

The Forces' favourite paper

See p10

Daz fights back against cancer



See p23

First female Commandant salutes RAF College 100th



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday **February 21** 2020
No 1485 **70p**

RAF News

Football
MDS snatch late IS win



● **Sport p35**

Winter sports
Cool times for Alpine stars



● **Sport p30-31**

Be seeing you

Poseidon leaves no place to hide for Putin's subs



RUSSIAN SUBMARINES are no match for the RAF's new, world-leading P-8 Poseidon, say Defence chiefs. The warning was made after Sqn Ldr Mark Faulds (*centre, left*) flew the first of nine of the new sub-hunters into Kinloss Barracks, Moray. The move comes as Russian sub activity in the Atlantic reaches Cold War levels.

See p5



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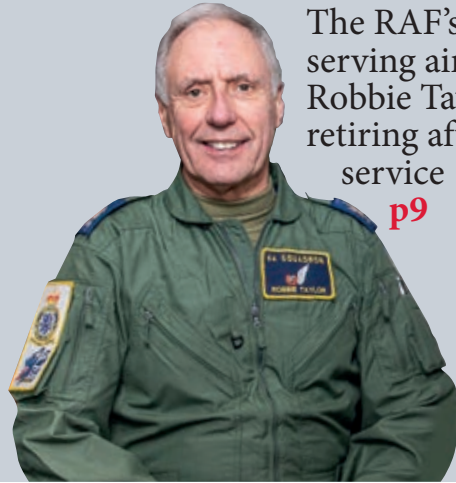


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“I’m looking forward to showing fans the next stage of Sigala live”

DJ Sigala on his upcoming world tour
RnR p3



“I’ll probably be spending my winter fuel allowance on draught Guinness”

The RAF’s longest serving airman WO Robbie Taylor on retiring after 51 years’ service
p9



“We know we hurt the Army and Navy last year and we know what to expect”

England star Fg Off Amy Cokayne on preparation for this year’s rugby union IS event
p29

ROYAL AIR FORCE RAF News

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Nato Typhoon pledge

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS WILL return to Lithuania later this year to carry out patrols alongside allies as part of the Nato Air Policing mission.

RAF quick reaction alert pilots will team up with Spanish fighters operating out of Šiauliai Air Base this summer to deter any incursions into the Alliance’s Baltic airspace.

The announcement of the latest four-jet deployment follows the UK’s previous missions to Estonia and Romania.

Speaking at the first Nato Defence Ministers’ meeting of the year, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: “A Global Britain will continue to play a leading role in Nato, working with multiple Allies and contributing a range of capabilities, cementing the UK as a Tier 1 military power.”

He also signed a Readiness Declaration committing the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force – which includes Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – to an enduring and substantial contribution to Nato’s Readiness Initiative.



BALTIC BEAT: A 3 Sqn Typhoon takes off from Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania during a previous Nato deployment
PHOTO: SAC DANIEL HERRICK

The Force includes a British-led army brigade and the UK Carrier Strike Group in a partnership of like-minded nations that provides 10,000 personnel on high alert committed to supporting global and regional peace,

stability and security either on its own or through multinational institutions.

In working sessions with fellow Defence Ministers, Mr Wallace also discussed Nato’s mission in Iraq and the role of the Alliance in the wider

Middle East.

The UK agrees with the Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg that Nato could contribute even more to regional stability and the fight against international terrorism.

This Week In History



1956

Javelin arrives

The Javelin delta-wing night fighter entered RAF service with No.46 Squadron at RAF Odiham.

1942

Harris succeeds

AM A.T. Harris succeeded ACM Sir Richard Peirse as C-in-C Bomber Command, a post he held for the remainder of the war.



1944

Mosquitos go big

For the first time, Mosquitos dropped 4,000LB HE bombs when 692 Squadron launched attacks on Dresden, Germany.

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



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In brief



Africa mission for media duo

RAF MEDIA specialists flew into Ethiopia to support the African Union peacekeeping mission in neighbouring Somalia.

Flt Lt Rob Griffiths and Flt Lt Martin Wade are part of a small tri-service team providing media training for troops from Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi, spearheading the fight against Islamist extremists in the country.



