

The Forces' favourite paper

Glasto's back
Beyoncé helps mark 50th landmark

● RnR p8



Win Win
Cult TV series DVD box set

● RnR P4-5



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **June 12** 2020
No 1493 **70p**

RAF News

Never forget

Battle of Britain Trust cash fight



● See p14-15

Chief's view
A way back for RAF sport



● p24-25

Top player
RAF Fund's Central man



● Sport p26



Russia raises Baltic stakes

Double scramble for UK Typhoons policing NATO's eastern airspace



Simon Mander

NATO CHIEFS scrambled RAF Typhoon jets twice in two days as Russia raises the stakes in the Baltic states.

In the latest alert the UK fighters intercepted two Sukoi SU-27 flankers and a Coot spyplane closing in on restricted airspace over Lithuania.

A 6 Sqn pilot said: "This mission was more complex, as there were more aircraft to manage of different types and flying at different speeds. We are always ready to react in support of the Nato mission."

● See reports p5 and p10



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“It is essential their experiences live on”

Former fighter pilot Rick Peacock-Edwards on The Few p17



“When the judges are serious we are silly off camera”

Comedian Tom Allen on his Bake Off: The Professionals co-host Liam Charles R'n'R p4-5



“It was an honour to help launch the project on such an auspicious day as VE75”

Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton on new RFL online campaign p23



RAF News

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Defence targets Reserves

A REVIEW to find out how best to use Reservists in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic is to be launched by the MoD.

It aims to harness the specialist knowledge and abilities of ex-regulars like those who built the NHS Nightingale hospitals.

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said: “Reservists are an exceptional group of people with specialist skills and expertise.

“Their integral role within our nation’s Armed Forces has been demonstrated once again during the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s crucial that we consider how best to utilise our existing talent but also how we can strengthen the role of Reserves for generations to come.”

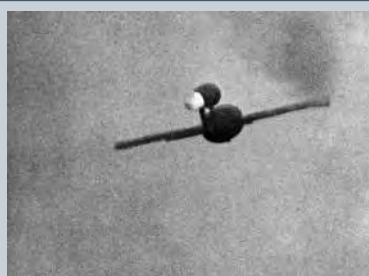
The study will seek the views of other government departments, employers, business and academia in the UK and abroad, to find fresh ways veterans could contribute to defence and wider government objectives by the end of the decade.

It will also examine how defence can partner business and the private sector to share the cost of using the skills and expertise of ex-military personnel.



VITAL RESOURCE:
RAF Reservists during combat training exercise

This Week In History



1944

V1-bomb downed

The first V-1 destroyed by the RAF falls to a 605 Sqn Mosquito crewed by Fg Off Musgrave and Flt Sgt Samwell, who went on to destroy a total of 12 Nazi flying bombs.

1957

Final nuclear test

The third and final thermo nuclear weapon is dropped from a 49 Sqn Valiant, completing Britain’s first series of megaton weapons trials.



1990

Reds’ Russia debut

The Red Arrows depart for a six-day tour of Russia and Hungary in their first visit to the former Warsaw Pact countries following the fall of the Soviet regime.

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



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

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News bulletin



WREATH-LAYING: Airwoman Bryony Pike represents the RAF at the Cenotaph

Tribute to UN peacekeepers

ARMED FORCES personnel laid wreaths at the Cenotaph in tribute to 106 British peacekeepers killed serving on peacekeeping missions around the world.

The event marked UN Peacekeeping Day, which recognises the role Armed Forces personnel and civilian volunteers play reducing conflict and preventing or deterring attacks on the general public.

The UK Armed Forces currently have around 300 British military personnel serving on seven missions around the world, including in Cyprus and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Charities get cash lifeline

DEFENCE MINISTER Johnny Mercer has pledged an extra £6 million in additional funding to support frontline Armed Forces charities across the UK.

The move is part of a package of measures to ensure welfare groups can continue to work with the Forces community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mercer said: "Military charities do a fantastic job in supporting this community and today's important new investment will ensure that they have the funding they need to continue their brilliant efforts."

BALTIC STAND-OFF: Above, Sukoi SU 27 flanker tracked skirting Nato airspace; below, Typhoon closes in on Russian Coot spyplane.

Putin turns up heat in Baltic



NATO THREAT: Russian President Putin

Staff Reporter

TYPHOON JETS scrambled to intercept Russian aircraft twice within two days as their Nato Baltic Air Policing mission intensifies.

In the latest launch 6 Sqn jets took off for the second time in a week to probe the activities of another Il-20 Coot-A spy plane, this time accompanied by two Su-27 Flanker B fighters over the Baltic Sea.

A 6 Sqn pilot said: "This mission was more complex, as there were more aircraft to manage of different types and flying at different speeds. We are always ready to react in support of the Nato mission."

Armed Forces Minister James Heapey said: "Our Typhoon Force is playing a key part in support of the alliance's air policing operations and our friends in Lithuania."

Air Vice Marshal Ian Duguid added: "The RAF as part of Nato are conducting these activities to ensure that all flights are conducted within internationally accepted aviation rules. When this does not happen Nato will intercept and investigate."

The RAF detachment in Lithuania is working alongside a Spanish Air Force detachment at Siauliai Air Base.

The mission follows last year's successful deployment to Estonia and builds on previous Air Policing operations in Iceland and Romania.

Germans boost battling Gunner's fighting fund

Staff reporter

GERMAN FORCE Protection teams are backing a fundraising campaign to help veteran RAF Gunner Chris Hyland, who is battling a brain injury.

The German Luftwaffe Objektschutzregiment donated more than £2,000 to help the former Air Force sniper fight back to fitness and hit his fundraising target of £22,000 after seeing his story on a charity website set up by Regiment pals in the UK.

Chris, who served two tours in Afghanistan at the height of the conflict as a sniper, suffered a serious

brain bleed and underwent a number of surgical operations to repair the damage done by the haemorrhage, known medically as arteriovenous malformation, in 2019.

CHARITY APPEAL:

Former Regiment sniper and Afghanistan veteran Chris Hyland, and with his children Gracie and Jake, left





RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

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Poseidon honour for Nazi U-boat hunter

Simon Mander

BRITAIN'S LATEST Poseidon P8 maritime patrol aircraft has been named after the RAF's highest-scoring WWII Nazi U-boat hunter.

The second from a fleet of nine Poseidon P8 aircraft, ZP803, has emerged from US manufacturer Boeing's paint shop dubbed *Terence Bulloch DSO DFC*.

Ulsterman Squadron Leader Bulloch (pictured right) was the highest-scoring pilot in Coastal Command, whose crews shot down two Luftwaffe sea planes, sank three German U-boats and damaged several others.



TRIBUTE: The RAF's latest Poseidon proudly bears the name of World War II hero

His log book recorded 350 missions and 4,568 flying hours in Liberators for 120 Sqn and 224 Sqn and his exploits earned him bars to both the DSO and DFC.

He died on November 12, 2014.



COPING WITH COVID: Helplines struggling to cope with demand during lockdown

Calls of duty

Staff Reporter

A ROOKIE pilot spent 1,000 hours during the coronavirus lockdown helping others get through the crisis.

Stuck in his military accommodation, Chinook aircrew hopeful Flying Officer Alister Ellis didn't hesitate to answer the call for volunteers for the NHS Check in and Chat Service.

The 26-year-old from Edinburgh, currently training with 3 Flying Training School, volunteered for the equivalent of more than 41 days on his mobile to support others in isolation via the NHS app.

He said: "By helping in this small way I felt that I was doing my bit in the crisis."

"Seeing all the other volunteers online also reaffirmed a sense of community, which I think is a positive thing that has come out of this challenging time."

"This experience has reinforced to me the need to invest in everyone's mental wellbeing."

"It was so nice to know that by spending a few minutes of my time on the phone, I had made a real difference to people who were obviously struggling at the start of our discussion."

Ellis expects to complete his Elementary Flying Training and hopes to be streamed for helicopter training to fly Odiham-based Chinooks.

Wg Cdr Ian Bews said: "Ali is a great example of the quality of junior officer we now have joining the RAF."

"I am continuously impressed by the abilities of our trainee pilots, both in the cockpit and on the ground."

"Ali's selfless desire to help others is inspirational, and his positive effect on people's mental health in this challenging time has been amazing."



Voyager record run



HAPPY LANDING: Crew arrive at Brize

Airtanker takes VC10 long-haul Falklands crown

Staff Reporter

A VOYAGER has set a new world record for the fastest non-stop flight by a transport aircraft between Britain and the Falkland Islands.

The 7859-mile journey was completed in 15 hours and 9 minutes, slashing 36 minutes off the previous best – set in 1987 by a Royal Air Force VC10.

Flights to the South Atlantic operate twice a week from Brize Norton, forming a crucial airbridge to the overseas territory.

Normally aircraft stop off en route to resupply, but this was the



BENCHMARK: The previous record for a non-stop flight from the Falklands to Brize Norton, set by a RAF VC10, stood for 33 years

first direct flight in more than 30 years and part of a global effort to minimise the risks of spreading coronavirus.

Voyager captain reservist Dave Hall said: "As a former VC10 pilot I was delighted to be part of an

amazing team that has set a record, flying direct to the Falkland Islands. It's an extremely poignant moment in history as the record has stood for more than 30 years."

OC 10 Sqn, Wg Cdr Al Scott, who met the aircraft at Brize, said:

"It's fantastic to see a new fastest time to the Falklands being set."

"I am really pleased to have 10 Squadron reservists participate in the flight and our squadron's continued connection with that record."



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AIR FORCE**

News bulletin



FUNDRAISER: Mike Straney takes on new role at RAF Benevolent Fund

Mike's a man on a mission

MIKE STRANEY has been appointed the new director of fundraising and communications for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

He was previously a director of charity Sightsavers and takes up his new post following the departure of John Trampleasure, who stepped down after three years.

Straney, whose father and grandfather both served in the RAF, said: "I'm focused on making sure we emerge from the current situation as strong as we can be, and looking toward a future where we can deliver even more for the Air Force family."



LOW-LEVEL OPS: Atlas A400M takes on Mach Loop in Wales during previous tests with the RAF in 2017

Lowdown showdown for A400M

The A400M transporter, operated by the RAF, has completed initial low-level flight testing, operating at 500ft during trials in the French Pyrenees.

The aircraft is now set for a second round of trials in 'zero visibility' conditions next year before being certified for low-level operations which make it less detectable to hostile forces, manufacturer Airbus said.

Air strikes rock Iraq terror lairs



PRECISION MISSIONS: RAF Typhoon and Voyager tanker prepare for a sortie; above, targeting image as pilot prepares to unleash Paveway IV bomb; inset below, Reaper aircraft
PHOTO: SGT NEIL BRYDEN



Typhoon and Reaper spearhead Coalition surge against Daesh

Simon Mander

REAPERS AND Typhoons have blasted Islamist fanatics in Iraq FOUR times in just over two weeks during a surge against terror.

The latest offensive follows two similar operations in April which were the first time Air Force combat jets had been called into action for seven months.

In the latest strikes an unmanned Reaper unleashed a GBU-12 guided

bomb destroying a bunker being used by Daesh fighters west of Tuz Khurmatu, in northern Iraq, following a coalition surveillance operation.

In a separate mission two Typhoons dropped high precision Paveway IV laser-guided bombs at three entrances to a Daesh cave complex southeast of Hatra,



on the banks of the Tharthar River.

A pair of RAF Reapers launched GBU-12s at two Daesh bunkers in another attack west of Tuz Khurmatu.

The remotely piloted RAF Reapers later dropped a GBU-12 on Daesh fighters hiding in woods causing a series of secondary explosions as it ignited

an ammo dump, the MoD said.

Since liberating the last Daesh-held territory in 2019, the RAF has flown daily armed reconnaissance patrols in a bid to stop Islamist extremists re-establishing footholds in both Iraq and Syria.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "These strikes are another example of how the UK Armed Forces protect our nation and allies, every single day, from all those who seek to do us harm."

Brize rise to Covid challenge

Staff Reporter

BRIZE-BASED PERSONNEL have stepped up to assist their local ambulance crews struggling to cope with coronavirus cases.

A team of eight from the Oxfordshire base volunteered to help the South Central Ambulance Service response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The military co-responders drive vehicles and work with paramedics, staff the emergency operations control room and transport patients to and from hospitals.

