

The Forces' favourite paper



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● See RnR p4-5 and p25



Win!

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **September 18** 2020
No 1499 **70p**

RAF News

Typhoon drone buster upgrade



See page 13

Sailing
Wood shows mettle to win



● See p30

Football
Women kick it off again



● See p31

F-35s eye Big Lizzy date on NATO drill



STAR TURN: US F-35s join British stealth jets at Marham as Nato steps up maritime war games
PHOTOS: SGT BEN MAYFIELD



Simon Mander

FIGHTERS from three Nato nations have flown large-scale sorties over the North Sea ahead of Europe's biggest air Exercise – Joint Warrior – next month.

British and American F-35Bs teamed up with Dutch F-35As and two USAF F-16 squadrons from Italy in missions to prepare the Lightnings to deploy on the Royal Navy's new super carriers.

The training, codenamed Exercise Point Blank, originally a quarterly training mission between the RAF and Lakenheath-based US units, has evolved into a multi-national big-ticket event involving more than 50 aircraft from across the Nato alliance.

● Continued on p5

finding
it tough?

~~MENTAL WELLBEING~~ COURSES 2020

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"No really, it's all ~~good~~"

too
much!

Okay.

So if you really want to know - yeah - things are a bit tough at the moment. I'm a 27 year old mum, and sometimes I look at my friends whose partners come home every night, regular as clockwork, and I do feel a bit envious.

I'm so proud of Simon but I do have moments when he's away when it all gets on top of me a bit. Trying to juggle kids, work - I feel just a bit overwhelmed sometimes I guess. I know it's stupid - he's always there on the end of the phone and he's so supportive -

I just can't help how I feel sometimes.

He's due back next week. I can't wait for him to get home and everything to be normal again. We just need to get through the first few days of all living in the same house together again - he'll be tired, the kids will be over the top excited and I'll be in the middle....

But I'm not moaning. There's plenty worse off than me. Si's a great husband and a great dad. I just need to be positive. Get on top of things.

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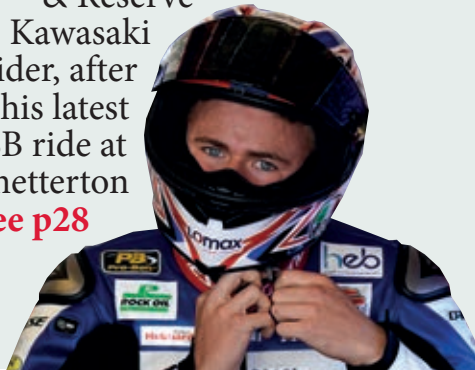


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“I’m pretty happy with where we are. I’m looking forward to the next round”

Ryan Vickers, RAF Regular & Reserve Kawasaki rider, after his latest BSB ride at Snetterton
See p28



“We can’t wait to show what we can do and bring the trophy home”

Brize dog section chief Sgt David Parton as his team prepares for the Service’s UK military working dogs trials
See p23



“I’m pleased and proud Art Club is coming back, it’s not principally about art, it’s a celebration of life”

Artist, author and TV star Grayson Perry on the return of his C4 show
See R’n’R p3



ROYAL AIR FORCE
RAF News

RAF News
Room 68
Lancaster Building
HQ Air Command
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Editor: Simon Williams
Email: editor@rafnews.co.uk

Sports Editor: Daniel Abrahams
Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk
Tel: 07966 429755

Features Editor: Tracey Allen
Email: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

News Editor: Simon Mander

All advertising:
Edwin Rodrigues
Tel: 07482 571535
Email: edwin.rodrigues@rafnews.co.uk

Subscriptions and distribution:
JPI Media Print Holdings Ltd
26 Whitehall Road
Leeds
LS12 1BE
Tel: 020 7855 7574
Email: rafnews@jpress.co.uk

Intel chief's A-I warning

Staff Reporter

THE UK'S adversaries are developing new ways of operating, backed up by cutting-edge military capabilities using advanced technologies, the Chief of Defence Intelligence has warned.

Lt Gen Jim Hockenhill has said that the shifting global picture has changed the character of warfare, challenging the West to keep pace with adversaries who do not play by the rules.

Global players such as Russia and China continually challenge the existing order without prompting direct conflict, operating in the expanding grey-zone between war and peacetime.

Conflict is bleeding into new domains, such as cyber and space,

threatening defence cohesion and resilience and the UK's global interests.

Lt Gen Hockenhill said: “Whilst conventional threats remain, we have seen our adversaries invest in Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and other ground-breaking technologies, whilst also supercharging more traditional techniques of influence and leverage.

As we have seen in Salisbury, hostile states are willing to take incredible risks.

“We must make sure that we have both the intent and the capability to ensure that such wanton acts of irresponsibility will not go unpunished.”



TECH WARNING:
Intel chief
Lt Gen
Hockenhill



THE CENTRAL Band of the RAF led a Battle of Britain Sunset Ceremony at Northolt, which played a key role defending the country from the Nazi advance.

The event was attended by defence chiefs and senior military

leaders including Chief of the Air Staff ACM Mike Wigston.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight performed a flypast over the station following a parade by The Queen's Colour Squadron.

PHOTO: CPL BETH ROBERTS

This Week In History



1942

Mosquito Berlin raid

BOMBER COMMAND mounts the first daytime raid on Berlin. Six Mosquito BIVs from 105 Sqn took off from Horsham but bad weather resulted in just one aircraft hitting the target.

1997

Thrust speed record

TORNADO F3 pilot Sqn Ldr Andy Green sets a new land speed record hitting 714mph in the Phantom-powered Thrust SSC in the Nevada Desert.



2004

Harrier joins ISAF mission

A DETACHMENT of 3 Sqn Harrier GR7As deploy to Kandahar airfield to support the ISAF coalition, providing close-air support and reconnaissance.

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

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UK and US F-35s lead maritime war game



STRIKE FORCE: US F-35 arrives at Marham ahead of maritime training exercise Point Blank. Inset below, Royal Navy flagship Queen Elizabeth carrier. PHOTO: SAC BEN MAYFIELD

● *Continued from front*

Commander of the USAF in Europe General Jeff Harrigian said: "This ultimately makes us experts at what we do, which is deliver air superiority anywhere across the globe."

617 Sqn's Commander Mark Sparrow said: "Exercise Point Blank is the first of many important steps needed to create a fully integrated Carrier Strike Group ready to deploy next year operationally for the first-time onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth."

It's the first flying the USMC outfit has carried out after completing precautionary Covid-19 isolation on arrival in the UK.

And they were up against a formidable 'enemy' - Lossiemouth-based Typhoons.

RAF Lossiemouth Station Commander Gp Capt Chris Layden said: "Our



Typhoons simulated the tactics and threats of our adversaries whilst challenging their colleagues in complex air-to-air battles that tested the skills of the pilots involved and pushed these world-class aircraft to their limits."

Earlier, 10 F-35Bs from V Marine Fighter Attack 211 Sqn flew from their base in Yuma, Arizona via MCAS Beaufort to Marham.

Commanding Officer Marine Lieutenant Colonel Joseph F. Freshour said: "Exercises like Point Blank allow us to validate digital interoperability with 617 Sqn and are an opportunity to conduct realistic, relevant training with the USAF and Nato's allies."

The unit, nicknamed 'The Wake Island Avengers,' will conduct synthetic training in purpose-built simulators at the Norfolk base to familiarise themselves with the local airspace before flying training sorties alongside 617 Sqn and embarking on the carrier later this month.

Once onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth, both squadrons will ensure all pilots can

operate from the ship day and night using live and inert weapons ahead of Carrier Strike Group 21 next year, which will see 'Big Lizzie' deploy operationally for the first time.

With that completed, the jets will then conduct Joint Warrior from the flagship before returning to Marham to practise multi-domain operations in Exercise Crimson Warrior.

Marham Station Commander Gp Capt James Beck said: "It's fantastic to welcome 211 Sqn to Marham for the first time."

"Preparation for their arrival hasn't been without its challenges in the current climate, but I am extremely proud of the way that our personnel have worked to ensure that all procedures have been put in place to make this detachment a success."

'Battle of Britain' scramble as Russian Bear skirts Nato skies

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS SCRAMBLED to intercept two Russian sub-hunters just days before the UK marked the 80th anniversary of Battle of Britain Day.

The jets, currently operating from the former Leuchars airbase, launched in response to a pair of TU-142 Bear F maritime reconnaissance aircraft entering the UK Flight Information Region.

The zone of international airspace is monitored by UK civilian air traffic control to ensure the safety of transatlantic airliners and other aircraft.

One of the pilots flying said: "This is a very evocative moment to scramble as it is nearly 80 years on from Battle of Britain Day, the date that now marks the end of the critical phase of the battle in 1940."

"Air defence now is as critical as it was then."

It's the first time Quick Reaction



INTERCEPTORS: RAF Typhoon closes in on Russian TU-142 Bear over the North Sea. PHOTO: MOD

Alert jets have scrambled from Leuchars, now home of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, since temporarily returning to the former RAF station while the intersection of the runways at Lossiemouth is resurfaced.

RAF Lossiemouth Station Commander Gp Capt Chris Layden said: "Today's scrambles against Russian military aviation approaching UK airspace shows that Team Lossie are able to respond to any potential airborne threats."

The Typhoons were supported by an RAF Brize Norton-based Voyager operating from Mildenhall, while the runway at their Oxfordshire home is also undergoing essential maintenance.



BLAST OFF: Nova rocket test; inset, SAC Luke Marston

Rocketman's aiming high

A WITTING-based airman has been working on the largest ever rocket to be launched from Britain.

SAC Luke Marston of 71 Inspection and Repair Squadron helped design an in-flight fin system to stabilise Starchaser Industries' 13 metre tall Nova 2 rocket capsule on a work experience placement.

The 22-year-old RAF man said: "It was an amazing experience, I never imagined I'd be working on a rocket."

"Even the idea that something you're working on will go into space seems unbelievable, but it's really happening."

DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, WE ARE STILL HERE AND READY TO HELP

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SPITFIRE PILOT: Above centre, remembered, Flt Lt Vincent Bunting

Podcast honours battling Britain's forgotten pilots

THE BRAVERY of some of the Battle of Britain's hidden heroes has been revealed as the country marks the 80th anniversary of the epic fight for UK skies.

Among the airmen whose courage has been forgotten are DFC winner Mahinder Singh Pujji and Spitfire pilot Vincent Bunting.

Their stories were revealed by researchers at the RAF Museum and streamed to mark Battle of Britain Day in the *On The Record* podcast that tells the story of Singh Pujji and Bunting, and highlights the engineers who maintained the aircraft and kept pilots safe.

Born in the Punjab in 1918, Pujji (below) was one of the first Sikhs to volunteer for the RAF in World War II. He began flying as a hobby pilot at 18 and joined the Indian Air Force.

He was commissioned in August, 1940 and served in 43 Sqn and 258 Sqn flying offensive sweeps into occupied France. He was posted



to India in 1942 then Burma in 1943, flying tactical reconnaissance missions for 6 Sqn.

His DFC citation stated: 'This officer has flown many reconnaissance sorties over Japanese territory, often in adverse monsoon weather, which enabled an air offensive to be maintained.'

'Flt Lt Pujji is a skilful and determined pilot who displayed outstanding leadership and courage.'

Vincent Bunting was one of thousands from the Caribbean who volunteered during WWII and served in several squadrons flying Spitfires, eventually being posted to Biggin Hill with 611 Sqn.

He was soon promoted to Warrant Officer, 132 Sqn, also flying Spitfires and served with 154 Sqn, flying Mustang IV fighters.

A museum spokesman said: 'Bunting stayed in the RAF after the war, retiring in 1948 as a Flt Lt. He married an English woman, moved to Antigua and eventually went back to Jamaica'

● Go to: media.nationalarchives.gov.uk for details.

Assault test for rookies

ROOKIE CHINOOK crews staged a simulated helicopter assault under fire to hone their combat skills.

Three Benson-based helicopters deployed to RAF Woodvale near Formby on Merseyside, for Exercise Kurri Dawn – the operational phase of training run by 28 Squadron.

Flying in unfamiliar rural training areas across the north of England, the course qualifies pilots and crewmen for postings to frontline units at Odiham for operations in Britain and overseas.

Flight Commander Sqn Ldr Chris Gent said: 'The culmination of the week is a simulated Helicopter Assault Force insertion by two Chinooks.

'It has to be achieved to within seconds, while dealing with a simulated enemy threat, to stretch the students' capacity and prove their readiness as aircrew.'

The course is the culmination of months of simulator training at RAF Benson by 16 students learning tactical and formation flying. It begins with low-level formation flying



UNDER FIRE: RAF Chinook takes off after inserting troops in combat conditions; inset, troops during a flight
PHOTOS: SAC EMMA WADE/SAC HANNAH SMOKER

between their Oxfordshire home and the training area supported by the Tactical Supply Wing who refuel the aircraft.

'The students have conducted

trooping serials with soldiers from Catterick and simulated medical evacuation tasks in a threat environment to prepare them for operational theatres,' said Gent.

Chinook crew on a roll



9 PARA hookers strap a 2.5 tonne road roller to an 18 Squadron Chinook during a training exercise to hone their frontline air skills.

The workhorse helicopter also hauled a nine tonne JCB digger as part of the drill to prepare crews for operations with UK Forces' 16 Air Assault Brigade.

A spokesman said: 'Specialist units routinely carry out this kind of operation in the UK and on overseas duties. Each load handles very differently, so this training was extremely valuable for the Chinook crew.'

PHOTO: SGT ANDY HOLMES



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POSEIDON: Will guard UK nuclear deterrent

UK eyes fifth P8 subhunter

BRITAIN'S FIFTH Poseidon subhunter has rolled off the assembly line dubbed Fulmar after a type of seabird.

The RAF is procuring a fleet of nine of the aircraft in total with numbers three and four soon to be delivered to their Scottish base.

The latest aircraft's name also reflects Lossiemouth's history as a naval air station – the former HMS Fulmar.

The RAF currently operates two aircraft which track potential hostile submarines and defend the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Recently the Boeing-built Poseidons have taken part in their first operational missions, tracking a Russian warship in the North Sea and monitoring illegal migrants crossing the Channel.

Three other aircraft have been christened Pride of Moray, City of Elgin and Terence Bulloch, after the WWII Coastal Command ace.

Ku dares wins

Staff Reporter

A MILITARY dog who charged through a hail of bullets to tackle a terrorist gunman during a daring Special Forces raid in Afghanistan has been awarded the animal 'VC' for bravery.