Rust in peace



FOR 40 YEARS they were the backbone of Britain's air defences, striking fear into its enemies from Kosovo to Afghanistan, Libya to Iraq.

Famed for protecting troops with low-level strafing runs, perhaps the largest single grouping of UK Tornados are now being used to train the RAF Regiment.

The fleet of five derelict Tonkas form a fake flight line at Honington to teach Gunners how to guard combat jets. PHOTO: MIKE PIKE

P-8 closes in on Putin sub threat

Simon Mander

BRITAIN'S NEW P-8 Poseidon is world class and will leave Russian submarines nowhere to hide, according to Defence chiefs.

Speaking as the first of nine new Maritime Patrol Aircraft touched down for the first time in the UK, industry experts said the UK fleet is state-of-art and the most advanced version of an aeroplane that has been proving itself around the globe since the first one was delivered to the US Navy in 2012.

The arrival of Poseidon comes as Russian submarine activity in the Atlantic reaches Cold War levels and China boosts its presence in the Arctic with new ice-capable vessels, the MoD said.

Boeing UK's Fixed Wing Lead Dom Lyons said: "There is really nothing out there being operated by other forces which is in this class. Nothing else has the same level of connectivity or networks with Five Eyes intelligence community.

"As things stand, the RAF's Poseidon Force is even ahead of some of the US Navy P-8 fleet. The aircraft has systems allowing it to act and communicate with other platforms. This allows for a large amount of data processing on board and linking it across the battle space."

And as Britain's P-8s are built on the same production line as the US Navy's they will benefit from future upgrades.

Poseidon is designed to carry out extended surveillance missions at high and low altitudes equipped with cutting-edge sensors which use high-



SELFIE-DEFENCE: Sqn Ldr Mark Faulds (right) and Sqn Ldr Stuart 'Rox' Roxburgh, who flew the last Nimrod mission for the RAF before the aircraft was shelved PHOTOS: PA

resolution area mapping to find enemy naval vessels.

Each aircraft carries sonar buoys which search for submarines and is armed with Harpoon anti-surface ship missiles and Mk 54 torpedoes.

Mr Lyons said: "The other thing that differentiates P8 is the range and capacity to carry sonar buoys and carry weapons on board. It can carry more than 20,000 lbs of ordnance.

"And with the Seedcorn programme – where RAF crews fly out of Jacksonville with the US Navy – we've already got very capable and trained crews, which is a real game changer."

According to Boeing five per cent of the world-wide P8 fleet of more than 90 is made by British contractors,

including Marshall Aerospace and Martin Baker.

Air Chief Marshal Mike Wigston, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "Russian submarines have nowhere to hide.

"The Poseidon MRA1 is a game-changing Maritime Patrol Aircraft. I am delighted and proud to see the 'Pride of Moray' and her crews returning to maritime patrol flying from Scotland to secure our seas and protect our nation."

The first UK Poseidon arrived at Kinloss Barracks, formerly used by the RAF's Nimrod fleet, from where it will temporarily operate until October 2020 while £75 million of planned runway and taxiway resurfacing works is completed at Lossiemouth.

Defence Minister Anne-



Marie Trevelyan, added: "RAF Lossiemouth's strategic northerly location makes it one of the most important air stations in the UK: already home to half of the Typhoon Force, and now sitting at the heart of our anti-submarine operations."



P8 Briefing

THE UK'S new maritime patrol aircraft is a real game changer, says Boeing's Dom Lyons.

"The aircraft has four roles: anti sub warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, and it has limited overland ISR capability.

The P-8 differs from its predecessors in that it has open architecture mission systems – which means adding and upgrading capability in the future is easier.

Poseidon will evolve. The US Navy will go through its standard spiral upgrade programme and we will benefit from that.

The UK's P-8s are produced on the same production line as the US aircraft and we are at the vanguard of capability. The US Navy recently introduced a block of upgrades so the RAF has those too.

There is nothing out there in this class or that has the same level of mission system integration. Because the aircraft was procured through a Foreign Military Sales arrangement with the US Navy it has allowed the aircraft to come into service much faster."

Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Length 129.5 ft (39.47m)

Height 42.9 ft (13.03m)



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RAF News

Win tribute to the iconic Lancaster

PUBLISHER HAYNES has added the Avro Lancaster to its exclusive list of 'Icons' titles.

