Jacob was due to start his Dunkirk challenge in May but the event had to be postponed due to the coronavirus crisis.

He is on course to achieve his aim of raising a total of £20,000 for the RAFBF.

● Go to: justgiving.com/fundraising/Andrew-newson2 to support Jacob's Dunkirk Challenge 2020.

RAF FAN: Six-year-old Jacob in his flying suit; right, with veteran Sqn Ldr 'Johnny' Johnson; inset right, meeting the Red Arrows at the Royal International Air Tattoo in 2019

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Know your options when it comes to pension benefits

You may have joined the Royal Air Force quite recently or maybe you are about to leave. Either way, you might like to know your options with respect to any pension benefits you have built up. You might be happy to leave these benefits in the care of the existing scheme's administrator until you are old enough to claim them or you might prefer to transfer them to your new pension scheme.

In this article, Mary Petley of the Forces Pension Society takes a look at transfer rules and some of the things to consider when decided whether or not to transfer.



The transfer process is straight forward:

- Find out what you have built up in the scheme you have left (or are leaving) by writing to the Scheme Administrator to ask for a 'statement of entitlement'.
- Ask your new Scheme Administrator what the value of your accrued benefits will buy in their scheme. You are not committed to the transfer at this stage of the process.
- If you decide to go ahead, apply for a transfer value payment, specifying the scheme to which the transfer should be made. Once this agreement has been entered into, you cannot change your mind.

If you are considering transferring into AFPS 15, you need to consider whether your old scheme would pay out earlier than AFPS 15. Although the Normal Pension Age (NPA) for AFPS 15 is 60, if you do not serve to age 60 (and most do not), the deferred pension age is whatever your State Pension Age (SPA) is. Further, it may be that your old scheme allowed you to take pension savings as cash rather than as an annuity – AFPSs do

not allow the pension to be 'cashed in'. You will also need to check whether your old scheme has time limits as to when a transfer may be made.

If you are considering transferring out of an AFPS, you too need to consider your new scheme's NPA and preserved/deferred benefit age. AFPS preserved/deferred benefits are payable:

- For AFPS 75, preserved pensions are payable at age 60 for the proportion of the pension earned up to and including 5 April 2006 and age 65 the balance.
- For AFPS 05, the preserved pension age is 65
- For AFPS 15, deferred benefits are payable at the member's SPA. Only deferred/preserved pensions may be transferred. If yours is in payment, it may not be transferred.

AFPS benefits cannot be transferred to an overseas scheme. You may only transfer out to other Defined Benefit (DB) scheme and, if that scheme is another public sector scheme, it must be done within 12 months of you being eligible to join the new scheme

The transfer process is simple, but be aware of the rules..

– the clock starts ticking as soon as you are eligible to become a member of the new scheme irrespective of whether you are in fact a member. Other DB schemes may have time limits too – so do check.

The following example, which ignores inflation increases, will demonstrate the importance of considering when benefits are payable in both new and old scheme:

A nurse leaves the Armed Forces in April 2020 with exactly 18 years' service. She has a preserved AFPS pension of £7,224.75 and a preserved lump sum of £21,674.25.

If her preserved pension remains in AFPS 75, she would receive a lump sum of £6,669 and an annual pension of £2,223 at age 60. At age 65 she would receive a lump sum of £15,005.25 and her pension would increase by £5,001.75 to a total of £7,224.75. Any AFPS 15 benefits would be payable at her SPA.

If she transferred these benefits to the NHS pension scheme, she would normally have to wait until her SPA to draw them.

Assuming her SPA is 67 she could have already received the following from AFPS 75 by the time her NHS pension is payable:

- £6,669 tax-free lump sum at age 60;
- £11,115 in pension between age 60 and 65 (£2,223 x 5);
- £15,005.25 tax-free lump sum at age 65; and



HELPING YOU MAKE BETTER CHOICES

- £14,449.50 in pension between age 65 and 67 (£7,224.75 x 2). That is a total of £67,238.75 before her SPA, had she not transferred out of AFPS 75 and into the NHS scheme.

We are not saying that it is always wrong to transfer out of an AFPS. For example, most schemes have a two-year qualifying period which must be served before the scheme will pay out ill-health or family benefits and transferring benefits in from another scheme could mean automatic qualification. What we are saying is that you should take financial advice so that you understand all the implications of transferring from one scheme to another.

If you a Member of the Forces Pension Society and have a pension-related question, contact us at pensionenquiries@forpen.co.uk
If you are not a Member but would like to know more about us, visit www.forcespensionsociety.org

“ You should take financial advice so that you understand all the implications of transferring from one scheme to another ”

By Simon Mander

Feature

Fortune favours the brave



OUT NOW: New book by Andrew White

Shot down three times, terribly injured, made a POW in the infamous Stalag Luft III... but Herbert Massey lived to tell his amazing story



HOMEWARD BOUND: Massey (right) with Flt Lt Paddy Byrne awaiting repatriation from Stalag Luft III. Note black diamond on men's sleeves commemorating the murdered escapers

THERE'S NO doubt that the subject of Andrew White's new book *Extremes of Fortune* is a great British hero.