Volunteer Flt Lt Harry Dowden said: "Working alongside paramedics, technicians and emergency care assistants you see first-hand the professionalism they display no matter what they are faced with."

Cpl Darren Goodger said: "Working with the NHS during the pandemic has been a tough but rewarding experience. It has shown



FRONTLINE SUPPORT: Cpl Darren Goodger at the wheel of South Central ambulance; left, NHS volunteer SAC Rachel Moran

me how amazing they are at what they do and being able to help is an experience I won't forget."

Sgt Will Anstis added: "This is a complete change from my normal role on 99 Sqn."

"I'm incredibly proud to be able to support the ambulance service during these unprecedented times."

Military co-responders are serving personnel, civil servants or ex-military civilians who are trained by the NHS to respond to 999 calls and care for patients until paramedics arrive at the scene.

Brize Norton's co-responder team has 26 personnel and two rapid response vehicles.



News

Russia's Coot in the act

Typhoons intercept spyplane closing in on Nato airspace

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS HAVE been scrambled for the first time from their Lithuanian base to intercept a Russian spy plane.

RAF 6 Sqn jets on Nato duties launched in response to an IL-20 Coot intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft operating over the Baltic Sea.

The pilot said: "At the end of the day, it's just my job."

"The initial scramble was a real shot of adrenaline, but once airborne it was important to remain calm and professional and make the intercept as expeditious as possible to ensure we maintained both the safety and integrity of Nato airspace."

"This is what all of our training is

designed to prepare us for."

Nato has policed the region's skies since 2004 when the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined the Alliance.

The defensive mission took on greater prominence following Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Tours of duty usually last around four months with detachments of four fighters supported by between 50-100 personnel rotating between Nato countries.

The Ilyushin IL-20 Coot monitored in the latest scramble is a turboprop reconnaissance aircraft with a maximum speed of 410mph over a range of 2,200 nautical miles.

The current RAF mission began last month when 135 Expeditionary Air Wing took over the task from the Belgian military and began working alongside the Spanish Air Force detachment at

Siauliai Air Base.

135 EAW Commander Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt said: "It's great to see all the training come together in a successful Nato Baltic Quick Reaction Alert Air Policing mission."

Lossiemouth-based 6 Sqn, nicknamed 'The Flying Tin Openers', is one of the RAF's most historic units with battle honours dating back to the Western Front in 1914.



BALTIC AIR POLICING: Four RAF Typhoons are on standby to intercept rogue aircraft over Baltic states



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By George!

98-year-old RAF super-vet nets €120k to save club from closure

Tracey Allen

AIR FORCE super-vet George Sutherland has officially reopened the veterans club in Belgium he helped save from closure – by raising more than €100,000 with a sponsored walk.

The 98-year-old former leading aircraftman's fundraising total reached €120,410 as RAF News went to press – surpassing the €100,000 needed to stop Talbot House in the centre of Poperinge in West Flanders from shutting its doors permanently.

Sutherland posted on his Twitter account: "I had the privilege of declaring Talbot House open. They are looking forward to welcoming you all home again."

Opened in 1915, Talbot House was forced to close in March due to the Covid-19 crisis, the first time it had to close since the German occupation in 1940.

Around 2,000 donations have been made from all over the world



including from New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. The fundraising campaign will continue until the club's 105th birthday on December 11.

Simon Louagie, the club's manager, said: "Talbot House means a lot to people – it has always been there for the Armed Forces and vice-versa."

Sutherland said he was inspired by fundraising hero Col Tom Moore, 100, to complete his own sponsored walk, on the 75th anniversary of VE Day last month. He walked part of the 3.4km route between the World War I cemetery at Lijssenthoek and Talbot House.

He was accompanied by a bagpiper for the last half kilometre of the challenge.

Born in Poperinge, the son of a Scottish father and a Flemish mother, Sutherland joined the RAF in 1941 and trained as an airframe mechanic. He saw action on 20 different airfields in the UK and Europe.

After the war ended he went back to his old job as a gardener with the Imperial War Graves Commission and looked after the Lijssenthoek War Cemetery for the next 40 years before retiring.

● Go to: [GoFundMe](#) to donate.



OPENING TIME: George performs the honours



SOS: Funds needed to save XM496

True Brit

AN 88-YEAR-OLD RAF veteran is planning to walk 99 miles to raise funds for the Britannia XM496 Preservation Society.

Retired Wg Cdr Brian Weatherley hopes to raise £5000 to cover the painting and associated costs of the world's last full airframe Britannia built for the RAF – now kept by the Society at Cotswold Airport in Gloucestershire.

Weatherley said: "I first flew a Britannia in 1959 while serving on 99 Squadron – hence walking 99 miles. With a pacemaker and recovering from a severe leg wound I hope to complete my task over the next four months."

● For details go to: www.xm496.com.

Beached Beaufighter discovered 76 years after UK coastal crash

Simon Mander

A COUPLE walking on a Lincolnshire beach discovered the wreckage of a World War Two fighter bomber 76 years after it crashed.

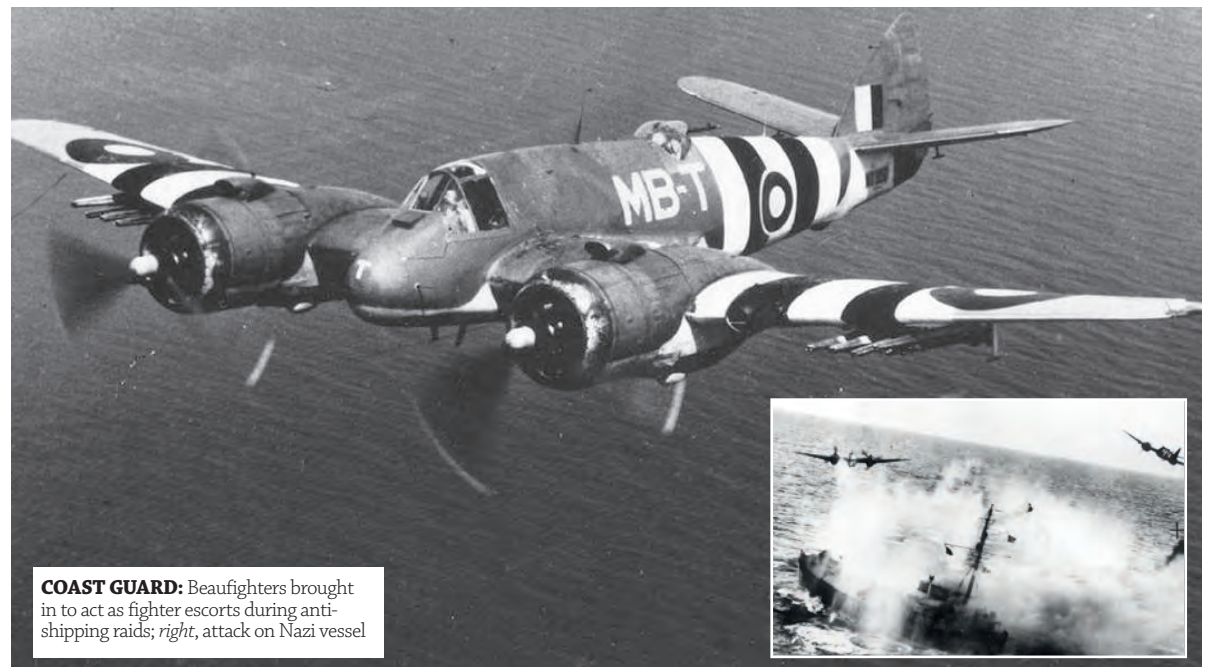
Warehouse supervisor Debi Hartley and lorry driver Graham Holden made the find near Cleethorpes while walking their dog, Bonnie.

The wreck is believed to be Bristol Beaufighter TFX aircraft serial number JM333 of 254 Sqn.

According to RAF wartime records the aircraft ditched near Haille Sands when both engines failed shortly after take-off from North Coates on April 21, 1944. The crew were uninjured and escaped to safety.

The Coastal Command unit swapped Blenheims for Beaufighters in 1942.

Squadrons operating the heavy fighter joined the strike wing at North Coates carrying out reconnaissance missions and providing fighter escorts for anti-shipping raids against German minesweepers.



COAST GUARD: Beaufighters brought in to act as fighter escorts during anti-shipping raids; right, attack on Nazi vessel

From early 1945 it was redeployed to counter the threat from German U-boats.

The couple did not initially realise what the wreckage was and spent

more than 45 minutes exploring it and taking photographs before they returned home to begin researching their find.

Local coastguards have warned

aviation fans and souvenir hunters to stay away from the wreck, which they say has already been reclaimed by sand and is buried in an area of unpredictable tidal movements.





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News

Trust eases lockdown blues

Staff Reporter

THE JON Egging Trust has teamed up with RAF fast jet pilots to produce a series of short films for young people to help them through the coronavirus pandemic and their return to school. Each clip features a prominent aviator or specialist and focuses on the skills the Blue Skies youth programme teaches its students.

Trust chief Dr Emma Egging said: "With our students unable to visit our RAF and industry partners,

we aim to bring inspiration into their homes.

"Young people are in real need of our encouragement and we hope to give them intensive support when they go back to school."

29 Sqn Typhoon pilot Wg Cdr Jim Calvert added: "We

are proud to support the Jon Egging Trust by sharing our experiences and

hopefully inspiring young lives, particularly at a time when young people may be feeling anxious about their future."



Matt's back at Spadeadam

Staff Reporter

COMBAT TRAINING specialist Wg Cdr Matt Lawrence has taken over command of the RAF's electronic warfare tactics centre at Spadeadam – for the second time.

The airman has returned to the Cumbria station six years after leaving to support training programmes with UK allies in the Gulf.

He said: "When I left six years ago, I never thought

I would have the good fortune to be allowed to take command again at the Royal Air Force's only electronic warfare training range.

"These are difficult times for us all with many of my personnel supporting the Covid-19 response. However, whether it is supporting the local community or enabling UK or international defence training, we are ready to assist.

"I look forward to a return to normality for all of us and also to continuing the legacy of success from my predecessors."

RAF team tracks SpaceX mission

Simon Mander

A NEW ERA in space flight is being tracked by the RAF as NASA successfully launched its first manned mission for nine years.

Air Force personnel at the iconic Fylingdales ballistic missile early warning site on the North Yorkshire moors monitored the craft when it came into view 20 minutes after blast-off from Cape Canaveral.

The mission to the International Space Station is a commercial enterprise between NASA and billionaire PayPal founder Elon Musk's SpaceX programme.

Ft Lt Ryan Holden said it was the first manned launch his crew have tracked.

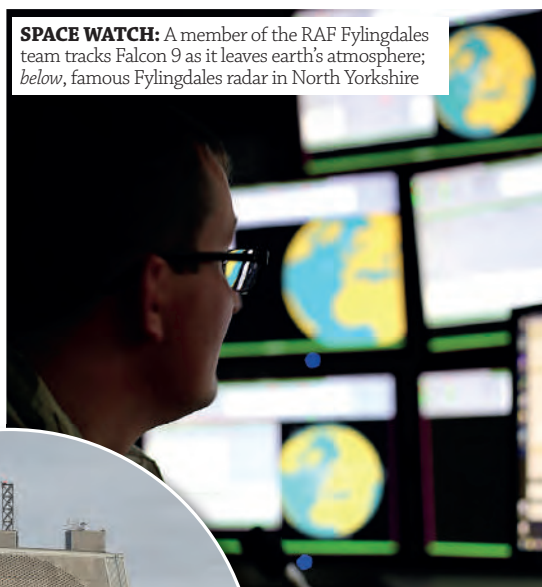
He said: "This is a momentous occasion in the modern space era, with the return of a domestic manned launch for our US colleagues and an exciting time for our crew."

Fylingdales can look 3,000 miles into space and boasts it can detect an object the size of a Coca-Cola can, as part of its role to protect the UK and its allies from missile attack, falling debris and, satellites.

Its five-person crew, with their civilian counterparts, routinely track the International Space Station and more than 8,000 other objects every day.

NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley lifted off on a Falcon 9 rocket to test the capabilities of SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule on May 30.

