

The Forces' favourite paper



Win win Classic comedy DVDs

● RnR p5 & p8



Win!



Interview How to Dr Foster a mid-life crisis

● See RnR p4-5

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **October 16** 2020
No. 1501 **70p**

RAF News



Tempest programme feels need for speed



See pages 16/17

Football

Vets clash at St George's



● See p28-29

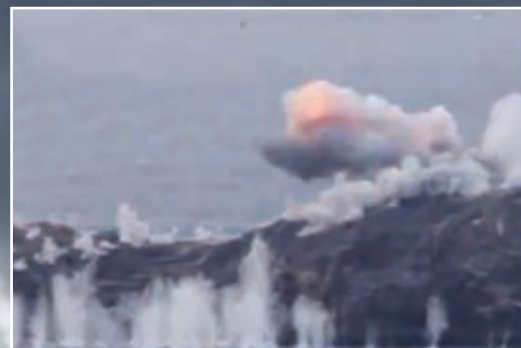
Motorsport

Duo off pace at Oulton



● See p30-31

Warrior nations strike



Simon Mander

LIGHTNING JETS blasted ranges at RAF Tain off the Scottish coast in an explosive start to Nato's largest annual Exercise – Joint Warrior.

The 617 Sqn Dambusters and the USMC stealth aircraft flew from HMS Queen Elizabeth where they are the largest number of F-35B jets at sea in history and the most potent force on a Royal Navy carrier since 1983.

The assembly of the new Carrier Strike Group marks the beginning of a new era of operations which will see it sail to the Far East next year.

● **Continued p5**

ON TARGET: F-35 hits its mark on the RAF Tain range off the Scottish coast. *Main image*, coming into land on QEC after sortie

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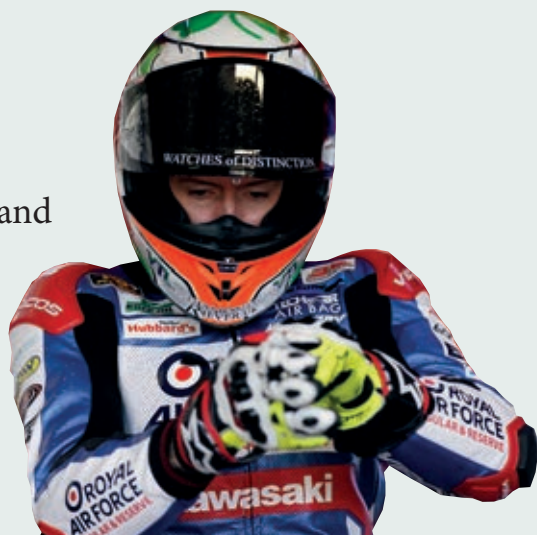
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“I felt I gelled well with the team, sadly it didn’t translate into race points”

“I don’t want to give away too much just yet”

“It’s not a passion project or a whim. I’m in this for the long haul”

RAF Regular and Reserve rider Jack Kennedy on his debut bow for the team at Oulton Park
See p30-31



Red 1 Sqn Ldr Tom Bould on his plans for the Arrows’ new displays
See p13



Former *Love Island* star Wes Nelson on launching his music career
See R’n’R p4-5



ROYAL AIR FORCE

RAF News

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CAS leads Birthday Honours

Staff Reporter

CHIEF OF the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, led this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list, receiving a Knighthood.

He is among Air Force personnel across the ranks to pick up awards.

Former CAS Sir Stephen Hillier was also honoured, with the presentation of Knight Grand Cross.

Recently appointed Director of Space Operations, AVM Harv Smyth, and former personnel chief AVM Chris Elliot both received Companion awards.

Announcing the list of awards

granted to members of the British Armed Forces, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: “Congratulations to our remarkable Armed Forces personnel who have been granted state honours by Her Majesty The Queen.

“Our Service men and women have done our nation proud by standing ready to protect Britain from all threats, including Covid-19. I’m grateful for their commitment and dedication, and it is great to see it recognised today.”

There were also honours for RAF personnel supporting the UK fight against Covid.

● **See full RAF list on p18-19**



KNIGHTHOOD:
Chief of the Air Staff, ACM Sir Mike Wigston

See full list p18/19

This Week In History



1942

El Alamein raids

SQUADRONS COMMANDED by ACM Sir Arthur Tedder begin offensive against Axis air and ground forces in the Western Desert, supporting the British 8th Army at El Alamein.

1953

Runnymede opens

HM THE Queen officially opens the Runnymede Memorial commemorating more than 20,000 airmen and women lost in World War II and who have no known grave.



1993

Valiant bows out

THE LAST of the UK’s V-bombers, the Victor, retires from service after 36 years with the disbandment of 55 Sqn.

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



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Texan star

Dave Williams

RAF Valley

THE FIRST pilot to win his wings on the new 72 Sqn Texan T1 aircraft has graduated from RAF Valley.

Rookie Flt Lt Matt Kenealy made history at the Anglesey base which is now home to two-thirds of fast jet pilot training for the RAF and Royal Navy.

The young airman was given a traditional Air Force dousing from squadron colleagues after he touched down on the Anglesey tarmac.

After receiving his coveted brevet with the rest of the course next month he will move on to advanced training with XXV (Fighter) Sqn on the Hawk T2, before transferring to IV (Army Co-operation) Sqn for combat training on the Typhoon.

Officer Commanding 72 Sqn, Wg Cdr Chris Ball, said: "It is a huge milestone to have our first student complete the course. This really is the culmination of a huge effort and I'm excited to see how Matt now gets on flying the Hawk T2 fast jet trainer."

The turboprop-powered Texan was introduced in 2018 as part of a £1 billion UK military flying training revamp on a fleet of new aircraft.



SPLASH LANDING: Flt Lt Matt Kenealy gets a dousing from squadron pals after his debut flight at Valley. Inset left, Matt goes solo



FRONTLINE RISK: Following orders in combat can challenge fighters' moral code

Frontline veterans' guilt PTSD risks

FRONTLINE FORCES veterans may be at risk from moral injury after being exposed to human suffering during combat, new research claims.

A study by the King's Centre for Military Mental Health Research has revealed exposure to battlefield injuries can leave some personnel feeling intense guilt and may violate their personal ethics, which can trigger mental health issues after leaving.

King's researcher Dr Victoria Williamson said: "Factors such as a lack of social support, childhood adversity and a lack of psychological and emotional preparedness increased the likelihood of veterans experiencing distress following morally-injurious events."

"Veterans who experienced moral injury also displayed a reluctance to speak out, which can be connected to very deep feelings of shame and guilt and anger."

Lightning leads Nato strikes on Joint Warrior

● *Continued from front*

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said: "Allies and adversaries alike will take note of the powerful contribution the UK's Carrier Strike Group offers Nato."

"With US and UK F-35B jets exercising together as part of a group featuring 6,000 personnel from 11 nations, this UK-led exercise underlines the leading role we play in upholding European security."

With nine ships, 15 fighter jets, 11 helicopters and 3,000 British, American and Dutch personnel on exercises in the North Sea, the Strike Group is the largest and most powerful European-led maritime force in almost 20 years.

The twice-yearly war drill is crucial high-readiness training for Nato forces and the latest manoeuvres mark a key step in the development of the UK's military capability.

Group Commander Cdre Steve Moorhouse added: "The new UK Carrier Strike Group is the embodiment of British maritime power. Protected by a ring of advanced destroyers, frigates, helicopters and submarines, and equipped with fifth-generation fighters, HMS Queen Elizabeth is able to strike from the sea at a time and place of our choosing."

"Carrier Strike offers Britain



LOADED DECK: UK and US F-35s prepare for training sorties from QEC in the North Sea
PHOTO: MARK JOHNSON

choice and flexibility on the global stage; it reassures our friends and allies and presents a powerful deterrent to would-be adversaries."

Exercise planner Wg Cdr Justin Shaw said Joint Warrior was the

warfighting phase of a period of realistic high intensity training between September 21 and October 16.

"It's been a real privilege to be a small part of the considerable work undertaken to support this cutting-

edge capability," he added.

It's not F-35's Joint Warrior debut – it took part in one mission in last year's exercise – but it is the first time RAF Lightnings have operated at sea alongside US allies.

This year the UK's subhunter, the P8-A Poseidon, is expected to fly missions – after its first appearance in Joint Warrior six months ago was heavily scaled down due to Covid-19.

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News bulletin



MEMORIAL: Bomber Command spire

Bomber bail out

THE INTERNATIONAL Bomber Command Centre has received a cash lifeline of £427,000 to help it through the coronavirus pandemic.

The IBCC is one of 445 heritage organisations across the UK to be awarded a financial boost from the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund.

Earlier this month the centre launched a crowdfunding appeal to raise £40,000 to help save it after closure due to the Covid-19 crisis decimated its finances, with 90 per cent of its income being cut.

IBCC chief executive Nicky van der Drift said: "This funding forms an essential part of protecting the heritage of Bomber Command for the future."

"It also enables us to move forward, and ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the project."

Legion issues Poppy SOS

CALL TO ARMS:

Celebrity supporter Rachel Riley raises funds in 2019. But RBL bosses warn Poppy Day faces Covid cash crisis



Tracey Allen

THE ROYAL British Legion is appealing to the Armed Forces community and the public to 'show support like never before' for its annual Poppy Appeal, to fight off the effects of Covid-19 on finances.

A spokesman said: "The appeal has to adapt to the threat of Covid-19 and the charity is asking for support like never before because, in 2020, against the backdrop of a global pandemic, every poppy counts."

Simon O'Leary, the RBL's assistant fundraising director, added: "Each year 40,000 volunteers make the Poppy Appeal happen. However, many of those collectors now fall into vulnerable categories, so it's simply not safe for them to do



ANNUAL HONOUR: Forces veterans gather at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday 2019

face-to-face collections.

"Whilst this creates challenges for the appeal, RBL still have a job to do. During the Covid-19 pandemic RBL and our partner Armed Forces charities saw requests for critical support increase rapidly due to debt, unemployment, homelessness and isolation – and this is likely to get worse."

The charity is urging people to

show their support by donating via text or online and promoting the Poppy Appeal via social media.

You can also take part in a virtual poppy run until November 30, download a printable poppy to display in your window or buy a range of products from the Legion's poppy shop.

● Go to: www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal for more details.

Danes reaches out with roundels



SACRED SPACE: Church interior

Staff Reporter

RAF CHURCH chiefs at St Clement Danes have launched a UK-wide drive to celebrate Remembrance events by displaying personal messages of support for the Armed Forces on specially released roundel designs of iconic World War II aircraft.

The RAF church team are urging the public to submit their messages honouring the fallen, veterans and serving military personnel on specially designed roundels featuring the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster.

The roundels will be inscribed by hand and displayed in the famous central London church at events and services during Remembrance Week. Those who order them will



PERSONAL TOUCH: St Clement Danes has released range of roundels featuring iconic aircraft to mark Remembrance week

also be sent a digital copy of their chosen design.

A church spokesman said: "We want to encourage people to join in Remembrance Week in November and to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain."

"We have designed three unique Remembrance Roundels featuring iconic aircraft from that time with space for people to write a personal heartfelt message."

● Go to www.stclementdanesraf.org/shop



Polish secret site tribute

POLISH AMBASSADOR Prof Arkady Rzegocki (pictured below) led a special ceremony near the former Tempsford airfield to commemorate its importance in World War II.

The secret airfield in Bedfordshire played a crucial part in the role of the Special Operations Executive and the RAF's Special Duties Squadrons.

It was home to the 138 (SD) and 161 (SD) Squadrons, which dropped supplies and agents into occupied Europe.

Ian Valentine, author

of *Station 43* about the SOE's Polish section, said: "Gibraltar Farm Barn, to the east of the airfield, was built to look like a normal farm building but it was where agents were supplied with survival equipment before take-off and is recognised as an important staging post for SOE operations."

Prof Rzegocki and the Earl of Erroll unveiled a plaque commemorating the 157 men and one woman from the Polish SOE who, from 1942-43, flew from RAF Tempsford on top-secret missions.





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News bulletin



FUNDRAISER: Sqn Ldr James Matthews

Jim runs ring around Covid

WHEN COVID restrictions cancelled his plans to take part in a Stateside USAF fundraising challenge Air Force endurance runner Sqn Ldr James Matthew launched a solo bid closer to home.

The Digby-based airman worked out a 40-mile cross country circuit between Cranwell and Waddington, raising almost £1,000 for the RAF Association.



SAFETY FIRST: Wg Cdr Case

Case opens at Wittering

FORMER TORNADO campaigner Wg Cdr Jez Case has taken over Wittering Operations Wing, ensuring flight safety at the Lincolnshire station.

During his time with the RAF he has served frontline tours as a Weapon Systems Officer in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. He said: "My aim is to deliver safe flying for our future pilots and those who aspire to join up."

"I want to support the wider RAF as much as possible in training and preparing its aircrew for operations overseas."



Steve aces award

BRIZE TECHNICAL ace SAC Steve Smith (above) scooped a top engineering award after completing his apprenticeship 14 months early.

The high-flying recruit was presented with the award for the top engineering student at the School of Technical Training.

Anglo-German tie-up boosts Nato firepower

Simon Mander

UK AND German fighter crews are stepping up joint training on Nato's Eastern front and could be deployed as a single fighting unit to guard Alliance air space along the Russian border.

In the latest exercise RAF 3 Sqn Typhoons have launched combat training sorties alongside the Luftwaffe's 'Richthofen' Tactical Air Force Wing 71 on a Nato Air Policing Mission to Amari in Estonia.

The missions are part of an Anglo-German Combined Air Policing project, which started earlier this year with joint training led by the Luftwaffe.



'PHOON-FRIENDS: RAF pilot chats to Luftwaffe engineer at Amari

In July, German Eurofighters joined combined Quick Reaction Alert training with the RAF during their Baltic Air Policing mission in Lithuania, developing what air chiefs have dubbed the 'plug in and fight' concept.



PLUGGED IN: RAF Typhoon pilot goes through combat manoeuvre with Luftwaffe

The latest phase sees British Typhoons 'plugged into' the German detachment with both countries planning, executing and debriefing flying missions.

The next step of the project,

scheduled for 2021, will see the RAF host a German 'plug and fight' detachment.