He was wounded three times: shot down in flames by German World War I Ace Werner Voss sustaining horrific lifelong injuries, then downed again in Palestine when his metal cigarette case stopped a fatal bullet, and finally brought down over Holland in a Thousand Bomber raid.

Herbert Martin Massey then was, by any measure, a remarkable man deserved of recognition.

Captured by the Germans and sent to Stalag Luft III, he found himself the Senior British Officer. There, claims the author, he 'authorised' the Great Escape, the famous mass POW breakout on March 24/25 1944.

Too badly injured to escape himself, Massey was the man to whom the Germans broke the news of the execution of 50 of those recaptured.

Repatriated to Britain because of his wounds shortly afterwards, he brought home details of the

murders – which sparked a post-war manhunt which led to 13 ex-Nazis being hanged.

And therein lies the problem with this book.

As White himself admits: "That the Germans allowed the senior British officer of Stalag Luft III... to go home almost immediately after the event seems remarkably short-sighted, if not downright incompetent."

"They must surely have realised that the first thing the repatriates would do when they returned would be to tell everything they knew to the British authorities, and there would inevitably be repercussions."

Maybe, he says, the Luftwaffe, which ran the camp, was distancing itself from the Gestapo killers. Maybe they feared British retaliation against their own POWs. Maybe they thought they'd get away with the bluff that the 50 were 'shot while resisting arrest.'

There's no satisfactory answer, only speculation.

Perhaps, Massey didn't 'sanction' the break-out – there is no hard evidence. Perhaps Escape mastermind 'Big X,' Sqn Leader Roger Bushell, kept his CO at arm's length so he could safely maintain regular contact with the Germans to ensure prisoners' welfare? Who knows?

While White was given full access to the Massey family archives, these don't seem to shed more light on the escape.

A former RAF Wg Cdr, now a battlefield guide taking students to the sites of the Western Front and Normandy, White is on firmer ground writing about his subject's



Great War exploits, which take up a sizeable portion of the book.

Last year's 75th anniversary of the Great Escape saw the passing of Air Cdre Charles Clarke who, like Massey, couldn't take part in the breakout through injury, but unlike him endured the infamous forced 'Long March,' after the camp was abandoned.

His views on this book would have been invaluable.

■ *Extremes of Fortune, From Great War to Great Escape. The Story of Herbert Martin Massey, CBE, DSO, MC* by Andrew White is published in hardback by Fighting High Publishing, priced £19.95.

AUTHOR: Former RAF Wing Commander Andrew White at a book signing for *Extremes of Fortune*

ABOVE LEFT: Massey's notebook details relatives of POWs he promised to visit, including Sqn Ldr Roger Bushell's (top left)



'BIG X': Great Escape supremo Sqn Ldr Roger Bushell

CAMP ART: Fellow prisoner's caricature of Massey at Stalag Luft III

Graduations

Royal seal of approval at Cranwell

Prince Charles reviews 200 college graduates

MORE THAN 200 RAF Officers of The Queen's Colour Squadron were honoured to have a very special Reviewing Officer at their college graduation... Prince Charles.

HRH The Prince of Wales inspected the recruits as they finished their training courses at Cranwell.

The graduates were from Initial Officer Training Courses No. 63 and 64 and Specialist Officer Initial Training Course No. 3.

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Fg Off C S Falconer
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Fg Off R K Huskisson
Fg Off J R Jardine
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Fg Off T J Middleton
Fg Off T R Orme
Fg Off H J Pitt
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Fg Off J A S Taylor
Fg Off J W Tidswell

REMOTELY PILOTED AIR SYSTEMS (PILOT)

Fg Off M A Elliott
Fg Off B Makin
Fg Off J A Rothwell
Fg Off T S Yeoman

WEAPONS SYSTEMS OFFICER

Fg Off D O Wright

AIR OPERATIONS (CONTROL)

Plt Off B F Bailey
Plt Off C J Boyes
Fg Off A C Brennan
Plt Off C R Burchell-Royle
Plt Off J J Davies
Fg Off G P Donnelly
Fg Off L J Eagle
Fg Off T E Elwick
Fg Off J P R Harris
Fg Off J G James
Plt Off R A Johnson
Plt Off R Jones
Fg Off R B McBeth
Plt Off P S Moulder
Plt Off M I P Oliver
Fg Off J F Perry
Plt Off D B Prichard
Fg Off R A Smith
Plt Off T J Stace
Plt Off G R Swift
Plt Off R Yates

AIR OPERATIONS (SYSTEMS)

Plt Off S B Anderson

Fg Off O J Berwick
Plt Off K A Bowling
Fg Off B F Green
Plt Off V J Hewitson
Fg Off A R M Leonard
Plt Off E L Symons
Fg Off J W Whitby
Fg Off N J Wilton

INTELLIGENCE

Fg Off A J Drew
Plt Off J C Heyburn
Plt Off A J Hill
Plt Off T Hill
Plt Off B J Hudson
Plt Off P G Matthews
Plt Off W J Matthews

REGIMENT

Plt Off R Fox
Fg Off R C Daly
Fg Off B S J Hargreaves
Plt Off J M S Hudson
Plt Off O Iqbal
Plt Off B L Richmond