SPACE WATCH: A member of the RAF Fylingdales team tracks Falcon 9 as it leaves earth's atmosphere; below, famous Fylingdales radar in North Yorkshire



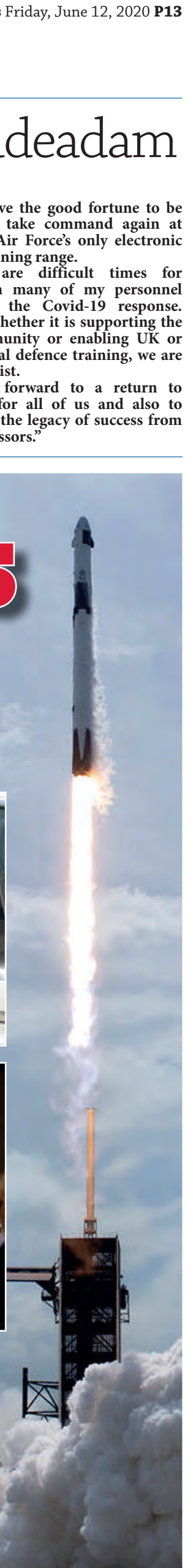
The former test pilots accelerated to 17,000mph to reach their destination. After between six and 16 weeks in space the duo will return to Earth and splashdown in the Atlantic, where they will be picked up by a SpaceX recovery boat.

The last time Americans launched into orbit was the final space shuttle flight in 2011, since when Russia's Soyuz rocket has been the only vehicle capable of reaching the station – at a cost of \$80 million a seat. The mission is the final major step before NASA certifies Crew Dragon for long-duration space exploration and a possible role in landing the first woman and next man on the Moon, in 2024.



NEW ERA: Top, astronauts Douglas Hurley and Robert Behnken prepare for blast off; above, NASA control room monitor Falcon 9 ahead of launch. Inset left, SpaceX founder Elon Musk celebrates as rocket lifts off

PHOTOS: NASA



Retreat, then RAF's finest hour

With France fallen and the Allies on the back foot, it was down to the Royal Air Force to turn the tide

THIS MONTH marks the 80th anniversary of the last day of the Allies' retreat from Dunkirk as the Nazis continued their march across Europe.

With the last of the 'little ships' sailing home to the UK with what was left of the British Expeditionary Force on board, and the battered Royal Air Force flying home to regroup on this side of the Channel, they were dark days.

The evacuation, codenamed Operation Dynamo, which began on May 27 and was to take just over a week, saw more than 338,000 men rescued, including almost 140,000 French, Polish and Belgian troops. They sailed in 861 vessels, of which 243 were sunk during the operation.

Two weeks later, as France capitulated, Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the nation: "What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin."

"The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war"



DUNKIRK: Op Dynamo

"Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire."

"The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands."

The speech ended with a call for people to "so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour'."

Churchill was right in his prediction that Hitler was about to turn his attention to this country – and equally right in his optimistic assessment of the UK's response to the threat of invasion.

As history relates, the men of the Royal Air Force

made sure that the Battle of Britain, 80 years ago this summer, dashed Hitler's invasion hopes. They took to the sky in sortie after sortie, sometimes several times in a single day, to fight back against, and finally defeat, the numerically superior Luftwaffe.

They became known as 'The Few' following another of Churchill's speeches in which he told the House of Commons: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed, by so many, to so few."

Fewer than 3,000 in number, their bravery and sacrifice saw Hitler abandon his plans, preserving this island as the springboard from which the Normandy invasion could be launched four years later and, in all probability, shortening World War II considerably.

"Without the Battle of Britain, the D-Day invasion of June 1944 could not have taken place in the way it did," explained Gp Capt Patrick Tootal, secretary of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust CIO, which looks after the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent.

"The country owes The Few a huge debt of gratitude, not just for what they did in 1940 but for effectively turning the tide of the war," he said.

The site, just outside Folkestone, is home to the National Memorial to The Few, a statue of a lone airman looking out over the English Channel, and to the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, on which are listed the names of all the Allied airmen known to have taken part. A replica Hurricane and Spitfire are among other features of the popular clifftop venue.

The site receives no public funding of any kind, and with the Covid-19 lockdown ending all funding streams, including the shop, café and Scramble Experience visitor attraction, life is very tough at the moment for the charity, which opened its Wing visitor centre in 2015.

The Trust is currently delivering online presentations, creating fun things for families to do in lockdown and hoping visitors will support the charity generously once the site reopens, but, as with similar visitor attractions, things are difficult.

"We had lots of events planned to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain but all of them had to be shelved," Patrick explained. "Life for charities is always tough, but the pandemic has reduced our income to virtually zero, and we still have bills to pay."

■ To support the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust click on the 'Donate' link at: www.battleofbritainmemorial.org



PHOTOS: The Air Historical Branch (RAF)

ALLIES: RAF Spitfires of 66 Sqn flying as part of a cross-Channel fighter sweep with 132 (Norwegian) Wing, June 13, 1944

MEMORIAL: Capel-le-Ferne airman statue

SCRAMBLE:

601 Sqn (Battle of France) and, inset below, Battle of Britain pilot Paul Ferne, who died in January aged 101

ATTACK FORCE: RAF reconnaissance picture of German barges gathered at Dunkirk for the planned invasion of Britain, Operation Sealion. Image possibly dates from September 1940

Go to: battleofbritainmemorial.org and click on 'donate' to help Trust

R'n'R

Announcements

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Puzzles
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Win!



Win TV cult
classic box
set ● p5



Fruity – Tom Allen

● p4-5

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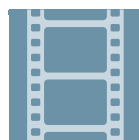
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The Open
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Film Review Shooting The Mafia

Digital download on iTunes and Amazon (Cert 15)

True
life

Capturing The Mafia

VERY FEW cinematic documentaries truly capture the heart of their topic and the broken heart of the nation they are set in – *Shooting The Mafia* does in spades.

This terrifying film covers the life's work of Letizia Battaglia, photographer and photojournalist, that goes behind the mask of the Mafia.

In many ways Battaglia's work gave a voice to the silent victims of the underworld, which killed the people and the politicians so remorselessly and destroyed the fabric of Sicily, her hometown.

Battaglia, now 84, is nothing short of heroic, but the film by Kim Longinotto also uncovers the

chaotic life of the photographer who, like her images, has no filter.

Talking about her early days as a crime scene snapper, we see her begin to go deeper and deeper into the dark world of the Mafia. And as guns are brandished, she steps in with a camera, and in the end proves far deadlier than any calibre bullet.

The shocking images are beautifully countered against the emotional impact they have on Battaglia. She falls from relationship to relationship, with her true love affair being photography, facing the possibility of assassination as she shows the true horror of blood-soaked corpses, car bombs and children caught in the crossfire.



DRAWN IN:
Young Mafia
hitman

Somehow the gangsters know she is unkillable. Her images are permanent, and their egos also seem to court her attention. In the end Battaglia's images galvanise the truth and fight for it, with the 'maxi-trials' in the 1990s bringing an end to Mafia bosses.

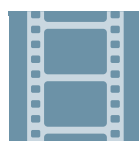
The citizens take to the streets to start their fightback, and she captures their bravery.

Against this Battaglia talks of wanting to destroy her work because it reflects only murder and blood and not the true feelings of love for life she and her Italian

countrymen feel. *Shooting the Mafia* is incredible, a true work of excellence from start to finish, with a central character who is captivating and inspiring in equal measure.

5 out of 5

Review by Daniel Abrahams



Film Review To The Stars

On digital download (Cert 12)

Dark
themes

Small town, big secrets



FRIENDS: Maggie (Liana) and Iris (Kara)

A CALM and thought-provoking, soothing movie is exactly what is needed at this time and *To The Stars* is just that.

Set in the 1960s in the Oklahoma town of Wakita, the film follows withdrawn girl Iris Deerborne (Kara Hayward), who has an unhappy home life and suffers at the hands of school bullies, until she is rescued by new arrival, the enigmatic Maggie Richmond from Kansas.

The pair slowly bond, as Maggie, played superbly by Liana Liberto, tries to bring Iris out of her shell in this beautifully shot and well-scripted film.

Director Martha Stephens uses the slow pace of rural life perfectly with some terrific camera work that belies the emotional chaos in not only the main characters, but throughout the town.

Frustration, desperation and in some cases deep-seated anger burn inside the townsfolk and Stephens teases with the viewer using first impressions. She brilliantly reveals the

veracity behind characters, using one scene in almost pitch black to show the true darkness behind Maggie's father.

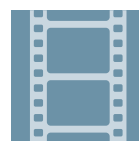
Maggie tells everyone her dad is a *Life* magazine photographer, but the reality is far less glamorous; the truth behind all the slightly broken pieces of Wakita are, and it makes for a wicked web of intrigue.

Dealing with tough subjects such as marital abuse, alcoholism, physical violence and bullying, *To The Stars* is well worth a watch, with some excellent performances, especially from the two main characters, but also from Iris's parents – Shea Whigham, of *Homecoming* fame, as Hank, and Jordano Spiro as Francine – along with Malin Akerman (*Watchmen*), who plays Grace, Maggie's mother.

With a running time of more than two hours the film does drift a little and could lose some scenes without altering the whole feel, but all in all, this is a great little movie.

3 out of 5

Review by Daniel Abrahams



Film Review The Last Full Measure

On digital download (Cert 12)

Hero
airman

A GROUP of veterans continue the fight to have a fallen comrade's decoration upgraded decades after his death in one of Vietnam's bloodiest battles.

The Last Full Measure is based on the true account of Airman William H. Pitsenbarger (Jeremy Irvine), a medic who repelled directly onto the battlefield and defied orders to leave, trying instead to save as many people on the ground as possible.

Scott Huffman (Sebastian Stan) is a pen-pusher for the Department of Defense who is soon to lose his job due to restructuring. He is assigned the task of reviewing the appeal for Pitsenbarger's Airforce Cross to be upgraded to the highly distinguished and rarely awarded Medal of Honour.

Expected to just phone it in and pass it on to his replacement, Scott arranges to interview the vets whose lives were changed by the elected candidate and, of course, finds himself drawn in by the incredible story of this Pararescueman.

The veterans are played by acting heavyweights including Samuel L. Jackson, Ed Harris and Peter Fonda (in his last film appearance). Their performances add weight to the story that transcends the notion of good old-fashioned heroism and instead shines a light on how veterans are treated in the present day.

Combat footage comes in the form of flashbacks that punctuate each of their recollections of Pitsenbarger. With no easing in or build in tension, horrific scenes of bodies thrown about the jungle from gunfire jarringly announce themselves and leave as quickly as they arrived.

Perhaps intentionally mimicking the nature of these memories, they become

Honouring the veterans



BIG
NAME:
Samuel L.
Jackson
(top)

BRIT:
Jeremy
Irvine



repetitive and less effective as the film plays out.

Invoked by the angel-like descent of Pitsenbarger from the heavens into the chaos of the battlefield, a spiritual quality is brought out in the last act of the film which winds up by passing on genuinely useful information on dealing with trauma.

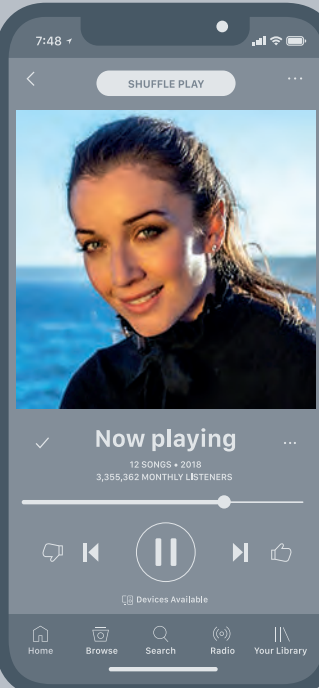
As predictable as the journey may seem, the final scenes are the most affecting and once again it is the performances that elevate the material, showing great admiration not only for those who have given their lives in battle, but also those who continue to deal with its long-term effects.