Four-year-old Belgian Malinois Kuno suffered severe leg injuries in a 'lone wolf' style attack which allowed UK troops to break through the heavily defended compound and take out a terror cell during the operation in 2019.

The hero hound was given life-saving treatment by medics on an RAF helicopter and evacuated back to the UK, where he had a lower hind leg amputated and replaced with a specially-designed canine prosthetic limb.

Kuno was medically discharged

from the UK military and is now to be presented with the Dickin Medal – an honour introduced in 1943 by PDSA animal charity founder Maria Dickin.

He has been rehomed in the UK and is the 73rd animal to win the award, also presented to RAF working dog Buster – who saved hundreds of lives during service in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "Without Kuno, the course of this operation could have been very different."

"He saved the lives of British personnel during a raid which was one of the most significant achievements against Al Qaeda in several years."



WAR-KIES: Kuno hits the beach on his prosthetic hind legs, fitted after the four-year-old Belgian Malinois was injured as he stormed a terrorist compound; above left, the Dickin medal **PHOTOS:** PDSA



FRONTLINE AIR POWER: F-35s prepare to take off from Akrotiri during first operational deployment **PHOTO:** CPL JIMMY WISE

Gunners' Lightning tour

Simon Mander

COMBAT-HARDENED Gunners have left their home at Honington to provide force protection for the UK's F-35 squadrons.

15 Sqn RAF Regiment will guard the UK's growing fleet of Lightning stealth fighters, based at RAF Marham in Norfolk.

The squadron deployed six times to Iraq and Afghanistan and was the last RAF Regiment unit at Basra International Airport.

With more than 32 months fighting the Taliban between 2001 and 2014, the squadron earned the right to emblazon the Afghanistan battle honour on its standard.

Station Commander at the RAF Gunners' home at Honington, Gp Capt Matt Randall, said: "We shall be sorry to see them go. We also know they have an exciting opportunity ahead of them to work alongside the cutting-edge F-35."

"We wish them well for a smooth transition to Marham and for continued success in the future, defending the RAF wherever it operates, at home or deployed."

The unit is no stranger to supporting Lightning having protected the jets during their inaugural overseas deployment in 2019 to Cyprus and introduced security measures for the stealth fighters.

Vet Jon pushes the boat out for PTSD

Mike Pike

FORMER GUNNER Jon Couch has launched a bid to row 500 miles across the Mediterranean to support Forces veterans struck down by PTSD.

The 38-year-old is part of a five-man team of Forces veterans who will be hitting the high seas next year to complete the challenge in just five days.

Jon, who joined the RAF Regiment in 2010 after a stint in the Army and served in Afghanistan and Iraq, signed up for the voyage organised by UK charity Adapt and Overcome.

He said: "PTSD is now part of military life. Everyone who has served knows someone who has been hit by it, if they haven't battled with it themselves."

The team are hoping to row across a stretch of the Atlantic from Barcelona in Spain to Palermo in Sicily.

The crew will battle sleep deprivation and strong currents during the voyage, putting in two-hour shifts and then resting for two hours for the five-day trip.



ALL OAR NOTHING: Ex-Gunner Jon gets in shape on his rowing machine; inset right, back in his RAF days

Dad-of-three Jon added: "I'm on the rowing machine every day to get in shape. I have never done this kind of thing before but I've been getting training advice from old pals in the Regiment."

"I'm in good shape so the rowing

and keeping up the pace won't be too much of a problem

"The biggest challenge will be not getting any kip."

● To support the rowing team go to: adaptandovercome.uk/news

News



INTERCEPTORS: RAF Typhoon closes in on Russian Mikoyan MiG-31s over the Baltic. *Left, Typhoon pilot scrambled from Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania. Top, Sukoi SU 27 Flanker. PHOTOS: MOD*

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Four crests representing the four branches of the United Kingdom Special Forces: Airborne, Special Air Service, Special Boat Team, and Special Reconnaissance.

A high-angle photograph of a soldier in a white camouflage uniform rappelling down a snowy, rocky cliff face. The soldier is wearing a helmet and has a rifle slung over their shoulder.

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Creative Media Design, J000000007

Typhoon UK return after facing down Russia Baltic threat

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS FINISHED their latest Nato mission on a high as they signed off on Baltic Air Policing duties.

As the 150-strong RAF team prepared to return to Lossiemouth a pair of 6 Squadron jets joined Exercise Allied Skies escorting US Air Force B52 bombers flying across Europe from their temporary base at Fairford, Gloucestershire.

135 Expeditionary Air Wing chief Wg Cdr Stu Gwinnutt said: "I'm pleased to say we've finished on a high with the last week being one of our busiest."

"We made two intercepts of a Russian Coot maritime aircraft that wasn't complying with international air traffic regulations and have supported the US Bomber Task Force in the Baltic Region."

The RAF contingent have now returned to their Moray home after handing over to the Italian Air Force in a ceremony at Siauliai Air Base in Lithuania.

Wg Cdr Gwinnutt said: "The deployment has been a huge success despite the ever-present risk of Covid, which we successfully navigated through sensible contingency planning."

"Along with our Spanish and French partners we've maintained the integrity of Baltic airspace and participated in numerous Nato maritime, land and air exercises."

During the latest four-month deployment Typhoons conducted 10 scrambles and intercepted 15 Russian military aircraft flying through Lithuanian-controlled airspace over the Baltic Sea.

At the height of the Nato mission UK crews scrambled twice in two days to intercept Russian Coot spy planes escorted by Sukoi SU 27 flankers closing in on protected airspace.

A pilot said: "We are conducting more



SECURITY PLEDGE: Wg Cdr Gwinnutt joined by Lithuanian President Gitan Nauseda (right) at Siauliai Air Base. PHOTO: SAC IAIN CURLETT

complex missions than ever before as we are seeing more aircraft of different types flying at different speeds."

UK crews also conducted intensive training with Nato allies to strengthen Eastern European defences against Russian aggression.

As 6 Sqn Typhoons policed the skies over the Baltic, RAF surveillance aircraft and tankers took part in multi-national long-range training drills in the region with US and European air forces.

In one drill a Voyager joined an American KC-135 Stratotanker and KDC-10 air-to-air refuelling tankers over the North Sea co-ordinated by an E3D Sentry from Waddington.

As part of the Baltic deployment UK combat jets took part in high-profile sea-based training exercises with a Nato Naval fleet.

Typhoon pilots tested the defences of Royal Norwegian Navy flagship HNoMS Otto Sverdrup by simulating attacks using anti-ship missiles launching sea-to-air counter attacks.

One of the RAF Typhoon pilots said: "We provided realistic simulation of some of the most dynamic threats Nato warships can face to test their advanced surface-to-air weaponry or more traditional upper deck gun crews."

The Royal Navy Officer on exchange with the RAF who planned the exercise said: "Flying at low-level over the sea is a complex

and dangerous environment. If you lose concentration, even for a moment, the results can be catastrophic."

"Watching them manoeuvre on the attack runs was an incredible sight and certainly isn't something you get to see every day."

Air Officer Commanding 11 Group Air Vice-Marshal Ian Duguid said: "These missions offer a unique opportunity to test and refine the complex network of command and control operations essential to delivering frontline RAF capabilities."

The RAF has now completed Nato Air Policing missions to Lithuania, Estonia Iceland and Romania.

Full Steed ahead for Halton rookies



NEW ROLE: Sqn Ldr Steed

SQN LDR Katy Steed has been appointed as commander of new recruits' training at RAF Halton.

Formally based at the UK's officer training college at Cranwell, she takes over the post from outgoing chief Sqn Ldr Loz Humphries, who is moving to a post at the UK's Defence Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre.

Sqn Ldr Steed said: "I look forward to the challenges and being part of RAF Halton."



MOVING ON: Sqn Ldr Humphries

● **Back in the game once more**

Footie returns – see page 31

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In brief



AIR ACE: Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot Douglas Bader

Legends lead BoB tribute

NEW DISPLAYS telling the Battle of Britain story have been unveiled to mark the 80th anniversary of the epic fight for UK skies.

An Enigma machine and Dowding and Goering's busts and medals are among the attractions at a new display which opens this month at the RAF Museum in London.

Hendon is also home to the most complete set of fighters that took part in the conflict.

Complementing the exhibits is a year-long art exhibition *In Air and Fire: War Artists, the Battle of Britain and the Blitz*, previewed in *RAF News*, with more than 50 works by acclaimed artists such as Laura Knight and Graham Sutherland – many never shown before.



AIR ICONS: RAF Spitfire and Hurricane operated by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

Meanwhile Cosford – home to the world's oldest Spitfire, flown by the Battle's only VC winner James Nicolson – features previously unseen objects including a Rhino suit worn by Defiant pilots, Dowding's jacket and artefacts from the plotting rooms.

Online special events include a livestream talk with Nicolson's nephew, an exclusive podcast, a Battle of Britain Bake with a prize bundle worth £80 up for grabs, and virtual Spitfire 10K and family running events.

Supporters can also adopt artefacts including Douglas Bader's Logbook, a Sector Room clock and Aircraft Recognition Cards.

● **Admission is free.** Go to: rafmuseum.org for details.

Drone busters

Typhoon targets enemy UAVs with £317m radar deal



NEW KIT: Image shows new ORCUS radar system currently undergoing testing

Simon Mander

WORLD-CLASS drone-busting technology is to be fitted to Typhoon under a £317 million programme.

The next generation ORCUS radar system can jam radio signals from UAVs and has already been successfully tested against those sited at airports.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said: "It is vital that our Armed Forces are equipped with the latest

technology to counter emerging threats from our adversaries."

The new kit will allow jets to locate, identify and suppress enemy air defences.

It integrates the new European Common Radar System Mk2, based on active electronically scanned array technology, to give pilots the edge in an increasingly contested battlespace.

Typhoon's current mechanically-scanning radar is designed to be continuously upgraded to meet

operational demand whatever the challenge or threat.

The ECRS Mk2 will allow the fighter to simultaneously detect, identify and track multiple targets in the air and on the ground.

Planned to be in service by the mid-2020s, the device looks like a camera module placed on top of a tripod.

It achieved initial operating capability after being used by the RAF following drone sightings at Gatwick and Heathrow airports which caused massive disruption

to travellers. The technology is part of the RAF's Counter-Unmanned Aerial System research and development programme with defence firm Leonardo to establish the most effective way to detect, track, identify and defeat hostile drones.

The current phase of the trials, which started in 2019, is taking place at the company's Basildon and Southampton sites with real-time testing at several MoD locations within the UK.

Defence must scrap 'old tech' and boost foreign sales

BRITAIN SHOULD move away from traditional battlefield armour and sell more jets to foreign states to keep ahead of its enemies, according to Defence Minister Ben Wallace.

And he says the aerospace industry, with annual exports worth £34bn, will be central to the UK's new industrial strategy.

The Minister made the announcement ahead of a tour of Gulf states Oman and Qatar, which have already signed multi-million-pound deals to buy Typhoons.

"For too long we have had a sentimental attachment to a static, armoured-centric force structure anchored in Europe, while our competition has spread out across the globe," he said.

"The review, which we are

currently in the middle of, will be the deepest and most far-reaching foreign policy and defence review for decades."

"It will also recognise the importance of research, skills and the aerospace industry. Without them, our forces could risk losing the battle-winning advantage we will need in this ever more insecure and anxious world."

Mr Wallace (pictured) said the sector, which employs more than 16,000 people in the north west alone and 120,000 in the UK supply chain,



UNDER FIRE: Challenger Tanks could be a target under Defence reforms



accounted for an awful lot of bricks in the northern 'red wall'.

And he praised BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Babcock International and hundreds of innovative small and medium-sized enterprises for working

throughout lockdown to keep Britain the world's second-biggest defence exporter.

"Their exports enable us to afford the best for the men and women of the Services. No country that wants to keep ahead of our enemies, not even America, can afford to not export," he said.



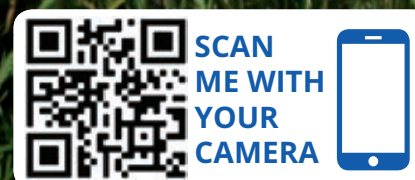
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Harry's games funding blow

Staff Reporter

A STAR-STUDED charity event to raise an estimated £1 million for the Invictus Games Foundation has been cancelled.

The show, due to be held at the Hollywood Bowl and featuring Beyoncé and Ed Sheeran, was to be streamed live on Amazon.

Games organisers say the event has been shelved due to the Covid crisis and denied the move is linked to a deal the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have signed with Amazon web rival Netflix.



GAMES PATRONS: Harry and Meghan chat to Forces competitors during Invictus training event

Covid crisis calls surge

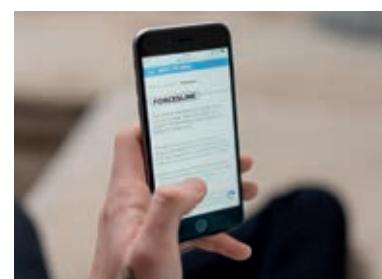
A FREE helpline set up by a military charity for members of the Forces community feeling isolated by lockdown has seen a huge increase in appeals for support.

SSAFA's Forcesline has seen an 80 per cent increase in calls for befriending and support with loneliness.

The most pressing issues the Forcesline team have dealt with are mental health problems, urgent help with food, housing and relationship breakdowns, the charity says.

Bill Grant, Forcesline manager, said: "We have seen a cut in support that keeps us feeling grounded and human."

"Social distancing brings a



hidden cost as people feel isolated and scared to reach out.

"We want anyone in the Forces family who is suffering on their own to reach out to us."

● To contact SSAFA call 0800 731 4880 or go to ssafa.org.uk/forcesline.

News bulletin



TOP POST: WO Andrea takes up Halton role

Culley's call-up

WO ANDREA Culley has been appointed the Station Warrant Officer at Halton.

She takes over the post from WO Ian Giles, who is moving to High Wycombe to take on a Regiment training post.

WO Culley said: "I'm really looking forward to taking on the challenges that lie ahead."



NOT LARKIN AROUND: Halton archivist Min saddles up for BoB charity

Vet Min takes it to the max

HALTON HISTORY man Min Larkin has clocked up more than 300 miles to net funds for the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

The veteran charity campaigner and Bucks station archivist saddled up and raised more than £700 after the Trust launched an international appeal for funds.

UK crews join B-52 Nato drill



FUELLING NATO: RAF Voyager

FAF MIRAGE

RAF TYPHOON

A PAIR of B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers from the USAF's 5th Bomb Wing conducted Nato combat drills with French Air Force Mirage fighters and RAF Typhoons.