German Air Force detachment commander Lt/Col Sebastian Fiedler said: "When we deploy

our fighters to the Baltic, our RAF colleagues have the same mission.

"Therefore, we want to exploit this training to operate our fighters in a combined manner to further reinforce our interoperability."

Combat veterans switch sides on Warrior exercise

FAST JET VETS are launching simulated strikes on former comrades and Britain's new Carrier Group on Exercise Joint Warrior.

Former RAF pilots Mike Sutton and Stu Lawson are part of the only non-military flying unit taking part in the training and are in charge of launching two waves of seven Falcon 20 jets every day.

Former 1(F) Sqn boss Mike said: "It's great to be involved, although I'm upside-down a lot less in the Falcon."

"We are continually updating and evolving our radar jamming and threat simulations to generate the best possible live training environment for the squadrons. We've

been turning five jets at Leuchars airfield every day and it has been fantastic to operate from there again."

Now Deputy Director of Flight Operations for Cobham Aviation after 18 years as an RAF pilot, Mike leads a team of ex-military aircrew with experience on Typhoon, Tornado and Harrier, exchange experience on US F16 and F15C, and combat helicopters.

For Tornado vet First Officer Stu Lawson flying the Falcon is a huge change from operations he conducted in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He said: "The Falcon is a really versatile aircraft, and with four hardpoints under the wings we can carry a range of different



THE FALC GUYS: Cobham Falcon flown by RAF vets Lawson and Sutton joins Typhoons on Joint Warrior

pods to create multiple electronic warfare training effects.

"Outside of Joint Warrior we have been target-towing for the ships to practise live weapon engagements, and also providing air-to-air gunnery training for the US F15s at Lakenheath."

"Regrettably Covid has limited our detachments this year, but we would

normally deploy throughout Europe and the Middle East to support Nato Air and Maritime training."

Cobham also deployed their DA42 reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft as part of the Nato exercise, alongside the 15 modified Falcons it operates from bases at Bournemouth and Teesside.



STU LAWSON



MIKE SUTTON

News

In Brief



TRAIL BLAZERS: Waddington first to receive high-performance fire engines

Firefighters get new jumbo jets

GIANT FIRE engines weighing the equivalent of seven elephants are part of a fleet of four new vehicles to arrive at RAF Waddington.

Firefighters at the Lincolnshire airbase are the first to receive two 42,000kg Oshkosh Striker tenders, which can douse infernos by firing water, foam or dry powder.

Billed by the manufacturers as the most powerful and capable aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles ever built, the tenders are on permanent emergency standby at the station, which is home to the RAF's ISTAR Force.



Photo of the week

AN ATLAS A400M comes into land after a training sortie as Storm Alex batters Britain.

This image was captured by Brize Norton-based photographer Cpl Matty Matthews (pictured right). He said: "The best thing

about taking shots in a storm is the vortices from wing-tips, props or flap edges which add a lot to an image. Having said that there are problems – cameras, like a lot of photographers, hate getting wet."

"They're unique, high quality and I couldn't be happier with how they turned out"

AVM Sean Bell (retd)

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Where Eagles share

USAF 48th Fighter Wing combat crews train with Typhoon

Simon Mander

STRIKE EAGLES teamed up with Typhoons to hone their ability to deliver lethal firepower in a crisis.

Lakenheath-based F-15Es operated alongside RAF Eurofighters in a three-day exercise aimed at increasing their flexibility and combat effectiveness.

“Agile Combat Employment means fighting on the move, with small units and small footprints,” said 48th Fighter Wing Commander USAF Colonel Jason Camilletti.

“Exercising elements of ACE ensures airmen and aircrews of US forces in Europe are postured to deliver lethal combat power across the spectrum of military operations.”

RAF Coningsby Station Commander Gp Capt Matt Peterson said: “Our two Air Forces share a long and distinguished history of co-operation, achievement, and joint sacrifice.

“The Typhoon squadrons based here train weekly with our colleagues



ALLIES: RAF and USAF pilots discuss tactics at Coningsby

from RAF Lakenheath over the North Sea honing the skills required to operate in coalitions around the world.

“Hosting the Strike Eagles here is part of the ongoing process that further strengthens the already close ties between our stations.”



EAGLES HAVE LANDED: F-15 crew prepare to take off from RAF Coningsby, inset left, iconic combat jet heads skywards



News bulletin

Highland Herc fling

HERCULES CREWS got a bird's eye view of some of Britain's remotest terrain as Exercise Tartan Spirit returned to the Scottish Highlands.

The biannual training mission saw two Brize-based C-130Js conduct essential drills in formation and low-level flying from Prestwick Airport.

XXIV Sqn OC Wg Cdr Andy McIntyre said: “We've been delivering under Covid-19 conditions for six months now, but it was fantastic to see teams at Brize and Prestwick overcome significant challenges to deliver a vital Exercise for the C-130J Force.”

During the six days of training personnel from 47 Sqn, 47 Air Dispatch and No.1 Air Mobility Wing completed more than 40 training sorties in 95 hours. As part of the combat drill more than 20 tonnes of freight and passengers were loaded on and off the aircraft.

Flight Commander Sqn Ldr Darren Ryllo said: “From the preparation in the synthetic training devices, to the physical deployment, the hard work and professionalism has been exceptional.

“I have no doubt that the training serials and activities conducted during the week will have enhanced the operational capability of the Air Mobility Force.”



Search for UK's best poppy poets to honour the fallen

Staff Reporter

CURATORS AT the RAF Museum have launched a nationwide search to find Britain's budding bards to mark this year's Remembrance Day.

Successful scribes will have their work featured on a virtual display at the museum's two sites in London and Cosford as the nation pays tribute the Forces fallen.

Along with publishing the best entries during a series of events in November, museum chiefs are inviting visitors to produce their own

homemade poppy designs which will form part of the main Remembrance exhibition.

A free poppy template can be downloaded from the RAF Museum website and all entries received will be put on public display.

A spokesman said: “People can use the template or they can come up with their own designs using any materials they have at home.

“Whether you knit or crochet your poppy, or cut out and colour in the template, all designs received will be included in the display.”

Entries must be received by November 1.

● **Go to rafmuseum.org for more details.**

Tom moves on after Phenom-enal tour

Staff Reporter

A VETERAN flying instructor has handed over command of Cranwell's 45 Sqn after six years in the hot seat.

Wg Cdr Rich Tomala has overseen the introduction of the Phenom trainer and the drawdown of the King Air as boss of the unit in one of the longest command tours in its history.

He said: “Command has been the biggest honour and achievement in

my 25-year career, and I can think of no better way to depart regular service.”

He is succeeded by E-3D airman Wg Cdr James Radley, who will continue to train future multi-engine pilots and mission aircrew at the Lincolnshire base.

But it's not the end of Wg Cdr Tomala's flying career.

He is to rejoin the RAF as a full-time reservist Qualified Flying Instructor on Cranwell's 57 Sqn, teaching students to fly the Prefect.



HANDOVER: Wg Cdr Tomala (background) signs off after six years as Wg Cdr Radley takes over at 45 Sqn
PHOTO: LINDA LOWING

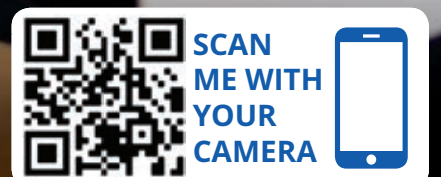


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Typhoon Tom is seeing Red

New *Arrows No.1* pledges show-stopping displays for 2021 season

Simon Mander

A TYPHOON veteran has taken over as Red 1 as the RAF's aerobatics aces begin training for next season.

Sqn Ldr Tom Bould has revealed he already has some show-stopping ideas to lift the Red Arrows' new routine.

He said: "My first reaction was disbelief that I had been chosen as the next team leader, which very quickly turned into excitement then trepidation for the enormity of the job.

"I've already got plans for big, new formation shapes and other ideas to add – but I don't want to give away too much, just yet."

The 39-year-old Yorkshireman joined the RAF in 2005 and has flown the Typhoon in the Falkland Islands and on exercises in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

He was previously a Red Arrows pilot between 2015 and 2017 and took part in a history-making visit to China.

As Red 1, Sqn Ldr Bould will be responsible for all aspects of the display, from running the training and creating and choreographing a new 20-minute aerobatic show, to leading the nine aircraft.

He succeeds Sqn Ldr Martin Pert, whose three-year tour as team leader finishes at the end of this month.

Training for the new season usually lasts six to seven months and is largely based at Scampton.

The latest campaign will be the team's 57th display season since 1965.

Pilots must have at least 1,500 fast-jet hours and have completed a frontline operational tour before they can apply to join the famous display team and usually serve for three years.



OC: Wg Cdr Dave Montenegro

RED 1: Sqn Ldr Tom Bould

RED 2: Flt Lt Will Cambridge

RED 3: Flt Lt Nick Critchell

RED 4: Flt Lt James Turner

RED 5: Flt Lt Dave Simmonds

RED 6: Flt Lt Jon Bond

RED 7: Sqn Ldr Gregor Ogston

RED 8: Flt Lt Damo Green

RED 9: Sqn Ldr Steve Morris

RED 10: Sqn Ldr Adam Collins



PEDAL POWER: Riders set off from Cranwell

Saddle score

Amanda Curson

TOP BRASS joined the widow of a Red Arrows pilot in a Covid-busting bike ride to raise cash for vulnerable young people across Britain.

Jon Egging Trust patron AVM Harv Smyth and the new Red Arrows line-up joined founder Emma Egging to launch the event, which raised more than £10,000.

Emma set up the charity in memory of her husband, Reds pilot Flt Lt Jon Egging – who died during an air display in 2011.

Event organiser, 57 Sqn flying instructor Flt Lt Dunc Mason, saw 128 riders set off from Cranwell on 50 and 80-mile circuits.

Emma said: "I am delighted the JET Ride was able to go ahead this year despite the turmoil caused by Covid-19.

"It is about inspiring young people to overcome adversity and this event symbolises that we are back in the saddle and raring to go."



PATRON: AVM Smyth

Puma pulls its weight on Afghan mission

Staff Reporter

PUMA CREWS have transported an army of Nato troops since arriving in Afghanistan in 2015.

Over the past five years Kabul-based RAF helicopters have moved more than 110,000 Coalition soldiers and advisers on Operation Toral.

UK Puma Force's Sqn Ldr Paul Blundell said: "The Puma is perfectly suited to the job in Kabul; its excellent performance in the hot and high altitude conditions, paired with its ability to fit into the tight urban landing sites, mean it's the most appropriate asset in the UK's inventory."

More than 12,000 flying hours have been clocked up by the three aircraft deployed, in which time more than 110,000 troops and 470,000kgs of freight have been moved to their destinations.

While Benson-based personnel have deployed to Afghanistan multiple times, Puma Force crews have also undertaken other large-scale deployments including delivering aid to Hurricane-hit areas of the Caribbean in 2017 – which saw helicopters flown in by C-17 transporters flying missions within four hours of landing in the British Virgin Islands.





Leading technology for the
UK's security and economy

Tempest – innovation for the next generation

baesystems.com/tempest

Gunners go door to door as council ramps up C-19 tests

GUNNERS AND bandsmen are among 100 military personnel reinforcing the battle against a second spike of Covid-19 in the West Midlands.

Teams will visit households in Birmingham to offer free tests on the doorstep and will pick up completed kits within the hour.

Airmen and women from the RAF Regiment's 51 Sqn and RAF Music Services will support Birmingham City Council's 'Drop and Collect' Covid test distribution system.

Cllr Paulette Hamilton said: "It is vital we drive down our infection rates and increased testing is an essential part of this. We can only do this by working together."

The teams are part of the UK-wide Operation Rescript – the codename given to the UK Armed Forces' contribution to tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

The 20,000-strong Covid Support Force, set up to assist the public service response to the outbreak, has been reduced to 7,500 after the success of lockdown measures.

In Birmingham 100 personnel will be on task for up to two months, or until a commercial contractor is appointed.



TESTING TIMES: Military teams hit streets



TRIBUTE: Paris honours The Few at ceremony

Paris salutes BoB heroes

RAF OFFICERS based in France held a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Geneviève Darrieussecq, Secretary of State to the Minister of the Armed Forces, joined Defence Attaché Air Cdre Tim Below and Air Attaché Gp Capt Antony McCord.



BAKE THAT: Tucking in at Waddington

Give and cake

WADDINGTON CHEFS took up a charity Bake Off-style challenge to raise funds for local good causes.

The Lincolnshire-based catering aces helped raise more than £500 for the Macmillan Cancer Support group during the event, which was held as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning annual charity drive.



Coining it in

A COLLECTION of 22 carat gold coins commemorating VE Day have gone under the hammer, raising more than £10,000 for a Forces support group.

The coins were minted by UK firm Hattons to mark the end of the conflict in Europe, and 10 per cent of the cash raised at auction was donated to SSAFA.

A spokesman said: "We would like to thank Hattons of London for their generous support of our vital work and enabling us to be there for the Forces family."



SKY-EYE: RAF Rivet Joint is one of the UK's intelligence-gathering and surveillance aircraft
PHOTO: MOD



FLT LT MILES



FG OFF WILKES



FG OFF SUGDEN



FG OFF CONNOR

Rookie I-Stars make the grade at Culdrose

Staff Reporter

A TEAM of weapon systems officers for the RAF's ISTAR Force have graduated after learning their flying fundamentals with the Royal Navy at 750 Naval Air Squadron.

The students studied at Royal

Naval Air Station Culdrose, at Helston in Cornwall, which also instructs the Royal Navy's future helicopter observers in basic flying training.

Flt Lt Dave Miles and Flying Officers Alex Connor, Christian Sugden and Dan Wilkes passed the demanding 16-week course on

airborne navigation and tactical mission command.

The newest generation of RAF airborne warfighters took to the air and passed the second stage of their flying training and will now move on to operational conversion units and squadrons operating surveillance aircraft.

This is the third course of weapon systems officers to undergo the training at RNAS Culdrose.

The course has given them a grounding in the use of airborne systems and sensors to locate, identify and monitor targets and coordinate search and rescue missions.