PROVOST

Fg Off P S W Morgan
Plt Off L P Nettleford
Plt Off R E Wickham

ENGINEER (AEROSYSTEMS)

Fg Off A S Bailey
Fg Off C H Booker
Fg Off K E Bosson
Fg Off R J Clegg
Fg Off R G S Crockett
Fg Off B D A Goodlad
Fg Off S A Huller
Fg Off M B Ibrahim
Fg Off W H Lang
Fg Off J A Marsden
Fg Off M T Matt
Fg Off G Paine
Fg Off E H Phillipson
Fg Off J R Platts
Fg Off J A Southern
Fg Off J Webb-MacLeod
Fg Off J Whitmore
Fg Off S J Willoughby
Fg Off A G S Wright

ENGINEER (COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS)

Fg Off A J Evans
Fg Off C S Godfrey
Fg Off S V Hill
Fg Off J D James
Fg Off C M Ladds
Fg Off J C McGowan
Fg Off T J Morris
Fg Off L A Smith
Fg Off S A West

LOGISTICS

Fg Off R J Coughlan
Plt Off E J Cranfield
Fg Off A P Harris
Plt Off A J Warner

PERSONNEL SUPPORT



PROUD DAY: HRH Prince Charles reviews the parade, accompanied by College Commandant Air Cdre Suraya Marshall

Fg Off T J Beeley
Plt Off M M Cooke
Fg Off A G Gaskell
Fg Off R A O Thornbury

PERSONNEL TRAINING

Plt Off S J Clarkson-Kearsley
Plt Off B A Watson
Plt Off C A Williams

MEDICAL

Fg Off S P Seed

GRADUATING OFFICERS OF SPECIALIST OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE NO. 3

PRINCESS MARY'S ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE

Flt Lt L A Odell
Flt Lt H A Pawlowski
Flt Lt K A Pierce
Flt Lt K M Wale

CHAPLAIN BRANCH

Rev (Flt Lt) J F A Critchley

LEGAL BRANCH

Flt Lt S A Bridger

PRIZEWINNERS OF IOTC No. 63

THE SWORD OF HONOUR

Awarded to the most outstanding cadet: **Off Cdt A M G Smith**

THE MacROBERT PRIZE

Awarded to the cadet who, in the opinion of his or her peers, has made the greatest contribution to the course: **Off Cdt J M S Hudson**

THE BAE SYSTEMS TROPHY

Awarded to the RAF or International cadet who has attained the highest marks for professional studies on the course: **Off Cdt J A Southern**

THE GROUP CAPTAIN WILLIAMS' MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the RAF cadet who has shown the greatest improvement: **Off Cdt R Jones**

THE SARAH MOLAND MEMORIAL PRIZE

Awarded to the cadet who demonstrates outstanding qualities of courage and fortitude to complete IOT: **Off Cdt B Bailey**

THE WARRANT OFFICER BILL TORRANCE TROPHY

Awarded to the cadet who has performed to a consistently high level during every Physical Education session: **Off Cdt R Jones**

THE RAF CLUB PRIZE

Awarded to the RAF cadet who has shown grit and unwavering perseverance: **Off Cdt G R Swift**

PRIZEWINNERS OF SPECIALIST OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE NO. 3

THE DAEDALUS TROPHY

Awarded to the best all-round cadet: **Off Cdt H A Pawlowski**

THE SOIT CADETS' CADET (THE OFFICER CADET TRAINING UNIT GOBLET)

Awarded to the cadet who, in the opinion of his or her peers, has made the greatest contribution to the course: **Off Cdt L A Odell**

THE SOIT PHYSICAL TRAINING AWARD

Off Cdt K A Pierce

GRADUATING OFFICERS OF INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING COURSE NO. 64

PILOT

Fg Off A M Adams-Cairns
Fg Off N G Hipwell
Fg Off G M Lacey
Fg Off L J C Nagle
Fg Off J R Thornton

REMOTELY PILOTED AIR SYSTEMS (PILOT)

Fg Off A J A Broome

Fg Off M L Gray
Fg Off G W Nichols
Fg Off J J Perkins
Fg Off A E Shute

WEAPONS SYSTEMS OFFICER

Fg Off M D Brain
Fg Off S J Fraser-Cattanach
Fg Off W R S Stamp

AIR OPERATIONS (CONTROL)

Fg Off R P J Butcher
Plt Off J W A Branson
Plt Off E M Bridgman
Plt Off B Buswell
Plt Off J A Chrich
Plt Off J P Davidson
Plt Off H W Ginn
Plt Off M F J Hillier
Fg Off R A Hoskins
Fg Off N L McLaughlin
Fg Off C D Sorohan
Fg Off L V Tidy

AIR OPERATIONS (SYSTEMS)

Fg Off S G Herron



MOMENT TO REMEMBER: Prince Charles with one of the new officers at RAF College Cranwell

PHOTO: GORDON ELIAS

Fg Off G J Wade

INTELLIGENCE

Plt Off A-M De-La-Mare Reeves
Fg Off G H Finch
Fg Off C L Styles
Fg Off J A Sykes
Plt Off I H Weber
Plt Off C R Wynyard-Wright