The trilateral training sortie marks the first time a Bomber Task Force Europe mission has launched since the start of the Covid crisis.

Gen Jeff Harrigan, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander, said: "We talk a lot about interoperability, and this mission demonstrates what that actually means."

"Aircraft from three different nations received fuel from partner nation tankers, highlighting our ability to seamlessly operate together."

"This type of training strengthens our relationships and enables us to be ready to operate as a coalition anytime, anywhere."

French Air Force KC-135 aircraft and RAF Voyagers provided the refuelling necessary to enable long-range, long-duration strategic missions demonstrating Nato's tanker interoperability.

Airmen from the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, are deployed to RAF Fairford to conduct training with partners and allies during Bomber Task Force Europe rotation.

A USAF spokesman added: "Bomber missions familiarise aircrew with air bases, airspace and operations in different geographic combatant commands. They demonstrate the credibility of our forces to address a global security environment that is more diverse and uncertain than at any other time in our history."

How the RAF defeated the Luftwaffe



ROBUST MACHINES: A flight of Hurricane I fighters flown by pilots of 85 Squadron, RAF Church Fenton. Inset left, a Luftwaffe Dornier Do17 bomber is downed by the RAF

AFTER SPORADIC hit-and-run raids on the south coast by the Luftwaffe the RAF launched the Battle of Britain in earnest, attacking Nazi bombers over the Channel on July 10, 1940.

Buoyed by victory in France, Hitler issued his famous War Directive No. 9 – ordering the destruction of the Royal Air Force within a week to pave the way for an invasion of Britain.

With the Luftwaffe bomber force back to full strength the first wave of German air attacks began in earnest on July 19, with raids on Dover.

RAF losses were heavy. During July, 11 Group lost 64 day fighters and more than 40 pilots but brought down 54 Nazi bombers, 12 Stukas and 45 Messerschmitts.

The epic battle for British skies escalated as the Luftwaffe followed Hitler's demands for an all out offensive against the RAF.

The Germans launched 1,485 bomber and fighter sorties on August 13, leaving Fighter Command to counter the attacks with just 727 aircraft.

Two days later the Nazis launched 90 bombers from Norway and Denmark, escorted by 34 Bf110 and Ju 88C bombers.

The RAF countered with five squadrons and 42 fighters – downing 16 bombers and seven Messerschmitts for the loss of just one Hurricane.

The attrition rate on pilots and aircraft soon rose. Heavy attacks a week later inflicted major damage on the coastal defences as primitive radar systems failed to detect the enemy onslaught accurately.

By now the RAF had shot down 350 Luftwaffe aircraft but lost 171 aircraft and 154 pilots.

Operating under false intelligence that the first phase of attacks had been a success, Nazi commanders launched



EXHAUSTED: Hurricane pilot

the second phase with 1,030 sorties targeting Manston, Hornchurch and North Weald airfields.

The tempo and intensity steadily increased, with heavy attacks on Biggin Hill, Debden, Hornchurch, Croydon and Eastchurch overwhelming fighters with No. 11 Group.

Within another week, six of the seven stations were heavily damaged, disrupting communications links with the Fighter Command Operations Room at Bentley Priory, the sole source of target location information.

By the end of the first week of September, Fighter Command was in desperate straits.

Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding said: "The rate of loss was so heavy that fresh squadrons became worn out before convalescing squadrons were ready to take their place."

Reserves of fighters had dwindled from 518 to 292.

More critical was the loss of fighter pilots, reducing squadron manning from an average of 26 to just 16. Of a total of more than 1,000 pilots, only 500 had real combat experience.

and injuring 1,337. It was just the start. London was bombed on 57 consecutive nights, destroying and damaging more than one million homes and killing more than 40,000 civilians. However, German bomber losses continued to mount.

Two days later Goring made his final, fateful decision: to increase the awkward and unworkable close escorts of the bombers at the expense of the free-ranging and effective fighter sweeps. The lower altitudes and slower speeds necessary for the escorts to maintain station with the bombers gave the RAF fighters the advantages of speed, initiative, altitude and, above all, 'fighting spirit'.

The anticipated climax to the campaign came on September 15, with 277 bombers, escorted by 650 fighters, arrowing straight for London in a 10-mile wide stream of warplanes approaching in two large waves.

The RAF's 11 and 12 Groups responded with 336 defensive sorties. While they shot down only 16 German bombers and five escorts, after a month of attacks Fighter Command was still not beaten and air superiority over

south east England was no closer to attainment. Two days later Hitler postponed his planned invasion indefinitely.

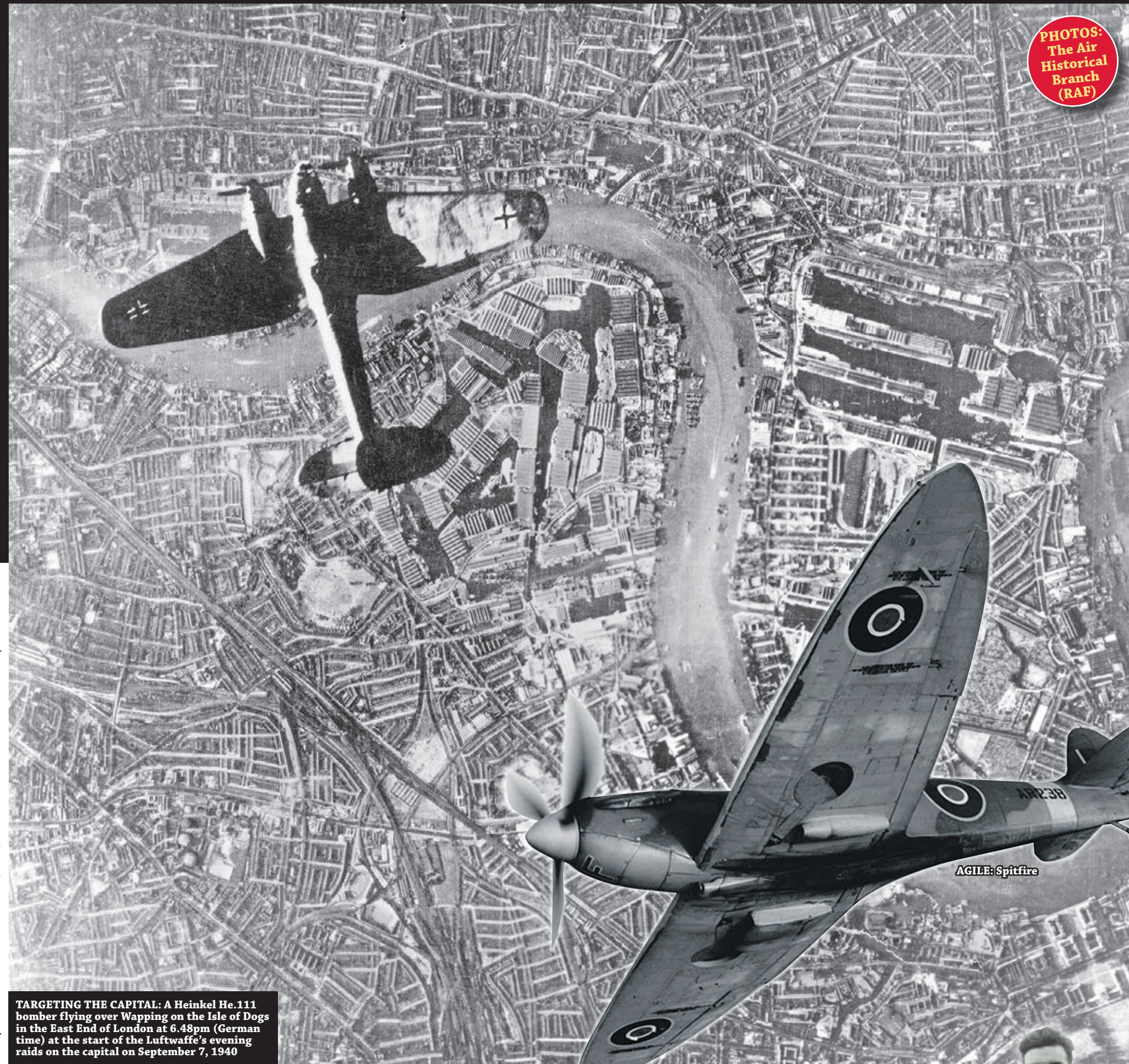
The air campaign continued with sporadic raids for the rest of the month, culminating in the final major daylight attack of the war which saw 173 bomber and 1,000 fighter sorties.

For the first time, RAF fighters significantly outperformed their adversaries, shooting down 16 bombers and 27 Bf 109s for the loss of 16 Spitfires and Hurricanes. Following this heavy loss, bombing raids steadily decreased and massed formations virtually disappeared.

The Battle of Britain officially ended on October 31, 1940. Sadly, and ironically, the last real casualty of the successful defensive struggle over south east England was actually its victor.

Because of Fighter Command's inability to defend against the Luftwaffe's night bombing attacks, ACM Hugh Dowding was relieved of his post

● **How the Spitfire and Hurricane managed to stop the invasion of Britain – see page 23.**



TARGETING THE CAPITAL: A Heinkel He.111 bomber flying over Wapping on the Isle of Dogs in the East End of London at 6.48pm (German time) at the start of the Luftwaffe's evening raids on the capital on September 7, 1940

PHOTOS: The Air Historical Branch (RAF)

AGILE: Spitfire

Hurricane pilot who won the VC

FLt Lt James Brindley Nicolson was the only fighter pilot during World War II to receive the Victoria Cross.

He joined the RAF in December 1936 and, after pilot training, was posted to 72 Sqn to fly the Gladiator. Assessed 'above average', he excelled in air-to-air firing.

In May 1940 he was posted to a newly-formed 249 Sqn flying Hurricanes, as a flight commander. Once the squadron had worked up to operational efficiency it moved south to Boscombe Down, as the Battle of Britain intensified.

On August 16 Nicolson took off on his first patrol with the unit, leading two other

Hurricanes towards Southampton at 15,000ft, where he spotted three Junkers Ju 88 bombers but could not catch them. Shortly afterwards, cannon shells thudded into his Hurricane as the formation was 'bounced' by Bf 109s. Both his colleagues were shot down.

Badly wounded and with his aircraft on fire Nicolson prepared to bale out, but a Bf 110 appeared in his sights. Abandoning any idea of taking to his parachute, he closed on the enemy aircraft, determined to destroy it. His bullets raked the Bf 110 and he continued firing as it tried to escape. With flames enveloping his cockpit, and the skin peeling from his hands, he abandoned the

Hurricane and, after a struggle, managed to pull the ripcord of his parachute.

Suffering from severe burns and wounds, as he drifted down, 'friendly' soldiers fired on him, wounding him further. His doctors expected him to die, but he gradually recovered and in November it was announced he had been awarded the Victoria Cross.

By February 1941 Nicolson was back in the air as a fighter instructor, before heading for India where he commanded Beaufighter-equipped 27 Squadron for a year, flying ground-attack missions in support of the 14th Army; for his leadership and gallantry he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He later served as a Wing Commander on the air staff of the 3rd Tactical Air Force and in April 1945 joined Headquarters RAF Burma. Anxious to experience the bombing operations he was responsible for tasking, he joined a 355 Squadron Consolidated Liberator crew for an operational sortie on May 2, 1945.

The bomber caught fire en route to the target and crashed into the Bay of Bengal. A search found two survivors, but Nicolson was lost.



VC: Nicolson

Announcements

- P6-7
- Puzzles
- P8

R'n'R

Win!



Win wildlife
garden guide: p5

Booked – Elif Shafak ● p4-5



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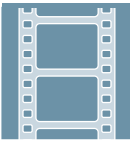
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Film review
Waiting for the
Barbarians

Cert 15 – out now on digital download

Justice done to 'classic'



GIVING IT SOME HAMMER: Johnny Depp plays the savage Colonel Joll



SOFT JUSTICE: The Magistrate (Mark Rylance) takes a more measured approach

JOHNNY DEPP and Mark Rylance bounce off each other perfectly in **Ciro Guerra's** film version of **Booker and Nobel Prize winner J.M. Coetzee's novel *Waiting for the Barbarians*.**

Back on the big screen rather than on our TV screens playing out one courtroom drama or other, Depp makes a stellar return as the savagely driven policeman Colonel Joll.

His performance is countered beautifully with Rylance (*Wolf Hall*, *Bridge of Spies*, *Ready Player One*) who plays the Magistrate in a frontier settlement in what is presumably the Middle East, during the days of the British Empire.

Under the Magistrate's control, all is well and common sense prevails until the sunglasses-wearing Joll arrives.

The film, for which Coetzee penned the screenplay, is divided into three sections: spring when Joll arrives, summer and winter. Rylance plays an institutionalised man, who works his role with an even hand, seeing a petty crime in perspective, running a more live and let live rule across the area. It works well, with peace on the whole, including the nomads (barbarians) who are not troubling the invaders.

The film is prescient, not simply because of the confused times it holds itself in, but because it mirrors today's world – with imagined enemies created by states and governments,

played out to control, not caring for the loss of innocence and humanity.

Guerra paces the film beautifully, and the gentle use of symbolism subtly pushes up the tension levels, amidst the heat, dust and unforgiving terrain.

But the Magistrate (Rylance) is steadily repelled by the ramifications of Joll's actions, as torture victims and lies abound.

The coming storm finally arrives as Joll returns. Having written false reports from his victims, he now has justification to begin an unjustified war against the barbarians in his pursuit of

truth. Truth, which Joll so aptly spits during his opening meeting with the Magistrate, '... is pain, all else is subject to doubt'.

Greta Scacchi (*White Mischief*) is underused as Mai, the all-seeing female servant. By the time the snivelling Officer Mendal, excellently played by Robert Pattinson (*Tenet*, *The Lighthouse*) accuses the Magistrate of treason and break his will, after he befriends and then sets free The Girl (Gana Bayarsaikhan), another one of Joll's many innocent victims, the game is afoot.

The barbarians will soon be at the gate, but will it be Joll and his savage forces who fulfil that role, or the nomads forced to fight by the state in this made up war?

4 out of 5 roundels
Review by Daniel Abrahams



PATTINSON: 'Officer Mendal'



TV
New shows
Coming soon

Home is where the art is



CREATIVE: Art Club's Grayson Perry

THE ACCLAIMED TV series *Grayson's Art Club* has been recommissioned by Channel 4.

The second series will see contemporary, award-winning artist, writer and broadcaster Grayson Perry return to screens from his studio, along with his wife, the best-selling author, psychotherapist and broadcaster Philippa Perry.