Move to slash the flight to fight gap

Space age factory and strengthened consortium in bid to deliver Tempest ahead of schedule

GRAND DESIGNS: The BAE factory

TEMPEST: (left and main) RAF's next combat aircraft

TYPHOON: Already benefiting from the new facility

HIGH-TECH: Robots pick and transport parts around factory

DEFENCE GIANT BAE has unveiled its new factory of the future, which it hopes will slash the time taken to get the RAF's next combat jet fighting fit.

The news comes at a key point in the £2 billion Tempest programme, which submits its business case for more funding by the end of this year – as the Government undertakes its latest defence spending review.

But while BAE's brainchild is still a concept aircraft, designed to fight

with or without a pilot, it has received top-level backing in its bid to replace Typhoon by 2040.

In a recent speech at RAF Waddington, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston welcomed the news that seven new companies had recently joined the development team.

He said: "As we look to the future, the RAF will continue to be at the forefront of innovation – our enemies and their threats may have changed but the need to stay ahead of the

technological curve remains."

The latest firms signing up to the consortium are Bombardier Belfast, Collins Aerospace, GE Aviation, GKN Aerospace, Martin Baker, QinetiQ and Thales.

BAE Systems' air sector manufacturing director Dave Holmes said: "We are seeking opportunities to widen the Team Tempest project and bring in the very best of UK capability and expertise, from both inside and outside of defence.

"They will work alongside us as we

seek to develop the generation-defining combat air capability which will help safeguard the security of our nation and our allies to the end of this century.

"Collaborations with some of the brightest and best across the country show that Tempest is delivering on our promise to take new approaches to drive significant pace and efficiency into the programme."

Vital to the company's ambitions to take Tempest, unveiled in 2018,

from initial to full operating capability between 2035 and 2040, is its new multi-million pound digitally-connected, intelligent factory for future military aircraft production in Warton, Lancashire.

Using automated robots operating in virtual and augmented reality, BAE hopes to increase speed, precision and efficiencies to cut the cost of making complex jets – delivering them in half

the time of previous programmes.

While Typhoon took nearly a decade from first flight to entering RAF service, and while Sqn Ldr Steve Long became the first British pilot to fly the F35B in 2010, with the jet not expected to achieve full operating capability until next year, Team Tempest hopes to bridge the flight to fight gap to five years.

Mr Holmes said: "Driving our manufacturing capabilities forward as we prepare for the fourth industrial revolution

will sustain and develop critical skill sets and ensure we can continue to deliver military capability to address future threats whilst improving productivity and delivering value for money for our customers."

He said the factory's technologies were already delivering benefits with intelligent workstations using 'pick by light' tools to produce Typhoon aircraft parts and assemblies."

CAS: Welcomed new partners

R'n'R



Win: cult classics on DVD ● p5, p8



Trials of Life ● p4-5

Announcements
● P6-7
Puzzles
● P8

Thinking about ADOPTION?

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity is a Registered Adoption Agency, covering the whole of the UK and has been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

We are military specialists, who understand your adoption needs. We promote equality and welcome applications from all members of the serving community.

To find out more

Call 020 7463 9326

Email adoption@ssafa.org.uk

Visit ssafa.org.uk/adoption

"Prospective adopters chose this agency because they felt understood as military families, offered a non-judgemental approach and saw strengths which other agencies had considered as weaknesses. Adopters can share any issues without being judged, in the knowledge that they will receive unconditional support."

- OFSTED

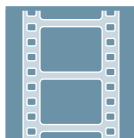


With the help of SSAFA, RAF engineer and single father Marcus, adopted his 18 month old son.

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charity

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760
in Scotland Number SCO38056 and in Republic of Ireland
Number 20202001. Established 1885. S487.0120

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Provider

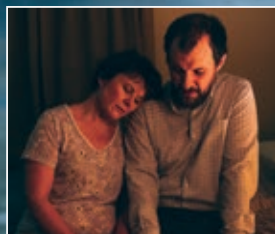


Film Review

Rialto

Cert 15 – in cinemas now

A powerful portrayal of a grim side of Dublin



DETACHED: Colm and Monica

DESPAIR: Colm dockside in Rialto

DUBLIN'S PORTSIDE suburb provides no escape for a middle-aged man in the thick of an existential crisis.

From the first moment that we see Colm (Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, *Avengers: Endgame*), he looks pained, carrying the weight of an unseen burden. Against the scale of the freight cargo that surrounds him at work, and the sea beyond, he looks insignificant – and perhaps this is why he keeps his troubles to himself and suffers in silence.

Emasculated as a father and emotionally detached from his wife (Monica Dolan, *Days of the Bagnold Summer*), we learn that he has recently lost his own father and is soon to lose his job of 30 years.

Too young to retire, but too settled to start a new job, 46-year-old Colm's only escape is in the brief meetings that he has with teenager Jay (Tom Glynn-Carney – *inset right above*), whom he pays for sex.

Set in the titular port area of Dublin, *Rialto*, directed by Peter Mackie Burns (*Daphne*) is shot with a focus on realism. The exchanges between characters are minimal, with Colm so cagey and closed off from those around him

that his words are often grumbled – in a dialect that is hard enough to discern when he's sober. Closeted for so long that he sees no other way, Colm ponders aloud at one point: 'If we told people what was really in our heads, if we admitted to ourselves even, what would happen?'

There is no joy or respite to be found in the film, moments of pleasure are fraught and serve to highlight the misery that has enveloped Colm's compromised life. Awash in a grey setting that could well have been 10 or 20 years in the past, it is haunting in its existential bleakness. Repressed in almost every way, Colm takes abuse from his son and his young lover (whose meet-cute takes the form of a mugging) only to later lash out at his grieving mother. The abuse is cyclical and misery inescapable.

Adapted for the screen from Mark O'Halloran's own play *Trade*, the intimacy remains, and the smaller idiosyncrasies of the phenomenal cast fill the screen with authenticity, but one could hardly call the experience of watching *Rialto* enjoyable.

Review by Sam Cooney

3 roundels out of 5

Raindance Festival has sprinkling of Stardust

Bowie biopic debuts at London film event

THE UK premiere of *Stardust* starring Johnny Flynn (*Emma, Beast*) as a young David Bowie, opens this year's Raindance Film Festival, which will run online and live in London from October 28 to November 7.

The Festival will host a live red-carpet event for the opening premiere at the May Fair Hotel, London, with director Gabriel Range attending for a post-screening Q&A.

Stardust depicts Bowie's first trip to America, revealing the inspirations and life events that gave birth to his alter ego, Ziggy Stardust.

The premiere of *Here Are The Young Men* will close the Festival at Vue West End cinema, Raindance's long-time venue partner, and director Eoin Macken will take part in a post-screening Q&A.

The story of three Dublin teenagers who leave school to a social vacuum of drinking and drugs, falling into shocking

transgression, the film stars Dean-Charles Chapman (*1917*, *Game of Thrones*), Anya Taylor-Joy (*Emma*, *The Witch*), Finn Cole (*Slaughterhouse Rulez*, *Animal Kingdom*), and Ferdia Walsh-Peelo (*Sing Street*, *Vikings*).

Comprising 50 film premieres, the Festival's online programme of independent features and documentaries will be accessible via the digital platform Shift72. The full online programme of films, shorts, Q&As and VR experiences will be offered free – pay-what-you-can donations are encouraged to help Raindance support and champion indie film in the UK – and to celebrate the 28th Raindance, 28 per cent of proceeds will be donated to charity, said the Festival's organisers.

Raindance founder Elliot Grove said: "Storytelling brings us together. This year, more than ever, we need the medium of film to unite us, inspire us, and help us to feel empowered and not isolated.



IN LIKE FLYNN: Johnny Flynn stars as David Bowie in *Stardust*, which opens Raindance

"No matter where you are in the UK, as long as you have a screen you can be a part of the Raindance Film Festival."

Highlights include the premiere of short film *The Hat*, starring father and son Jude and Rafferty Law, shot during lockdown, and with an original music score by The Who's Pete Townshend. *The Hat* is nominated for Best UK Short and will benefit Teenage Cancer Trust and Teen Cancer America.

The Festival will also host the European premiere of *Citizen Penn*, in which Sean Penn (*Milk*, *Dead Man Walking*) joins aid workers from around the world to help the relief effort following 2010's devastating Haiti earthquake.

The programme also includes the premiere of *I Am Not A Hero*, a Belgian documentary about the health workers combating the Covid-19 virus.

Go to: raindance.org/festival for more details.

UK Box Office Top 10

1	Tenet
2	Cats & Dogs: Paws Unite!
3	After We Collided
4	Bill and Ted Face The Music (below)
5	The Elfkins
6	Onward
7	On The Rocks
8	David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet
9	100% Wolf
10	The New Mutants



Source: BFI



Books

Little Troopers

My RAF Life



MY RAF LIFE: Tells the story of a child whose military parent has been deployed overseas

Perfect for Little Troopers

MILITARY CHILDREN'S charity Little Troopers has launched the final two books in its Tri-Service story series.

My RAF Life and *My Navy Life* join *My Army Life* to complete the second series of books. Each aims to bring to life the story of a military child whose parent has been deployed overseas and is told through their eyes in the form of diary entries.

Aimed at children aged five plus the books explore the highs and lows of having a parent serving away from home and are designed to help military children talk about their own experiences.

Their author, military spouse Donna David, said: "As a military spouse and parent, I know how challenging it can be for children to have a parent deployed overseas and there are very few children's books written about this."

"I hope these books will help military families to read and talk about what it means to be in a military family and to show Forces children that there are lots

of other children going through similar experiences."

Louise Fetigan, founder of Little Troopers, said: "Since we launched Little Troopers, military children have continued to be underrepresented in children's literature, so creating our own storybooks has been a real passion project of mine."

"We hope that lots of military children get to read and enjoy these stories and we'd love to see the collections in school libraries."

Little Troopers offers support and resources for all UK military children and their families to help them cope with the unique challenges of life in the British Armed Forces, Louise added.

The charity's initiatives include a free story recording app called Little Troopers Treasures, which lets military children watch their serving parent read a story alongside animated illustrations from the original book.

■ Visit: littletroopers.net for more details.

The Big Event

TV: Life

ALISON STEADMAN (*Abigail's Party*) and Peter Davison (*Doctor Who*) are just two of the big-name stars heading the cast of BBC One's major new drama, *Life*, a spin-off from the hugely popular *Doctor Foster*.

Doctor Foster writer Mike Bartlett, who also penned *Life*, said: "I wanted to write about isolation and its opposite – community, about how we crave being connected to other people but at the same time often end up feeling lonely, or disconnected."

"I used to live in a flat that was part of a divided-up old house. You could hear intimate details of your neighbours' lives, but when we passed in the corridor we barely exchanged two words. I was fascinated by that apparent contradiction."

"Also, I wanted to write about how amazing people could be when faced with life's difficulties and tragedies. In every household in the country there are some of the biggest stories occurring, every day."

He added: "It's called *Life* because I wanted it to suggest one of those huge Attenborough nature documentaries. That in the same way, by looking at the intimate lives of individual creatures, we learn something about the larger species, exploring something epic through the tiniest detail."

The series focuses on the inhabitants of four flats in a divided-up house in Manchester – Gail (Steadman), Belle (Victoria Hamilton), David (Adrian Lester, *Hustle*) and Hannah (Melissa Johns, *Coronation Street*).

Bartlett explained why he wanted Belle – first seen in *Doctor Foster* – to continue her story in *Life*.

He said: "When I was writing some of her final scenes in *Doctor Foster*, the character surprised me when she said she was moving completely away to a new city. That felt like a story full of potential and one I hadn't necessarily seen – a woman in her mid-40s, divorced, and keen to start again. I found Belle's voice came very easily when writing, and that's a good sign there's lots of fun to be had with the character."

"I wanted to work more with Victoria, to write a leading role on screen for her to get her teeth into."

He added: "I've worked with quite a few of the cast before, and I love that. It means I know a little of how they work and they get to know what I'm after in the writing."

"I love the way you can form a little acting company, even in television. You see relationships forming and everyone collectively coming together to tell the stories."

New Life

Doctor Foster spin-off hits small screen



HOUSE 'MATES': New mum Hannah (Johns), above; David (Lester), left; Gail (Steadman), below left and Belle (Hamilton), below right. Inset top, Henry (Davison)

Pilates teacher Belle Stone is struggling to keep everything together, whilst appearing to be fine on the outside.

Hamilton said: "As the series goes on, you realise that Belle's got a lot of struggles."

"I love Mike Bartlett's writing, he writes incredible parts for women. You know that when you take part in one of his projects it's going to be a fully-fleshed-out, three-dimensional, complicated character."

"Mike writes vivid human beings with great compassion and empathy, but he's also not frightened to look at the dark sides of people."

"As an actor it's wonderful because you get to explore a character in a very real way and show, as there is with all of us, areas of your personality that maybe aren't quite so palatable and you're possibly frightened of. All of Mike's characters are fully rounded

like that, and that's quite rare."

What does Hamilton think *Life* says about our lives today?

She explained: "One of the reasons I think this is such a pertinent series is that we're living in this age of communication with the internet, WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram. We're apparently all very connected to each other all the time. Yet suddenly you hear a huge proportion of young people in schools are starting to suffer from unprecedented levels of anxiety and depression. The reality is people are starting to feel more and more isolated."

When we first met Gail, married to former top surgeon Henry (Davison), she was about to have her 70th birthday.

Steadman said: "Gail has looked after Henry all his life. As she turns 70 she's

re-evaluating things and thinking, should I change? Should I go in a different direction? She decides to make quite a radical change, which is very upsetting for everyone."

"In a way I'm glad I can't identify with my character, because I have led a very busy, active life. From the day I left drama school until now I've been working as an actress, and I've got two lovely sons. I have had a very full life and I've been very lucky to have that."

"So I don't identify with Gail, but I do have empathy for her because I can understand where she's coming from. I have known women in a similar situation to Gail, and I have witnessed men who aren't consciously unkind or don't consciously make fun of their wives, but in fact that's what they are doing."

"I think so many people will identify with these characters, and they'll feel for them."

■ *Life* continues on BBC One at 9pm on Tuesdays.

Music

Wes Nelson

See Nobody



LOVE ISLAND: With fellow contestant Megan

Wes gives his music career the full Nelson

WES NELSON became one of *Love Island*'s most popular residents when he joined the show in 2018. He released his debut single, *See Nobody* featuring Hardy Caprio, last month and currently has 1.6 million followers on Instagram and 420,000 on TikTok.