REGIMENT

Fg Off E J Bishop
Fg Off R J P R J Burgess
Fg Off O P Davies
Plt Off D J Szeplaki

PROVOST

Plt Off J J L Bennell
Plt Off M Kadir
Fg Off A Mellor
Plt Off L P Moffett
Plt Off V J Trafford

ENGINEER (AEROSYSTEMS)

Fg Off C D Ambo
Fg Off P W Boardman
Fg Off A Burroughs
Fg Off C J Burrows
Fg Off R M Downs
Fg Off D J Gunter
Fg Off C S Hall
Fg Off R K Innes
Fg Off C L Leary
Fg Off W A Lewis
Fg Off C H Lipton
Fg Off T S Miller
Fg Off S K Shields
Fg Off D-M F Spencer
Fg Off T M L Welch

ENGINEER (COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS)

Fg Off D C Absalom
Fg Off C D Churchman
Fg Off I J Cooke

Fg Off C J Crawford
Fg Off C S Hunter-Rice
Fg Off D B Jam
Fg Off W G Kingsnorth
Fg Off E J C Laing
Fg Off Z Maqsood
Fg Off C A J Newton
Fg Off G E Penson
Fg Off M P R Settle
Fg Off L C Toland

LOGISTICS

Fg Off J R Anderson
Fg Off N J Horner-Boyd
Fg Off C A Smale
Fg Off L Vaughan
Plt Off J W Fardell
Plt Off R L James
Plt Off A L Newson

PERSONNEL SUPPORT

Fg Off J Ewing
Fg Off S P Garewal
Fg Off S L McGhee
Fg Off B Wall
Plt Off K A Down
Plt Off K F Rapson

PERSONNEL TRAINING

Plt Off D S Compton-Davies
Plt Off C L Elliss
Plt Off A Rogers
Plt Off J S Schapira

MEDICAL

Fg Off J B Hargrave

PRIZEWINNERS OF INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING COURSE NO. 64

THE SWORD OF HONOUR
Awarded to the top RAF cadet:
Off Cdt E J Bishop

THE HENNESSY TROPHY AND PHILIP SASSOON MEMORIAL PRIZE

Awarded to the best all-round cadet, other than the Sword of Honour winner: **Off Cdt G Finch**

THE MacROBERT PRIZE

Awarded to the cadet who, in the opinion of his or her peers, has made the greatest contribution to the course: **Off Cdt L J C Nagle**

THE BAE SYSTEMS TROPHY

Awarded to the RAF or International cadet who has attained the highest marks for professional studies on the course: **Off Cdt D Compton-Davies**

THE GROUP CAPTAIN WILLIAMS' MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the RAF cadet who has shown the greatest improvement: **Off Cdt C Elliss**

THE SARAH MOLAND MEMORIAL PRIZE

Awarded to the RAF cadet who demonstrates outstanding qualities of courage and fortitude to complete IOT: **Off Cadet B Wall**

THE WARRANT OFFICER BILL TORRANCE TROPHY

Awarded to the cadet who has performed to a consistently high level during every Physical Education session: **Off Cdt E Bishop**

THE RAF CLUB PRIZE

Awarded to the RAF cadet who has shown grit and unwavering perseverance: **Off Cdt B Buswell**

Motoring

Jaguar F-Pace SVR

Torque of the town

Jag's F-Pace SVR is bold, practical & a real beast

TWO BRILLIANT things happened recently. Pubs opened their doors again and Jaguar's F-Pace SVR arrived at the RAF News office.

If the policy 'last one to the pub pays' were to be adopted I'd never have to worry about buying a round again, at least not while I'm driving Jag's biggest beast.

The F-Pace was the marque's first SUV and it has an awful lot of Land Rover DNA. Jaguar Land Rover describes it as a 'performance crossover' and it certainly handles better than any of its Land Rover siblings.

It has a lot in common with the Range Rover Velar but JLR has made it noticeably more sporting and the SVR takes things to a whole new level.

What JLR's 'special vehicle operations' (SVR) department has done is shoehorn in the company's trademark supercharged 5-litre V8, producing 542bhp and 502lb ft of torque.

It delivers a little less power than you get from Jag's F-Type SVR sports car but more than rivals Mercedes-AMG GLC or Alfa Romeo Stelvio. When you take into account the F-Pace's weight however, its 0-62mph time is actually around half a second

TIM MORRIS

Motoring Correspondent



slower than the Stelvio, clocking in at 4.3 seconds.

Launching something this size from standstill to warp speed feels impressive. The power delivery is a visceral experience but it's the symphony of noise that most people will find addictive.

Outside

The F-Pace is large and fits somewhere between a Porsche Macan and a Land Rover Discovery.

It has 213mm of ground clearance, the same as a Discovery Sport. However, JLR has reduced the car's wading depth to 525mm, 175mm less than its Landy cousin, reinforcing its sporting pedigree.

It does look good. It's a wide car, measuring just shy of two metres across, with a long wheelbase and short overhangs. At the rear the huge quad exhaust pipes and aggressive spoiler make it clear that this is no base model.

It has more aggressive bumpers, with extra vents on the bonnet and

in the wings to increase air flow – air flow increasing power from the meaty V8 and cooling the huge brake discs.