Grayson's Art Club was the best performing series from Channel 4's #StayAtHome Academy

programming, attracting more than one million viewers per episode. He inspired the nation to unleash their creative side during lockdown, motivating the British public to pick up their paint brushes and have a go at creating. The series was reportedly responsible for a considerable rise in online sales for craft specialists.

The new series, coming in early 2021, will see Grayson in his studio making his own art. In each episode he will speak to celebrity guests, high-profile artists sharing

insights into their processes, and will feature art made by the great British public.

If social distancing rules allow it, Grayson will travel around the country to meet artists and discuss their artwork.

He said: "I'm so pleased and proud *Art Club* is coming back, it's a joyful team effort with the stars being the artists who send in their wonderful works and tell us their stories.

"Of course, it's not principally about art, it's a celebration of life."

Cook, Eat, Repeat

ONE OF the nation's most popular cooks is back with a new TV series.

In the BBC Two show *Nigella's Cook, Eat, Repeat*, to be aired later this year, Nigella Lawson will share the rhythms and rituals of her kitchen through new recipes that make the most of her favourite ingredients.

She will get to the heart of how food is woven into our everyday lives and the connection it provides, said a BBC spokesperson.

Nigella (pictured) will offer up mouth-watering dishes including indulgent chocolate peanut butter cake, crab mac'n'cheese, and fear-free fish stew.

During the six-part series she will explain where she finds inspiration for her recipes – from delving into her collection of vintage cookbooks to exchanges of ideas on social media.

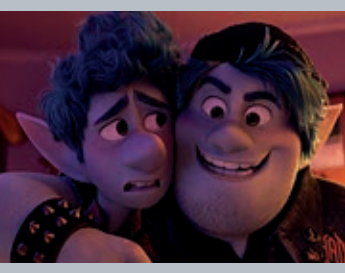
"More than just a mantra, cook, eat, repeat is the story of my life," she said.

A one-hour Nigella Christmas special will also be among the highlights of the festive TV schedule.



UK Box
Office
Top 10

1	Tenet
2	The New Mutants
3	Onward (below)
4	Unhinged
5	100% Wolf
6	After We Collided
7	Pinocchio
8	Trolls World Tour
9	Black Panther
10	Les Misérables



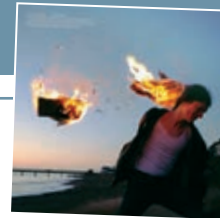
Source: BFI



Music

Cold Years

New album



Streetwise Scottish rockers release gritty debut album



ALLEY CATS: Cold Years are proud of their first offering, *Paradise* (top)

SCOTTISH ROCKERS Cold Years have just released their highly-anticipated debut album, *Paradise*.

Echoing the infamous, despairing "it's sh'te being Scottish" rant made by protagonist Renton in Irvine Welsh's 1993 novel *Trainspotting*, Cold Years frontman Ross Gordon's near-nihilistic take on the town where he was born (Aberdeen) goes further still, almost three decades and a generation later.

He poured all his grievances into his band's debut showcase – 13 songs of passion and belief that unapologetically breathe rock'n'roll.

"There's an ongoing narrative about how f****d everything is at the moment," said Gordon. "It links everything, really, not just purely politics: it's linked to the economy, to drugs and alcohol, and what our generation

is going through right now. You work hard in school, you train for your career and you try to succeed at it, but the reality is that none of it really matters. It's a record that's angry because, as a generation, we feel like we've been sold short."

Referring to the self-examination he underwent for the album tracks, Gordon added: "I went through a divorce, different jobs, different flats, different girls ... and I tried to cover everything that's happened in the past few years."

"I really am grateful for the opportunity that we've got. Every single day. It's a huge thing. It's going to be a lot of work, but it's meant to be hard because nothing worthwhile doing is ever easy."

"We worked really hard on this record. We had to, and I'm proud of it."

Lockdown film's on the way

ALONE, A film inspired by lockdown starring Sir Derek Jacob (*Gladiator*, *Gosford Park*), is set for an early 2021 release.

The cast also features Jeff Fahey (*Lost*), Julie Dray (*Cradle to Grave*), Sophie Kennedy Clark (*Nymphomaniac*, *Philomena*), Sadie Frost (*Bram Stoker's Dracula*), Morgana Robinson (*The Windors*), Camilla Rutherford (*Yesterday*, *Gosford Park*), and Frances Barber (*The Split*, *Semi-Detached*).



CAST: Morgana Robinson Bell – it tells the story of when lockdown is imposed, and the cast and crew of a film are taken from the set and sent home – alone.



Exhibition

Turner's Modern World

Tate Britain

TATE BRITAIN will stage a landmark exhibition of the work of one of our best-loved painters, JMW Turner, this autumn.

Turner's Modern World runs at the central London venue from October 28 until March 7, 2021 and will explore what it meant to be a modern artist during his lifetime.

Turner (1775-1851) is considered Britain's greatest landscape painter. The exhibition will reveal how he found new ways to capture the momentous events of his day, from technology's impact on the natural world to the dizzying effects of modernisation on society.

It will bring together 160 key works, including major loans as well as paintings and rarely seen drawings from Tate's Turner Bequest.

A Tate Britain spokesperson said: "Turner lived through turbulent times. Britain was at war for much of his life, while revolutions and independence struggles took place around the world.

"He witnessed the explosion of finance

The Big Event

Cheltenham Literature Festival

THIS YEAR'S Cheltenham Literature Festival features a spectacular line-up for a pioneering digital instalment of the world's oldest such event.

Running from October 2-11, it includes a host of big names including Edna O'Brien, Caitlin Moran, Rupert Everett, Ian Hislop, *Gavin & Stacey's* Ruth Jones, Claudia Winkleman, Andrew Marr, Ben Macintyre and Sebastian Faulks.

Also taking part is Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, mother of seven classically-trained musicians – including Sheku who played at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – who talks about what it takes to raise a musical family in a Britain divided by class and race, in a special evening of conversation and live music.

The 2020 festival is a hybrid – combining digital and in-person talks – and includes more than 160 events with more than 100 broadcast live from Cheltenham's Town Hall and the Everyman Theatre in front of a socially-distanced live audience.

The event's guest curators are British-Turkish novelist Elif Shafak, author of *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World* and Shamil Thakrar, co-owner of Indian restaurant chain Dishoom.

A Festival spokesperson said: "The guest curators have pulled out all the stops to celebrate what is set to be an astonishing season of publishing. The line-up offers something for every book lover, featuring literary greats and fresh talent, travel and adventure, food and drink, lifestyle and psychology, history and science, art and classic literature, alongside a powerful collection of current affairs events drawing in expert insight from the festival's title partner *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, with more than 24 journalists and columnists from the two papers featuring in the programme."

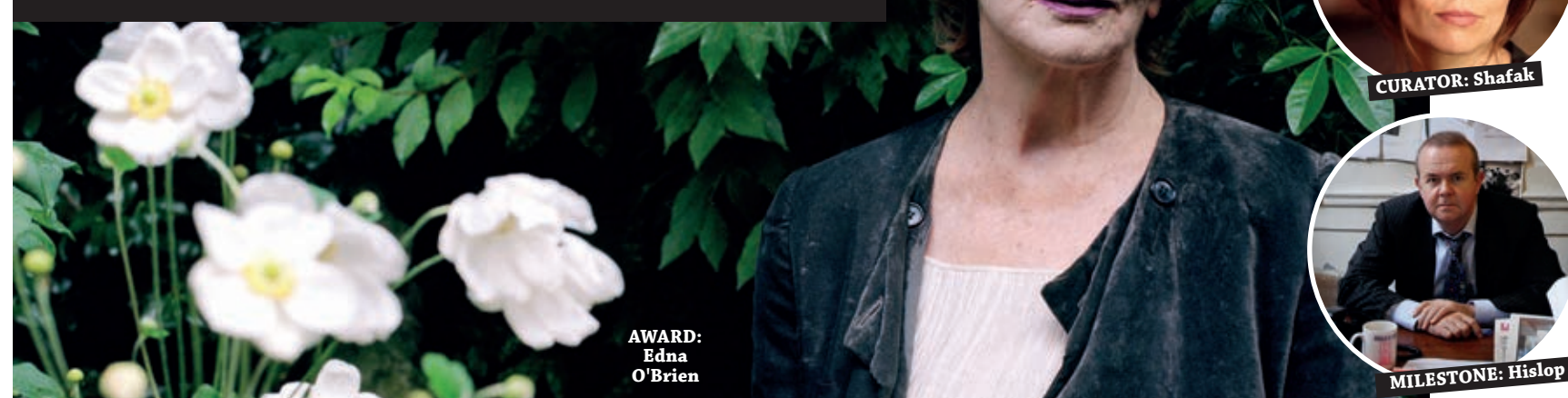
Even with world travel restricted, the festival promises its programme won't lose its international flavour, with a series of exclusive interviews with leading writers filmed at home, entitled *The World is Waiting*, set to provide an insight into writers' lives in lockdown and a glimpse into the literary culture of Japan, Australia, Nigeria, the US and more.

As well as fiction, classic literature and poetry, the festival covers categories including current affairs, stage and screen, lifestyle, mind and body and nature, travel and adventure.

There is also a dedicated programme for families, young adults and schools that features 30 free events to be released throughout the festival, and

ebooks

World's oldest literary festival goes digital



AWARD: Edna O'Brien

eight live-streamed events across the festival weekends, featuring authors such as Greg James, Anthony Horowitz, former Children's Laureate Lauren Childs and Costa Book Award winner Jasbinder Bilan.

For fiction lovers, highlights of the adult programme include literary superstar Nick Hornby (*Fever Pitch*, *About A Boy*) on his first new novel in six years, *Just Like You*; bestseller Victoria Hislop on her latest book *One August Night*; and *Sunday Times* Style magazine agony aunt Dolly Alderton launching her debut novel *Ghosts*.

In the Stage & Screen section Ruth Jones will talk about her new novel *US Three*; a decade on from her feminist manifesto, *How to Be a Woman*, *The Times* columnist Caitlin Moran returns with *More Than a*



CHAT: Winkleman



TALENTED: Musical Kanneh-Mason family

Woman to explore the new challenges mid-life brings, and Rupert Everett recalls how the 10-year quest to make a film of Oscar Wilde's last days almost destroyed him.

Private Eye editor and *Have I Got News For You* panellist Ian Hislop will celebrate his milestone 60th birthday by looking back on his career, and Emma Freud will be joined in conversation with Claudia Winkleman.

Events on the Current Affairs roster feature Labour MP Jess Phillips, *Sunday Times* political editor Tim Shipman and *The Times* science editor Tom Whipple on the scientific narrative of the Covid-19 virus; award-winning *Times* columnist Sathnam Sanghera on his experience of spending lockdown with his two nieces; and psychotherapist Owen O'Kane and psychologist Punit Shah on the psychological and mental health impact of lockdown.

Under the History & the Ancient World banner, author and broadcaster Andrew Marr traces how radically the nation has changed since the Queen's coronation in 1953 and Peter Stothard talks to Mary Beard about his new book about Caesar's adopted son, *Octavian*.

Another highlight is acclaimed historian Ben Macintyre on his new book *Agent Sonya*, that tells the incredible story of 'the greatest

female spy in history'.

And Edna O'Brien, the acclaimed Irish author of *The Country Girls* trilogy, accepts this year's prestigious Sunday Times award for Literary Excellence, joining an elite list of winners that includes Ted Hughes, Muriel Spark, Kazuo Ishiguro, Seamus Heaney, Margaret Atwood and John Le Carré.

In a special pre-filmed interview, *The Sunday Times* chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp speaks to her at her home.

Go to: cheltenhamfestivals.com for more information and to buy tickets.



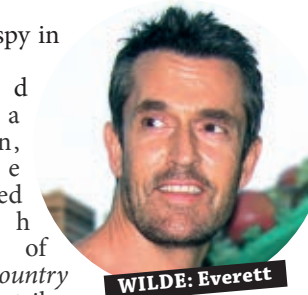
SPY BOOK: Macintyre



CURATOR: Shafak



MILESTONE: Hislop



WILDE: Everett



Competition

Books

Secret Letters: A Battle of Britain Love Story (menschpublishing.com)

Win!



Rare insight into WWII

NEWLY-DISCOVERED letters by Battle of Britain Intelligence Officer Geoffrey Myers have just been published in the book *Secret Letters: A Battle of Britain Love Story* by John Willis (menschpublishing.com), out on Battle of Britain Day.

Offering a rare contemporary personal account of the epic air battle, the book features a series of letters designed to be read if Myers was killed. They were never posted and not read by his family until after the war.

Myers was caught up in the major turning points of the early year of World War II – the Battle for France, Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. His French wife Margot and two half-Jewish children were trapped in Nazi-occupied France, desperate to escape the enemy and be reunited with her husband in England.

Author Willis said: "Contemporary personal accounts of the Battle of Britain of such frankness are extremely rare. Individual narratives on this scale, encompassing two of the great turning points of the war, the Battle of Britain and Dunkirk, and much else besides, just do not exist.

"So, the letters from Geoffrey Myers to his family are unique, offering an original insight from a



PARTNERS: Geoffrey Myers and Margot

witness to so much history. More than that, they tell a powerful love story between two people caught up in war, and at real risk of never seeing each other again."

We have a copy of *Secret Letters* to win – to be in with a chance, just send us the correct answer to the following question:

What was the name of Geoffrey Myers' wife?

Email your answer, marked Secret Letters book 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 2. Please remember to include your full postal address with your entry.



Competition

Books

Wildlife Garden (hubbleandhattie.com)

Win!

Walk on wild side

LOCKDOWN PROMPTED a surge in interest in gardening and this delightful new title tells you how to turn your patch into a wildlife wonderland – and help to save the environment.

Wildlife Garden by Ursula Kopp (hubbleandhattie.com) is an easy to follow guide showing how to create a home for garden-friendly animals, insects and birds.

The book tells you how to make an insect hotel and earwig pot, create winter quarters for hedgehogs, make nesting aids for birds, grow a wild shrub hedge, choose plants for a natural garden and even how to grow a beautiful wildflower meadow and build a dry-stone wall and nature pond.

Beautifully illustrated throughout with a host of full colour photographs, there's also a section

on 'Important gardeners' friends' featuring portraits and descriptions of fascinating animals and insects ranging from the golden ground beetle to the marmalade hoverfly.

We have copies of the book (rrp £9.99) to win – for your chance to own one, just answer this question correctly:

Who wrote *Wildlife Garden* published by Hubble & Hattie?

Email your answer, marked Wildlife Garden book, 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 2.