3 out of 5

Review by Sam Cooney



Playlist Top 10



THE BRITISH/ITALIAN soprano Carly Paoli and French pop opera tenor Vincent Niclo have released the new single *Amigos Para Siempre* to raise funds for their chosen charities in the UK and France. Go to: [CarlyPaoli.com](#) for more information. Here's Carly's Top 10 tunes:

- 1 **UB40**
Red, Red Wine
- 2 **Paul Simon**
Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes
- 3 **Aretha Franklin**
Think
- 4 **Frank Sinatra**
They Can't Take That Away From Me
- 5 **Barbra Streisand**
Happy Days are Here Again
- 6 **Marc Cohn**
Walking in Memphis
- 7 **Michael Bolton**
Sexual Healing
- 8 **Luciano Pavarotti**
Non ti Scordar di Me
- 9 **Bruno Mars**
Uptown Funk
- 10 **Righteous Brothers**
You've Lost that Loving Feeling



Music

Teddy Thompson
Heartbreaker Please



THOMPSON: Sad songs

Teddy bares his soul about broken hearts

SINGER-SONGWRITER Teddy Thompson has just released his new album *Heartbreaker Please* and announced the dates for his rescheduled UK tour, postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The album was recorded in Brooklyn, New York, and written and produced by Teddy – a member of the talented Thompson musical dynasty. Dad Richard is a legendary figure in the folk-rock world and recorded several albums with Teddy's mum Linda, who went on to be a solo artist. Their daughter Kami is in the band The Rails with her husband James Walbourne (lead guitarist in The Pretenders).

Teddy's latest album is drawn from the demise of a real-life relationship, as told from his perspective, but could also be seen as a projection of his relationship with New York City, the place he has called home for the better part of two decades. He left London for the States at 18, settling in New York five years later.

"At the time I was just taking a long vacation that never ended," he said. "I wanted to reinvent myself and it was easier to leave it behind and go somewhere new to announce myself as a musician, rather than explain to all the people who've known you since you were a kid. And you can actually reinvent yourself in America, step off the plane, say 'my name is whatever'."

He added: "I guess I sound like who I am, which was probably embossed on me by the 1950s American sounds that were with

me in my childhood."

From a young age, Sam Cooke, Hank Williams, Chuck Berry and the Everly Brothers made up the bulk of Teddy's listening. After releasing his self-titled debut in 2000, he went on tour as part of Roseanne Cash's band. Since then he's released five acclaimed albums, collaborated with good friends Martha and Rufus Wainwright, contributed to numerous tribute projects, and produced albums for Americana singer-songwriter Dori Freeman, Shelby Lynne, Allison Moorer and his mother, Linda.

The songs on *Heartbreaker Please* are driven by references to someone else doing the heart-breaking. Teddy explained: "I was dating an actress at the time and living a strange sort of existence. As an artist you can get used to being in the spotlight, but in this relationship, I sort of became the 'plus one' and I was skirting around doing my own thing."

The relationship ended as Thompson was finishing writing the songs that would become *Heartbreaker Please*. "I tend to write sad songs, slow songs – it's what comes naturally," he said, "so it's a natural fit with the subject matter, but here, even where the subject matter was kind of sad, I'd set it against a soul beat, give it sort of an uplifting feel."

Teddy Thompson plays UK dates in January and February 2021 ahead of supporting John Grant on his UK tour. For details go to: [teddythompson.net](#).

The Big Event

Bake Off: The Professionals

Bake Off
Pros

Tom gets a slice of the action...

TOP TEAMS are currently battling it out to impress the hard-to-please judges in the new series of *Bake Off: The Professionals*.

Hosted by Great British *Bake Off* star Liam Charles and comedian Tom Allen, the tough competition is once again judged by Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin, who set a series of exceedingly tricky challenges.

What's it like for Tom to be back working with his co-presenter?

He said: "It's great. I feel like Liam and I have learned so much and I think we have both grown up together as presenters."

"When the judges are being serious we are finding something to be silly about off camera, but of course you don't see that."

Liam said: "It's always been great working with Tom, it doesn't ever feel like work at all. I think the more we do it we get better, it's fun and a great journey to be on together."

Tom admitted that he could now 'distinguish a millefeuille from a custard slice'.

He added: "And this year we have a savoury parsnip and artichoke vegetable slice which we did get to taste... I didn't know you could make a cake out of those."

Liam revealed: "There is a lot of crying this time round, I have done *Bake Off* and I know what it's like to be in that position, but I feel that I see it from a different perspective now."

"So I try to say to them don't beat yourself up, I feel their pain so I try to spur them on to the next challenge and be positive."

"There was a moment when I had my back towards a showpiece and I heard a crash and then the whole thing was on the floor. They had spent so much time making it and then gravity takes over and it just drops. It was a sad moment."

Tom said he thought the best moment of the series was when a particular team that had really struggled eventually proved they could make it through.

He added: "There were times when they thought they wouldn't make it, but their sheer drive and determination made it work and I thought that was really special."

Could either Tom or Liam have been a patisserie in real life, or run a baker's shop? A judge on *Junior Bake Off*, Liam has written two cookbooks and writes a column

Bake Off host Allen's the boy if you're talking about millefeuille



STARS: (l-r above) Tom, Cherish, Benoit and Liam. Inset, the experts at work



LAUGHS: Host Tom

for *The Guardian* on baking.

He said: "I would love my own shop in the future, but at the moment I like just being free with it all and enjoying what I am doing."

Tom, who has appeared on *Live At The Apollo*, *Mock The Week* and is the host of *The Apprentice: You're Fired!* said: "I would love to have run a shop and I recently had a dream that I could make croissants but of course in the dream I got the recipe wrong. My pension plan is to run a cake shop by the sea, but I think I would talk too much to the customers and not sell enough cakes."

Executive pastry chef at The Langham Hotel in London, Cherish is called 'one of the grande dames of British pastry'.

She said of her fellow judge Benoit: "I really enjoy working with Benoit and I love his sense of humour. He is a very talented and charming man."

"We complement each other very well, and I pick up on his body language and facial expression during judging even before he starts speaking."

Benoit said: "I have known Cherish for many years. I completely know what she likes and what she doesn't. Matcha tea is not one of my favourite flavours, but Cherish loves it. We know each other's foibles and it works well."

Benoit is the chef patissier at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxfordshire where he works closely with Raymond Blanc.

He revealed: "Cherish can be portrayed as tough and mean sometimes but she is a lovely lady with a kind soul. She is a perfectionist but that's in her nature and really she is always trying to look after everyone on set and make sure everyone is OK."

Cherish said: "Benoit always teases me by recognising my body language and knows on a judging that I am thinking 'This tastes horrible and I would not want to pay for it. I want a refund.'"

She added: "It is difficult being a judge, but I always want to be fair and speak from my mind and sometimes the truth can hurt. But I am honest and faithful to my patisserie passion, so I think whatever decision Benoit and I come to eliminating a team is the true one."

Bake Off: The Professionals continues on Channel 4 at 8pm on Tuesdays.



Music

Rewind
Festivals 2021

Dates
for the
diary

Rewind back to the future

REWIND, DUBBED 'the world's biggest 80s music festival', will be back in 2021 with dates in Scotland next July, then in Cheshire and Henley-On-Thames in August.

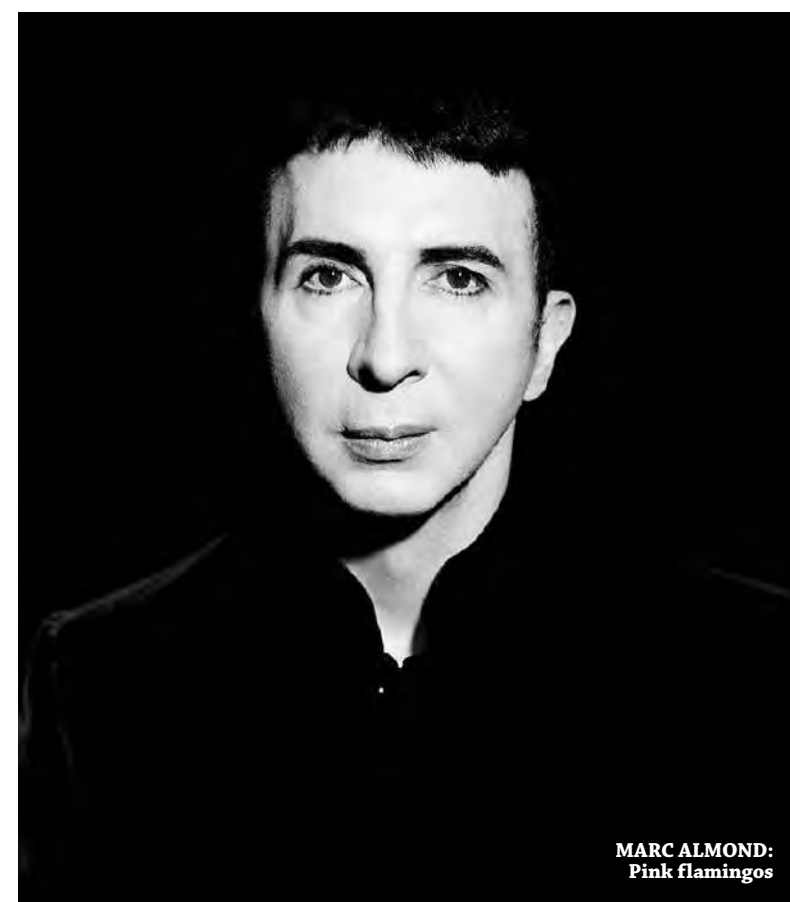
A spokesperson said: "Following the rescheduling of the festival [because of the coronavirus crisis], sadly a couple of acts couldn't make the new dates due to prior commitments, one of whom is Nick Heyward."

"However, we are delighted that Rewind favourite Marc Almond is available and will join all three festivals next year."

Almond said: "I am very excited to be playing all three Rewind Festivals in 2021. I've played Rewind many times before, the experience has always been amazing. I really love the passion and excitement of the Rewind audiences. Get those pink flamingos at the ready and see you in 2021."

Rewind Scotland is at Scone Palace, Perth, from July 23-25; Rewind North is at Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire, from August 6-8 and Rewind South at Temple Island Meadows, Henley-On-Thames, from August 20-22.

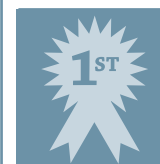
The line-up features a host of 80s big names including Jimmy Somerville, Wet Wet Wet, Bananarama, Billy Ocean, Altered Images, T'Pau, Heather Small, The Blow Monkeys, Nik Kershaw,



MARC ALMOND:
Pink flamingos

Heaven 17, China Crisis, Roland Gift (Fine Young Cannibals), Grandmaster Flash, Cutting Crew and Aswad, among others.

■ Dig out your shoulder pads and leg warmers and go to: [rewindfestivals.co.uk](#) for tickets and more details.



Competitions DVDs

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Expose yourself to cult classic

REMEMBER THE heart-warming US TV comedy drama hit *Northern Exposure*? It was nominated for more than 50 Emmy Awards, winning seven, and won Golden Globes for best drama series in 1992 and 1993.

It has since become a cult classic and you can enjoy all 116 episodes again, over six seasons, now fully restored and in hi-definition, with the release of the complete series on DVD this month.

Northern Exposure was created by Joshua Brand and John Falcsey, the team behind *St Elsewhere*. Only eight episodes were originally commissioned, but half a season turned into six. Guest stars included Adam Ant, Jack Black and Peter Bogdanovich.

Apparently, indie folk band Bon Iver's lead singer, Justin Vernon, wrote most of their first album whilst isolated in a cabin in north Canada. Wisconsin watching *Northern Exposure* on DVD. Bon Iver (French for 'good winter') is used as a greeting in one episode, which Vernon transcribed as Bon Iver. He named his record label



Chigliak Records, as a tribute to character Ed Chigliak.

Joel Fleischman (Rob Morrow) is a neurotic Jewish doctor from New York City, and a fresh-faced medical school graduate. He's also about to begin the four-year service contract he promised to the state of Alaska, who financed his education. But he forgot some of the contract's stipulations, which assigned him to the small post of

Cicely, Alaska – a town of 215 that welcomes its newest resident with open arms.

As Joel contends with the daily lives and rituals of Cicely people, he might realise that its quieter ways are probably more civilised than Manhattan's hustle and bustle.

Fleischman's patients and friends – Cicely's various residents – include wealthy former astronaut Maurice Minnifield (Barry Corbin), feisty pilot Maggie O'Connell (Janine Turner), intellectual ex-con and DJ Chris Stevens (John Corbett – Carrie's ex Aiden in *Sex and the City*), and avid film buff Ed Chigliak (Darren E Burrows).