There are seven SVR exclusive paint colours including the Ultra Blue finish featured on our test car. This, combined with the 21in alloys, gives the F-Pace SVR a striking profile.



Inside

Jaguar has always been able to make interiors rich in character. The front seats look and feel sporty, with intricate stitching, while the high-tech customisable digital dials give it a space age feel. Its clever InControl Pro infotainment system adds to the effect, utilising a 10.2-

inch touchscreen that's slick to operate, with pin-sharp graphics.

Visibility is good and standard parking aids include front and rear sensors, with a 360 degree helicopter view camera that's displayed on the main touchscreen.

You can easily sit three adults in the back and there's 650 litres of boot space with the rear seats up or a whopping 1,740 litres with them folded down. That's more than Jag's XF Sportbrake.

On The Road

SUVs, by their very nature, tend to be lumbering beasts but the F-Pace SVR is possibly the most driver focused SUV on the market. Sharing the same suspension layout as the F-Type sports car it's a very different animal and responds well to an enthusiastic driver.

Snapping it into Race mode, loosening the ESP traction system and giving it a bit of well-placed welly results in a really exciting drive.

Boot it a little and the back steps out slightly. Boot it a lot and you'll find yourself watching the world approach through the side windows. Turn the electrics off completely and it requires real skill to handle.



QUAD PIPES: Power clue

PACE-SETTER: SVR model

Verdict

Pros

- A practical family Super-SUV
- Seriously quick
- Epic V8 soundtrack

Cons

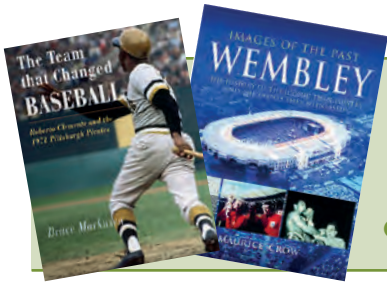
- Drinks like a rampant Viking
- A little road noise
- Interior in the XJ is better

Overall

The F-Pace SVR walks the line between comfort and good handling. The V8 sounds spectacular and it's one of the best Super SUVs on the market but you'll struggle to get more than 20mpg out of it in the real world. If precision through the bends is your top priority then a Porsche Macan may be a better option, but the F-Pace SVR (£73,000) beats it hands down for practicality.

On a more leisurely run the F-Pace SVR is a gentle giant and it loves open roads and feels incredibly well-balanced for its size.

It's rear-wheel drive in most situations, sending up to 50 per cent of the power to the front tyres if the car starts to lose grip. As a result it always feels engaging, even in its safest mode, and you need to drive hundreds of miles before fatigue begins to set in.

Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk
Telephone: 07966 429755**Sport**

5 pages of **RAF Sport** starts here

● Win classic sporting titles: P24

MOTORSPORT

Class of their own

Service racing club aiming to boost membership into 2021



PACE SETTERS: Main and below, the Classic Motorcycle team's riders competing at Donington

PHOTOS: PETE MORRIS

Daniel Abrahams
HQ Air Command

OLD BIKERS don't retire, they simply join the Service's RAF Classic Motorcycle Racing Team in the Classic Racing Motorcycle Club (CRMC).

The club is now the go-to for any two-wheel based petrolhead and is currently looking to expand its membership numbers into 2021.

Forming part of the RAF's Motorsports Association, which began life in 1961, it came to a crossroads some 15 years ago, as current members began to reach retirement age.

Social media manager Cpl

Gavin Green said: "Things started for the RAF Classic Motorcycle Racing Team in the Classic Racing Motorcycle Club (CRMC) with the then serving Sgt Andy Green, Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Symon Woodward and CT (Ret'd) Shaun Houston racing Honda MT 125s. Over the years, riders came and went, bikes got bigger while silverware began to come in too.

"A couple of years ago we faced a dilemma; with a large part of our membership facing retirement, where do we go from here? The answer was surprisingly simple, carry on as we had done before with veteran riders continuing to represent next to their serving former colleagues.

"We now stand 15-strong with a diverse crowd of personnel – serving, reservists and veteran."

The team ride a selection of motorcycles, from two-stroke Honda MT125 through to V4 four-stroke motors such as Honda VFR750 RC24s, along with a Yamaha RD400, and a growing stable of junior production Yamaha XJ/FZ600s. For the exotic bike fans, the club also sports a Yamaha TZ350G Aermacchi 350 Metisse, to mention just one.

The team holds up to eight race weekends a year at famous courses including Donington Park, Brands Hatch, Mallory Park and Silverstone.