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

Britain's greatest landscape artist



WAR ART: Turner's *The Battle of Trafalgar* 1806-8

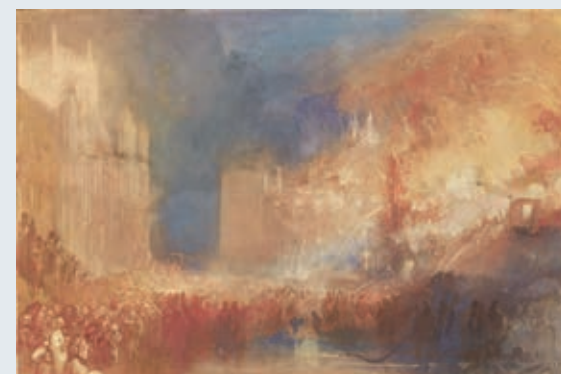
of the industrial revolution, Turner faced up to these new challenges when many other artists did not.

"Starting in the 1790s when Turner first observed contemporary life as a young painter, the exhibition will explore his fascination for industry and infrastructure as new elements of Britain's landscape."

Two decades of conflict with France through the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars introduced another key dynamic to Turner's work. He directly engaged with war in paintings such as *The Battle of Trafalgar* 1806-8 and *Field of Waterloo* 1818, but also depicted aspects of life and work in Britain before, during and after conflict.

The exhibition will present his recollections of wartime at home and his reflections on the reputations of Nelson, Napoleon and Wellington as well as on ordinary soldiers and civilians.

It will also reflect on Turner's interest in social reform, especially his changing attitudes towards politics, labour and slavery. These include



NEWS: *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons* 1835

liberal and humanitarian causes such as Greek independence from Ottoman Turkey, the 1832 Reform Act and the abolition movement. Key works such as *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons* 1835 show his engagement with political events of the day, while *A Disaster at Sea*

1835 and *Wreck of a Transport Ship c.1801* are ambitious depictions of maritime catastrophes.

"The final section of the exhibition will focus on Turner's pioneering treatment of steam technology, presenting the artist's late style as a means by which he sought to develop a visual language fit for the modern world. Though alarming to his contemporaries, his late work is now appreciated as an eloquent response to the dizzying pace of change witnessed during his lifetime," the spokesperson added.

Turner's Modern World will explore how he followed his early interest in industrial advances through to the 1840s when, alone among his fellow artists, he made steam-boats and railways the subjects of major exhibition pictures. Key works will include *Snow Storm* 1842 as well as *The Fighting 'Téméraire'* 1839 and *Rain, Steam and Speed* 1844, on rare loan from the National Gallery.

Go to: tate.org.uk for more information.



Your Announcements

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

Death

CAMERON Greg FS (Ret'd) passed away following an accident on August 30, aged 51. Born in Holyhead, in 1969 to retired FS Ron and retired WRAF Glenys Cameron, he joined the RAF as an ICT Technician in 1991. Following the completion of his training at RAF Locking, Greg was assigned to many stations during his 24-year-long career including SHAPE, RAF Spadeadam and RAF Boulmer and completed a number of operational deployments including Oman, Afghanistan and Iraq before finishing his career at RAF Leeming in 2015.



FS Greg Cameron

Greg was extremely proud of his time in the RAF and maintained his sense of professionalism following retirement, an attribute that served him well in his chosen career as a tree surgeon. A much loved son, husband, dad and grancha, he devoted much of his free time to helping others and he was happiest when outdoors exploring and having adventures with his family. He will be greatly missed for his positive outlook and love of life by all those who knew him.

Greg has continued to help others even in death by becoming an organ donor. This has transformed and in some cases saved the lives

of people in need. This is one of many legacies he has left behind, and one which is entirely fitting for the life he led. His passing will leave a hole in many people's lives and the world is now a poorer place.

In Memoriam

PATTON Michael Charles (Mick/Mike). Sergeant Air Loadmaster with 7 Squadron (S.F Flight) at Odiham. Died September 22, 1996, aged 29, near Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire – during a night tasking. "His laughter was better than birds in the morning, His smile turned the edge of the wind..."

In loving memory of a very dear and much-missed son, brother, husband and father.



Sgt Michael Patton

Seeking

SEEKING three ex-colleagues: Mike (Mick) Legg, Engine Fitter, ex Khormaksar, and latterly Queen's Flight – Mike was a Hampshire lad who may have retired there or maybe stayed in the Benson area due to the time he spent on QF; Doug Carole, Air Electrician, ex Lyneham when I knew him '67-'70 – Duggie's home was Goring-on-Thames; Peter (Taff) Hill, Clerk Secretarial. Last known posting by me was RAF Cottesmore, '65, but we did meet up in Saudi Arabia, '79 (ish). Taff's home town was/is Haverfordwest, which I should have visited in 1965, if he has forgiven

the omission. Taff was sadly, a terrible squash player, he could not grasp the essentials, try as I did to coach him. As I'm in the Benson area the beginning of October if they are in the region and amenable, I'd like to make contact. Paul Holyoak S1945080 Sgt Engine Fitter, last unit: RAF Odiham, 1973. May be contacted by email: paul.angela.h@gmail.com or on: 01772 784249.

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

READER Pat Vinycomb wants to trace the descendants of her father Sqn Ldr Stanley Booker's crew, whose 10 Squadron Halifax 111 MZ630 was shot down over St Andre De L'Eure, France on June 3, 1944. Along with pilot Fg Off Alexander Murray, wireless operator WO John Williams, who were killed in the crash, and Pat's father, navigator Fg Off Stanley Booker, the crew were flight engineer Sgt John Osselson from Staines, Surrey, rear gunner Sgt Terrance Gould from Caerphilly, air gunner Sgt Clifford Hallett from Chard, Somerset and bomb aimer Sgt Ernest 'Snooky' Stokes

from Catford, London.



Stanley Booker, now 98, (pictured above as a young airman) was 22 when the Halifax crashed. It was flying from RAF Melbourne to Trappes in France following a successful bombing raid on marshalling and railway yards. Please email Pat on: patvinycomb@gmail.com if you can help.

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

READER THERESA Kilbride is trying to trace her godfather, Cpl Grenville D Thomas, who served in the RAF in World War II and during the 1950s and 60s. Known as 'Buster' he joined the Service in Jamaica and was stationed at Fradley Aerodrome, Lichfield, between 1944 and 1946 with Theresa's father Eric C. Morrison. Buster (pictured below) was also stationed in Style, Germany, in the 1950s and I was last in touch with him in 1966 when he was stationed at RAF Doncaster. Please email Theresa on: tkilbride61@hotmail.co.uk if you can help.



Reunions

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

ASSOCIATION RAF Women Officers Annual Reunion. All RAF Women Officers are invited to attend the Annual Reunion Lunch at the RAF Club on Saturday,



Aero engine's arrival

THE LATEST addition to Newark Air Museum's collection of aero engines has arrived – a Rolls-Royce Conway RC 042-540 (pictured above).

It was transported from its former location at Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire to Newark by members of the VC10 Preservation Group. As an Accredited Museum, the trustees of Newark Air Museum were able to accept the transfer of the existing loan agreement between RAF Brize Norton and the VC10 Preservation Group.

The cutaway R-R Conway engine was prepared by British Airways apprentices in 1981. Powered electrically, with rotating parts and displayed behind Perspex covers, the engine is noted for having flown 31,587 hours in a BA VC10.

October 10. We meet for pre-lunch drinks from 11.30 followed by lunch. All will be made very welcome, especially new members of the Association. For further details about the lunch or the Association of RAF Women Officers, please contact Sue Arnold on: 07740 865685 or email: suearnold474@gmail.com.

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

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

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

For sale

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

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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Your Announcements

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Funds for The Few



A GROUP of runners are tackling a five-day challenge next month to raise funds for the National Memorial to The Few and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust.

FS Christopher Marsh and two civilian friends will run 80 miles over five days to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. They aim to raise £3,000 and have almost £2,000 pledged already.

Their route will take in 16 significant Battle of Britain UK fighter stations and locations including Duxford,

Biggin Hill and Tangmere. The team are also laying memorial crosses at the gravestones of many of The Few across the country.

FS Wray, based at RAF(U) Swanwick, said: "Our objective is to raise as much awareness as possible, in this anniversary year, for the courageous 'Few' – who defended Britain's skies during 1940 from the Luftwaffe. There is now only one known surviving airman alive from the Battle, Gp Cpt John 'Paddy' Hemingway DFC, who turned 101 in July.

TRIBUTE: From left, Iain Willis, FS Wray, event organiser Jonny Cracknell and Chris Scott. Inset, Gp Capt Paddy Hemingway DFC

"In tribute to him and, his comrades, we hope to raise much-needed funds to support the National Memorial to the Few and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust, who receive no public funding. Their revenue has been severely impacted due to the Covid-19 crisis."

■ Go to: justgiving.com/crowdfunding/battleofbritain80.



FAMILY FUN: Teams can win prizes if they crack the cryptic puzzles at the NMA

Tackle WWII challenge

THE NATIONAL Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has unveiled a pair of outdoor escape challenges, transporting visitors back to the final days of World War II – daring them to solve a series of cryptic puzzles to avoid the clutches of the fearsome Japanese Imperial Army.

Pre-booked visitors can tackle the challenge across the Arboretum until November 1.

Operation Locate (£12 per team) tests the skills of even the most ardent escape room enthusiast. The two to three-hour puzzle adventure despatches teams to locate a missing British Army Unit to help them escape pursuing forces.

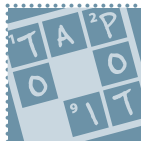
Operation Uncover (£10 per team) is a two-hour family-friendly (recommended age 8+) mission to help a Special Operations Executive agent uncover the identity of a spy.

The NMA is open only to pre-booked visitors for the foreseeable future; tickets can be booked on the Arboretum's website, where slots are released two weeks in advance.

Chris Ansell, head of participation and learning at the NMA, said: "This exciting activity challenges participants to solve an intricate series of mind-bending puzzles while learning about the incredible stories of the people who fought for freedom in the Far East."

■ Go to: thenma.org.uk for more details.





Prize Crossword

No. 281

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

Across

6. Larches uprooted by Royal Reviewing Officer of The Queen's Colour Squadron (7)
7. We have embraced success in colour (5)
9. Aviator will have some scampi, Lottie (5)
10. High-altitude bad behaviour? (3,4)
12. Maybe figure other plane is the answer (11)
14. I leave train at Rugby, joining Queen on plane (11)
18. RAF team on display on the way down (7)
19. A profit? Encore! (5)
21. Raced around tree (5)
22. They buzz around Spanish Air Force (7)

Down

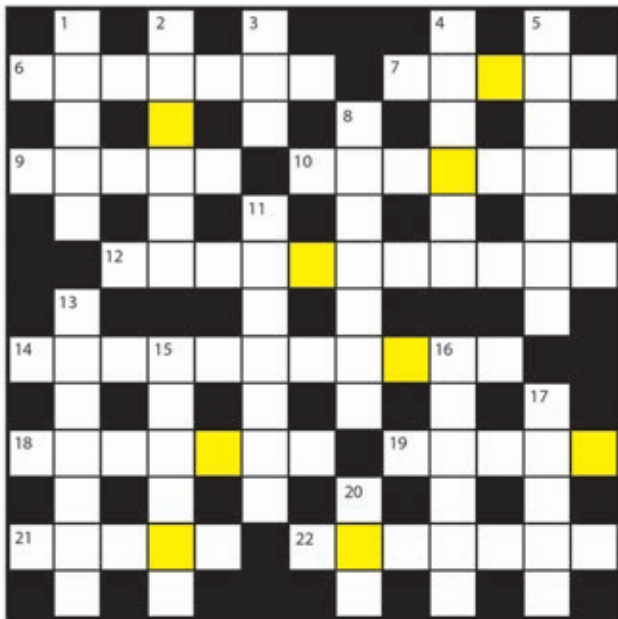
1. I am placed on cleaner furniture (5)
2. Room wrecked by heartless Lou for decoration (6)
3. A glossy black plane, presumably (3)
4. Endlessly whip milk at end of each building (6)
5. Veteran actor has graced first reel (7)
8. Imitation of opera heroine's lament (7)
11. Guests of corporation (7)
13. Wave of initial success, then hesitation (7)
15. Even undercut a right good drink (6)
16. Plane part northern genie creates (6)
17. Initially, my in-laws relish Tom's hearty laughter (5)
20. Aware, we hear, of frying-pan (3)

Name

Address

RAF word Crossword No. 281

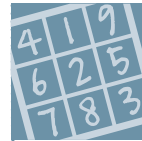
We are now able to receive competition entries by post again. The winners of Prize Crossword 281 and Prize Su Doku 291 will be published in our October 2 edition. Send entries to the address printed in the Su Doku panel opposite



■ The winner of Crossword No. 280 is Mr S Garner of Exeter.

Solution to Crossword No. 280:

Across: 1. Wild 8. Aeroplanes 9. Poseidon 10. Cafe 12. Staved 14. Energy 15. Antrim 17. Cosets 18. Well 19. Reassure 21. Frangipane 22. Date
Down: 2. Importance 3. Dame 4. Traded 5. Sponge 6. Pancreas 7. Isle 11. Fighter Jet 13. Vera Lynn 16. Merlin 17. Cravat 18. Wife 20. Shed
RAF Word – Harrier

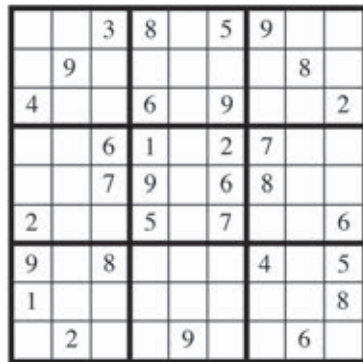


Prize Su Doku

No. 291

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 2, 2020.



Name

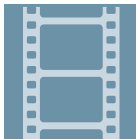
Address

..... Su Doku No. 291

Solution to Su Doku No: 290

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

■ The winner of Su Doku No. 290 is Ms K McCarthy of London.



Film Review

Hard Kill

Out now on digital download, certificate 15

Hard Kill's hard going

BRUCE WILLIS makes a long-awaited return to the screen in Matt Eskandari's *Hard Kill*, which sees the bad guy-bashing actor in a much more muted role in this action thriller.

Willis plays Donovan Chalmers, billionaire CEO of Chapterhouse, a biotech company which has created Project 725.