The RAF's deadly WWII bomber takes its place alongside HMS Victory, the Flying Scotsman and the Tiger Tank in the new series on engineering marvels.

The tribute to Roy Chadwick's masterpiece includes sections on the aircraft's history and its role in some of the most daring operations during the war.

RAF News has a number to give away to readers. To be in with a chance of winning a copy answer the following question: *Who designed the Avro Lancaster?*

● Email your answer to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk.



Exclusive Reader giveaway



Brize bio boffins hit £1m funding jackpot

Defence chiefs back recycling system pioneered by Hercules crew

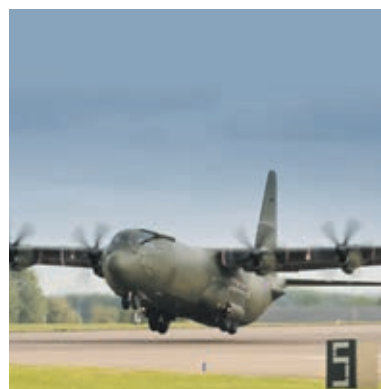
BOFFINS HAVE been given £1million to develop ways of recycling aircraft waste discovered by personnel at Brize Norton.

A 47 Sqn team won the RAF 100 Engineering Competition for proving waste oils and lubricants from servicing their C-130 Hercules transporters could be broken down using microbes in a process called bioprocessing.

Now the Ministry of Defence innovation hub – the Defence and Security Accelerator – has awarded contracts to three universities and an engineering firm to develop technology to turn waste hydrocarbons into recyclable water, organic fertiliser, and CO2.

Brize Norton special projects officer Wg Cdr Nicholas Atkinson said: "These innovations should provide a significant improvement in the way defence manages waste using deployable bioprocessors on military or disaster relief operations.

"This technology also has the potential to save money for the



GREEN MACHINE : Hercules lands at Brize

taxpayer in waste charges, as well as protecting the environment."

Sheffield University has been given £300,000 to develop the process while Northumbria University and Northern Engineering received £330,000.

Two other grants of £200,000 were given to University College London and Liverpool John Moores.

Announcing the funding at Cranfield University, Defence Minister James Heappey said:



RECYCLING CHAMPS: Brize Norton personnel

"Climate change is one of the greatest threats we face.

"Working with scientists and innovators, we are determined to lead the way in decarbonising Defence."

DASA associate delivery

manager Katy Violet said: "DASA is proud to be working with the RAF on this important work. Innovation isn't just about new kit, it is also about new and novel ways of doing things."



OFFER: TV star Johnny Vegas

Vegas bid for Victor

COMEDIAN JOHNNY Vegas has launched a bid to become the new owner of Marham's ageing Victor gate guardian.

The TV star made the offer to give the Cold War era bomber a new home on Twitter after station chiefs revealed it is to be scrapped.

He said: "I believe you have a Victor jet in need of a new home? We need to talk."

Speaking later to Forces broadcaster BFBS he added: "It's a gorgeous tribute to engineering. It can't be scrapped

"If I'm the last man standing, I'll save that plane and I'll do something with it."



RELIC: Marham Victor facing the scrap heap

Head over heels in love with Alpine slopes at RAF Champs



See p30



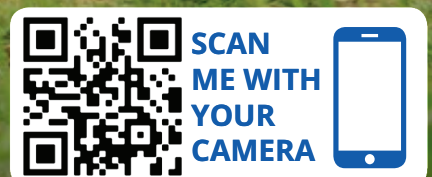
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Radar tech retires after more than half century