Continued on page 25:



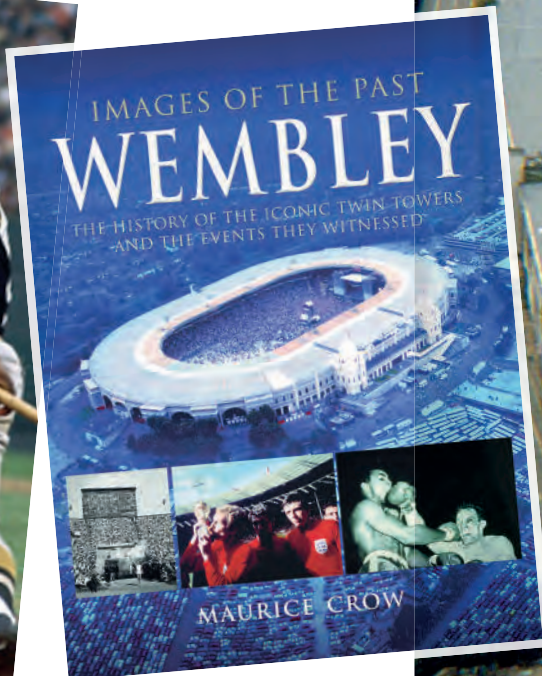
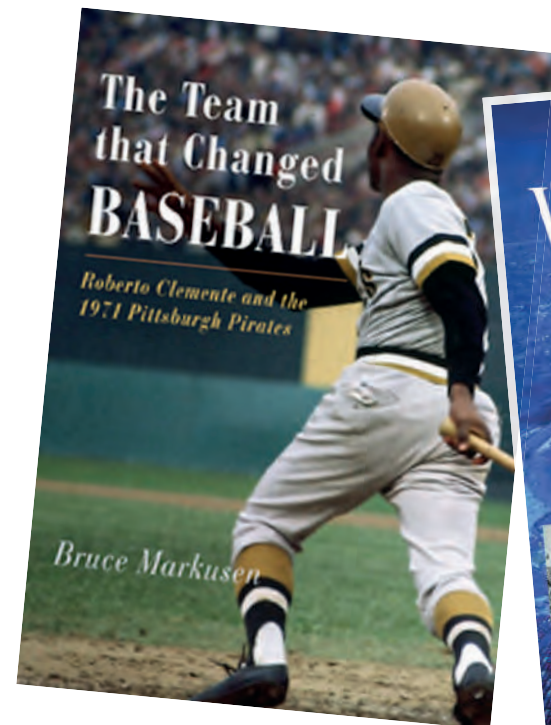
Sport

COMPETITION

From the Twin Towers to a home run – five pairs of books to be won

Pirates made history/
Wembley memories

**Five
pairs to
win!**



Daniel Abrahams
HQ Air Command

RAF NEWS Sport has joined forces with Pen and Sword books to bring you a pair of great sporting reads to win – featuring England's home of football and America's favourite pastime.

Baseball is one of those games that seems to produce gritty, against-all-odds stories, and *The Team that Changed Baseball* is all that and more.

This brilliant paperback by Bruce Markusen covers the tale of the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates, the game's first fully integrated team to take the coveted World Series and shake up the sport forever.

The Pirates' achievement – which came after Jackie Robinson opened the gates of opportunity for African Americans and other minority players in 1947, during a time of huge change in the game which saw the Miracle Mets, (New York Mets) take the World Series two years earlier – tops all.

The Pirates' story is one that not only resonates through the sport known as America's pastime, but is still prescient today.

Markusen has produced a

brilliant story, that gets the reader, initiated in the game or not, close to the players, the team and the times. It relays how they not only blazed a trail but forced open the door to players of all races and nationalities, forever.

The Team that Changed Baseball is available in paperback for £12.99, through Westholme Publishing.

Maurice Crow's *Wembley: The History of The Iconic Twin Towers and the events they witnessed*, is a book that's very hard to put down.

The title, part of the *Images of The Past* series by Pen and Sword books, is enlightening and a wonderful walk down Memory Lane.

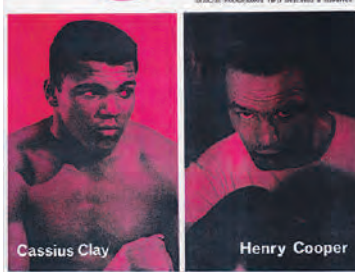
With stunning images and research, Crow brings to life the bygone days of the stadium that hosted its first FA Cup final in 1923, in front of a crowd of 250,000, before, of course, Bobby Moore lifted the Jules Rimet (World Cup) there in 1966.

Often used for greyhound racing, it also saw Our 'Enry, (Henry Cooper) famously flooring Cassius Clay (Ali) in their 1963 heavyweight bout.

It also has an RAF connection, when in 1927 former WWI pilot Arthur Elvin bought the stadium at 6.30pm

SPORTS GREATS: Above, a packed Wembley Stadium during the 1985 Live Aid concert; below, Bobby Moore introduces HRH The Queen to the England team before the World Cup final versus West Germany in 1966; inset left, the poster for the Heavyweight Championship of the World bout in 1963

PHOTOS: PEN AND SWORD



on August 17 for £122,500, and at 6.31pm duly sold it for £150,000.

In 1985, with Live Aid, the old Wembley took what was arguably its final bow, but with Crow's book the memories will live on.

Wembley: The History of The Iconic Twin Towers and the events

they witnessed is priced £14.99.

We have five pairs of the books to give away. To enter, simply answer the following question:

What was the nickname for the NY Mets team who won the 1969 baseball World Series?

Please note that *RAF News* cannot accept postal entries at this time.

Email your answer, marked Wembley Book competition, to: sports@rafnews.co.uk by August 21. Include a full postal address. Entrants must be over 18.