Throughout the film, the viewer never really finds out what Project 725 is, but it's bad, and that's why a terrorist group led by The Pardoner, (Sergio Rizzuto) wants it. The Pardoner and his cronies have kidnapped Chalmer's daughter Eva (Lala Kent). Throughout Willis appears to have modelled his performance on Steve McQueen in *Bullitt*, ie: not saying very much at all.

Chapterhouse, through Chalmer's henchman Nick Fox, played by the incredibly-named Texas Battle, call on an elite group of mercenaries led by Derek Miller (Jesse Metcalfe, *Desperate Housewives*) to save Eva.

The film opens with a slow motion of their previous failed mission where Miller was shot in the back by The Pardoner. We are then treated to countless gruff voices, scowling looks, and endless exposition, and I mean endless.

Willis is barely in the opening scenes, well the whole movie really, and if he is, he simply looks on in anger, or confusion, presumably just waiting for his pay cheque. The good guys, led by Miller, rendezvous at a warehouse complex where they are to do battle with The Pardoner and his gang.



KIDNAP: Chalmers (Willis) with daughter Eva (Lala Kent)

Setting the movie almost entirely in the warehouse complex does not add anything to the film. It just leaves the viewer wondering why international terrorist group members – who seemingly cannot fire guns – have any idea of how to be a terrorist, mercenary or soldier would trap themselves in such a place.

For the record, Miller's crew suffer from a similar lack of military talent.

Cue lots of armed people walking around, pointing guns and achieving very little, while we see Willis and his character's daughter captured in turn by each side. This is all against a backdrop of the aforementioned exposition, more gruff voices and repetition of the name The Pardoner and Project 725.

Will either side win? Will the fate of the world fall into the hands of The Pardoner? Well, of course, only one thing can decide the outcome – a fight to the death between Miller and The Pardoner.

Hard Kill is really only a film for hardcore Willis fans or lovers of generic action thrillers.

2 out of 5 roundels

Review by Daniel Abrahams



Music

Tiwa Savage

New album Celia

Mum's the word for Tiwa



FAMILY AFFAIR: Mum and daughter on LP

NIGERIAN SINGER-songwriter Tiwa Savage's third album, *Celia*, is out now on Motown/Island Records.

The 13-track LP, named after her mother, features star vocalist Sam Smith on the song *Temptation*. It also sees Tiwa collaborating with the Naira Marley, Stefflon Don, Dice Ailes, Davido, and Hamzaa.

Born in Lagos, Tiwa (right) grew up attending church with her parents and soon developed a love for performing, then relocated to London with her family at the age of 11. At 16 she was singing backing vocals for George Michael, which quickly led to working with the likes of Mary J. Blige, Kelly Clarkson, Emma Bunton and Blu Cantrell.

A spokeswoman said: "Tiwa made history in 2018 by

becoming the first female to win the MTV Europe Music Award for Best African Act. She's since garnered four Channel O Music Video Award nominations, five World Music Award nominations, and a multitude of nominations from the MTV Africa Music Awards, BET Awards, MOBO Awards, and many more.

"She's also undertaken a number of philanthropic endeavours, supporting several youth engagement organisations and breast cancer screening projects across Nigeria and beyond.

"Additionally, she is very active in #JusticeForUwa, loudly voicing her disgust at the rape of a young girl in a church in Nigeria, and creating an Instagram account where rape victims can speak out."



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The heroism of the RAF's Battle of Britain pilots stopped Hitler's invasion plans. Between July 10 and October 31, 1940, aircrew from the UK, Poland, New Zealand, Australia and other allied nations fought and won the first major military campaign conducted entirely in the air. Here, *RAF News* recalls the stories of the Top 10 Aces, as recorded by the Air Historical Branch, who make up The Best of The Few

Battle of Britain Top 10

1. Sgt Josef Frantisek (Czech): 17 kills

JOSEF FRANTISEK was born in 1912 and joined the Czechoslovakian air force in the 1930s. After the fall of Czechoslovakia in 1938 he escaped to Poland and joined the Polish Air Force. After Poland fell, he escaped to France and after the fall of France arrived in the UK. Although Czechoslovakian,



he opted to stay with the Poles and joined No. 303 Squadron at RAF Northolt. He claimed 17 enemy aircraft (11 of them fighters) becoming the Top Allied Battle of Britain Ace before being killed in a crash on October 8, 1940. An unruly pilot, he favoured breaking formation and embarking on solitary 'lone wolf' missions.

2. Plt Off Eric Lock (UK): 16½ kills

ERIC LOCK was born in Shrewsbury in 1920. He joined the RAFVR in 1939 and served with No. 41 Squadron seeing intensive action throughout the Battle of Britain; about two thirds of his claims were enemy fighters. He was shot down and badly injured on November 17, 1940, and was in hospital until May 1941. He returned to flying in July 1941, with No. 611 Squadron, and made several more claims. He was killed over France on August 3, 1941, and has no known grave.



3. Sgt James Lacey (UK): 15½ kills



JAMES 'GINGER' LACEY was born in Wetherby, Yorkshire, in 1917. He joined No. 501 Squadron as a Sergeant Pilot and fought in the Battle of France in May and June 1940. During the Battle of Britain he claimed more than twice as many enemy fighters shot down as bombers, and was himself shot down twice. He left the RAF in 1967 and died in 1989.

4. Fg Off Brian Carbury (NZ): 15½ kills

BRIAN CARBURY was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1918. He travelled to the UK and joined the RAF in 1937. He claimed several victories over the winter of 1939-40, and in August 1940 entered the Battle of Britain with No. 603 Squadron.

He would claim four times as many enemy fighters destroyed as enemy bombers during the Battle, and unusually received the Distinguished Flying Cross and a Bar during that period. Later he became an instructor and left the RAF in 1944. He died in 1962.

5. Plt Off Robert Doe (UK): 15 kills

Robert 'Bob' Doe was born in Reigate, Surrey, in 1920, and joined the RAFVR in 1938. During the Battle of Britain he claimed 12 victories (10 of them enemy fighters) with No. 234 Squadron before transferring to No. 238 Squadron and claiming several more. On October 10, 1940, he was shot down and injured, not returning to operations until the end of the year. On January

3, 1941, he was severely injured during a crash landing and underwent reconstructive facial surgery. He returned to flying again in May 1941. Doe was posted to the Far East in December 1943, taking command of No. 10 Squadron Indian Air Force, which he commanded for the rest of the war in Burma. After the war he held several staff posts before retiring in 1966. He died in 2010.

SPITFIRE:
Battle of
Britain icon



6. Fg Off Witold Urbanowicz (Poland): 15 kills

WITOLD URBANOWICZ was born in Poland in 1908 and joined the Polish Air Force in 1930. After the fall of Poland in 1939, he escaped to France and then the UK, joining No. 145 Squadron in August 1940. He made several claims, and within a few weeks was posted to No. 303 (Polish) Squadron at RAF



Northolt. Here he continued to build his score, claiming roughly equal numbers of enemy fighters and bombers shot down. In the autumn of 1943 he flew briefly with US forces in China, claiming two Japanese aircraft destroyed. He left the air force in 1945 and returned to America where he settled down. He died in 1987.

7. Plt Off Paterson Hughes (Aus): 14 kills (3x½ kills)

PATERSON HUGHES was born in New South Wales in 1917. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1935, and transferred to the RAF in 1937. He flew with No. 238 Squadron during the Battle of

Britain, claiming 14 enemy fighters shot down, and sharing claims on three enemy bombers. He was shot down and killed on September 7, 1940, and is buried in St. James' churchyard, Sutton, Hull.

8. Plt Off Colin Gray (NZ): 14 kills (2x½ kills)

COLIN GRAY was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1914. He joined the RAF, after several attempts, in 1938. He flew with No. 54 Squadron, claiming his first victory in May 1940. During the Battle of Britain almost all his claims were for enemy fighters. He remained on operations until early 1942. He was posted to the Middle East to command a squadron in January 1943, and later commanded a wing in Malta, continuing to add to his score. At the end of the war he was a station commander, and held staff posts until his retirement in 1961. He returned to New Zealand and died there in 1995.



9. Flt Lt Archie McKellar (UK): 14½ kills

ARCHIBALD MCKELLAR was born in Paisley in 1912. After gaining a civilian pilot's licence, he joined No. 602 Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force, in 1936. Mobilised in August 1939, on October 28 he shot down the first enemy aircraft to be brought down over British soil during the war. In June 1940, he was posted to No. 605 Squadron, which he took command of in late September. While fighting with the squadron he claimed roughly equal numbers of enemy fighters and bombers shot down. He was shot down and killed on November 1, 1940, and is buried in New Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow.

10. Flt Lt Carl Davis (UK): 11½ kills

CARL DAVIS was born in South Africa of American parents, in 1911. He went to school in Britain, and joined No. 601 Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force, in 1936. He was mobilised in August 1939, and took part in an air raid on a German seaplane base at Borkum in November. He continued to fly with No. 601 Sqn during the Battle of Britain, with most of his claims against enemy fighters. He was shot down and killed on September 6, 1940, and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Storrington, Sussex.

Why RAF's pilots had air superiority in the Battle

The agile superstar

SYNONYMOUS WITH the Battle of Britain, the Supermarine Spitfire was outnumbered by the Hawker Hurricane and scored fewer 'kills'.

The Hawker and Supermarine fighters were both armed with eight 0.303in (7.7mm) machine guns and powered by the 1,030hp Merlin II or III engine, but the Spitfire was lighter, smaller and considerably faster.

The Hurricane's conservative design helped ensure the RAF had large numbers of easily-maintained, rugged fighters when it needed them most, but the Spitfire's technological superiority and potential for development made it a machine of the future and one of the most successful fighter aircraft ever built.

Manufacturer Supermarine built flying boats and racing floatplanes for the Schneider Trophy competition, in which Britain ultimately triumphed with the Supermarine S.6B.

Company designer Reginald J. Mitchell first penned the Type 224, a disappointing monoplane that lost out in competition with the Gloster SS.37 biplane.

Convinced he could do better, he set to work again, drawing on his experience with the racing seaplanes to create the radical new Type 300, based on the innovative Rolls-Royce PV.12 engine, which matured as the Merlin.

The unsung hero

OFTEN IN the shadow of the stylish Spitfire, the Hawker Hurricane was the result of Hawker chief designer Sydney Camm's genius and determination in the face of Air Ministry conservatism.

Officials doubted the structural integrity of the new monoplane layout, preferring the trusted biplane configuration for its predictable behaviour and manoeuvrability.

The contemporary Gloster Gladiator, Fiat CR.42 and Polikarpov I-15 series were among the latest and highest-performing biplane fighters from Britain, Italy and the USSR, but although their airframes were more advanced, in design and fighting philosophy they were merely an extension of World War I concepts.

Camm was convinced that the performance of a heavily-armed monoplane, powered by one of the new generation of high-power aeroengines, would more than compensate for its lack of manoeuvrability compared to a biplane.



The design showed promise and the Air Ministry drew up specification F.37/34 around it. The prototype flew for the first time on March 5, 1936.

Mitchell died on June 11, 1937, while this work was underway, and it was Supermarine's former chief draughtsman Joe Smith, promoted as chief designer, who saw the fighter into service.

By September 1939, 10 Spitfire squadrons were operational and 19 were ready to engage the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain.

Although outnumbered by the Hurricane, the Spitfire was more effective, accounting for 529 enemy aircraft, including 282 Bf 109s, while the Hurricane downed 656 machines, 222 of them Bf 109s.

The standard eight-gun armament was never really adequate in combat, especially against bombers with self-sealing fuel tanks and armour protection, and several undoubtedly made it back to base damaged, when a cannon-armed fighter might have finished them off. A handful of cannon-armed Spitfire Mk IB aircraft were issued to 19 Sqn during the Battle, but the weapons jammed frequently.

With the more powerful Merlin XII installed, the Spitfire Mk II also emerged during the Battle of Britain, entering service with 611 Sqn in August 1940.

The majority were of the Mk IIA with eight machine guns, but the Mk IIB was also built, with 20mm cannon. Subsequent Mk II variants were produced for long-range escort missions as the RAF turned to the offensive, and for air-sea rescue.

Early in 1941, trials with Mk I airframes modified to take the yet more powerful Merlin 45. These aircraft were effectively to Mk V standard and it was with this type that the Spitfire began to show its true versatility.



THE FEW: Three Spitfire pilots with 19 Sqn based at Fowlmere, Cambs, gather to confer after a mission in September 1940. (L-R): Flt Lt WJ 'Farmer' Lawson, Sqn Ldr Sandy Lane (OC) and Flt Sgt GC 'Grumpy' Unwin



Power came from the Rolls-Royce PV.12, which would mature as the Merlin. The first prototype flew on November 6, 1935, by which time official interest was sufficient for specification F.36/34 to have been drawn up around it.

Ultimately, more than 14,000 Hurricanes were built in Britain and Canada.

Later Hurricanes mounted 12 0.303in machine guns, four 20mm cannon, pairs of 40mm anti-tank guns and bombs; the type also pioneered operations with rockets, paving the way for the Hawker Typhoon attacks that proved devastating when the Allies returned to Europe in 1944.

The RAF fought through the 'Phoney War' and the Battle of Britain with the Hurricane Mk I.

The aircraft entered service in

December 1937 and 19 squadrons were equipped by the outbreak of war, generally with improved Hurricanes featuring three-bladed variable-pitch or constant-speed propellers, replacing the original two-bladed unit and metal, rather than fabric-covered wings.

By summer 1940 the Hurricane's performance was insufficient to match the Bf 109 on equal terms.

Hurricane squadrons tackled Luftwaffe bombers, leaving the Messerschmitts to the Spitfires.

In combat the inadequacy of 0.303in machine gun rounds against armoured bombers equipped with self-sealing fuel tanks was immediately apparent. Many damaged bombers would have been brought down if the Hurricane had mounted cannon or heavy machine guns,

as the Bf 109 did.

Despite its deficiencies, the Hurricane destroyed more enemy aircraft during the battle than all other defences combined, its rugged, simple structure withstanding damage and making for relatively easy repair.

With Spitfire production still ramping up, Hawker's bold decision to build Hurricanes regardless of official doubts ensured that the RAF had as many fighters as possible to resist the German onslaught of summer 1940.

Flt Lt James Nicolson remained in the cockpit of Hurricane Mk I P3576/GN-A after the aircraft had been hit on August 16, 1940.

With the aircraft burning around him he manoeuvred to engage and shoot down a Bf 110 to earn the nation's highest honour – the Victoria Cross.

The very best of British and the scourge of the Nazi Luftwaffe

Former RAF Germany C-in-C Sir David dies weeks after his wife

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL Sir David Parry-Evans, a former Commander-in-Chief of RAF Germany, has died aged 85. He later became Air Member for Personnel and served on the Air Force Board.