... and if it wasn't for E7 Wedgetail he would have stayed on

AWACS timeline

- **1976:** RAF joins the Nato airborne early warning programme and decides to replace its venerable Shackleton Mk2s. The USAF and other Alliance members order the E3-A but Britain opts for the Nimrod Mk 3.
- **1983-1986:** 11 Nimrods are allocated for conversion to the AEW variant at BAE Woodford to be prepared for delivery to Waddington.
- **1985:** the first RAF Nimrod missions test flight is curtailed after 45 minutes due to technical problems and it is decided to fly a ground-based avionics team member on board to fix any problems in the air.
- **1985:** the new 'In-Flight Maintenance Technicians' extend sortie lengths to eight-and-a-half hours, allowing the aircraft to be declared fit for delivery to RAF Waddington for further evaluation.
- **1986:** Nimrod contract cancelled and RAF procure E-3As and the Airborne Technicians are earmarked to serve on the E-3D Sentry.
- **1987-1990:** the first 12 SNCOs are trained as ATs by Nato at Geilenkirchen, flying the E3-A – some return to Waddington to train Sentry personnel.
- **May 6, 1990:** they receive their AT brevet.
- **June 2020:** the last AT badge will be awarded, to be replaced by the Airborne Specialist flying badge.



WO TAYLOR: A stalwart of 84 Squadron



SENTRY DUTY: Robbie working on E3-D



AWACS: Nimrod AEW Mk3



FAB FOUR: First four In-Flight Maintenance Technicians (l-r, back row) CT Al Walker, CT Nigel Marshallsay, CT Robbie Taylor and (front) CT Bill Barrie with Nimrod at BAE Woodford

Simon Mander

THE LONGEST-SERVING airman in the RAF has retired after more than half a century.

Veteran Air Technician Warrant Officer Robbie Taylor has hung up his headphones for the last time after over 51 years.

His departure comes 30 years after he and three other airmen became the first four members of a specialisation that has kept Britain's early warning aircraft fleet fully operational.

WO Taylor, 66, said: "I'm in my 52nd year now, I had served 51 years in January. I joined in 1969 as a craft apprentice on radar.

"In 1985 we were selected to work as ground technicians on the Nimrod AEW Mk3 at BAE Woodford but when it came to the flight trials the aircraft could only fly for 45 minutes because the systems broke down.

"We were asked if one of us would volunteer to fly on each test flight. We agreed, and did the necessary survival training, and as a result reliability improved to eight-and-a-half hours.

"That allowed us to bring Nimrod to Waddington for training and assessment but sadly one year later the contract was stopped."

But that wasn't the end of WO Taylor's career, which exceeds that of Lord Trenchard and Bomber Harris, who were granted lifetime service terms in recognition of their wartime service but left after 37 and 32 years respectively.

He and three other colleagues – by now informally recognised as in-flight maintenance technicians and the first RAF ground tradesmen to fly – were posted to Nato in 1987 to work on E-3A AWACS.

And after a three-year tour on operations in 1990 they returned to Waddington with the first RAF Sentry E3-D.

But before leaving Nato, its AEW Force Commander presented the first 12 SNCOs in the trade with their Air Technician brevets.

Since then, 180 Sentry and Rivet Joint ATs have received the coveted award.

In June, the AT brevet will be replaced by a new Airborne Specialist flying badge to encompass other trades such as linguists and will be awarded to crew flying on other



EARLY DAYS: A fresh-faced Robbie Taylor

aircraft types.

And with the introduction of the new E7 Wedgetail planned for 2023 there is no place for WO Taylor's trade on the new aircraft, which is why he finally retired this month, the day before his 67th birthday.

"Because Sentry is to be replaced by Wedgetail, there are no more radar ATs to be trained, which means I'll probably be spending my winter fuel allowance on draught Guinness," he joked.

"The AT trade is unique because, although its not official, it never got Royal assent, we are part of the constituted crew.

If an AT isn't available the jet doesn't take off, its an integral role and involves pre-flighting the aircraft and initialising the systems and it has made the Sentry a reliable platform once airborne."



CHEERS: But Robbie intends to be supping more Guinness, as well as tea, now he's retired

News



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CANCER BATTLE:
Wittering-based catering chief Sqn Ldr Daz Purchase survived dangerous 20-hour operation; *inset right*, the post op scar after surgeons removed tumour at the base of his skull

Antarctic mission puts Herc on Pole position

Staff Reporter

HERCULES CREWS battled extreme conditions to fly in vital supplies to scientists at the British research base close to the South Pole.
The veteran Air Force transporter delivered more than 60 tonnes of rations, fuel and light aircraft parts to the remote Sky Blu base used by the British Antarctic Survey team.
During the ten-day mission the 47 Sqn crew stationed at Punta Arenas in southern Chile flew in more than 70 containers to the remote site in Southern Palmer Land in Antarctica.
A pilot said: “The high latitude



and remote environment pose extra challenges which are replicated in very few parts of the planet.
“We are pleased to have successfully completed the full quota of supplies. The tenacity and flexibility of our teams from 47 Sqn RAF and 47 (Air Despatch) Sqn Royal Logistic Corps made up for the delay caused by strong winds during the first part of the mission.”
Sky Blu is named after the area of distinctive blue ice that surrounds it which is formed from extremely hard and dense ice that has lost the air bubbles that normally cloud the ice.