Turning down hundreds and thousands of pounds in prospective brand and TV deals, he said his only focus now is on making and performing music.

"I've done a lot in 22 years," said the former Thai boxing champion. "Music is the only thing that's really resonated, this is the one thing I really want to do. It's not a passion project or a whim. I'm in this for the long haul."

He explained: "For four or five Christmases in a row when I was younger I had a karaoke machine, I've grown up with it and everything I've had

and everything I've done has always been music-related. I remember in my teens going online and because I didn't understand music software, looking up 'music maker' and trying to make music beats online – which, then, was almost completely impossible as the free samples had all been used thousands of times, but I thought it was great."

"I've always been writing stuff, but always under the radar and what's brought it to light is just the confidence I've gained over the past two or three years since coming from *Love Island*."

He added: "With lockdown it made me realise what I really wanted to do. Don't get me wrong, it has been the most amazing time since I left the villa and I'm so grateful for all the opportunities I've had, but it's not what I want to do for the rest of my life. It sounds corny, but I know music always has and I had shunted it to the side a bit

with television, but when we went into lockdown, it just took all the distractions away and I thought, I really want to knuckle down."

Nelson said: "I'm a perfectionist, I think all my family are – my cousins are Olympians, my dad's a successful businessman, my brother's a footballer. Everyone's super- focused on their craft."

"I've always been a jack of all trades and a master of none but I always knew that I wanted to be a master of music. I just never went for it. I'd get distracted by doing this or that and put 100 per cent of myself into something else. My Dad said, 'You need to focus on one thing, what do you actually want to do?' He is super, super supportive of everything I do."

Nelson described being approached by iconic record label EMI as 'crazy'.

He added: "All three of the majors came in with

offers, but Universal came in with EMI and they have this amazing team. They really believe in the investment, they back it and they've been absolutely incredible. What it showed me is that if you put every ounce of energy into something, the universe will reward you in ways that you can't control."

He has secured support for the single from big names including boxer Anthony Joshua and actor Idris Elba.

Nelson said: "I haven't got over that yet. I called Anthony Joshua and he was on a private jet. Idris is a busy, busy guy – he's A-list. I was super humbled."

Interview by Jenny Entwistle

NEW SINGLE: Nelson



Competitions

Books

Harrier 809



Saviours of the Falkland Islands

WHEN THE Falkland Islands were invaded by Argentina in April 1982, Britain's immediate response was to send a task force. But behind the pomp and bravado of its departure, a sober reality lurked.

Just 20 Sea Harriers operating from two aircraft carriers would take on the might of the Argentine Air Force, some 200 aircraft strong. The MoD estimated that within four days and against such formidable air power, half the Harriers would be lost.

To reinforce that meagre force and in just three weeks the Navy formed, trained and equipped a brand new squadron from scratch – 809 Naval Air Squadron.

Other covert operations mounted by M16 and the SAS in Latin American provided vital intelligence to protect the task force from attack but in the vanguard of the conflict it would be the Sea Harriers of 809 Sqn whose heroics



in the South Atlantic became legendary.

Rowland White, the critically-acclaimed author of four previous

works of aviation history, including *Vulcan 607* and *Phoenix Squadron*, tells the story of those amazing exploits – the dogfights, 23 kills, deadly Exocet attacks, the ejections – demonstrating why the Harrier is mentioned in the same breath as the Spitfire, Lancaster and Vulcan and is destined to join them in the ranks of our most celebrated aeronautical achievements.

We have copies of this thrilling read to win.

For your chance to own one, simply send us the correct answer to this question:

When were the Falkland Islands invaded by Argentina?

Email your answer, marked Harrier 809 competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 30.



Competitions

DVDs and Blu-Ray

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life/Out of Africa

Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises



Redford, Streep & Python

WINNER OF seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, the 1985 romantic drama *Out of Africa*, based on the life of Karen Blixen, was considered the most highly-acclaimed film of its time.

Directed and produced by Sydney Pollack, it was loosely based on the 1937 autobiographical book *Out of Africa*, by Isak Dinesen (the pseudonym of Danish author Blixen) and starred Meryl Streep, as Blixen, Robert Redford as her lover Denys Fitch Hatton and Klaus Maria Brandauer as her husband Baron Bror Blixen.

The supporting cast features Leslie Phillips, Michael Kitchen, Michael Gough, Suzanna Hamilton and the model/actress Iman.

Blixen (Streep) is an amazingly strong-willed woman who moves from Denmark to run a coffee plantation with her philandering husband in Kenya around 1914. To her astonishment she soon discovers herself falling in love with the land, its people and mysterious adventurer and idealist Finch Hatton (Redford).

We have copies of the film on Blu-Ray to win. For your chance to own one, answer this question correctly:



Who directed and produced *Out of Africa*?

Email your answer, marked Out of Africa Blu-Ray competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 30.

WE ALSO have copies of *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life* on DVD up for grabs – the last film to feature all six Python members before Graham Chapman's death in 1989.

Unlike *Holy Grail* and *Life of Brian*, the film's two predecessors, which each told a single, more-or-less coherent story, *The Meaning of Life* returned to the sketch format of the troupe's original television series, loosely structured as a series



of comic sketches about the various stages of life from 'The Miracle of Birth' to 'Death'.

The Meaning of Life was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival.

To be in with a chance of winning a copy on DVD, send us the correct answer to the following question:

Which prize did *The Meaning of Life* win at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival?

Email your answer, marked Monty Python DVD competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to our usual address (see above) to arrive by October 30.

■ Please remember to include your full postal address with all competition entries.



Your Announcements

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

Birthday

A former Flight Lieutenant has celebrated his 100th birthday. Robert Walker from Illogan in Cornwall received a special gift from RAF St Mawgan's Station Commander, Wg Cdr Marshall Kinnear – a RAF St Mawgan plaque and a bound copy of Robert's memoirs *This Man's War* – during a visit by Wg Cdr Kinnear and Gp Capt Mike Trace, Deputy Lieutenant for Cornwall.



Flt Lt Robert Walker

Flt Lt Walker served in the RAF for 25 years between 1939 and 1964. Joining the RAF as a General Duties Clerk, he served in the Middle East with 454 Sqn during World War II. Commissioned into the Administrative and Special Duties (Intelligence) Branch in 1945, he served in various locations in the UK and Europe, and was awarded the MBE in 1957 for the role he played in support to operations while at RAF Yatesbury.

Deaths

EVES Reginald (Ret'd) MBE passed away peacefully in his sleep, aged 96 at Priory Court Care Home, Stamford on September 13. Reg was born in Erith, Kent on February 12, 1924 and joined the RAFVR in 1941. He trained as a pilot in Canada between October 1942 and June 1943 before

returning to the UK to train as an Air Gunner between June 1943 and September 1943. He joined 550 Sqn in May 1944 and undertook several raids as a rear gunner over Germany. He was promoted to temporary WO and left the RAF in 1946 to complete an engineering apprenticeship. He rejoined the RAF in 1949 as a FS and was a gunnery instructor from 1949 to 1953 on the American B29s which were part of the Mutual Defence Assistance Program (MDAP) at RAF Marham. In 1958 he transferred to RAF Admin before retiring in 1982 and buying a house in Stamford with his wife Phyllis who sadly passed away in 1991.



WO Reginald Eves

Reg served at RAF Sutton Bridge, RAF Marham, Bückeburg, RAF Rheindahlen (twice), RAF Shawbury, RAF Hullavington, RAF Wildenrath, Pembrey Bombing Range, RAF Chivenor, RAF Shinfield Park and RAF North Luffenham (twice). He served as Station Warrant Officer at RAF Rheindahlen, Shinfield Park and North Luffenham (twice) and was awarded the MBE in 1976 and prior to retirement in 1982 he received the C-in-C's Commendation. He remained at RAF North Luffenham in the Civil Service running the Bedding Store for a few years. He enjoyed walking and gardening until illness forced him to take things easier. He will be sadly missed by

his daughters, Sue, Linda and Barbara and son-in-law Jim, as well as his grandchildren Ian, Simon and Samantha and his five great-grandchildren Thomas, Oliver, Max, Benjamin and Imogen.

HUGHES Kenneth Lindsay Sqn Ldr, died peacefully at the General Hospital, Hamilton, Canada, July 18, in his 97th year. Beloved husband of Evelyn McMillan Hughes and stepson Kenneth Montgomery. Predeceased by son Stuart. He is survived by sister Margaret and brother Geoffrey, daughter-in-law Donece and nieces and nephews in numerous countries. Born in Ramsey, Isle of Man November 2, 1923 to Joseph and Mable Jane, where he was raised with four siblings, he was educated at King William's College, Castletown where he played rugby, cricket and participated in other activities including choir.



Sqn Ldr Kenneth Hughes

Ken had a remarkable career with the RAF. His service was varied and comprehensive including Base Commander at Bitter Lake, Egypt and Deputy Commanger Eastley, Kenya. He flew with 511 Sqn during the Berlin Air Lift, logging more than 500 hours. He moved to Empire Training School where he trained others in flying formation and aerobatics. In 1962 he contracted with Kuwait Air Force as training instructor for Jet Aircraft, returning to the UK with

a final posting to the Air Ministry and retired in 1964. In 1965 Ken and family emigrated to Canada where he first learned to fly in 1943 at Virden, Manitoba. He moved into the insurance industry as an agent, then manager and subsequently General Agent in Burlington with Trans America Life, where he met Evelyn. He will be remembered with love and admiration for the gentleman he was and his ability to touch everyone he met.

JAMES, William David (Dave) Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) passed away suddenly on September 10 with his wife at his side. David was born in St Erth Praz in Cornwall on September 9, 1946 and joined the RAF in 1970 aged 23 as a Flying Officer at RAF Henlow. He had various postings as a RAF Instructor and Lecturer at HQ AFCENT in The Netherlands, RAF Leeming, RAF Bracknell Staff College, RAF Uxbridge and MOD London. He served as an Area Resettlement Officer based at RAF Brize Norton for 16 years. He is sadly missed by Karen (Kaz) his wife of 26 years, his son Alex, stepchildren and grandchildren.

Seeking

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

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

Reunions

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

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

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

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

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

Admin Association

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

Catering Association

MEMBERSHIP is open to serving or former Warrant Officers or Flight Sergeants in Trade Group 19 and to former RAF Catering Officers. Please email: janedjones6@tiscali.co.uk or call: 01487 823480 for more information and an application form.

How to use our service

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

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Help reader's quest

READER ALLAN Fegen wants to return a box of personal information including photos, wartime Service records and medals for Sgt W. Gibbs and his wife-to be, Cpl E. Bullock, that he found in a second-hand store in the Scottish Borders, to the family.

He said: "The box also contains driving licences and photographs of their wedding in 1950 and subsequent family. I would very much like to return this box of important family history to someone."

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



MEMORIES: Sgt Gibbs, right, with an RAF colleague – one of the photos found by Allan Fegen



Your Announcements

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

A night shoot at the museum

THE RAF Museum Cosford is hosting two aviation photography workshops next month for both amateurs and those with some experience.

It will also stage after-hours night shoots for photographers looking to advance their skills. The Aviation Photography Workshop is a full-day, hands-on course offering attendees the chance to learn, plan, execute and develop as aviation photographers.

The practically-led course will use the museum's historic aircraft to capture internal and external shots, cockpit photos and even working with a re-enactor to bring the images to life. Photographers can then

put their newly-acquired skills to the test and enjoy exclusive access to one of the museum's hangars for an hour after the site closes, said a spokesperson.

The beginner's workshop is on November 21 and the advanced workshop on November 22. Both run from 10am until 5pm and cost £75 per person, which includes lunch.

Six historic aircraft from the museum's collection will be illuminated with LED lighting for the Photography Night School. Exclusively for the night shoot, aircraft from the Test Flight hangar, including the British



Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme EAP, Fairey FD2 and the SEPECAT Jaguar ACT Demonstrator, will be displayed outside, giving photographers the rare opportunity to capture unobstructed images.

Other highlights will include the Vickers VC10 C1K, Hawker Siddeley Dominie T.Mk.1 and the Lockheed Hercules C130K Mk3, displayed within the museum's grounds.

The night shoots are on November 27 and 28, starting at 5pm, for up to 150 photographers each evening. The event will close at 9pm and tickets cost £40 per person.

Beginners can join a two-hour workshop in addition to the Saturday night shoot, for £65 per person.

Ulrike Stuebner, the museum's public events manager, said: "You don't need to be a professional photographer to enjoy these events, they are suitable for all abilities, however there will be experts on hand to offer advice if needed."

"We're really looking forward to seeing the incredible images people capture."

■ Ticket holders must be over 16. Visit rafmuseum.org/cosford for more information.

Join 'Greatest Salute'

THE PUBLIC are being invited by the Royal Air Forces Association to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Britain by documenting their gratitude to those who contributed to the Battle's outcome.

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

Celebrities, veterans and serving personnel, including Red Arrows pilot Flt Lt Nick Critchell and former RAF fast jet pilot and ex-England rugby international Rory Underwood, have already given tributes as part of the charity's 'Greatest Salute' initiative.

Submissions from everyone taking part in

Greatest Salute will be printed and put inside a time capsule to be buried at the National Memorial Arboretum this month.

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

RAFA spokeswoman. Douglas Newham (inset), 98, joined the RAF in 1941 as an Air Observer, combining the roles of navigator, bomb-aimer and gunner, initially serving on Wellington and Halifax bombers in England and North Africa.

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

■ Visit: battleofbritain.rafa.org.uk for details.