Sir David abandoned his medical studies in 1957 to train as a pilot. In 1958 he joined No 205 Squadron, equipped with the Shackleton, at RAF Changi in Singapore. He flew patrols in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea with regular sorties to Borneo. The squadron also provided an air-sea rescue capability from the RAF staging post at Gan in the Indian Ocean.

Parry-Evans was soon recognised as an excellent leader and, in the rank of flying officer, was made captain of a 10-man crew; a rare appointment for one so junior.

On return to the UK in September 1961, he continued to fly the Shackleton with the Anti-Submarine Warfare Development Unit based in Northern Ireland, where maritime weapons and tactics were developed.

In November 1964 he was posted to the US Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island in Washington State, on the staff of Commander Fleet Air. He was responsible for running the operations centre, which controlled four squadrons of Neptune maritime patrol aircraft. The main task of these squadrons was supporting operations in Vietnam.

“Quiet, reflective and undemonstrative, he appeared to lose his cool demeanour only when he misplaced his pipe”

He was well liked and trusted by his admiral, who gave him access to highly-classified information about USN operations in the war. As the lone British officer he had a privileged position on the base, but he and his very supportive wife Ann fitted in well, and he left in November 1986 with an enhanced reputation.

His involvement in the maritime arena continued on his return from the USA when he attended the Royal Navy Staff College at Greenwich.

In October 1968 he joined No 206 Squadron as a flight commander at Kinloss in northern Scotland. In this very different environment he patrolled the Atlantic and Norwegian Seas to track and shadow the submarines and surface ships of the Soviet Northern Fleet.

In 1970, at the end of his tour on No 206 Squadron, he was appointed personal staff officer to the Commander-in-Chief of RAF Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Humphrey, who thought highly of him.

In 1974, Sir David assumed command of No 214 Squadron equipped with the Victor bomber converted into a tanker for air-to-air refuelling. After two years he was promoted to Group Captain and appointed to command RAF Marham in Norfolk, the home of the three Victor tanker squadrons, including No 214.

After two years in MoD as the Director of Defence Policy, he was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal to be the Commandant of the RAF Staff College at Bracknell. In 1982 he became the Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group responsible for Tornado strike aircraft, Vulcan bombers and the Victor tanker force.

As a result of a reorganisation of the RAF command structure, he later moved to Upavon where No 1 Group amalgamated with No 38 Group, which controlled offensive support squadrons, in addition to helicopter and transport squadrons.

In 1982 he became the Commander-in-Chief of RAF Germany and Commander of the Second Allied Tactical Air Force. Quiet, reflective and undemonstrative, he appeared to lose his cool demeanour only when he misplaced his pipe.

After two years serving on the MoD Central Staffs as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel), he became the Air Member for Personnel in 1989 responsible for all personnel issues in the RAF.

This coincided with the time when women were being recruited for appointments in roles – including flying – that had previously been restricted to males. On one occasion he received a letter from a young female musician querying why she could not join the RAF as a bandsman. This was reviewed and the policy was changed at his recommendation, making the RAF the first of the Services to recruit women for their bands.

In 1990 he was invited to organise the ceremonial parade in front of Buckingham Palace to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

With the Chief of the Air Staff joining the Royal party on the balcony of the palace, Sir David hosted the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher and her husband during the spectacular event.

Sir David retired from the RAF in February 1992. He was appointed GCB (1991), KCB (1985) and CBE (1978). In 1992 he became Chief Commander of St John Ambulance when he was appointed KStJ. For many years he was an active and respected president of the Shackleton Association, attending many functions and reunions. Each year he presented the Shackleton Trophy to the Air Training Corps squadron that had devised the best adventure training scheme.

He was an ardent supporter of Welsh rugby. During his time at RAF Marham the station rugby team won the RAF Cup for the first time in its history and, in later years, he was the Chairman of the RAF Rugby Union (1978-83).

His wife, Ann, predeceased him by five weeks.



ADMIRED:
Sir David



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By Tracey Allen

Feature

Top dogs at Brize have their eyes on the prize



BEST PAW FORWARD:
Cpl Sian Taylor and Awlix



LEAPING INTO ACTION:
Cpl Danny Walshe and Xantos

BRIZE NORTON'S RAF Police Dogs team is aiming to reclaim the trophy it won two years ago at the Service's UK military working dogs trials.

The team's four handlers have been training hard over the summer with their top dogs hoping to be the victors at the three-day competition at RAF Honington – and to win back the title from 2019's winners RAF Akrotiri.

Sgt David Parton, in charge of the Brize police dogs section, said: "We have been training for this all summer, it's a big event for us. We can't wait to show what our team can do and bring the trophy home again."

The Brize team will be competing against 14 other RAF outfits in the prestigious annual event that tests dog and handler in four main areas: arena work – testing obedience and agility; man work – outrunning and bringing down an attacker; a night-time scenario – patrolling in darkness; and operational patrol – where a dog picks up on an intruder's scent and locates them.

This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the trials are slightly different. Sgt Parton explained: "Usually dog inspectors will spend the summer visiting units to compete at Honington but they weren't able to do that this year, so they left the dog sections to pick their own best teams."

The Brize team comprises Cpl Sian Taylor and her two-year-old German Shepherd Awlix, Cpl Danny Walshe and Xantos, a four-year-old Belgian Malinois, Cpl Tom Shepherd with three-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois Luna and Cpl Luke Densham, with three-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd Pacific (inset right).



WALKING TALL:
Belgian Malinois Luna with handler Cpl Tom Shepherd
PHOTOS: PAUL CROUCH

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By Tracey Allen

Feature

When Bluebottle was part of the RAF gang

ONE OF the biggest stars of the 1960s and 1970s and a figure who still fascinates today, actor, comedian and singer Peter Sellers was as famous for his glamorous lifestyle as his work.

His wives included actresses Britt Ekland and Lynne Frederick and socialite and model Miranda Quarry and his hit films range from the classic Boulting Brothers' comedy *I'm All Right Jack* to the poignant *Being There*.

He created the character of Bluebottle for the legendary radio comedy series *The Goon Show* and went on to star in films including Stanley Kubrick's *Lolita* and *Dr Strangelove*, *The Magic Christian* with Ringo Starr and the *Pink Panther* series.

What's less well known is the story of Sellers' service with the Royal Air Force Entertainment Units – known as Gang Shows – for more than three years.

In *Bluebottle Goes To War* (unicornpublishing.org) author PJ Brownsword reveals previously unknown photographs, film footage, performances, broadcast and recordings from the very start of Sellers' career.

The book covers his early life story from the time he joined the RAF, aged 18, as Aircraftman (2nd Class) 223033 Richard Henry Sellers, in September 1943, to 1962 when he teamed up with former RAF colleagues including actors David Lodge and Cardew Robinson for a Battle of Britain Week gala in London.

Sellers was known as Peter from a young age – the name of his elder brother who died in infancy. His family, who worked in variety and vaudeville, left London for Ilfracombe in Devon when war broke out in 1939. Sellers left school at 14. Brownsword said: "He spent the next four years doing odd jobs in local theatres, learning to play the drums and ukulele, and later touring with various Entertainments National Service Associations (ENSA) companies and bands, until soon after his 18th birthday in September 1943, when he was called up for military service."

A medical assessment found Sellers' eyesight was too poor for him to train as a pilot.



GOONS: Secombe, Milligan and Sellers



TOP 10: Sellers (fourth right) with the Gang Show No. 10 troupe

LEADING LADIES: (l-r) With third wife Miranda Quarry, her predecessor Britt Ekland on their wedding day, and Ursula Andress in the 1967 flop spoof version of *Casino Royale*



Brownsword added: "He seemed condemned to the tedium of ground duties, until he saw a poster inviting recruits with theatrical skills to audition for an RAF concert party known as the 'Gang Show'."

"It was a chance encounter that was to be decisive. He found himself in the company of a generation of men, many of whom went on to perform with distinction in all fields of showbusiness, and it was his good fortune that his life spanned an age of rapid development in the media of radio, television, recording and film."

Other RAF Gang Show members who subsequently achieved fame included Tony Hancock, Dick Emery, Graham Stark and Frank Thornton.

Having auditioned for the RAF's impresario, Ralph Reader, Sellers began touring Air Force bases around Britain with the Gang Show before being posted to South-East Asia.

Brownsword explained: "The idea for RAF Shows came from a conversation between Reader, then a Squadron Leader in RAF

Intelligence, and a friend, Air Commodore Archie Boyle, who told him of his concerns about welfare on RAF stations, especially those in remote areas.

"Boyle thought that a group of entertainers visiting the bases could have a dual function – to boost morale and also report back on any developing discontent."

Recruit men who were not aircrew and who did not have particular expertise in engineering or any other skills vital to the war effort, but experience in show business was essential.

Sellers went on to perform with RAF Gang Show No. 10 (Hancock was in Gang Show No. 9) at various stations in South East Asia Command in India and Burma, including Jiwani, a staging post on pre-war British Empire flying routes, which had become an RAF stop-off point for air transport.

Brownsword said: "Gang Shows were being deliberately sent to the more distant stations, bringing music and laughter to hard-working men who might otherwise feel almost forgotten."

In the autumn of 1945, back in England,

Sellers joined a new version of Gang Show No. 10 for a tour of France, followed by a tour to Germany in early 1946. By the autumn he was doing clerical work in England to see out his time in the RAF – he had more than a year left.

On a visit to the Air Ministry he met and became friends with Graham Stark [who appeared in the *Pink Panther* films with Sellers] and Hancock, also working in administration for the Gang Shows. Hancock was promoted to Sergeant and Sellers to Leading Aircraftman, then Acting Corporal.

After the war Sellers retained a strong connection with the RAF. He joined the Highgate Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and, on September 12, 1948, was on the bill of a Festival of Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall for the charity.

He also initiated an ongoing Gang Show reunion – the first was in 1958. Four years later he joined a large cast of Gang Show alumni for the RAFA and RAF Gang Shows Association's combined Battle of Britain Week Gala in aid of RAF charities.

By then he was a film star of some significance.

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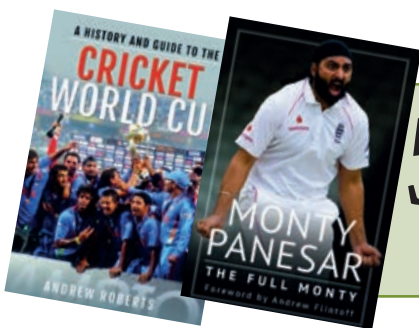
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SPORTS DIRECTORATE

So good to be back

Sport returning after Covid lockdown, but there's a way to go yet

Daniel Abrahams

HQ Air Command

SERVICE SPORT is back on the agenda but, as Deputy Director RAF Sport Rich Fogden explained to RAF News, the floodgates are far from open.

Supported by the Directorate RAF Sport, RAF Central Fund and RAF Sports Federation, the Service has so far seen angling, football, cricket, polo, waterskiing and wakeboarding events and training begin but, as Fogden explained, the approach has been measured.

He said: "The return is being done in good order. I've been encouraged because personnel are absolutely on it in getting back to their sports, but I also have huge sympathy for those who simply cannot yet."

"In the Admin Orders, we have made it clear that they have to put Covid-19 front and centre, so the aim of this return to sport is to conduct Covid-secure events. Things are far from being back to normal and we will keep banging that point home, to keep everyone safe."

Renewed meetings for planning the next stage of development started following the recent MoD-authorised Return to Play On Duty order, which then saw associations begin examining options permitted by their approved National Governing Bodies.



CAUTION: Deputy Director Rich Fogden

The lockdown has seen numerous virtual events held, with cycling, athletics and motorsport at the vanguard, along with the hugely successful virtual Air Tattoo under the RAF Video Gaming and E-sports Association.

"RAF Sport is seeking to build on the virtual events in parallel to the return of physical sport, which will see actual athletics, canoeing, fencing and paragliding – all planned for the coming weeks," Fogden added.

“I’ve been encouraged because personnel are absolutely on it in getting back to their sports”

"Unfortunately, overseas trips are still out. All of these events are characterised by uncertainty just now and we do not want to risk associations' very limited funds unless there's a guarantee we are going to be able to deliver."

"And, of course, there are a lot of variables in this area, from destination to wider Service considerations, with the potential for self-isolation following overseas trips and so on."

"This start has been a milestone for us, but future updates will be incremental, depending on what the government and NGBs decide and what is feasible given that we are struggling with accommodation. We are looking at regional events and one-day events, rather than the usual multi-day ones for some."

"We are really pleased to be getting going, but another milestone is not likely to be reached until social distancing is removed or reduced further, and we don't see that on the horizon just yet."

■ Follow the Directorate of Sport on Twitter @HQRAFSport.



SOMEONE'S HAPPY: The likely reaction from all Service sports fans to the news that RAF sport is now staging actual events alongside the numerous virtual ones that have been run during lockdown
PHOTOS: SBS

CHARITY CHALLENGE

Sgt has skipping goal on her Mind

SKIPPING SERGEANT Harriet Schofield has raised more than £700 for mental health charity Mind during her recent deployment with 906 Expeditionary Air Wing.

Accommodation manager Schofield, pictured right during a session, set herself the challenge of skipping every day for 30 minutes while deployed in the Middle East, after seeing the increased demands on deployed personnel due to Covid-19.

She said: "I chose to support Mind because of it aims, that is to make sure no one has to face a mental health problem alone."

"Mind provides information and support, as well as



campaigning for better services and raising awareness. Being away from friends and family for

months at a time is tough, but something the Armed Forces face regularly.

"It has been particularly difficult during the Covid-19 situation as there are less options for rest and recuperation and with limited access to facilities, such as gyms."

Schofield found time for the challenge in her busy schedule of overseeing personnel in transit including air crew, rotating limited accommodation and staff well-being during their period of self-isolation on entering the Middle East.

To sponsor Sgt Schofield visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/harriet-schofield2020.

Sport**MOTORSPORT**

Vickers runs out of luck but he still shows pluck

Two crashes can't dampen RAF rider's spirits after his second round to forget

STAFF REPORTER
HQ Air Command

IT WAS spills and not many thrills for Ryan Vickers after two crashes and a ninth place saw a day to forget in the BSB Championship second round.

The RAF Regular & Reserve Kawasaki team travelled to its local track at Snetterton buoyed by Vickers' opening round heroics at Donington Park, but added just seven more points to his championship total as bad luck marred his efforts throughout.

He said: "We started the weekend pretty well, I was feeling comfortable and we managed to qualify P9 on the grid, which was good enough to be getting away with the front group.