ICE ONE: BAS research station close to the South Pole



Daz fights back after tumour op

Staff Reporter

AN AIRMAN who was struck down with spinal cancer has launched a crusade to help other victims of the disease after finally being given the all-clear.

Wittering catering chief Sqn Ldr Daz Purchase fought his way back to fitness after undergoing 20 hours of surgery to remove the life-threatening tumour.

He opted for the operation, which carries a high risk of causing paralysis, after doctors said it was his only hope after living with the condition for five years.

Now the dad-of-two is on a mission to support the Spinal Injuries Association by volunteering with the charity and will be taking part in a fundraising mini-marathon in Cambridge later this year.

He said: "My wife Jude was an absolute star throughout this entire period. She suffered all the same uncertainty and emotional turmoil and was my rock."

After being diagnosed Sqn Ldr Purchase was advised to take non-surgical treatment for as long as he could to avoid the risks involved in delicate spinal surgery.



FAMILY SUPPORT: Wife Jude and the couple's two children

He finally opted for the complicated 20-hour procedure to remove the tumour just below the base of his skull when he lost movement in his upper body.

After surgery he was forced to lie motionless for five days before undergoing intensive physiology therapy at Headley Court.

He added: "Nothing prepares you for that moment when you hear the diagnosis. I know that I

could not have got through this without Jude and our kids, or without the support of the Royal Air Force and Spinal Injuries Association."

His first challenge will be the Wings for Life World Run in Cambridge in May.

He added: "I've been incredibly lucky, it's not the sort of thing you take for granted, so it's important to give something back."



WEB LAUNCH: St Clement Danes dates back to the 9th Century and was reconsecrated as the RAF church in 1957

Danes goes digital to reach new Forces flock

Staff Reporter

THE RAF Church St Clement Danes has launched a website and social media campaign to attract more members of the Armed Forces.

The landmark building in London's Strand was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and gifted to the RAF in 1957 and is the focus for many Service celebrations.

Now church bosses are reaching out to younger members of the Air Force family through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and its new website.

Along with conducting services, weddings and christenings, Clement Danes is also a popular visitor attraction and houses a collection of historic artefacts.

Chairman of the Danes Trustees AVM Al Gillespie said: "After many months' development, we are delighted to launch our new website and social media."

"I hope the whole Royal Air Force family, as well as tourists and visitors, will visit the website and support our Church."

● Go to: www.stclementdanesraf.org for social media details.



Lightning Big Lizzie night shift

FOUR F-35 Lightning jets have completed their first night landings on HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "Few countries in the world have the capacity and technology to deploy fighter jets from an aircraft carrier in the North Sea. These trials cement the UK as a Tier 1 military power."

HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales will be the first aircraft carriers in the world designed specifically to operate the Lightning jet.

Commander UK Strike Force, Mike Utley said: "Operating from the deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth in UK waters is a significant milestone."

Warfighting exercises take place later this year between the



NIGHT TRIAL: F-35 set for take-off from QEC PHOTO: BELINDA ALKER

operational Squadron and the ship leading to the first combined operational deployment of the carrier strike capability next year.

The UK will declare Initial Operating Capability for Carrier Strike by the end of 2020.

Britain currently owns 18 aircraft, with orders for 30 jets.

The first operational deployment for HMS Queen Elizabeth, 617 (Dambusters) Sqn and US Marine Corps Lightnings is due to take place in 2021.

Nominate someone outstanding today

Thomas Sutherland, who completed his Technical Apprenticeship for Leonardo and now works on the Eurofighter Typhoon Radar integrating current and next-gen systems, was named IET Apprentice of the Year in 2019.