We have one box set of series 1-6 (rrp £99.99) up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning it, tell us the correct answer to this question: **Who stars as Joel Fleischman in Northern Exposure?**

Email your answer, marked Northern Exposure competition, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](#) to arrive by June 26. Sorry, but due to the coronavirus crisis we are currently unable to accept entries by post.



Your Announcements

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

Death

WO (Retd) Ronald Brooke (served between 1938-1967), passed away peacefully on April 19, aged 99. Now with his beloved wife Eileen. He leaves daughters Deanna Foulds and Janet Sangster, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Eileen and Ronald Brooke

EDWARDS William (Bill) Gp Capt died peacefully at his home in Sandbanks, Dorset on May 7, aged 93. He served in the RAF as a fighter pilot and was a former Station Commander at RAF Gan. In his later life Bill worked as a volunteer caseworker for SSAFA for well over 20 years. Bill will be sadly missed by his family, friends and his colleagues at SSAFA.

In Memoriam

WATT Catherine Grace (née Leech) Former WAAF Corporal Passed away June 12, 2002 "Eighteen years gone The pain and sorrow lives on."

WATT Alfred Warrant Officer retired. Passed away May 25, 2009. Both remembered with love and sadly missed.

WYATT Paul Cochrane FS, navigator, 149 Squadron Lancasters. Lost his life over France 75 years ago on June 5, 1945, aged 24. Adored only

brother of Mollie, Binnie and Bunnie. Remembered with love. Memorial website: www.tondelayo.org.uk



FS Paul Wyatt

Seeking

I am looking to regain contact with Stuart Taylor who was based at Brize Norton approx 1997-2002, worked in the electrical/mechanical ground side. Possibly 216 Sqn, 101 Sqn or 10 Sqn. He will be 49/50 now. Lived in Blackpool in the 80s. Worked briefly at the Tower around 1987. Lost touch during Brize days due to house/job change. If you can help reconnect please email: Marie at whiskymac73@gmail.com

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 have, 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 301 723.

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.

Cranwell memories

THIS YEAR is the centenary of the RAF College Cranwell and it is in the process of collecting memories from people who may have lived or worked there in any capacity. If you would like to share your stories and memories please email: cranwellgeneralenquiries@mod.gov.uk or write to: Media and Communications Office, RAF College Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 8HB.

Operation Manna

THE INTERNATIONAL Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln needs your help to tell the story of Operation Manna, for its 75th anniversary year. It saw nearly 12,000 tons of food dropped to the Netherlands, saving almost one million people from starvation. Were you a farmer who helped with supplies? Did you help with loading the aircraft? Do you remember the fleets of aircraft flying from Lincolnshire's stations between April 29 and May 8, 1945? Was your family saved by the Operation? Was a member of your family a Food Dropper? To share memories contact the IBCC at: info@internationalbcc.co.uk or write to: Op Manna, IBCC, 13 Cherry Holt Road, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9LA.

Catering Association

MEMBERSHIP is open to serving or former WOs or FS in Trade Group 19 or former RAF Catering Officers. Please email: janedjones6@tiscali.co.uk or call: 01487 823480.

Museum appeals for volunteers

BENTLEY PRIORY Museum has secured a £68,500 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the project 'Defending Britain from Nazi & Nuclear Threat'.

It will record and share the memories of RAF and WAAF personnel who worked in the top secret bunker at RAF Bentley Priory, focusing on the Battle of Britain in 1940 and the Cold War from 1945 to 1991.

The project will be launched this year to mark the 80th anniversary year of the Battle of Britain and the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Germany in 1990. It will include both a temporary and permanent

exhibition, resources for schools and family activities during school holidays.

Volunteers will be critical to the project – supporting research, carrying out oral history interviews and curating the temporary exhibition. Initially these tasks can all be carried out remotely.

Please email the Museum at: collectionsproject@bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk if you are interested in volunteering on the project.

The museum is keen to hear from anyone who worked in the bunker, or has any memories or photographs of it they would like to share.

Run 80K in 80 days

TO COMMEMORATE 80 years since the Battle of Britain, the RAF Museum has launched the Hurricane 80K Challenge, encouraging keen runners and novices alike to run 80K in 80 days.

Runners have until July 10 – the start of the Battle of Britain – to run, walk, swim or bike the distance in a location of their choice.

As a virtual race, the 80K Challenge can be completed anywhere in the world. Online registration is now open and runners from across the UK and as far as Germany and Norway have signed up.

Entry costs £20 for the general public and £10 for cadets, serving personnel,

veterans and their families.

All proceeds from the Challenge will go towards the RAF Museum. To register for the event visit: rafmuseum.org.

The annual Spitfire 10K will return to the RAF Museum, London on August 29 and RAF Museum, Cosford on August 30.



Lodge seeks members



PATHFINDER LODGE Number 7255 was founded by members of Pathfinder Force, RAF Bomber Command 1942-1945 and consecrated in 1953. The lodge meets four times a year under the auspices of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London in Duke Street, St James's, SW1 and dines at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. If interested in joining please email David Sudbury: d.sudbury46@btinternet.com.

Lodge member Tony Agar is restoring a WWII Mosquito at Lincs Aviation Heritage Museum in East Kirby, pictured.



Your Announcements

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

What is 'winning' a war?

THIS YEAR marks the 75th anniversaries of VE Day, VJ Day and the dropping of the atomic bomb, which collectively are some of the most pivotal moments of victory in history.

But in today's context, as ongoing conflicts descend into drawn out endgames, what does it really mean to 'win' a war and what challenges are faced when it comes to peacebuilding? These questions are central to *Reimagining Victory*, a new digital series that explores the state of war and peace in relation to 21st century conflict.

The series will see leading journalists, peacebuilders, artists and academics question the concept of



victory. Speakers include psychologist and author Steven Pinker (pictured above left); former President of Colombia and Nobel Peace Prize winner Juan Manuel Santos; the BBC's Chief International Correspondent Lyse Doucet (above right); Channel 4's International Editor Lindsey Hilsum (left); and Jonathan Powell, negotiator of the Good Friday Agreement.

Filmed discussions and debates will examine the changing nature of peace and conflict in the digital age; the binary notions of winners and losers in relation to



war; and the creative ways societies build peace in the wake of violent conflict.

Created by the Imperial War Museum's Institute with Conciliation Resources, the series is free to view via IWM's YouTube channel from June 30. As well as the filmed panels, videos will be enhanced by an interactive digital gallery, in-depth articles, music playlists and reading lists.

This additional content will enable viewers to explore more deeply the ideas and issues raised during conversations, said an IWM spokesperson.

Arboretum reopens



STUNNING: The RAFA memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

THE NATIONAL Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has reopened, allowing pre-booked visitors to explore the outdoor elements of the 150-acre garden and woodland site. People will need to book their vehicle online at: maximcloud.co.uk/nationalmemorialarboretum/eventslist/ before arriving at the Arboretum. A limited number of spaces will be available daily. Anyone without a valid booking will not be admitted.

An enhanced cleaning regime will be in operation in high footfall areas, including the toilets. Measures to keep the Arboretum team

and visitors safe, including hygiene screens, will also be in place. Visitors are encouraged to wash their hands frequently during their outing and contactless payment options will be available, said a spokesman.

Throughout their time at the Arboretum, visitors will need to observe social distancing guidelines.

Philippa Rawlinson, the NMA's MD, said: "The introduction of a system requiring visitors to pre-book is as unprecedented as our recent closure; however, it's an essential tool that will allow us to safely manage the number of people on site."

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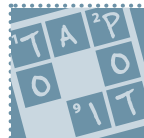
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R'n'R



Crossword

No. 275

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the seven letters in yellow squares to find a veteran aircraft

Across

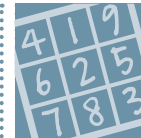
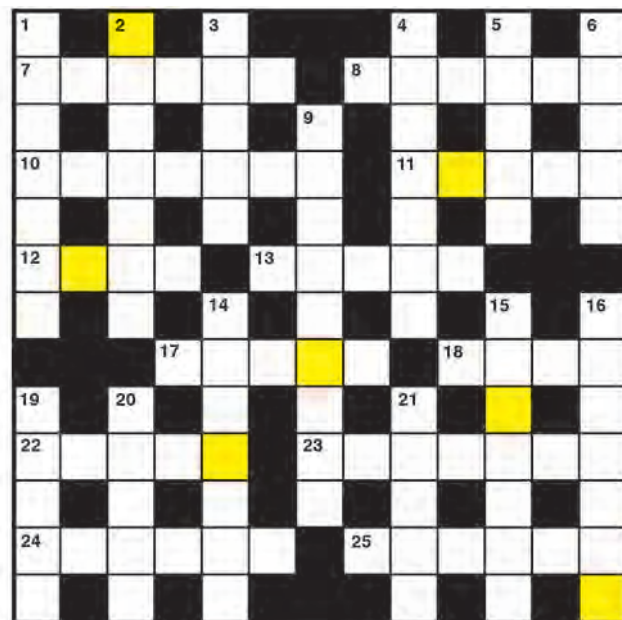
7. Require the French bait (6)
8. Cook from Brideshead needs lift (6)
10. See 16 Down
11. The woman has extended play with farm animal (5)
12. And 5 Down. Memo rabbi alters for old member of air crew (4,5)
13. It's for sitting on when stolen goods returned (5)
17. Small horse eats eastern plant (5)
18. In the deep, Leander gives pitiful cry (4)
22. And 3 Down. It is set in advance to frighten grandfather (5,5)
23. Man in the know during lockdown? (7)
24. After returning marriage vow, bad actor finds his station (6)
25. 3000 Roman soldiers move from left to right in this province (6)

Down

1. Iffy Indian tub wrecked (2,5)
2. Frump mixes sweet's essence with toilet water (7)
3. See 22 Across
4. And 9 Down. Not bits librarian uses on old plane (7,9)
5. See 12 Across
6. Stand-in has no rhythm (5)
9. See 4 Down
14. Deter Ma becoming anathema to vegetarians (3,4)
15. Heartless lad Diana confuses at pantomime (7)
16. And 10 Across. Member of RAF receives fighting broadside from non-skater (7,7)
19. Nobleman puts nothing inside farm building (5)
20. Biblical killer has second home in the woods (5)
21. Originally Atherton swept hard every seamer in series (5)

Solution to Crossword No. 273:

Across – 6. Titanic 7. Acute 9. Perth 10. Dead Sea 12. Great Escape 14. Machine Guns 18. Isolate 19. Sushi 21. Raven 22. Thieves
Down – 1. Miles 2. Master 3. Air 4. Acidic 5. Attempt 8. Revenge 11. Gannets 13. Marshal 15. Helmet 16. Nausea 17. Chief 20. The Aircraft – Harvard



Su Doku

No. 285

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.

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 284

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



Music

The Glastonbury Experience

BBC TV and radio

IT SHOULD have been celebrating its 50th anniversary this month... but instead the BBC will bring the spirit of the world's biggest festival to viewers at home with *The Glastonbury Experience* across TV and radio.

This year's event was, of course, cancelled amid the coronavirus pandemic. It was due to star Sir Paul McCartney, Taylor Swift and Kendrick Lamar.

BBC Two, BBC Four and BBC iPlayer will show classic Glasto performances in full from some of the biggest artists in the festival's history including Adele (2016), Beyoncé (2011) and David Bowie (2000) – the first time that performance has ever been broadcast in full on television – Coldplay (2016) and Jay-Z (2008).

The special *Experience* will run over five days from June 25-29 and will feature a pop-up Glastonbury channel on BBC iPlayer, with back-to-back sets and highlights from past festivals. The channel will also let viewers relive classic moments whenever they want, with more than 60 historic sets available to watch on-demand.

Radio highlights include a series of special shows from Radio 2's Jo Whiley on June 22. And Lauren Laverne will be joined on her 6 Music morning programme by

festival organiser Emily Eavis on June 26.

Emily said: "There are so many memorable sets being played across the BBC over what would have been our 50th anniversary weekend. Personally, I'm looking forward to a weekend of reflecting on the history of our festival and going back to some classic performances from David Bowie, Adele, REM, Beyoncé, The Rolling Stones, Jay-Z, Billie Eilish and lots more. Me and my dad will definitely be watching."