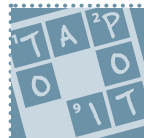
PICTURE THIS: Participants in the RAF Museum Cosford's photography workshops will get the chance to take night shots like this one of the British Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme EAP, plus shots of the static aircraft collection, above



United Kingdom Special Forces



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



Prize Crossword

No. 283

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the 8 letters in yellow squares to find a well-known airfield

Across

- Happy German Leader has boy (4)
- Tip centres over in RAF manoeuvres (10)
- Outside aerodrome, Weasley meets oddly adult pilot (8)
- Tips European hat at speed (4)
- Ramshackle, quiet church, we hear (6)
- I'm unfortunately returning sausage (6)
- Chilly area of RAF activity? (6)
- Wallace is working at RAF station (6)
- Morse actor will soften (4)
- Charles polite about former airbase (8)
- Close to recent RAF exercise? (5,5)
- The Spanish manuscript 'Trees' (4)

Down

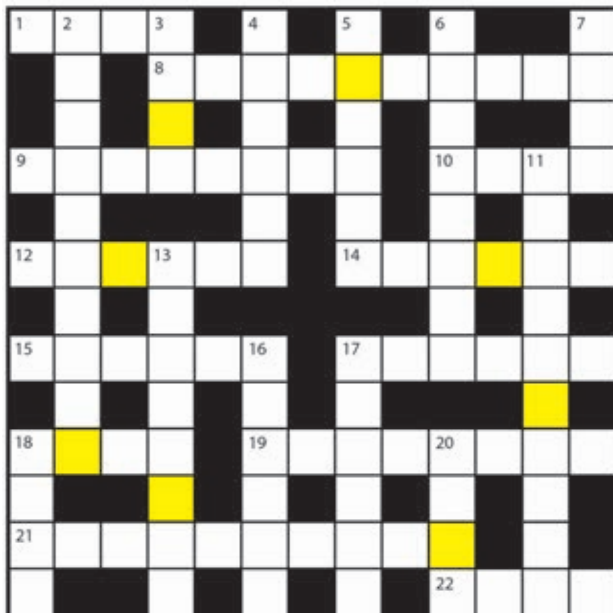
- Ah, the ankle was broken at station (10)
- Queen performed in the round (4)
- Goodman almost ready for firm (6)
- Boxes 100 vermin with energy (6)
- Penalize parent Renata left confused on airship (8)
- Man, for example, even dissolves (4)
- Sounds rather vulgar but is used by everyone in school (6,4)
- Country wants boa doctored (8)
- Toasts rate removal with minor personalities (6)
- But Capone has right to be bloodthirsty (6)
- Tennyson or Keats, say, destroyed by drink (4)
- In Omaha, Kenny will fish (4)

Name

Address

RAF word Crossword No. 283

The winners of Prize Crossword 283 and Prize Su Doku 293 will be published in our October 30 edition. Send entries to the address printed in the Su Doku panel opposite.



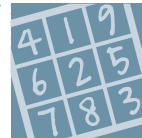
■ The winner of Crossword No. 282 is Mrs V Todd of Co. Durham.

Solution to Crossword No. 282:

Across – 1. Wind 8. I Told You So 9. St Mawgan 10. Cain 12. Vulcan 14. Summer 15. Strafe 17. Fiesta 18. True 19. Hercules 21. Buccaneers 22. Rash

Down – 2. Instructor 3. Diva 4. Gorgon 5. Adonis 6. Boscombe 7. Down 11. In Extremis 13. Coalesce 16. Ethane 17. Forget 18. Tuba 20. USSR

RAF Word – Regiment

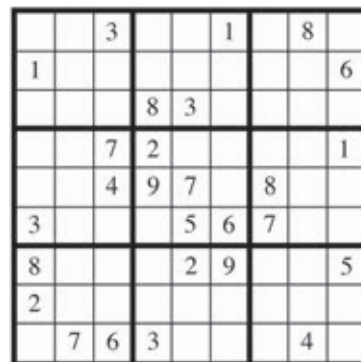


Prize Su Doku

No. 293

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

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Su Doku' with the number in the top left-hand corner to RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 30, 2020.



Name

Address

..... Su Doku No. 293

Solution to Su Doku No: 292



■ The winner of Su Doku No. 292 is Ken Stallard of Wantage, Oxon.

Competitions

Books

Battle of Britain 1940/Letters From The Few (pen-and-sword.co.uk)

Tributes to The Few and the 'also-rans'

ACCLAIMED MILITARY historian Dilip Sarkar has two new titles out – about the Battle of Britain and The Few.

Fascinated by the Battle from an early age, as a young man Sarkar realised that recording and sharing The Few's memories was of paramount importance.

At the time, in the mid-1980s, membership of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association was well populated and its Honorary Secretary, the now late Wg Cdr Pat Hancock DFC, supported Dilip's research by forwarding letters to individual pilots of interest.

Those members of The Few included a wide-range of personalities – from famous airmen like Gp Capt Peter Townsend and Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, to the 'also rans', as Battle of Britain Hurricane pilot Peter Fox famously described himself and his peers.

It was Peter's 'also rans' that were of the greatest interest to Sarkar, who recognised that whilst many famous and distinguished pilots had either published personal memoirs or had biographies written about them, 'lesser lights' had no platform to record and share their experiences. He was dedicated to resolving this.

For many years, Sarkar enjoyed prolific correspondence with The Few. These letters now represent a unique primary source,

confirming the close relationship the author enjoyed with his heroes.

In *Letters From The Few* (pen-and-sword.co.uk) the author shares, for the first time, a selection of his correspondence with Battle of Britain fighter pilots.

In *Battle of Britain 1940 The Finest Hour's Human Cost* (pen-and-sword.co.uk) Sarkar explores the individual stories of a wide selection of those who lost their lives during the 'Finest Hour', examining their all-too brief lives and sharing these tragic stories for the first time.

We have copies of *Letters From The Few* (rrp £25) and *Battle of Britain 1940* (rrp £30) to win. For the chance to own one, all you have to do is send us the correct answer to this question:

In which year did the Battle of Britain take place?

Email your answer, marked Battle of Britain books competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 30.

Please remember to state on your entry whether you prefer to win *Letters From The Few* or *Battle of Britain 1940* and don't forget to add your FULL postal address.

Competitions

DVDs

Rumble Fish, cert 18, out Oct 19
Twins, cert PG, out now (both Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises)

Are you ready to Rumble?

OSCAR-WINNING director Francis Ford Coppola's visually-stunning adaptation of the S.E. Hinton novel *Rumble Fish* stars teen heartthrobs Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke as brothers whose desire to break out of their urban trap eventually leads to the death of one and a new beginning for the other.

Photographed in black and white with colour sequences, the striking production features a brilliant supporting cast including Dennis Hopper and boasts a musical score by Stewart Copeland, drummer and co-founder of The Police.

Coppola called *Rumble Fish* 'an art film for teenagers'. Colourful Siamese fighting fish were incorporated into the black and white film by projecting the footage of the actors (in black and white) on a screen behind a tank containing the fish and then filming the two elements together.

The film is dedicated to Coppola's older brother, August, whom he considered his 'first and best teacher.' August's son is Nicolas Cage, who has a small role in the film.

We have copies of *Rumble Fish* on DVD to win. For your chance to own one, simply answer this question correctly:

Which famous actor is Francis Ford Coppola's nephew?

Email your answer, marked Rumble Fish DVD competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by October 30. Please note, entrants must be over 18.



WE ALSO have copies of the 80s comedy classic *Twins*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny De Vito up for grabs, directed by Ivan Reitman (*Ghostbusters*).

An ambitious genetic experiment takes the wrong turn when two twins – who look nothing like each other – are born and then separated. Years later, the unlikely siblings meet: Julius (Schwarzenegger), a highly educated but sheltered giant with a big heart, and Vincent (De Vito), a pint-sized hustler with an insatiable lust for women and money.

With girlfriends in tow and a hitman on their tail, the new-found brothers set off on a wild, cross-country misadventure to find their mother – but end up finding out more about themselves.

To enter our competition to win a copy on DVD, tell us:

Who directed *Twins*?

Email your answer, marked Twins DVD competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to our usual address (see opposite) to arrive by October 30.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE
MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MOST
HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE
BATH

As Knight Grand Cross (GCB)

■ Air Chief Marshal Sir S. J. HILLIER
KCB CBE DFC

As Knight Commander (KCB)

■ Air Chief Marshal M. WIGSTON CBE

As Companions (CB)

■ Air Vice-Marshal C. R. ELLIOT CBE
■ Air Vice-Marshal H. SMYTH OBE
DFC

APPOINTMENTS TO AND
PROMOTIONS IN THE MILITARY
DIVISION OF THE MOST
EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE
BRITISH EMPIRE

As Commanders (CBE)

■ Air Cdre P. H. LLOYD
■ AVM C. J. MOORE
■ Air Cdre S. N. PERKINS
■ Gp Capt D. J. STARTUP
■ Gp Capt (now Air Cdre) I. J.
TOWNSEND

As Officers (OBE)

■ Gp Capt C. E. BAKER
■ Wg Cdr (now Gp Capt) J. R.
BUTCHER
■ Gp Capt M. C. FENLON
■ Wg Cdr N. D. C. GREEN
■ Gp Capt S. M. PHYTHIAN ARRC
■ Gp Capt I. J. SHARROCKS

As Members (MBE)

■ Sqn Ldr (now Wg Cdr) B. R.
ALCOCK
■ WO S. E. CATTERALL
■ Wg Cdr N. J. CLAYTON
■ Cpl G. J. CROOT
■ Sqn Ldr (now Wg Cdr) S. ENGLISH
■ Sqn Ldr M. D. FAULDS
■ Wg Cdr B. R. G. GOODWIN
■ Flt Lt A. K. HARGREAVES
■ SAC (now acting Cpl) L. A. HART
■ Flt Sgt A. LILLEY
■ Sqn Ldr S. N. MOORE
■ Sqn Ldr D. W. MULVANEY
■ Sqn Ldr J. PALMER
■ Cpl V. A. PENTON
■ WO M. R. PRICE
■ Sqn Ldr S. M. STOWERS
■ Sqn Ldr M. T. SYMONS
■ Sqn Ldr A. G. F. THOMPSON
■ Sgt Mark A. WILMAN

ROYAL RED CROSS

As Ordinary Associate Royal Red Cross
(ARRC)

■ Flt Lt J. MCKINNON

PROMOTIONS IN AND
APPOINTMENTS TO THE CIVILIAN
DIVISION OF
THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE

British Empire Medal

■ Mr D. BROWN
■ Mr C. R. J. CHARLTON

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL,
CAS, DEPUTY COMMANDERS' AND
AOC COMMENDATIONS

3 Flying Training School

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Lt A. G. ELLIS
■ Flt Lt N. C. HEANEY
■ Flt Lt P. S. MOSS FTRS
■ Flt Lt D. G. A. ROWE
■ S/Lt D. M. CAMP
■ Mr D. ARCH
■ 90 Signals Unit

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO A. D. BOWMAN MBE

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Sgt M. MACONNACHIE

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Sgt P. A. BRACE
■ Sgt D. G. JAMES
■ Cpl S. SHARDLOW
■ SAC (Technician) C. L. BRANDON
■ SAC (Technician) S. A. K. FIELD
■ Mrs K. JEFFREY

Team Commendation

■ AEF Installation Maintenance Team –
Salt Lake Site, Cyprus



KCB: CAS ACM Mike Wigston

Chief of Staff Capability

DCom Cap Team Commendation

■ Typhoon Programme Management
Office

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Sgt (now acting MAcr) R. E.
LINFOOT

HQ 2 Group

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr T. C. TWAITE

HQ 11 Group

Meritorious Service Medal

■ MAcr T. T. WILSON

Air Officer A4

Comd UKStratCom Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr J. A. SYMONS

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Chf Tech A. J. CLARKE

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Sgt R. V. MERRY

Air Officer A6

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Mr B. BUCK

Team Commendations

■ CompuSec HLVA Team
■ 591 SU Cyber Reserves

Air Officer Medical Operations

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO 1 (now Flt Lt) N. A. BUXTON
■ Sgt K. J. W. TILDESLEY

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Flt Lt A. R. DODD

Team Commendation

■ Tactical Medical Wing Aeromed Sqn

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr S. M. WHEELER
■ WO W. HUGHES
■ Cpl H. C. PARKER FTRS
■ Cpl (now acting Sgt) C. M. TAYLOR
■ Ms K. SAGE

Team Commendations

■ Infection Prevention Control Flight,
Tactical Medical Wing
■ HQ AIR Medical Operations
Team
■ Aeromedical Evacuation
Control Centre
■ Capability and Sustainment
Squadron, Tactical Medical Wing

ACOS Career Management

DCom Cap Commendation

■ Miss L. GILLMAN

Team Commendations

■ Terms and Conditions
of Service
■ HQ AIR Reserves
Team
■ Career
Management
■ Aircrew Rejoiners
Team

ACOS Operations

CAS Commendation

■ SAC S. J. PAVLOVSKIS

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

■ SAC T. WEAVER RAuxAF

Team Commendation

■ B Flight – Air & Space Intelligence
Centre

ACOS Air Infrastructure

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO A. HORNBY

ACOS Personnel Delivery

CAS Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr K. P. E. CLARKSON

ACOS Personnel Policy

DCom Cap Team Commendation

■ The Compulsory Drug Testing Team

ACOS Workforce Requirements and
Reserves

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr N. A. DAVIS

Chief of Staff Air

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr M. REED

Head of Media & Communications

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr S. G. SMITH

Joint Force Air Component
Commander

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Major N. S. THOMAS MBE

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr A. C. EDGECOMBE

RAF Safety Centre

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Chf Tech (now acting Flt Sgt) P.
LLEWELLIN

Space & Battlespace Management

Force Commander

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO N. OWEN
■ WO D. D. ROBINSON
■ WO R. WILSON

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

■ Sgt D. J. HAYGARTH RAuxAF

Team Commendations

■ ASACS Operational Conversion Unit
Concept Development Team
■ Battlespace Management Operations
Wing Plans Section

HQ Air Cadets Cranwell

CAS Commendation

■ WO D. N. SHORT

DCom Ops Team Commendation

■ RAF Air Cadets Security Team

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr H. J. PORIA
■ Flt Lt E. CARR
■ Flt Lt W. A. TAYLOR

Team Commendation

■ Cadet Portal Project Team

HQ RAF Recruiting and
Selection

CAS Commendation

■ Sgt S. A. BRAMLEY
FTRS
■ Sgt M. GILMOUR
■ SAC (Technician)
(now acting Cpl) E. J.
HODGES