"Race one wasn't bad, for race two, what happened has happened and for race three I had a big high-side out of the final corner which was totally my mistake trying to take too much too early.

"Overall I'm pretty happy with where I and the team are and I'm looking forward to getting to Silverstone for the next round."

The Thetford rider had to contend with strong, blustery winds all weekend, particularly

during free practice and qualifying on Friday and Saturday, but he performed excellently posting the ninth fastest time, to end up less than half a second adrift of pole position man Danny Buchan.

Vickers looked to be having some luck before the first race, when he was promoted up the order by one

spot, following Andrew Irwin's earlier demotion.

The 21-year-old lined up for Saturday's first race in eighth place and in the middle of the third row, a good start then saw him complete the first of the 14 laps in seventh place.

The safety car was immediately called into action though due to a crash involving Irwin.

Following the restart Vickers dropped back to eighth after Tommy Bridewell overhauled him and, a lap later, he drifted to ninth, where he remained for the remainder of the race.

With the 11th-fastest qualifying lap, Vickers started Sunday's opening race from the fourth row, but he immediately moved up into the top 10 after a great start.

A lap later, of the 16-lap race, he sat in ninth and on lap seven he overhauled Jason O'Halloran to move up to eighth and well on course for another top-10 finish.

On lap 13 Vickers' luck ran out after he was taken out by Irwin, who collided with his front wheel, at Coram Curve.

Starting the third and final race of the weekend from seventh place, Vickers was hoping to end the weekend on a high note but, unfortunately, his race was over before it got going.

On the end of the opening lap he span off out of the action at the chicane. Fortunately for Vickers his bad luck ended there and he escaped the crash uninjured.

Team owner Lee Hardy said: "Things were hard through practice due to the high winds so finding an optimum set up was difficult, but we felt positive going into the races.

"Ryan and his crew chief made some further changes ahead of race one and, although it is never ideal going into any race with an untried set-up, Ryan said overall the work was an improvement and the outcome of it all was another solid top-10 finish."

Hardy added: "Ryan was on course for his best finish of the year but, unfortunately, and through no fault of his own, he had a coming together outside at Coram.

"We got the bike rebuilt for race three only for a mistake coming out of the chicane and a subsequent crash out."

The third round of the series takes place at Silverstone, Northamptonshire.

■ Follow the BSB championship on Twitter @OfficialBSB.



CRICKET

MCC Glee for RAF as season gets going



SUMMER STARS: Sqn Ldr Ian Iago, sat on bench (right), during RAF's IST20 match at Lord's
PHOTOS: SBS

Staff reporter

Vine Lane, Uxbridge

VINE LANE, Uxbridge was a welcome sight for the Service's cricketers as the season finally got underway.

The RAF hosted a Marylebone Cricket Club side bursting to play and it was the visitors who won the toss, opting to bat on what looked like a fairly heavy wicket following rain for most of the previous day.

Tight bowling from Sgt Kieran Pearce and Cpl Sam Bloor saw the visitors struggle to make headway with opener SJ Mehra chipping to SAC Jack Harrison, with WG Heslam following shortly after, caught brilliantly at midwicket by SAC Adam Sutcliffe.

Early inroads with the ball slowed, as Sgt Pearce came under some stiff resistance from JM Moore, but a well-placed yorker finally took his wicket, meaning the hosts had a solid base on which to build following the opening bowlers.

Having made their first change of bowlers, a loose over from Cpl Arron Ward gave the MCC batsmen a chance to score, but the introduction of spin through Sgt Alex Peel seemed to blunt the attack.

Peel sent DA Heavyside back to the pavilion after a quickfire 29. Up stepped Fg Off Avish Patel, who immediately made an impact taking two wickets in his first three balls, including a superb one-handed grab by Flt Lt Tom Berzins at first slip.

This was to continue as Patel finished with great figures of 3-21, supported by Peel who cleared

up the tail to finish 4-25. Tight fielding and good bowling meant the MCC were all out for 103 off just 22 overs.

The hosts produced a scratchy start losing a wicket in the first over, but they were steadied by a good knock from SAC Sutcliffe, who skilfully took on the MCC bowling attack.

Cpl Chris Oliver produced several cover drives before playing on for 20 from J Doyle.

SAC Sam Buckfield then began to score openly, crashing several shots to the boundary before being caught.

Sutcliffe then dug in to steady the ship ably supported by SAC Harrison, to finish the innings with a seven-wicket win.

RAF XI manager Sqn Ldr Jim Iago said: "Winning is always a great return to cricket and hopefully we can take this on to the next three fixtures."

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

RAF XI v MCC

Vine Lane, Uxbridge

Sqn Ldr Jim Iago
Flt Lt Tom Berzins
Fg Off Avish Patel
Sgt Alex Peel
Sgt Kieran Pearce
Cpl Arron Ward
Cpl Chris Oliver
Cpl Sam Bloor
SAC Adam Sutcliffe
SAC Jack Harrison
SAC Sam Buckfield

COMPETITION

Catch yourself some cracking cricket corkers

Win Panesar autobiography and super World Cup guide

IF CRICKET is your thing, then *RAF News Sport's* latest competition promises to knock you over the boundary rope.

We've teamed up with Pen and Sword books and White Owl publishing to give readers a chance to win a hardback copy of *Monty Panesar: The Full Monty*, Fred Atkins' autobiography of the cricketing national treasure, along with Andrew Roberts' *A History and Guide to the Cricket World Cup*.

Spin bowler Panesar hit the sporting headlines for becoming the first Sikh cricketer to play for England, in 2006.

His story is not all cheers from the crowd as his infectious playing style and enthusiasm saw his country rise in the summer game, forming one of the building blocks of a team that would develop into the best in the world, but Panesar's book features so much more.

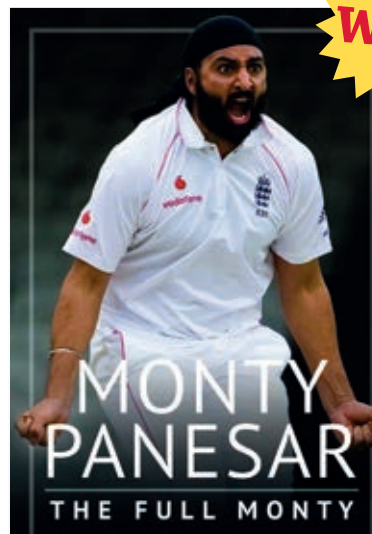
The off spinner does not shy away in *The Full Monty* (Pen & Sword Ltd), from covering the fierce racism he and his family encountered as he grew up playing his beloved game as a young man in Luton.

Atkins' book covers the severe pressure Panesar experienced as a Sikh playing on tour during the Mumbai bombings in 2008.

Panesar also talks about his mental health as a result of the pressures of the game before retiring from cricket and going on to become a household name starring in TV shows including *Dancing on Ice*.

Andrew Roberts' *A History and Guide to the Cricket World Cup* (White Owl) is a one-stop shop of the now major sporting event, covering every Cup from its birth in 1975 to 2015.

England's involvement in the tournament is well featured and has seen them



feature in classic final match defeats, with cricketing legends such as Ian 'Beefy' Botham, and ignominious

opening round dismissals.

Roberts expertly captures the glamour and colour of final wins including endless facts, statistics and figures to thrill and amuse any lover of the summer game's biggest single tournament.

For a chance to win both these titles, simply answer the following question correctly:

What was the year Monty Panesar made his debut for England?

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ACTION MAN: Ian Botham, England's most successful World Cup all-rounder
PHOTO: PA

Sport

WATERSPORTS

Wood has Aero skills

Title charge for dinghy skipper

Staff reporter
HQ Air Command

IT WAS bank holiday glory for RAF Dinghy Race team captain Flt Lt Mike Wood after he won the 2020 RS Aero 5 National Championships a round early.

Service Sailing Association captain Wood (28 Sqn) battled heavy winds to storm to glory at Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club. He bagged top-five results

across all the eight races in the series, wrapping up the National title.

The opening day of racing featured 16-20 knot winds and large waves saw two races held, with Wood tying for second on six points, alongside three sailors, as the overnight results were posted.

Further wind greeted the competitors on day two. Frequent gusts tested the racers' technique. Wood showed his craft taking the overall lead with excellent second, second and first place finishes in the three races.

Gusts over 30 knots delayed the start of the third day, with the weather again making the three races a challenge for the competing boats.

After a poor start in



WAVE RIDER: Wood shows his speed during the National event at Eastbourne; left, receiving his championship award PHOTO: RS SAILING

the first race, Wood bounced back winning the second and taking second in the final race. The results secured first place overall for Wood, heading into the final day, finding himself five points ahead of second place.

The final day offered another

range of conditions with very light winds under 5 knots. Wood kept close to the second-place boat, knowing that forcing it to seventh place or lower would seal the Championship.

The Serviceman kept the pressure on, finishing fifth, with

his nearest rival coming in ninth, sealing the title for Wood.

If RAF dinghy racing sounds like something you are interested in, contact Flt Lt Mike Wood (dinghy: captain@rafsportsfederation.uk) or Wg Cdr Dodwell (rc@dinghy.rafsa.org.uk).

FOOTBALL

Almost perfect 10 in semi Cup thriller

Marham seal final berth

A NINE-GOAL thriller is definitely the way to kickstart the new footballing season and Coningsby and Marham duly provided the excitement in the delayed RAF Cup clash.

The match marked the resumption of the 2019/20 season RAF Challenge Cup (The Keith Christie Trophy), with the semi-final fixture at Coningsby.

Victorious Marham manager Cpl Ray Harrison said: "It was an unbelievable game to be involved in as I am well aware how drilled RAF Coningsby are.

"I am very proud of all my lads on and off the field as it has been a tough five weeks preparing for this fixture, so to come through as finalists is a tremendous reward for all involved."

Both sides fielded attacking formations and it was Marham who took the lead in the eighth minute – LAET Danny Earl slotting home at the near post.

Coningsby continued to press, levelling through Cpl Josh Brayson firing into the bottom corner.

The visitors began to dominate, but they found Marham keeper Cpl Lewis Truman on top form pulling off two impressive close-range saves with Coningsby hitting the bar twice.

Marham were looking dangerous on the break down the flanks, but it was a run through the middle that opened Coningsby up, with Cpl Tarran Moxon chipping the keeper for 2-1.

Marham came out fired up following the break, where a 30-yard pass by Moxon straight from the kick-off found Earl.

He crossed for Welsh to fire home for 3-1.

Marham earned a penalty when the Coningsby keeper brought down Earl, Cpl Martyn Williams calmly converted.

The tie looked over when Marham made five in the 56th



GOALS GALORE: Marham put the pressure on PHOTO: BFBS

minute, Earl finishing again, but Coningsby gave themselves a glimmer of hope when Fountain finished well after rounding the keeper.

Cpl Sean Taylor then made it 5-3 with a powerful header.

Two gilt-edged chances went begging before the hosts found a fourth goal, but it wasn't enough

to cap a glorious fightback and Marham now await the outcome of the RAF Odiham v RAF Akrotiri semi-final clash to see who they'll play for the Cup.

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Sport

Vickers has tough time at Snetterton

● Sport P28



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● Sport P29



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● Sport P27

FOOTBALL

Girls back in action

LRT suffer at hands of Swindon as season finally restarts



RAF LRT v Swindon WFC

- 1: Connington
- 2: Wadelin
- 3: Wylie
- 4: Beaver (C)
- 5: Howes
- 6: Hollingsworth
- 7: Arrowsmith
- 8: Griffiths
- 9: Brown
- 10: Oreshko
- 11: Ansley

Bench:

- 12: Welsh
- 14: Winder
- 15: Anderton
- 16: Lambert

Swindon Town WFC	4
RAF Ladies Team	1

IT WAS A welcome return to football for the Service's women's team, but an unwelcome result – losing 4-1 to Swindon Town WFC.

Manager Chf Tech James Bryden said: "I am extremely proud of every player as they gave everything today against a very strong and youthful Swindon side and tried to play the way we have been working on.

"This was, for most of our squad, the first few days of football in about six months, so I am happy with the overall effort."

Facing Swindon, a fourth-tier women's football outfit, was always going to be tough for Bryden's side, as they ran out playing a new shape at Fairford Town FC's ground.

The military side started

brightly, looking to play out from the back – Sgt Charlotte Arrowsmith and Cpl Jade Brown causing plenty of problems – and it was the Service side who took a deserved lead.

Captain Sgt Catherine Beaver won possession in midfield and found debutant SAC Chelsea Ansley, who beat two players driving into the box, before

putting in a good cross from the left.

Cpl Rachel Griffiths timed her run perfectly to connect with the cross and find the net.

Overrun in the midfield, Swindon relied on the long ball over the RAF back line, and in the 18th minute they found the net, beating SAC Emma Connington to level.

Swindon went close again after splitting SAC Rebecca Wadelin and Flt Lt Emma Hollingsworth, but the Swindon forward shot wide.

The Service team had a further good chance to retake the lead, as Cpl Rachel Howes met a Cpl Griffiths corner, and her header beat everyone, but went wide. On the half-hour mark winger Sgt Arrowsmith, who had been dominant down the right wing, limped off.

The last chance of the half came to the Service side as Cpl Brown beat her marker before sending in a fierce shot across goal that was tipped wide by the Town keeper.

During the break goal scorer Cpl Griffiths was replaced, due to injury, by SAC Mollie Lambert.

Swindon took the lead after 58 minutes when SAC Connington got her fingertips to a powerful shot but could not prevent it going in.

Further injuries hit Bryden's team, with defender Flt Lt Hollingsworth and midfielder SAC Phoebe Oreshko both going off.

Swindon netted again in the 74th

minute and made it 4-1 in unlucky fashion for the RAF as a Swindon Cross deflected off midfielder SAC Rebecca Wadelin and looped over SAC Connington.

Bryden "We could see from the side lines that the legs were going during the game, and then the injuries followed. If we looked at the game in three thirds, we had the better of the first 30 minutes when we were fresher, maybe it was even in the middle and then Swindon were the better in the last.

"You could see the fitness difference at the end, but this is something myself and the players can learn from.

"It was fantastic to just get together and get playing and to be the first representative team from the three Services to do so.

"We are looking forward to playing GB police in October now the football cobwebs have been dusted off."

WELCOME RETURN: Far left, Sgt Cat Beaver breaks through the Swindon lines; left, Sgt Arrowsmith controls the ball during the tough opening clash; inset, Oreshko, who limped off injured after an impressive display
PHOTOS: James Booth Photography – Facebook

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