MOTORSPORT

Class act



TEAM WORKS: Main and above, all members of the Classic club pass on their engineering and bike building skills and knowledge, below, action from a recent club outing at Castle Combe. PHOTOS: CLUB MEMBERS/PULSEFOTO.



Continued from page 23:

Having attended the world famous Isle of Man TT, future moves to attend such high-profile races are currently under review.

Every team member has an in-depth knowledge of engineering and all build their own bikes.

Sgt Andy Green said: "The

group over the years evolved into a team, collectively we have learnt and shared many experiences.

"As people have come and gone, each person has found a way to fit into the team and bring something. New members to racing have a wealth of experience to lean on and we are all willing to help.

"The assistance has sometimes

come from building the bikes and tuning them, to the fabrication of exhausts. We are a little racing family within the racing community. Someone is always available to lend a hand when needed.

"All of this has grown out of enthusiasm and word of mouth, which is why I still immerse myself

in helping out the team."

Former Engineering Officer Symon Woodward (Ret'd) said: "Since 1991 until my retirement in 2018 I raced motorcycles with the association.

"Things really changed in 2005 when the club started to really fly. Although taken for granted throughout your career, things

can be missed when you are not in the bubble of Service life. As an associate RAFMSA member and team member it's nice to remain within that bubble."

For team and association membership information visit: Royal Air Force Classic Motorcycle Racing Team and Twitter @classicraceteam.

ATHLETICS

Athletes show their pace and power in city 5km



Continued from page 27:

The men's B team produced a combined finish time of one hour, five minutes and 19 seconds. The ladies' team saw Fg Off Rebecca Ennals come home fastest in 18 minutes and 30 seconds, ably supported by Cpl Emily

Brown, Cpl Catherine Cory and Sqn Ldr Jo Johnson, producing a combined time of one hour, 16 minutes and 48 seconds to smash last year's combined winning time of one hour, 23 minutes and 18 seconds.

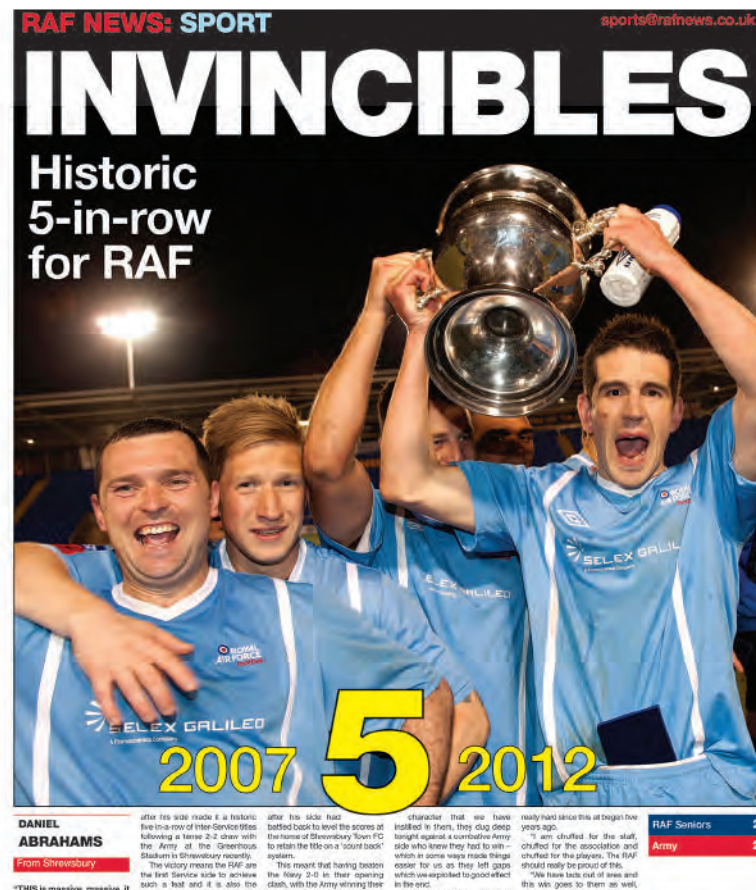
Follow the association on Twitter @raf_athletics.



WINNING STRIDE:

Main, Fg off Rebecca Ennals; inset left, Cpl Catherine Cory; far left, WO Paul Vernon, B team runner

FOOTBALL



DREAM TEAM: SAC(T) Neil Thomas (far left) celebrates a goal during the historic seventh IS-winning season; above, how RAF News reported the sporting landmark
PHOTOS: GD PICS

Veterans' efforts are recognised by RAFFA

Annual awards highlight their footballing legacy

Staff Reporter and Sqn Ldr Craig Gill (Ret'd)
HQ Air Command

THE SERVICE'S football pitches may be quiet, but the RAFFA has been busy selecting the recipients of its annual recognition awards.

Association chairman Gp Capt Neil Jones headed up a panel to choose this year's five award winners.

Of the 12 nominees, the panel reduced the number to the final individuals for the coveted award.

Jones said: "I was lucky enough to head the selection panel and fully endorsed all the worthy recipients who have given so much to RAF football; it was a real pleasure to announce the winners."

"It's great that we can recognise their achievements, both on and off the field."