THE WAY WE WERE: How Glastonbury Festival usually looks. Left, Beyoncé in 2011 and, below, the Beeb's Clara Amfo

Her father, Michael, famously owns Worthy Farm in Somerset, where the festival takes place.

It began in 1970 when, the day after the death of Jimi Hendrix, Eavis opened the farm for the first time to more than a thousand punters. Glastonbury is now the largest greenfield music and performing arts festival in the world – with a site that is

more than a mile-and-a-half in diameter.

It hosts hundreds of thousands of festival-goers, who flock to see performances from the most famous names in music and immerse themselves in the vast range of performance the event has to offer.

Lorna Clarke, controller BBC Pop, said: "Glastonbury Festival has for decades been a huge moment in the BBC's music calendar, thanks to Michael and Emily's magical

creation. Even though Worthy Farm can't be full of thousands of music lovers this year, the BBC will celebrate with four days of memories and archive footage to give our audience a taste of the festival in their own homes."

Some of the Beeb's best-loved presenters including Clara Amfo, Edith Bowman, Jo Whiley, Lauren Laverne and Mark Radcliffe will host the programming dedicated to Glastonbury.



Graduations

Pilots spread their wings

CORONAVIRUS couldn't stop the latest RAF pilots receiving their wings.

Graduates from Cranwell's 45 Sqn lived up to their motto 'Through Difficulties We Arise,' by staging a socially-distanced passing out parade.

A group of 14 new aviators from No. 3 Flying Training School stood to attention two metres apart to receive their wings from Commandant Gp Capt Jon Nixon, while a final student joined remotely via Skype link as his wife is in the final stages of pregnancy.

Gp Capt Nixon said: "Despite

the challenging times that we currently face, it is as important as ever to make sure that we continue to provide trained aircrew to the RAF frontline.

"It is a huge privilege to be able to award the RAF flying badges. I thank the instructors and staff for their hard work and dedication.

"I wish the graduating officers the very best of luck for long, successful and safe flying careers."

The graduation was conducted in front of an Embraer Phenom 100, which some of the students had trained on. Others flew the Diamond DA42 with Bournemouth



NEW LOOK: Social-distancing graduation PHOTO: LINDA LOWING

Airport-based contractor L3. All now progress to Operational Conversion Units to learn to fly Brize-based Hercules or the new Poseidon P8 at Lossiemouth.

The 15 are: **Course 420-007**

– Flt Lt Ben La Porta, Flt Lt Tom Galgut, Flt Lt Conor Avery, Flt Lt Dylan Kay. **Outsourced Course 8** – Flt Lt Andy Ford, Flt Lt Andy McDowall, Flt Lt Ed Hinchcliffe, Flt Lt Russ Smith, Flt Lt Sam Kerfoot-

Roberts. Not present Flt Lt Chris Goodwin. **Outsourced Course 7** – Flt Lt Andrew Newman, Flt Lt Ryan Powell, Flt Lt Thomas Woodall, Flt Lt Terence Hillman, Flt Lt Josh Tunbridge and Flt Lt William Irving.

Pinsent does double

GRADUATING GUNNERS celebrated getting their coveted mudguards behind closed doors because of Covid-19.

But the family-free affair at RAF Honington failed to faze the latest recruits, with one of them celebrating a double award.

Reviewing Officer Wg Cdr Stephen Turner said: "Usually, an occasion like this is marked with a firm handshake and with friends and family present to share in the achievements of the graduating Gunners.

"Today has been a more sombre event, marked with a knowing nod, at range, from the staff."

Station Commander Gp Capt Matt Radnall added: "Given the current measures to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19, this is necessarily a muted celebration, but still acknowledges the tremendous effort each individual has invested to earn the right to wear RAF Regiment mudguards on their shoulders.

"RAF Regiment training continues only where it is essential to sustain our capability. These graduates are now able to be deployed with their new units as required to meet the threats faced by the RAF, at home and abroad."

More than half the LACs are now posted to 1 Sqn at Honington, with the remainder posted to either 34 Sqn at Leeming or 51 Sqn at Lossiemouth for mission specific training for contingency operations.

Prize Winners included:

● **LAC Pinsent** – the Frank Silvester Trophy for the best all-round trainee and the LAC Beard Recruits' Trophy after being voted by his peers as the most inspirational and supportive member of the Flight.

● **LAC Pitt** – the RAF Regiment Association Trophy for Drill and Deportment.

● **LAC Goodall** – WO Ramsey Physical Development Cup.

● **LAC Forbes** – the SAC Luders Champion Shot Trophy.

● **Cpl Broster** – the Cpl Bradfield Trophy for the instructor setting an exemplary standard for the recruits to follow.



MUDGUARDS:
New Gunners

TOP INSTRUCTOR:
Cpl Broster was awarded the Cpl Bradfield Trophy



AWARDS: (left-right) LACs Pinsent, Pitt, Goodall and Forbes

PHOTOS: CPL DAVE BLACKBURN

By Tracey Allen

Feature

A LREADY GARNERING four and five-star reviews, former fighter pilot Rick Peacock-Edwards' autobiography *Rate Of Climb*, just published, is described as 'thrilling personal reminiscences' and 'a must for all lovers of derring-do in the air.'

Flying was in Rick's blood – his father was the South African Battle of Britain pilot Fg Off Spencer Ritchie Peacock-Edwards, known as 'Teddy', awarded the DFC for his achievements in the Easter Sunday Raid on Ceylon in 1942.

Rick said: "My father and his fellow Battle of Britain pilots were my heroes as a child and remain my heroes to this day.

"As the proud son of one of the 'Few', their selfless daring has inspired me throughout my life. Importantly, they influenced my decision to become an airman in the Royal Air Force, to become a fighter pilot like my father, and to live life with spirit as they had lived their lives. It is essential that their experiences live on."

During his long RAF career, Rick flew the Lightning, Phantom, Tornado F2/3 and other high-performance aircraft including the Hawk and the Hunter, and served in senior-ranking positions in the UK, Germany and the United States.

He was Station Commander of RAF Leeming, was closely associated with the Eurofighter Typhoon programme and appointed the Royal Air Force Inspector of Flight Safety.

In the book's foreword, Air Marshal Cliff Spink writes: "[Rick] followed the classic fighter pilot path – always striving for excellence when in the cockpit, and never far from trouble when out."

Rick joined the RAF in 1965 and spent more than three decades in the Service, retiring in 1999 as an Air Commodore.

He spent his flying career mainly on fighters and amassed more

RAF career inspired by father who was one of The Few



CLIMBED TO TOP: Rick Peacock-Edwards

and night, and I greatly respected their efforts. They were very much the unsung heroes."

On introducing the Tornado F2/3, he said: "The early days... were exciting times; there were many challenges and also rewards. The aircraft, on retirement in 2009, some 25 years after its introduction to service, was a very capable fighter and it had been a long road to achieve this capability. However, I like to think that right back in the early days we sowed the seed that led to the great improvements that followed."

On what he called 'my last lap in the RAF', Rick was twice asked by the Chief of the Air Staff to become Air Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland.

He said he turned the job down for several reasons, adding: "To this day I often muse on this decision because there was so much to gain from taking the job – and yes, I do have my regrets but that is life."

A past master of The Honourable Company of Air Pilots, Rick is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the immediate past vice-chairman of the RAF Club in London.

than 1,000 hours on the Lightning, Phantom and Tornado. He also notched up more than 1,000 hours on the Gnat, introduced the Tornado F2/3 into RAF service and commanded the first squadron.

His other outstanding career achievements include leading the flypast for The Queen's 60th birthday and for the opening of the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

He joined his first operational squadron, No. 92, in February 1968, a week after it had relocated to RAF Gütersloh in

Germany. He said: "I knew that I was joining a squadron with an illustrious history. I was also in awe of those pilots already there, most of whom had been operational Lightning pilots for a number of years."

He added: "The Lightning, at times, was not the most serviceable aircraft and, to fix a problem, an engine would often have to be removed to allow access to parts of the aircraft. When I used to walk through the squadron servicing hangar, I marvelled at how the engineers used to, literally, take the aircraft apart and then put everything back together again for us pilots to fly. The engineers worked very hard, day

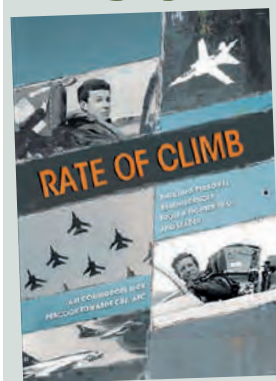


Bag yourself a copy **Win!**

WE HAVE copies of *Rate of Climb* (grubstreet.co.uk), rrp £20, up for grabs. For your chance to win one, send us the correct answer to this question:

In which year did Rick Peacock-Edwards join the RAF?

Email your answer, marked Rate of Climb book competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by June 26. Sorry, but due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis we are currently unable to accept entries by post.



POSTER BOY: (clockwise from left) Pilot Rick in 1969 recruitment ad; his father Teddy (seated left) in Malta with 261 Sqn in 1941; Rick looks at Princess Anne at a royal ball during her tour of RAF Germany in 1970; with Nobby Clark as the first RAF Tornado F2 crew; and as Station Commander of RAF Leeming in the early 1990s



Don't miss out on thousands by leaving the RAF too early



THINKING of leaving the Royal Air Force before your Early Departure Payment (EDP) Point or Immediate Pension (IP) Point?

Some people miss out on thousands of pounds, sometimes narrowly, because they do not know about the Resettlement Grant (RG). The RG is a tax-free lump sum, separate from the pension scheme itself, intended to help Regular Service personnel settle into civilian life. There is no stipulation as how you use it – you can spend it on beer if you like BUT you need to remember that, if you take up another military post too quickly, you might have to repay some or all of it.

In this short article Mary Petley of the Forces Pension Society explores the rules relating to RGs.

Let's look first at the RG qualification criteria:

- AFPS 75: Officers must give at least 9 years' Reckonable Service (RS) from age 21 and Other Ranks (ORs) must give at least 12 years' RS from age 18.
- AFPS 05: The member must give at least 12 years' relevant service.
- AFPS 15: The member must give at least 12 years' qualifying service.

Sorry about the different terminology for each scheme (RS, relevant service and qualifying service) but, basically, unpaid periods such as AWOL, detention or unpaid leave do not count towards the criteria.

In all cases, if the member qualifies for another terminal benefit, the RG is not paid. The terminal benefits which would prevent the RG being paid could be an IP, EDP Scheme benefits or Ill-Health benefits. Those who were transferred to AFPS 15 have protected benefits in their 'old' scheme, and that includes the RG.

Only those who joined or re-joined the Regulars on or after 1 April 2015 will receive the AFPS 15 RG. Only Regular service counts towards the qualification criteria for RG.

Some of you will have left with preserved AFPS 75 benefits and re-joined after 6 April 2005, thus becoming AFPS 05 members.

In these circumstances you are entitled to count both periods of service towards your AFPS 05 RG. You do not have to ask for this to happen – it is automatic.

A few of you might have left AFPS 75 or AFPS 05 with preserved benefits only (i.e. no other terminal benefits) and re-joined the Regulars on or after 1 April 2015.

In these circumstances, and providing you re-joined within 5 years of your previous discharge date, you will be able to count the period of that earlier service towards qualification for the AFPS 15 RG – again, this is automatic.

So, how much are we talking about?

AFPS 75 Officers' RG is £16,272
AFPS 75 ORs' RG is £11,121
AFPS 05 and AFPS 15 RG is £11,423
irrespective of rank - and, remember, it is tax-free cash!
These are 2019/20 rates as 2020/21 rates are not yet published.

Explore tax free options before taking the plunge

Thinking of re-joining, having received an RG? Well, you need to remember the required breaks:

- For AFPS 75: 121 days if you are re-joining the Regulars and 30 days if you are joining the FTRS. So, for example, if you re-joined the Regulars 60 days after leaving with an RG, you would have to pay back about half of the RG. If you join the FTRS within 30 days the whole RG must be repaid.
- For AFPS 05 and AFPS 15: If you re-join the Regulars or join the FTRS within 31 days period, the whole RG must be repaid.
- For all schemes, the RG is not affected by joining the PTVR

If as a result of further Regular service you leave at a point which qualifies you for an RG you may still qualify for RG:

- If you received an RG and did not have to repay it, you will not be entitled to a second RG, even if you are not entitled to any other benefits payable immediately;
- If you repaid a proportion of your AFPS 75 RG on re-joining as an AFPS 05 member, you will be entitled to a proportion of the RG for AFPS 05. So, using the example above, an individual who repaid about half of the AFPS 75 RG on re-entry would be entitled to the same proportion of the RG payable at the date of leaving for the second time.
- If you repaid the whole RG, you will be entitled to the full RG for your new scheme.