After senior management identified both his technical and leadership talents, Thomas secured sponsorship for university and was placed on a bespoke development plan accelerating him to engineering leadership roles. Talking about his award win, Thomas said:

"Winning the IET Apprentice of the Year award was a moment I'm sure I'll never forget. It was such a special night shared with some truly remarkable people. I remember reading about the other award recipients and realising how much their impact is apparent in my life through all of the technology I use every day."

Having my name mentioned amongst these people inspired me to continue to push my career forward, as this is really just the start.

"The award has boosted my career significantly, presenting opportunities I never imagined I would have. The recognition I've received from people I work with and new connections within the industry shows how highly the award is thought of."

"Following the win, the IET has given me the opportunity to represent apprentices on a global scale. I want to be an example of what can be achieved by people who have chosen the Apprenticeship pathway and create opportunities for others to develop as I have."



Nominations close
15 May 2020

theiet.org/achievement

Help us shine a light on exceptional individuals, like Thomas, by nominating them for an IET Achievement Medal, or IET Apprentice or Technician of the Year Award.

Shackleton crash victims remembered

SENTRY CREWS are to launch a pilgrimage to a remote Scottish hillside where 10 airmen perished 30 years ago.

Waddington-based 8 Sqn personnel will visit the Hebridean crash site later this year to mark the anniversary and meet some of the local people who helped in the wake of the tragedy.

Avro Shackleton WR965 was on a routine exercise from Lossiemouth when it hit a hillside in low cloud and poor visibility in April 1990.

The coffins containing the bodies of the crew were flown by Hercules from Stornoway to Lossiemouth in May 1990, where they were met by families of the deceased.

Local people later erected a cairn on

the summit of Maodal hill for the crew of call sign Gambia 08.

They also paid their own tribute by holding a service at Leverburgh Free Church, attended by 400 people.

Officer Commanding 8 Sqn Wg Cdr Vicky Williams said: "We're going to restore the memorial stone and have a short church service. For people in the area, it's like the tragedy happened yesterday – they still think about the people involved."

She said 8 Sqn was unable to attend the 25th anniversary in 2015 as it was away on operations.

The Shackleton was training with a Tornado F3 which required the aircraft's radar to be switched off, when the crew contacted Benbecula air traffic control

stating they were 20 miles west of the airfield and were given permission to land.

However, they were actually 15 miles north of that position.

At around 10:37 the aircraft struck 30ft below the summit of 823ft-high Maodal hill, near Northton.

A Board of Inquiry ruled the aircraft was flown below a safe altitude in unsuitable weather conditions. Shackletons were retired from service the following year.

● Anyone affected by the crash who wishes to attend the event should contact either Sgt Snowball or CT Ebdon on: Peter. Snowball851@mod.gov.uk or Sheldon. Ebdon921@mod.gov.uk.



CRASHED: 8 Sqn Shackleton like this one

Waddington prepares to welcome Wedgetail

Personnel are Down Under training with Australian Air Force

SENTRY PERSONNEL are training in Australia in preparation for the arrival of the first E-7 Wedgetail to the UK in 2023.

Waddington-based 8 Sqn is determined to replace the E3-D Sentry while continuing to fulfil Nato and UK defence missions.

Officer Commanding Wing Commander Vicky Williams said: "We have had challenges with the availability of the fleet but we're still here doing our job, however we need to be realistic about what we can achieve."

"Our people are still the best operators in the world. Wherever we go everyone wants to play with the UK E3-D and they are still held in high esteem. We're getting there slowly but surely."

8 Sqn received its first Sentry in July 1991 and it was expected to remain in service until 2035. But last March the MoD announced a £1.5 billion deal with Boeing to buy five E-7 Wedgetails, with the first aircraft slated for delivery in 2023.

It came when the ageing E-3Ds suffered

groundings and high unavailability rates, but since the end of 2019 reliability has risen to 75 per cent.

As part of the transition to E-7 the Sentry fleet was cut from six to four by removing the two long-term unserviceable aircraft.

Flight Commander Operations Squadron Leader Ted Edwards said: "We've already sent pilots, mission crew and engineers to embed themselves with 2 Sqn, Royal Australian Air Force, in Williamstown, north of Sydney, to build their own expertise in how Wedgetail is operated."