First winner was SAC(T) Neil Thomas, a stalwart of the RAFFA Senior Representative Team (SRT), who now stars for the RAF Veterans.

Thomas played his part in the Service's total dominance in the Inter-Services championship, from 2007-2012. The RAF, under coaches WO Malcolm Christie,



AWARDING: Main, Gp Capt Neil Jones, right, Wg Cdr Keith Watt, far right, Cpl Kev Fenner, below right, Sgt Dave Wanless sits in the middle of his teammates during a half-time talk

FS Nick De Long and WO Martin Wilkinson, recorded a historic seven-in-a-row winning run. Thomas went on to captain the Service, play at Combined Services level and compete in the UEFA Cup for Llanelli.

After an impressive career pushing the role of kit manager to greater heights, Cpl Kevin Fenner was awarded for his efforts. In his role as an integral part of the backroom staff Fenner was quoted as being the 'glue between management and playing staff'.

Having worked at all levels of

RAF football, he was involved in the seven-in-a-row IS wins. Fenner now works with national squads for the FA. Playing at all levels of RAF football, before representing Malmesbury, Abingdon Town, Oxford City and Woking, Flt Lt (Ret'd) Kenneth Oram's incredible Service football career was rightly recognised in this year's awards.

Capped at CS level, he was part of the Constantinople Inter-Services Cup-winning team in 1969 and went on to win the trophy three times in four years.

The following season he netted



an incredible 16 times in 17 games.

In 1983, Oram became the Assistant Manager/Assistant Coach to the SRT and won yet another Constantinople Cup, managing the team for three years from 1987.

One-time PTI, Flt Lt (Ret'd) Roger Unwin MBE, boasted a career that saw him play for Chesterfield FC and England Universities.

Having played in IS-winning SRT teams, Unwin, who completed his A-licence, went on to coach RAF Cyprus representative squads.

Wg Cdr (Ret'd) Keith Watt could be seen as the face of RAF football,

– online at least. The webmaster to Chief of Staff, and Ladies' team manager in between, Watt also spent years within the RAFFA executive committee.

In his third season for the veterans team Sgt Dave Wanless picked up the Charlie Booker Memorial Shield as player of the season. Wanless produced some notable displays, seeing the team secure a 1-0 IS win over the Army, with the championship decider versus the Navy set for September.

● Follow the RAFFA Vets on Twitter: @RaffaVets

Sport**Riders club together to keep things classic**● **Sport P23**Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk
Telephone: 07966 429755**Competition**
Win Wembley and baseball sports books● **Sport P24****ATHLETICS**

Service athletes are City slickers

Great results from reorganised London run

Daniel Abrahams

HQ Air Command

SERVICE ATHLETES marked their second year competing in the Standard Chartered Great City Race with some blistering virtual finish times.

The three RAF teams recorded amazing virtual finish times, with a ladies' team competing for the first year and winning by some seven minutes.

The men's A team also eclipsed last year's first place finish time, while the B team came in fourth.

Having been the first military team to compete in 2019 – winning the team title and several individual events – this year the RAF were keen to take part in the virtual 5km version of the race, called Run from Home.

Entrants submitted their completed run times via a web portal. The RAF competed in a range of locations including RAF Brize Norton, with one competitor even running in America.

Due to the late alterations in staging the race, the organisers chose not to publish virtual

finish times. The event is traditionally held within the boundaries of the City of London and features teams from Barclays, Transport for London, JP Morgan and the headline sponsors Standard Chartered.

Ladies' team spokesman Sqn Ldr Jo Roe said: "I am delighted that we were able to field an RAF Ladies' team this year. I very much hope that we will continue to enter a strong female team in future years."

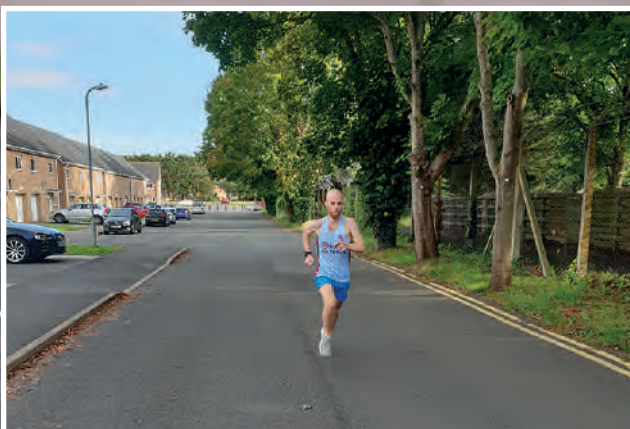
"Our runners performed extremely well with some very impressive times on what turned out to be a very hot day. As ever, team spirit and morale were high and everyone was excited to be racing again, despite it being a virtual race and the runners participating remotely."

The Men's A team's combined time of one hour and five seconds was two minutes two seconds faster than their 2019 winning time.

Fg Off Michael Kallenberg (first), SAC Luke Pollard, FS Michael Taylor and Wg Cdr Ben Livesey produced excellent runs.

Continued on page 25:

CAPITAL ONE: Main, Cpl Catherine Cory who shone for the ladies' team; left, Fg Off Mike Kallenberg; right, WO Paul Vernon



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