DCom Cap

■ Commendation
■ Sgt G. A. SMITH



CB: AVM Harv Smyth

Team Commendation

■ AFCCO Portsmouth

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

■ Sgt D. T. BUDZISZEWSKI
■ Cpl M. OLDFIELD
■ Mr C. FADDY
■ Mr D. SMITH

Air & Space Warfare Centre

CAS Commendation

■ WO P. J. STANLEY PTVR

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr R. M. DODD

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Lt S. J. K. COTTON
■ Flt Lt L. S. MARTIN
■ Sgt S. FIELD FTRS
■ PO E. HOLMES
■ A/Cpl L. SHEARER

Team Commendations

■ HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH Phase 2
SHOL Team
■ Phenom Trial CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
Team

Commandant Defence College of
Logistics, Policing and Administration

CAS Commendation

■ Cpl S. C. SEWELL

CO Defence Animal Training Regiment
Melton Mowbray

Meritorious Service Medal

■ Flt Sgt (now WO) J. E. TANNER

Defence College of Technical Training

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO S. G. BROTHERS

CAS Commendation

■ Ms J. RAY

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Cpl K. D. ROGERS
■ Mr T. E. DAVIES

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ A/Lt Cdr (now Lt Cdr) J. C. K.
MEHTA
■ Lt R. GREGG
■ PO R. HUNTER
■ Sgt R. R. TRAVIS FTRS
■ SAC (Tech) (now A/Cpl) C. P. RODD
■ Mrs S. HERRING
■ Mr C. PILGRIM
■ Mrs M. K. SMYTH
■ Mrs S. TRUBRIDGE

Team Commendations

■ No 4 School of Technical Training
Ofsted Inspection Support Team
■ RNAESS Survival Equipment Training
Team

Commandant Defence School of
Transport Leconfield

Meritorious Service Medal

■ Flt Sgt (now acting WO) P. E.
MARLEY

Head Office, Ministry of Defence

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO G. C. LOCKE

DCom Ops Commendation

■ WO C. COOPER

DCom Cap Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr M. J. FOUNTAIN

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr (now Wg Cdr) J. A. S.
FURNESS

UK Strategic Command

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO N. CAMPBELL
■ WO J. D. HILLMAN
■ MAcr D. A. WRAY
■ Flt Sgt K. J. McKEE
■ Flt Sgt J. W. PUTLAND

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Rev (Sqn Ldr) D. C. HASLAM
■ Flt Lt (now Sqn Ldr) D. G. TIPLER
■ Flt Sgt S. REZAZADEH-WILSON
■ SAC R. L. TOBIAS

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Lt C. J. HALLWORTH
■ SAC K. N. PARSONAGE

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Sgt S. H. A. WRIGHT

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

■ Fg Off (now acting Flt Lt) I. J.
BENNEYWORTH

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Sgt (now acting WO) K. J. RIDDLE

Commander Joint Helicopter
Command

Meritorious Service Medal

■ WO L. D. SIMPSON

CAS Commendation

■ SAC B. RAI

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr J. J. TURNER
■ Flt Sgt P. A. McGUIRE
■ Flt Sgt O. THORNTON
■ Sgt S. GOODHALL
■ SAC V. L. HOLLEY-ROWE
■ Dr P. NAIDOO

Team Commendations

■ RAF Benson C4i Projects Team
■ RAF Benson Survival Equipment
Section
■ The Grimshaws, RAF Odiham

MOD Abbey Wood – Defence
Equipment & Support

DCom Ops Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr R. HARNETT

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Lt A. HENDERSON

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

■ Sqn Ldr A. M. WOOD

MOD Abbey Wood – DFT

DCom Ops Team Commendation

■ WESTERN HAWK 19 Public
Relations Team

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Flt Lt J. L. ROBERTS
■ Cpl M. J. CHICK

Team Commendations

■ Central Flying School Multi Engine
and Rearcrew Examiners
Standards Flt, 72 Sqn

Naval Secretary

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

■ Lt T. D. EELES

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

■ Lt I. M. FRITH

RAF Boulmer

Meritorious Service Medal

■ Flt Sgt G. L. SAYER



CB: AVM Chris Elliot

DCom Ops Commendation

- Cpl (now acting Sgt) G. STEPHENSON

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt S. J. BARON
- Flt Lt A. LEWIS FTRS

RAF Brize Norton

Meritorious Service Medal

- MAcr D. McLEAN

DCom Ops Commendation

- Sqn Ldr A. H. DOWDS
- Flt Lt D. M. HARRISON FTRS
- Chf Tech S. L. RAE
- Cpl (now acting Sgt) J. E. MORTIMER

DCom Cap Commendation

- Sqn Ldr S. M. PEARSON

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

- Sqn Ldr L. J. HOWELL RAFVR
- Flt Lt C. A. ALTASS
- Flt Lt A. J. BELL
- Flt Lt T. J. MOUNTNEY
- Flt Sgt G. M. SLATER
- Sgt M. L. ATKINSON
- LAC (now SAC) J. P. GRIFFIN

Team Commendations

- Fuels and Lubricants Flight – Training and Standards Section
- On-Time Performance Team

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

- Sgt (now acting Flt Sgt) R. A. J. WHITLOCK

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt E. J. CAMPBELL
- Cpl S. D. HODGSON

RAF Coningsby

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO S. M. VINE

DCom Ops Commendation

- Mr R. VAUVERT

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

- Fg Off C. R. WROOT
- Flt Sgt M. J. FIELDS
- Chf Tech A. BACKHOUSE FTRS
- Sgt (now Chf Tech) D. R. LANE
- Sgt C. P. ATKINS
- WO T. C. GARNER

Team Commendation

- Air Traffic Control Sqn

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

- SAC J. M. DAY

RAF College Cranwell

DCom Ops Commendation

- Sqn Ldr D. J. WHEELER
- Ms G. GEORGE

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

- WO S. P. JOHNSON FTRS
- WO D. L. PERRETT
- Flt Sgt M. A. BROOKS FTRS
- Mrs W. SHIPPEY

RAF Fylingdales

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt R. A. WEEKS FTRS

RAF Halton

CAS Commendation

- WO G. C. EDWARDS FTRS
- A/WO H. L. RIMMER

AOC 22 Gp

Commendation

- Sqn Ldr P. CHEGWIDDEN FTRS
- Flt Lt T. M. BEDDOW

Team

Commendation

- Regional Medical Centre

RAF Henlow



TYPHOONS: Missions from RAF Akrotiri

AOC 2 Gp Team Commendation

- RAF Henlow Communications Information Systems Team

RAF High Wycombe

VCDS Commendation

- Wg Cdr S. NEASHAM

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- Ms D. BOWMAN

Team Commendation

- RAF High Wycombe Building 47 Change Team

RAF Honington

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO R. J. COOKE

CAS Commendation

- Sgt Z. C. McINTOSH

DCom Ops Team Commendation

- RAF Henlow COVID-19 Planning Team

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt R. CHAPPELL
- WO I. R. M. GALLOWAY MBE
- Flt Sgt B. G. C. JONES
- Flt Sgt T. J. REEVES
- Sgt (now A/Flt Sgt) A. E. BROWN
- A/WO (now WO) M. J. FARMER
- L/WO C. BROWN
- SAC (now L/WO) J. SKILLICORN
- SAC E. AHERN

Team Commendations

- RAF Honington Accounts Flight
- Air Land Integration Cell Jordanian Short-Term Training Teams

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- WO (now acting Sgt) C. L. WEBBER

RAF Leeming

DCom Ops Commendation

- WO B. S. HAYES
- Miss R. TAYLOR

Team Commendation

- Continuous Improvement Team

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt D. A. BUTLER
- Flt Lt G. H. REES
- Sgt S. L. MARRIS
- WO A. F. RUTTER

Team Commendations

- Air Traffic Control Sqn
- Exercise Support Team, Operations Sqn
- RAF Leeming COVID-19 Support Cell
- RAF Leeming Soft Facilities Management Team

RAF Lossiemouth

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO M. N. HANNEN
- WO T. WALKER

- Flt Sgt R. A. GRIMSHAW-ELSE

DCom Ops Team Commendation

- 1435 Flt Engineering Team

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

- Sqn Ldr N. D. McGUIGAN
- Sqn Ldr G. WILLIAMS
- Flt Lt D. J. CHORLEY
- Flt Sgt N. M. HAGEN
- Sgt (now Chf Tech) K. P. BROWN
- Sgt K. A. GRAY
- Sgt A. A. NICOL
- Sgt R. C. SMITH
- WO (now acting Sgt) D. J. PEARSON-BRAND
- WO H. L. THOMAS

Team Commendations

- Junior Ranks' Entertainments Committee, Base Support Wing
- Leuchars Diversion Airfield and Space Operations Specialist Team

RAF Marham

Meritorious Service Medal

- Flt Sgt J. T. HARRY

DCom Ops Commendation

- WO 1 M. FAIRBANK

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

- A/Cdr (now Cdr) N. R. TWIGG
- Sqn Ldr I. F. PICKERING
- Flt Lt N. A. DEARDEN
- Flt Sgt I. G. STOCKER
- A/Flt Sgt (now Sgt) K. M. SIDDLE
- Sgt P. McLEAN FTRS
- WO T. B. MILLS

Team Commendations

- Lightning Team UK
- COVID-19 Cell, Personnel Services Flight
- Facility Supervisors and Accommodation Cell

RAF Northolt

Meritorious Service Medal

- Flt Sgt (now WO) J. R. HICKS

DCom Ops Commendation

- Flt Lt N. M. COWEN

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

- Chf Tech (now A/Flt Sgt) C. L. CRAGGS
- Sgt M. McROBBIE
- WO S. L. COTTON

Team Commendations

- RAF Northolt Police and Security Flight
- Number 32 (The Royal) Sqn Cabin Crew

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- Sgt H. S. ROSENTHAL

RAF Police

AOC 2 Gp Commendation

- Flt Sgt H. A. LACEY
- Sgt R. T. McDOWALL

- Sgt I. A. NEWBY RAFVR
- Sgt J. S. THOMAS
- WO K. L. LOWER

RAF Scampton

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

- Mr R. C. ROGERS

RAF Shawbury

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO K. WADE

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt C. BROMWICH
- Flt Lt M. P. BULLEN
- Flt Lt G. L. MIFSUD
- WO 1 C. BALE
- Flt Sgt S. M. BUCKLEY

Team Commendations

- RAF Shawbury Community Support Team
- Supply and Safety Equipment Sections

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt M. P. T. Warburton

RAF Spadeadam

CAS Commendation

- Mr J. LAWTON

AOC 11 Gp Commendation

- WO D. MORRISON

Team Commendation

- RAF Spadeadam De Havilland House Mess Staff

RAF St Mawgan

AOC 22 Gp Team Commendation

- RAF St Mawgan Community Support Team

RAF Valley

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

- Flt Lt S. BOWMAN
- Flt Lt C. E. HUGHES
- Mrs K. MADDEN

Team Commendation

- RAF Valley Motorcycle Club

RAF Waddington

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO J. P. CASS

DCom Ops Commendation

- WO T. A. RUDDOCK FTRS
- Sgt C. BETTERIDGE

AOC 1 Gp Commendation

- Sqn Ldr M. P. L. OLSEN
- Flt Lt M. A. BRANTHWAITE
- Chf Tech M. COCKING
- Sgt M. BARILLI
- Sgt A. J. OAKES
- WO S. R. CAFFREY
- SAC (Tech) R. M. GREEN
- Mr S. VANDERCLUTE

Team Commendations



F-35: Deck landing



PUMA: Ops in Afghanistan

- 8 Sqn Engineering
- 54 Sqn Mission Simulator Flight
- RAF Waddington Force Protection Training Flight

RAF Wittering

Meritorious Service Medal

- WO J. YOUNG
- Flt Sgt I. D. MARR

DCom Ops Commendation

- Chf Tech N. B. McCABE
- Mrs S. WEST

Team Commendation

- Force Protection Training Flt

AOC 38 Gp Commendation

- Sqn Ldr S. M. RYAN FTRS
 - Fg Off L. E. HEAL
 - A/Flt Sgt E. D. JONES
 - Sgt W. E. C. CORBETT
 - WO A. J. BALCH
 - SAC B. WELLSTEAD
 - Mrs L. RANSOM
 - Mrs S. RUTTER
- Team Commendations**
- Ground Radio Maintenance Section
 - TG5 Spearhead Team, 5001 Sqn
 - Training Cell, Joint Aircraft Recovery and Transport Sqn, MOD Boscombe Down
 - Tri-Service School of Fibre Reinforced Plastics, 71(IR) Sqn Welfare Team
 - 4624 Sqn COVID-19 Mobilisation Support Team
 - A4 Force Element HQ Team
 - Personnel Management Sqn
 - A Flt Movements Team – Task 482

VICE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF COMMENDATIONS

Vice Chief of Defence Staff Commendation

- Gp Capt M. D. HEFFRON
- Wg Cdr J. A. C. KELLY
- Wg Cdr (now Lt Col) D. MARSHALL
- Wg Cdr S. NEASHAM
- Wg Cdr B. A. ROBERTSON
- Sqn Ldr J. B. COOKE
- Sqn Ldr S. S. MUNRO

Team Commendation

- Beijing Defence Section

COMMANDER UK STRATEGIC COMMAND COMMENDATIONS

Commander UK Strategic Command Commendation

- Sqn Ldr J. A. SYMONS
- Flt Sgt L. WOODLEY

COMMANDER JOINT HELICOPTER COMMAND COMMENDATIONS

Commander Joint Helicopter Command Commendation

- Flt Lt S. M. BRADLEY
- Flt Lt E. C. GUEST
- Fg Off J. A. COOPER
- Flt Sgt M. A. MURDOCK
- Sgt M. S. JONES
- Sgt G. R. SANDELL
- WO C. H. SMITH
- WO C. D. J. WOOLLEY

Team Commendations

- RAF Benson – Puma 2 Independents Recovery Team
- RAF Benson – Welfare House Committee
- RAF Odiham – Ground Engineering Flight
- RAF Odiham – Air Safety Team



GCB: ACM Sir Stephen Hillier

Graduations

Six of the best

Prizes for the elite of Salalah Flight



PASSING MUSTER: Air Cdre Harper reviews the new Gunners; below, vocal Flt Lt



THE NEWEST members of the RAF Regiment have graduated at RAF Honington – 33 members of TG 1-20 Salalah Flight.

ACOS Training, Air Commodore Simon Harper, was Reviewing Officer for the ceremony.

The graduation was livestreamed for families unable to attend in person.