If you are a Member of the Forces Pension Society and have any pensions-related questions, 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



HELPING YOU MAKE BETTER CHOICES

“

The RG is a tax-free lump sum, separate from the pension scheme itself, intended to help Regular Service personnel settle into civilian life.

”

Wg Cdr Donald Perrens OBE, DSO, DFC

Obituary

Recon Don was used to taking the flak

Spit pilot often at sharp end... and not always from the Nazis

WING COMMANDER DONALD PERRENS, who has died aged 101, was one of the last Army officers to escape from France in June 1940. He then joined the RAF and flew Spitfires in North Africa and Italy.

He was commissioned into a Territorial Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, which left for France in March 1940 to join the British Expeditionary Force. Involved in heavy fighting, his company was cut off near Rouen but they managed to escape on one of the last Allied ships leaving Cherbourg.

In November 1941 he transferred to the RAF to train as a pilot in the Army-co-operation role. A year later he left for North Africa and joined No. 225 Squadron, based in Algeria and supporting the Allied advance to Tunis.

Initially he flew the Hurricane until it was replaced with the Spitfire. He flew many low-level tactical reconnaissance sorties gathering information on enemy formations and locations when anti-aircraft fire was intense. It was not the only hazard. On one occasion he was photographing an enemy-held airfield when a force of bombers above him began bombing the same airfield and Perrens found himself surrounded by falling bombs. On a separate sortie he came under heavy fire from American anti-aircraft defences.

By May 12 all German resistance in North Africa had ceased. On June 9 he photographed the two islands of Pantellaria and Lampedusa looking for signs of the surrender of the German garrisons.

No. 225 Squadron resumed operations again in September when it moved to Italy. Perrens flew many tactical reconnaissance and artillery ranging sorties until the end of 1943. Shortly afterwards he was awarded the DFC and rested.

He was promoted to Squadron Leader and joined No. 285 Wing, which controlled three tactical reconnaissance squadrons, including his old squadron, No. 225. He worked with the Eighth Army to provide its need for photographs and information on

enemy positions. For the Battle of Cassino, in May 1944, he also had to coordinate support and air observation for the artillery batteries.

Perrens remained with No. 285 Wing as it advanced north in Italy, until he joined No. 208 Squadron in late 1944 to replace the second-in-command, who had been wounded. The squadron was based near Florence and was providing support for a US Army artillery battery that had been equipped with a new eight-inch gun with a range of 15 miles.

He visited the battery to discuss tactics for a shoot against a large enemy ammunition dump 15 miles behind the front line near Bologna. On the 22nd he and his number two took off in their Spitfires and climbed to 10,000 feet to conduct the shoot.

He soon identified the ammunition dump and an 88mm anti-aircraft battery just to the north. After two shells had been fired and corrected by Perrens, the German battery realised the circling Spitfires were controlling the incoming artillery and the two pilots came under intense fire from the deadly flak, which forced them to climb higher to continue registering the fall of shot and relay appropriate corrections.

After 12 rounds the dump received a direct hit and was destroyed. At this stage, Perrens could have returned but asked if the US Battery would engage the enemy anti-aircraft guns that had been menacing him. His aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire but he remained over the target for almost an hour to direct the artillery fire. He was forced to turn away when the engine of his Spitfire failed through the loss of all the fuel.

He glided back to the Allies' forward defence lines with his number two in company. Unable to release the hood of his Spitfire, he was committed to a forced landing in the rugged terrain of the foothills of the Apennines. He headed for a clear road and managed to land in an adjacent field but his Spitfire ran into a stone wall obscured by snow. He was badly injured, sustaining a compression fracture of his spine and multiple lacerations.

He was rescued and taken to a field hospital, remaining there for two months. He was awarded an immediate DSO for 'his coolness

“Once he was photographing an enemy-held airfield when a force of bombers above him began bombing it”



HONOURS: Wing Commander Donald Perrens won the DFC and DSO, and was later appointed OBE

and courage.' After his recovery, he flew more tactical reconnaissance missions until the end of April, when the Italian campaign came to an end.

After the war Perrens was commissioned into the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) and transferred to the Fighter Control Branch.

He became the CO of No. 3618 (County of Sussex) Squadron, a post he held for many years, and on relinquishing command

in early 1961 he was appointed OBE.

In the meantime he had taken up the post of physics master at Eastbourne College, later becoming head of science.

He ran the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force, becoming commanding officer in 1954. This gave him the unique distinction of simultaneously holding commissions in the RAuxAF and the RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training).

He retired from teaching in 1981, having served the college for 35 years.

Promotion

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Kia Picanto 1.25MPi 2

Motoring

YOUNG DRIVER



TIM MORRIS
Motoring
Correspondent



THE KIA Picanto is a little fighter. Where many city cars have already gone electric or been wiped out entirely, the petrol Picanto continues to be a success. Why? Simply because there's a lot to like.

This is simple, affordable motoring that's in a low enough insurance bracket to make it a great first car. It also has four doors, a decent boot and a surprising amount of space inside.

Kia's trim levels go from 1-3, but there's also Zest, X-Line, X-Line S, GT-Line, GT-Line S and Titanium models. To keep things young driver friendly, we tested the very affordable '2'.

This little car comes out of the showroom for £11,750 with Kia's whopping seven-year, 100k-mile warranty and a 12-year anti-perforation promise. It returns a combined fuel consumption figure of 49.6mpg and produces 83bhp, which is the golden mark for that young driver cover. There's also a 66bhp 1.0 which will shave an extra

few pounds off your insurance, but in our book the 1.25MPi is the sweet spot.

On The Road

The 1.2-litre, four-cylinder engine isn't particularly rapid. That said, it's no disaster.

The Picanto's 0-62mph time is a respectable 12 seconds, which is certainly good enough for town work. Power delivery is smooth and the five-speed manual gearbox is slick. On the motorway it does feel like it could do with sixth gear when you really put your foot down but for the best part it hums along with minimal vibration.

Agility

The Picanto is designed with manoeuvrability in mind and it has one of the best turning circles in class. Consequently, it's a doddle to park and brilliant in city traffic.

On more winding roads it's composed and surprisingly agile through the bends.

Interior

When you're buying a car in this price bracket you don't expect every

surface to be covered with soft-touch materials and the Picanto is no exception. The plastics do look a bit 'economy' here and there but everything seems pretty well bolted together and all the main touch points feel as well made as any rival in this class.

There's a decent amount of passenger space in the front and even rear seat occupants won't feel too cramped. The Hyundai i10 has a bit more rear leg room but six footers will survive most journeys in the Picanto without losing circulation in their lower limbs.

The driving position isn't bad for a city car and most people should be able to get comfortable with relative ease. Unfortunately, the Picanto's steering wheel only

adjusts for height, not reach, but that's a common fault with this segment.

Front visibility is good thanks to relatively thin front pillars and a wide windscreen and the short nose makes it incredibly easy to park in tight spots. By contrast, the rear pillars are quite chunky and the back screen is a little small.

Trim Levels

Picanto prices start at £9,450 but you'll pay another £500 if you want the 83bhp engine. Even then the entry level '1' trim is pretty modest. You still get remote central locking and electric front windows but no Bluetooth, air con or alloys.

Stepping up to a number '2' adds 14in alloy wheels, electrically adjustable door mirrors, air con, all-round electric windows, a Bluetooth friendly AM/FM radio with a small monochrome screen and a leather-trimmed steering wheel/gear knob. Trim 3 goes further, with 15in alloy wheels, power-folding door mirrors, climate control, cruise control and a slick 7.0 inch colour touchscreen infotainment package.



ROOMY: There's reasonable space for a city car

Verdict

Pros

- Cheap to buy and insure
- Nippy and agile
- Decent interior/boot space

Cons

- Not the quietest engine
- Some wind and road noise
- Poor headlamps

Overall

Pleasant interior, tidy handling and a great little companion in town. The 1.25 MPi 83bhp engine provides reasonable performance on winding B roads and can tackle longer motorway journeys quite comfortably. Steering and suspension aren't quite best in class but the Picanto does handle better than most rivals. A cracking little motor that young drivers – and a fair few older ones – will certainly enjoy.

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5 pages of **RAF Sport** starts here

● Perriam marks a year in Fund hotseat: P26

RUGBY LEAGUE

RAF man fires #RL

Sqn Ldr launches League's new campaign on auspicious anniversary



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Main, Simon Johnson RFL Chairman, flanked by RFL President Tony Adams and RFL Patron the Duke of Sussex at the Coral Challenge Cup Final at Wembley; above right, Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton at the Cenotaph, Whitehall with RFL dignitaries; inset below, Clayton alongside England captain James Graham

PHOTOS: SIMON WILKINSON/SWPPIX.COM/SBS

Daniel Abrahams

HQ Air Command

THE GOVERNING body of Rugby League teamed up with Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton to launch its new initiative to raise the profile of the sport.

Clayton was front and centre for the launch which was started on VE75 Day – telling online viewers what the sport means to him, as the RFL kickstarted the #WhatRLMeans project.

Rugby league, which has the Duke of Sussex as a patron and former England football captain Tony Adams as President, will see its campaign feature contributions from former stars, community figures, celebrities and members of the military.

Clayton, whose video on the RFL's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts received an amazing 15,000 views in the first day, said: "It was a huge honour to help launch the project on such an auspicious day as VE75.

"The relationship between the Services is historic and stretches right back to the game's origins."

A founding father of Service rugby league, Clayton, who has played, captained and coached the RAF RL side, and battled for its recognition in the 1980s, spoke of his journey and fight for the sport in his video.

He called the day it received formal recognition in 1994 'momentous'.

The chief operating officer for UKAFRL added: "For our sport, that day was something truly special. To be talking about it on a day that marked the cessation of warfare in Europe and the surrender of Nazi Germany, I could in some way recognise the spontaneous celebrations after such bravery and selflessness by our Armed Forces then."

Simon Johnson, RFL Chairman, said: "There is a special bond between the sport and the Armed Forces. This ensures that the Forces relationship is at

the heart of the rugby league community, from professional to community clubs.

"It includes engagement at major events, playing, officiating, coaching, mental and physical fitness sessions, fundraising, history projects, volunteering opportunities, and much more.

"It is a source of great pride to me and, I am sure, to every rugby league fan, that our sport is the only one to gather together and commemorate the sacrifice of our Armed Forces at the Cenotaph on Whitehall – in a very moving ceremony which takes place ahead of the Challenge Cup Final.

"The relationship will continue to be innovative and inspiring – so it's a fitting tribute to our shared history and our future together to have launched the campaign on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe and with Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton."

To view Clayton's video and the project as a whole visit: rfl.com.



FOOTBALL

Ballers kick it

THE SERVICE'S Development footballers kicked lockdown into touch when they completed a fundraising challenge after being inspired by Captain Tom Moore, raising nearly £4,000.

The team of men's development squad personnel, including players and backroom staff, ran 100 miles in 16 days, clocking 10 miles each a day – to raise £1,000 for NHS Charities Together.

Cpl Shaun Morgan and SAC Philip Kenyon from Brize, SAC Ross Glibbery and SAC Todd Thackray from Benson, SAC Henry Jordan and SAC Kyle Turner from Lossiemouth, and SAC Ben Gibbs (Honington),

SAC Alex More (Northolt) SAC Samuel Dawson (Boulmer) and SAC George Barber (Marham) took part.

Cpl Morgan said: "I wanted to challenge myself physically and called on members of the squad to help drag me along. They were not hesitant in volunteering to tackle the challenge.

"A major driving force to keep me focused was the impressive times that were being produced by the players, even in the latter days of the event. I finished the last run with a half marathon and grand total of 171km completed."

To date, the team has raised an impressive, £3,246.45.