Now the Leading Aircraftmen

will be posted to either 1 Sqn RAF Regiment at RAF Honington, 2 Sqn RAF Regt (RAF Brize Norton), 51 Sqn RAF Regt (RAF Lossiemouth), or 63 Sqn RAF Regt (RAF Northolt).

The Prize Winners were:

● Frank Sylvester

Trophy: **LAC Turner** – best all-round Trainee Gunner.

● The RAF Regiment

Association Trophy for Drill and Deportment: **LAC Shields**.

● WO Ramsey Physical Development Cup: **LAC Dixon**.

● LAC Beard Recruits' Trophy: **LAC Wall**.

● SAC Luders Champion Shot Trophy: **LAC Curran**.

● Cpl Bradfield Trophy: **Cpl Walker** – the best Corporal Instructor.



Families return for RAF Halton graduation



FAMILIES WERE welcomed back to RAF Halton for the graduation of Douglas Intake.

Diane Reap and Ed Thomas attended the graduation to see Diane's son, AC Lewis Reap, graduate.

Mrs Reap said: "It meant a lot to us to be here today to see Lewis graduate and go on to Phase 2 Training at RAF Honington, to train as a RAF Regiment Gunner."

Following their first two weeks at RTS, recruits formed 'bubbles' with their colleagues, reducing the requirement to remain socially distanced from each other all of the time.

RAF Halton Station Commander Group Captain Dan Startup was Reviewing Officer.

He said: "The whole station was very pleased to welcome families back to RTS and we will continue to work within the Covid-19 guidelines to welcome more families to graduations in the coming months."



BIG DAY: One of the proud new recruits on parade

EYES RIGHT: A small number of family members were allowed at the ceremony PHOTOS: KATE PARROTT

By Tracey Allen

V2 **Feature**

IT WAS reading former WAAF Eileen Younghusband's obituary in a national newspaper that, said Robert Harris, inspired him to write his latest novel.

Not surprisingly, the phenomenally successful author's new book, *V2* (penguin.co.uk), has joined his list of bestsellers, that includes *Fatherland*, *Enigma*, *Munich* and *The Second Sleep*.

V2's heroine is Kay Caton-Walsh, an officer in the WAAF who has experienced first-hand the horror of a V2 rocket strike. Kay is sent to a newly-liberated Belgium in the hope of discovering the location of the rocket's launch sites. But not all the Germans have left and she finds herself in mortal danger.

Harris tells the story of the *V2* through the perspectives of two characters – the fictional Dr Rudi Graf, a long-time collaborator of Werner von Braun who was the head of the Nazi rocket programme, and Kay. It's what you'd expect from this master thriller writer – a taut and absorbing page-turner.

He said: "Kay isn't based specifically on Eileen – she's a composite and I have given her a different back story from Eileen's, with Kay's background in photo-interpretation.

"Eileen's obituary in *The Times* was what first set me onto the story. I had always been interested in the *V2* but the moment I read the story of the eight WAAF officers who tried to calculate its parabolic curve I felt that suddenly gave me the opportunity to turn it into a novel."

Trained as an aircraft plotter, Eileen worked in the filter room at the headquarters of Fighter Command at Bentley Priory. She was on duty during the D-Day landings, the launching of the V-1 flying bomb campaign and received the first rocket, which landed in Staveley Road, Chiswick, on September 8, 1944 – the first to land in London.

As the threat to Antwerp became acute, in December 1944 Eileen and seven WAAF colleagues were sent to Mechelen in Belgium to join a team aiming to identify the *V2*'s launch points. Their only tools were their knowledge of mathematics and a slide rule to calculate the launch point's position, knowing the landing spot and the missile's trajectory.

In her second volume of autobiography *One Woman's War*, (Candy Jar Books) she vividly describes her life as a young airwoman, working in the filter room, and later, detecting *V2*s as they fell on London.

Harris said: "I read all Eileen's books, they gave a very vivid picture of life in the WAAF. I would never have written *V2* were it not for her disclosure of the existence of the Mechelen operation. I will always be grateful for her inspiration.

"I would have loved to have met her. I regret that I never got the chance. Everyone who

Eileen, the pocket rocket inspiration of leading author



BIRTHDAY GIRL: Eileen Younghusband meets personnel at RAF St Athan in Wales in 2011, to mark turning 90. *Left*, Nazi *V2* rocket prepares for launch



© Air Historical Branch (RAF)

knew her described her as a very lively, engaging character."

Eileen died in 2016, aged 95.

Working out where a *V2* might strike was a nail-biting job – the women had only six minutes to complete each calculation.

Harris said: "It was a race against time. There was no room for error because the 602 Squadron Spitfire pilots from RAF Coltishall were either scrambled immediately or already in the air."

In her memoir, Eileen writes that, on her first day of duty, about six *V2*s were launched

during her watch and the WAAF's calculations resulted in two successful hits on the launchers.

She said: "From then onwards this method... was to prove a great success. Each day more and more launch vehicles were destroyed."

Harris maintains that she was misled. He explained: "I've no doubt that Eileen was reporting accurately what the women themselves were told, but human nature being what it is, the success rate was often exaggerated – not deliberately, but you'd see your bombs go and report that you'd carried out the mission."

"I think they were reporting missions rather than actual launches destroyed, and I was surprised myself, as I continued with my research, to find there is no evidence of a single launcher having ever been hit."

Harris described the *V2* as 'a grandiose folly'.

He said: "It was a poor weapon because it was inaccurate. In theory, every *V2* was aimed at Charing Cross station, the notional centre of

London; in practice, despite their sophisticated guidance system, they were so buffeted by crosswinds during their 60-mile descent from space that they mostly landed far off target – one of the reasons the attempt to find their launch sites by calculating their parabolic curve proved ineffective.

"It could only carry a one-ton warhead – a single Lancaster bomber could deliver six tons of high explosive. However, it hit a target at about 2,000mph so it did a lot of damage."

"It weakened buildings within a range of about a quarter of a mile – there is an astonishing statistic that it destroyed 20,000 houses and damaged 580,00 buildings."

The rocket killed about 2,700 people in England and injured 6,500. It killed 1,700 in Antwerp and wounded a further 4,500.

V2 was written during lockdown. Harris said: "I always write my

books if I can between January and June, which doesn't give much margin for error."

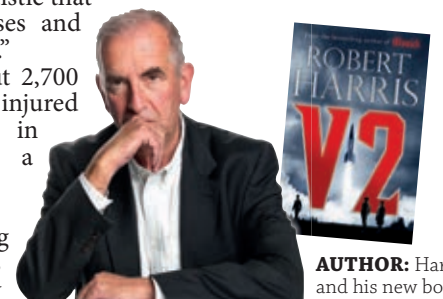
"The disruption we were all experiencing then, and to some degree now, was reminiscent of wartime. There was the same sense of threat, of ordinary life being turned upside down."

Several of Harris's books have been turned into films – what about his latest?

He said: "The film industry has been badly hit by the pandemic, it's very hard to make anything at the moment, so I don't know – it's just a matter of wait and see."



WAAF: A young Eileen



AUTHOR: Harris and his new book, *V2*



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Gp Capt Ken Parfit

Obituary

Pathfinder Nav who went on to be CO of a Hercules squadron

GROUP CAPTAIN Ken Parfit, who has died aged 96, flew 29 missions in Lancasters, the majority with the Pathfinder Force.

After a year with Glasgow University Air Squadron, Parfit joined the RAF in 1943 and trained as a navigator in Canada. By the summer of 1944 he had joined 61 Squadron.

His first bombing operation was against the French city of Caen, where German forces were holding up Allied ground forces after the landings in Normandy.

A short time after, his Lancaster was severely damaged over Bordeaux and, flying on just one engine at full power and a second providing half power, the crippled bomber was landed at an airfield on the south coast.

After five operations Parfit and his crew joined 97 Squadron, part of the Pathfinder Force and based at Coningsby. Their first operation was against Rheydt on September 19 when Wg Cdr Guy Gibson VC was the master bomber.

Soon after the raid was over Gibson and his navigator were killed when their Mosquito crashed over the Netherlands.

Parfit attacked synthetic oil plants, the port at Danzig and twice bombed the Dortmund-Ems Canal. At midnight on New Year's Eve, his Lancaster was 'coned' by searchlights and was under intense anti-aircraft fire. Throughout the winter of 1945 he attacked more oil plants and, on April 18, he flew his 29th, and last, mission of the war – when he bombed the marshalling yards at Komotau in Czechoslovakia. He was just 21 years old.

Two days later his squadron began flying to airfields in Belgium to return recently liberated PoWs. After the war he flew long-range transport flights on Yorks of 246 Squadron until he was demobbed in August 1946.

After four years of civilian life Parfit rejoined the RAF and for the next three years served in the Education Branch. He transferred to the General Duties Branch, completed the Staff Navigation Course and became an instructor at No. 2 Air Navigation School at Thorney Island for the next two years.

Following a period in Aden, he converted to the Beverley and joined 53 Squadron, soon becoming a flight commander, and was involved in many overseas exercises.

After 18 months in the Air Secretaries department posting junior aircrew there was an urgent requirement for a Beverley squadron commander. Parfit took over 84 Squadron at Khormaksar in Aden, after a very brief refresher.

He made numerous flights 'up country' supporting ground forces engaged with Yemeni insurgents. The Beverleys also flew regular sorties to the Persian Gulf and to Africa.

In early 1965, after promotion to Wing Commander, he served in the MoD responsible for tactical air transport and helicopter operations and policy, including responsibility for the new C-130 Hercules.

In June 1968 he was appointed to command 30 Squadron, one of the first Hercules squadrons, and based at Fairford. During his period in command he twice circumnavigated the world.

In February 1970 his squadron flew London policemen into Anguilla, in the West Indies, to provide a quick response in nearby Antigua following a period of unrest. In April of the same year he flew British troops into Northern Ireland, the start of the IRA campaign.

In early 1971, Parfit returned to the Air Secretaries Department, this time as a Group Captain. In June 1974 he arrived at RAF Episkopi in Cyprus as the Station Commander. Within days there was an attempted coup against Archbishop Makarios, the president, and five days later Turkish forces invaded northern Cyprus.

Episkopi became a sanctuary for thousands of people, including Service families, British tourists and Greek Cypriots fleeing from the north.

In addition to providing care for a huge population, Parfit and his staff had to assist in the mass evacuation and airlift of British nationals.

“Nobody should be considered for a squadron commander post unless they have served their apprenticeship under someone like Ken Parfit”

After Parfit had been in command for 16 months it was decided to close RAF Episkopi and he left for Ankara, in Turkey, to serve on the staff of CENTO, where he was also responsible for the administration of RAF personnel serving in Turkey and at 6 ATAF in Izmir. He left his appointment in August 1977, when he retired from the RAF.

Throughout his years overseas Parfit received immense support from his wife Margaret, a nurse. She served in local medical facilities in Aden and was kept very busy at Episkopi. She also provided support to the British military community in Ankara.

After retiring Parfit spent four years working for British Aerospace on the Saudi Arabia project, including two years as the service manager at Tabuk Air Base. He finally retired in May 1982.

Parfit was immensely popular. One of his Hercules flight commanders commented: “Nobody should be considered for a squadron commander post unless they have served their apprenticeship under someone like Ken Parfit.”



POPULAR: Ken Parfit

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Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real-life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted, variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

AVM Barry Newton CB, CVO, OBE, QCVS

Obituary

Pilot Newton flew 'Sniffer' Canberras during nuke tests

AIR VICE-MARSHAL Barry Newton, who has died aged 88, flew a Canberra bomber during the British nuclear and hydrogen bomb test programme in the 1950s. He later filled senior posts with Britain's reserve forces.

After graduating from the RAF College Cranwell in 1953, Newton flew Canberras with 109 Squadron before joining 76 Squadron. In the summer of 1956, the squadron deployed to RAAF Base Edinburgh near Adelaide, Australia to participate in Operation Buffalo – the testing of four low-yield atomic weapons.

He flew one of the five Canberras that were positioned at Maralinga airfield, 500 miles north west of Adelaide, to gather data from the tests carried out in the Woomera weapons range.

Flying at high level, the aircraft were tasked with meteorological reconnaissance, cloud sampling and cloud tracking after the explosion.

The first test was carried out on September 27, 1956 when Newton and his crew monitored the blast and gathered air samples from the radioactive cloud caused by the explosion.

Three more tests were carried out, including the first to be dropped from an aircraft, a Vickers Valiant of No. 49 Squadron. Newton flew in support of these test flights, which concluded on October 22.

He remained with the squadron, which later deployed to Christmas Island for Operation Grapple, a series of four tests of Britain's first hydrogen bomb. The first drop, from a Valiant, took place on May 14, 1957 when Newton and his colleagues, flying their Canberras, monitored the tests.

At the end of 1957 he left 76 Squadron and was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air for his part in the nuclear testing programme.

After completing a course at the Central Flying School, Newton returned to RAF Cranwell in October 1959 to serve as a flying instructor. In addition to his formal duties, he took a keen interest in the activities of the flight cadets.

He had a series of appointments in the flying training arena, which

included commanding a squadron at No. 6 Flying Training School equipped with the Jet Provost, and a period on the staff at HQ Flying Training Command.

After attending the RAF Staff College in 1966, he was appointed the Personal Staff Officer to the Commander Second Allied Tactical Air Force and Commander-in-Chief RAF Germany, Air Marshal Sir Denis Spotswood, a man renowned as a hard taskmaster. Newton's relaxed style, ability, excellent staff work and social skills served him well.

He returned to flying in June 1969 when he commanded the flying wing at RAF Cottesmore, home to three Canberra squadrons.

After attending the Air Warfare Course, he began a series of appointments in the MoD policy branch and in the Cabinet Office, which included support of the Joint Intelligence Committee. In 1975 he was appointed OBE.

On promotion to Air Commodore in 1982, Newton completed a refresher flying course before moving to HQ RAF Support Command where he was responsible for all flying training in the RAF.

A year later he was appointed an ADC to The Queen and for the following two years was the RAF Senior Director at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

In 1986 he took up the post of Commandant of the Joint Services Defence College at Greenwich. Shortly before retiring he was appointed CB.

On completion of his regular service in the RAF in the summer of 1989, Newton became a Gentleman Usher to HM The Queen, a position he held until 2002. For his services he was appointed CVO.

In retirement he retained close links with the services. He was vice-chairman of the council of the TA & VR Association for 10 years and in 1997 was appointed the Honorary Air Commodore of No. 606 (Chiltern) Auxiliary Squadron, part of the Joint Helicopter Force based at Benson near Oxford.

In 2000 he became the Honorary Inspector of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and later was made President of the UK Reserve Forces Association. In all these



LIFE OF SERVICE: Air Vice-Marshal Barry Newton with Her Majesty The Queen, who bestowed a number of honours upon him

appointments he remained well informed, travelling widely to meet people and to attend events, parades and reunions. His visits

included one to meet the RAF auxiliaries manning the Rapier air-defence missile system in the Falkland Islands.

Always immaculately turned out, and with faultless manners and courtesy, he was described by a colleague as a gentleman of the old school.

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Sport

5 pages of **RAF Sport** start here

● Tough weekend for Reserves riders: P30

ANGLING



Staff Reporter

Oxlease Lakes, Oxford

SERVICE ANGLERS took it to the banks of Oxlease Lake, Oxford to kick off the RAF Championships, and Chf Tech Coleman stormed to a clear margin win in some style.

After a long summer of isolation, the championships began with a development event providing talks and coaching on various aspects of the sport.

After assessing the lake and the swims and noting the fish breeds featured in the lake on information boards, the anglers settled down to 72 hours of intense action.

The championships opened under blue skies and a quiet

first afternoon belied a busy evening as catches began to be made.

Sgt Stu Thomson opened the action, landing an 18lb mirror carp, and he was quickly followed by Coleman, who hooked a 31lb 14oz carp, setting an early marker for the biggest fish trophy.

Having returned the fish safely to the water, he hooked a 22lb one minutes later.

Coleman added a third with an 18lb common carp to open the morning's action and FS Hunt slipped a 17lb mirror into his net, before Cpl Booth got on the leader board in



Carp classic

Championship provides reel hot action



HOOK, LINE AND WINNER: Above left, Chf Tech Whittaker with a catch; left, Cpl Cavanagh is all smiles with a huge carp; above, Oxlease Lake at dusk, inset, champion Chf Tech Coleman

second place with a 22lb mirror carp.

With the temperature rising as the day unfolded, the action halted, with no catches coming on the still water, and that remained the same throughout the night.

Paul Sampson broke the silence with a mid-morning hook of a 14lb mirror to get on the scoreboard.

Further prolonged periods of non-action followed, before Sgt Hasbury broke the lull with a 17lb mirror. No sooner had this fish been slipped back, Hasbury scored again.

It took a chaotic 20-minute spell,

but Hasbury was finally on the leader board, jumping into second place.

Chf Tech Whittaker then landed a stunning 27lb mirror, closely followed by Sampson with a 15lb mirror.

In peg 3 Coleman, who had opted to fish at a longer range, then hooked two mirror carp, weighing 12lb and 25lb, in quick succession.

As the evening progressed the battle for second heated up, with Cpl Cavanagh hooking a 15lb mirror, quickly followed by neighbour Cpl Booth with a 26lb mirror to reclaim second place.

The final night saw Sgt Lee Podmore and Cpl Mitchell give themselves hope with a 19lb and 23lb catch respectively, before Chf Tech Whittaker landed his second

of the match to move up into third, while FS Verney threw his hat in the ring with a 29lb 14oz mirror carp.

With the sun rising on the final day a check of the scores showed it was very tight in a battle for podium spots, 10 anglers were now sat within one fish of each other for the top places, but no more fish were caught before the hooter was sounded.

Coleman was crowned champion with five hooks weighing 110lb and 11oz while his 31lb, 14oz mirror carp won the biggest catch of the day. Cpl Booth came in second with two fish weighing 49lb. Chf Tech Whittaker's two fish weighed a total of 42lb 13oz, securing him third place.

Follow RAF Carp fishing on Twitter @RAFCarp.

Football

England tester for RAF veterans

Footballers restart season with back-to-back fixtures

Staff Reporter

St. George's Park

THE SERVICE'S veteran footballers were returned to action with a weekend of play in two highly competitive fixtures, against England Over-55s and Sutton Coldfield Over-35s.

The teams, led by Head Coach FS Ret'd Matt Beattie, produced a credible 3-1 loss for the debut fixture Over-55s and a stunning 6-1 win for the Over-35s in the second clash.

Beattie said: "The Over-55s' debut bow was a tremendous success. England were tough opposition with regular games under their belts. It was a very close game and I think our guys were better than the final scoreline.

"The Over-35s match the following day against Sutton Coldfield, who were National Champions at this level two years ago, provided strong opposition.

"We featured six debutants – it was a real test and was extremely competitive and played to such a high level.

"St George's Park treated and hosted us brilliantly, and we are really looking forward to our next two fixtures here in the coming weeks and the upcoming Inter-Service match against the Royal Navy."

“England were tough opposition with regular games under their belts. It was a close match”

Against England the Service side, having cleared two attacks, went closest to opening the scoring in the fifth minute when Sgt (Ret'd) Dougie Coull's first-time shot was scrambled away for a corner.

Jnr Tech (Ret'd) Darren Robinson sent a header from the proceeding corner wide, but the military team

were up and running. The RAF defence was finally breached when a shot was parried by Sgt Paul Stones, only for the rebound to be tapped in.

Stones was called into action again late on clearing with his feet to keep the score at 1-0 at the break.

WO Andrew Kutcha, the

new SRT Manager, grabbed the equaliser in the 51st minute with a great strike.

The hosts took the lead again in the 66th minute with a lovely volleyed attempt, and, despite some superb defending, the hosts made it 3-1 late on.

Against Sutton Coldfield, a mixed veterans team blitzed their opponents 6-1 with a stunning

display. They opened the scoring after 27 minutes, sadly at the wrong end as Flt Lt Dave Arscott deflected the ball in.

Straight from the restart an Arscott volley levelled things up for a half-time score of 1-1.

Within 10 minutes of the second half getting underway AC Michael Duerden, Sgt Jon Watkins and Cpl Lee Croft combined for



MASKED MARAUDERS: The management and backroom staff, donning face masks, watch over back-to-back matches at St George's Park; below left, the Over-35s keeper organises his wall for a free kick; below right, Service on the attack; right, Over-50s player holds off an England man during the 3-1 defeat

PHOTOS: SAC SAM DALE - ACSSU





Croft to smash a spot kick after the Coldfield defenders upended Cpl Steve Norton. On 61 minutes

Duerden netted, and the fourth from Croft came minutes later. Croft then found Norton to

make it 5-1, before Duerden struck a beautiful right-footed shot from 20 yards in the 90th minute for 6-1.



RAF Skip to it

RAF ATHLETES made their presence known at the recent Skipwith Common Orienteering event with three top 50 finishes in the two distance disciplines.

The British Orienteering Federation, the National Governing Body, authorised the return event which was held under full Covid-secure conditions at the South Yorkshire course.

Sqn Ldr Johnston-Davis topped out the RAF contingent of three athletes with a 14th place finish in the 9.5km 20m run in 71 minutes and 10 seconds M45 class.

WO Adrian Molesey in the M50 class came home in 30th on the same course.

Sgt Wayne Byrne, running on the blue course 6.8lm 15m in the M40 class, came 42nd in a time of 75 minutes and 49 seconds.

Stringent Covid-19 measures saw athletes register online, with touch-free controls and safe areas to warm up and change in and out of kit pre and post-race.

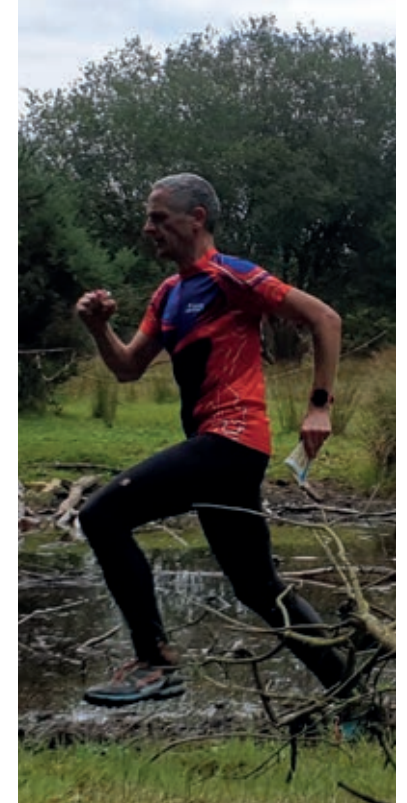
Sqn Ldr Johnston-Davies said: "All of us RAFO members were incredibly excited to get out into the forest and back into competition."

"The RAF Sports Directorate kindly expedited authorisation for their duty participation in the first regional level event."

"It was an amazing area to throw orienteers straight back in at the deep end. Parts of the area gave a feeling of navigating through wilderness, where there were indistinct vegetation boundaries and few distinct map features, making things very challenging."

"The weather was fine, with many of the marshes having dried out, making navigation even more testing. The running was fast, with numerous long legs."

"Nonetheless, all successfully completed their course, albeit



MUDDY MARVELLOUS: Sqn Ldr Johnston-Davies gets stuck in; below, WO Ade Molesey at the start line

well down the order. It was a thoroughly testing, but very welcome and highly enjoyable return to competition."

■ Anyone interested in RAF Orienteering should search RAF Orienteering via MODNet, or @RAFOrienteering via Facebook and Twitter.



MOTORSPORT

Duo gel but come uns

at Park

Oulton round sees Service team struggle, but vow to battle on

Daniel Abrahams
HQ Air Command

RAF REGULAR & Reserve Kawasaki team duo Ryan Vickers and recruit Jack Kennedy left Oulton Park with just a 13th place highest finish to show for their efforts.

Kennedy said: “I felt that I gelled with everyone in the team really quickly, and we made good progress as the weekend went on.”

Running a two-man BSB team for the first time since 2016 meant it was a busy weekend for the Service team for rounds 10, 11 and 12 Superbike and it all started positively for both Kawasaki ZX-10RR riders lining up on the fifth row for the opening 16-lap race.

Kennedy made a great start jumping up to ninth, while Vickers slipped back to 15th.

By lap six Kennedy was struck by tyre and fuel pump issues and was forced to retire, while Vickers held on to dig out three hard-earned points, finishing 13th.

Kennedy started from 10th on the grid with Vickers slightly further back in 16th for the second 18-lap race. In perfect conditions the duo ran in 11th and 16th respectively, before Kennedy was beset by further technical issues, retiring at the halfway mark, while Vickers came in 14th. The duo also

rode away from the final 18-lap race with one more championship point. Vickers came home 15th, while Kennedy was struck by pump problems again, but he managed to finish 16th.

Vickers, who now lies in 15th on the championship leaderboard on 34 points, said: “It’s probably been the toughest weekend I’ve ever had in BSB and with the nature of the circuit making things tricky at the best of times, it’s even worse when you don’t have a good set-up.

“It’s probably been the toughest weekend I’ve ever had in BSB”

“We’ve struggled all weekend and are hoping we have better luck at the next round at Donington Park.”

Team owner Lee Hardy said: “It’s been a hard weekend. The team have done a brilliant job throughout though and there’s lots of promise on both sides of the garage, so we’ll keep working hard to improve the feeling for both riders and get back into the top ten.”



OUT AND ON THE ATTACK: Above and below, the RAF team riders battled hard all weekend, but technical issues and bad luck saw them come away with just a 13th place finish. PHOTOS: T...



tuck



We Kenn do better

SPEAKING AFTER the race, Jack Kennedy (*pictured above with team manager Lee Hardy*) was determined to do better for the team's next race. He said: "Despite working well, unfortunately, that wasn't shown in the points."

"With a good start in race one, it felt great to be running inside the top 10, but the tyre issue made the bike a bit unstable and gave me trouble along with the pump issues which forced me to retire. That proved to be the story for the rest of the weekend sadly, as I struggled there on in."

"So I came away feeling a bit frustrated as I know the results are nowhere near the potential of either myself or the team. I'll go away from it all, find a solution and come back stronger in the next round."

with just four championship points
TIM KEETON - IMPACT IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

WATERSPORTS



MAKING WAVES: Above and below, action from a brilliant week of training and competition at Box Park, Bedford for the RAF wakeboard association

PHOTOS: SAC(T) GARETH SCHOFIELD-DOWNING

Boarders Box clever for Champs

STAFF REPORTER

Bedford

THE FIRST post-lockdown wakeboard event saw the Service's boarding stars descend on Box End Park, Bedford for the Cable Waterboard championships.

In perfect conditions, a field of 30 riders took to the water for the men's and women's competitions, with the men's title going to Cpl James Brown and the women's to SAC Kitty Barrett after a bumper event which featured three days of training and one of intense competition.

SAC Aran McGukin had three weeks to arrange a venue and fulfil the Covid-19 requirements.

The field of eight rookie, 11 novice and 11 experienced riders spent the next three days honing their skills and practising tricks ready

for the final day of competition.

The beginner's competition kicked off the event, which went the way of Cpl Daniel Curran, with Fg Off Jack Hanby runner-up, and SAC Arran Mcraith third.

Next up the rookie and intermediate categories saw riders battle it out with increases in technical difficulty for tricks and jumps, in a highly competitive event.

Cpl Sam Brown took the rookie crown, Flt Lt Joshua Brown and Cpl Tom Hukin came second and third respectively.

At the end of the morning all eyes were on the advanced riders to see what they could do over the range of obstacles on the lake.

Unable to defend his men's title due to injury, SAC McGukin joined the judging panel.

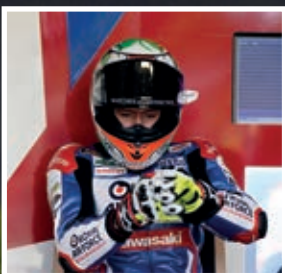
With Brown and Barrett taking the crowns, SAC(T) Gareth Schofield-Downing and Fg

Off Lee Clark came second and third respectively in the men's event, while LAC Amber Guest was runner-up in the

women's event and SAC Joanna Palfreyman third.

After outstanding final efforts from all of the riders, the men's title went to Cpl James Brown and the women's title to SAC Kitty Barrett.

Follow the association on Twitter @RAFWakeboard.



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