Interview

Getting behind the face of RAF sport

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

RAF sport's true worth

Air Cdre Le Forte on lockdown and beyond

Daniel Abrahams
HQ Air Command

HAVING WITNESSED this year's Inter-Service ice sports in Austria in March, Air Cdre Russell La Forte was then at the forefront of the coming coronavirus storm on his return the UK.

As with the luge, skeleton and bobsleigh stars, La Forte (Director RAF Sport) and his Directorate were first past the post in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic from a sporting aspect.

The Directorate took decisive action to suspend sport, events, tours and activities. So, what did the Directorate do?

La Forte said: "At that early stage we knew we had to act, to protect our personnel and put minds at rest with regards to sport. We suspended all sport until further notice. The Royal Navy and Army then did similarly. Collectively, all three are reviewing the situation formally on a three-weekly basis."

Taking onboard all variations of sports organised under the Service banner, how mindful was the Directorate of this in looking to the future?

"The precise nature of any resumption will be consistent with Government direction and

mindful of the advice from the National Governing Bodies of the sports in question. This will not be a one size fits all – at this time we can't be sure of anything, but you may see different resumption

"Of course, the safety of our people is our foremost consideration"

times happening for non-contact sports, for example. Nobody knows for certain, but we're monitoring all issues and have been since we suspended activities."

RAF sport has a global reach, with the issue of finance vital to the restart of activities, how has this aspect played out?

"Of course, the safety of our people is our foremost consideration, but on the financial side of our dealings, pleasingly, we have not lost much. The immediate halt of competitions and overseas visits has avoided nugatory costs. This was down, in the main, to us

acting swiftly, at association and Directorate levels, with ongoing contact."

With resumption in mind, what ideas have been discussed?

"We obviously want to resume as soon as is safely possible, we want to catch up, some sports have completely lost their pre-season and IS opportunities. Some, like ice sports, ended just as the pandemic kicked off, so were largely unaffected."

"Our desire to help some take up where they left off, or make up for missing out, has seen us discuss some sort of 'festival of sport', perhaps you could title it."

"I stress these are simply conversations at present, but it gives you some idea of what we are looking at."

What other planning issues have been taken into consideration?

"We have had to think about the Annual Sports Awards, the qualifying period needs to be viable and credible, this means that some sports that have not completed their year are at a disadvantage. One of the MOD criteria for recognition of a sport is that there is an NGB (National Governing Body), so we have been in constant contact with each of them throughout this for guidance."



SPORT FOR ALL: Above, L/Cpl Shanwayne Stephens take a curve at high speed at the Austrian track during a dominant display by the RAF teams; below left, the Virtual Rally championships; below right, the Service's IS winning rugby union girls will have to wait another year to defend their debut championship title



While general sport has stopped, the Service has seen the realm of virtual sports and challenges rise, how have you viewed this?

"I am really proud of these initiatives – motor sports and athletic challenges for example (see RAF News No:1489, 1492), while some are using the time productively to enhance training and development, some are raising money

for charity. We have also just seen the UKAF Sports Board recognise Virtual Cycling as an authorised discipline. I am not surprised at all. I know what our people are made of and nothing stops them."

He added: "These initiatives really show how we should be moving and what we should be taking on to a greater extent. We were already looking at e-Sports, but there are



areas of synthetic and virtual training to complement and enhance activity across the board – and we are the first Service to have an RAF Video Gaming and E-Sports Association (RAF VGEA). This was a strand that was ongoing, but seeing other associations linking in with them is brilliant."

"Sport is a vital part of Service life, but the aspects of mental health and well-being have been brought into

sharp focus by the Covid-19 crisis – and by doing sport our people are better prepared to deal with these issues."

"Physically and online people are turning to sport and physical activity to help maintain better mental health and overall wellbeing."

"Our major concern is the delivery of sport as safely as possible, as soon as possible, and in good order."

FITNESS

World challenge hits heights

Charities keep on benefiting after police rugby players launch seven-day bid

Continued from page 27:

Inside the first 100 hours of the competition, 33,293 miles had been completed. Other notable efforts saw FS Mark Ginger complete a 100km run in 24 hours with a weighted backpack. Cpls Ryan Laird and Nathan Curtis did battle, with Laird cycling 500 miles, while Curtis rowed a marathon.

Cpl Rhys Wynn, RAF Police RFC OIC, said: "Our club members wanted to do something to show how much we appreciate the charities so that we can help them continue their incredible work, not just during this pandemic, but after."

Simon Bailey, chairman of the trustees for Rugby For Heroes, said: "To be designated as one of the beneficiaries of this initiative is a great honour. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who took part."

To donate visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/t/around-the-world-in-7-days>.



GLOBAL ROAD: Cpl Nathan Curtis takes to the road as part of the ATW7 challenge

COMPETITION

Hook a brilliant angling book

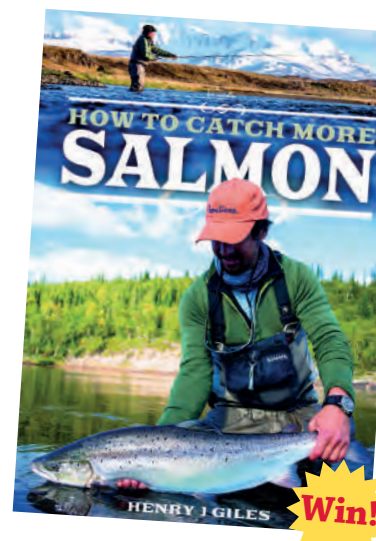
IN THESE times of self-isolation fishing is the go-to sporting pastime, and the new book from Henry J Giles, *How to Catch More Salmon*, is the perfect title for beginners to expert anglers alike. Giles' title deals with the principles involved in catching your first and then going on to hook many more salmon.

He said: "It is not unique in fishing that a beginner can coexist with the expert and at times enjoy near parity in terms of sporting success."

The book deals with not just thinking, but catching more of these revered fish and Giles shares not only his amazing insight into the sport, but his passion for it.

The title features advice and tips on finding the fish in lakes, streams, seas and rivers from the UK, Ireland and far afield as Norway, Canada and Russia.

Giles added: "It is an aim of the book that from this melting pot



salmon in 1981 and has written extensively on the topic for the *Sunday Express* and *Evening Standard* and for *Trout & Salmon* magazine.

His work has also been published in *Flyfishers' Journal*, and *Waterlog*.

How To Catch More Salmon, is a 168-page paperback title.

To purchase this and other titles, visit: pen-and-sword.co.uk.

We have copies of the book (White Owl, rrp £14.99) to win.

To enter, simply tell us:

Where did the book's author catch his first salmon?

Email your correct answer, marked Salmon Book competition, to: sports@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by June 30.

Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept entries by post.



HOT SHOT: Air Cdre La Forte during his time as RAFSAA chairman, winning the Air Officers pistol match at Pirbright
PHOTO: SAC ANDY HOLMES

Sport

INTERVIEW

Central Fund's new man at the top marks successful year in post

Sport bolstered by Fund, but future looks even brighter under Perriam's care



CENTRAL PLAYER: Fund's CEO Ross Perriam; *above right*, Cpl Josh McNally, Central Fund ambassador, at Bath RFU; and, *below right*, Cpl Phil Hall, Central Fund ambassador
PHOTOS: SAC EMMA WADE/RICARDO OLIVIERA



Daniel Abrahams HQ Air Command

THE RAF Central Fund's CEO Ross Perriam has now been at the helm for a year.

He has brought with him his extensive knowledge and more than 20 years of commercial sport experience, along with five years on the National Governing Body's CEO Forum, including time with Sport England.

The 49-year-old told *RAF News*: "My obvious extensive sporting background and the fact that my grandfather was a RAF Warrant Officer and served during World War II meant that when I saw that there was an opportunity to use my commercial experience to support the Fund's work, it was too good a role to pass up.

What were the first plans for charity once you were in post?

It's been here giving support for 100 years, with excellent governance structure and a passionate

team dedicated to helping RAF personnel. I've been building on the great work already done, while developing new initiatives.

What helped shape your new strategy?

I joined the Fund as the Board of Trustees were reviewing the overall strategy. It was clear that the demands for sport and physical activity weren't being met. To give us a clear identity and purpose, we shifted its focus.

We are the charity that focuses on supporting serving RAF personnel to develop their full potential through sport and physical activity. I wanted to clarify this. In doing so, we mitigated the need for them to call upon other charities in future.

In your first 12 months as CEO, what has been your biggest achievement?

Creating the strategy and giving clarity about our role has been very important. We are now working very closely with the Directorate of Sport (DRS) and the Sports

Federation, building external partnerships and developing new income streams. Without a clear strategy and an aligned team none of that would be happening.

How does the RAF Central Fund help to deliver RAF Sport and how does it work with DRS and the Sports Federation?

The main source of funding comes from the Central Fund's Sports Lottery. £1.5 million goes directly to sport in the RAF.

Just before lockdown we agreed some new partnerships with several global sports brands and will be using those new relationships to help improve access to equipment in future.

Were there any immediate findings from your recent survey about sport in the RAF that you found particularly interesting?

The survey was a great success with more than 3,300 respondents and while the results are still in draft format I can tell you that 88 per cent of personnel stated



access to sport as 'Important' and 61 per cent as 'Very Important' to keeping them in the RAF and that lack of time was the number one reason stopping people being more active. Our work as a charity will then begin to make it easier for personnel to access sport and physical activities.

How have you been supporting your beneficiaries while RAF sport is on hold and station gyms are temporarily closed?

Within a week of lockdown

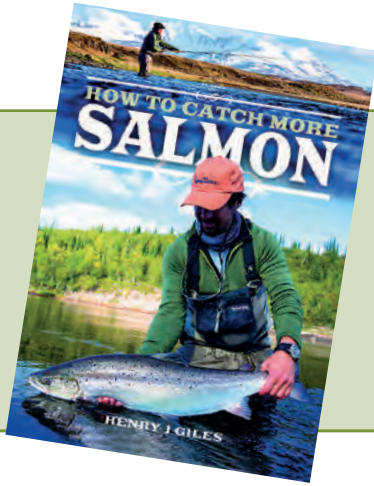
starting we had set up a partnership with Les Mills On Demand, (online workouts and classes), which we followed up with a partnership with MyZone (a wearable heart rate monitor) See *RAF News* 1489 and 1492.

We will continue to adapt and react quickly to the situation we are all facing and do our best to provide innovative solutions to support serving personnel to stay active, but, of course, we still need all personnel to support the Sports Lottery for us to do so.

Sport

Win copy of cult angling title

● Sport P25



Central Fund CEO marks his first year

● Sport P26



La Forte talks state of play

● Sport P24-25



FITNESS

Let's go round again

Police rugby challenge goes global to raise funds for charities



NO MONKEY BUSINESS: Cpl Danny Richards, RAFF based in Gibraltar, completed 250 miles by cycling, running and kayaking; *right*, Cpl Ryan Laird, who cycled 500 miles for the challenge; *below right*, the ATW7 poster; *inset*, former England RFU star Jason Leonard with kids



Daniel Abrahams HQ Air Command

WHAT DO you do when your charity fundraising challenge to virtually travel around the world is completed in half the planned time? Do it again.

That's what the RAF Police Rugby Football Club – the Flying Pigs – did with its Around The World in Seven Days challenge.

The event asked entrants to run, walk, cycle, row or even swim the 25,000 miles under their own steam to raise money for five charities: NHS Charities Together, the RAF Benevolent Fund, Rugby For Heroes, Atlas Foundation and Scotty's Little Heroes. So far, the challenge has raised more than £6,000 in the UK with an additional

\$10,000 being donated to UNICEF by a competitor in Singapore, inspired by everyone's efforts, and \$5,000 in America, where the money has been donated to inner-city rugby projects in New York.



President of RAF Police RFC, Gp Capt David Wilkinson, said:

"The response has been fantastic, the challenge was smashed in four days. So, we did it again, this time north to south through the Poles."

Jason Leonard, former England rugby union star and founder of The Atlas Foundation, said: "I'm hugely grateful to the RAF Police Rugby Club for nominating The Atlas Foundation as a beneficiary. When times are better we can get together and I can thank you in person."

So far, a total of 71,000 miles has been completed, with more being counted from global competitors.

Professional rugby union teams Saracens, Harlequins and Wasps ladies' teams competed against each other, completing more than 20,000 miles.

● Continued on page 25:



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