"We're at the very early stages of transition and since Wedgetail was announced it's been work at pace to establish what that will look like."

"We have been really careful to draw Sentry down in a safe and effective way, to continue to service the needs of UK defence and Nato, whilst also ensuring we have our eyes on the future and are sending the right people to build Wedgetail."

"It's a fine balancing act as we are also reducing the size of the E3-D fleet."

He said the Australian fleet of six E-7s meant opportunities to embed UK



E-7 WEDGETAIL: Due in service 2023

crews was limited as the RAAF also had to train its own people.

The Wedgetail is based on a standard Boeing 737 airliner and its active electronically-scanned radar can cover four million square kilometres over a 10-hour period.

It is a proven aircraft and, like Sentry, has been used on operations in the battle against Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

It's participated in Exercise Bersama Lima, Cope North, Red Flag and Pitch Black.

RIGHT: Flight Commander Ops Sqn Ldr Ted Edwards



OC 8 SQN: Wg Cdr Vicky Williams



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

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

Wha-hey

Dam crew's Millies win

Staff Reporter

CHINOOK CREWS who battled round the clock to repair a reservoir dam as flood waters threatened to engulf Whaley Bridge have been hailed as heroes at the Sun Millies awards.

Members of 18 and 27 Sqn flew in more than 400 tonnes of rubble to prevent flood waters breaching damaged walls as more than 1500 residents were evacuated.

The Air Force crews were presented with the Hero at Home award by Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the annual ceremony.

The event was attended by a host of Forces celebrity supporters including Lorraine Kelly, John Barrowman, Denise van Outen, Chris Evans and Strictly host Shirley Ballas.

Speaking at the event Defence Minister Ben Wallace said: "Our Armed Forces serve with expertise, dedication and resilience and are the best in the world."

"The Sun Military Awards allow us to

celebrate the brilliance of our Armed Forces and reward examples of extraordinary service."

Also honoured was Chinook pilot Flt Lt Aaron Kelly who launched a daring mission to rescue French helicopter crew at risk from attack by insurgents in Mali after an engine fire forced them to make an emergency landing in the desert.

He received the Hero Overseas award for his quick-thinking actions to help recover the crew and the stricken aircraft.

Wg Cdr Matt Roberts said: "Mali is a highly unstable country. There are vast tracks of land that are not controlled by anyone and a significant presence of what we call terrorist armed groups who have a relatively high degree of freedom of manoeuvre."

"Imagine yourself sitting as a crew in a helicopter in the middle of nowhere, unable to take off again. You hope the cavalry is arriving. The cavalry in this case was a Chinook."

FORCES FAN: Barrowman



Chinook hero's West Side story



A HELICOPTER HERO who won the Distinguished Flying Cross for rescuing Royal Irish Regiment soldiers held captive in the Sierra Leone jungle by the notorious West Side Boys terror gang has signed on at Cranwell's Wall of Gallantry.

Wg Cdr Jonny Priest, known as 'JP', was on exchange to the Army Air Corps to fly the Lynx Mk 7 in Kenya during September



INSPIRATION: Left, Wg Cdr Priest signs on at the Wall of Gallantry. Meeting survival graduates PHOTOS: GORDY ELIAS

2000 when he took part in the rescue mission, flying in close air support of ground troops and RAF Chinooks who recovered the hostages.

Posted back to the Air Force to fly Chinooks he completed five tours of Iraq and a further five of Afghanistan. He spoke to survival students of the challenge

of leadership on operations and the importance of cooperation across the services.

He said the Op Barras rescue was an excellent example with AAC

and RAF helicopters operating from RN Ships.

He told the students: "Treat every tour as your last and you'll have an amazing time."

2020

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2018 key figures



Hundreds mourn hero of Warsaw

HUNDREDS OF veterans and Forces personnel turned out to honour a 95-year-old WWII bomb aimer following an appeal for mourners to attend his funeral.

Forces charity chiefs issued the call when decorated war hero Jim Auton, who had no known living relatives, died last month.

Members of the Queen's Colour Squadron provided a guard of honour as his flag-draped coffin was led into Newark parish church, where an estimated 300 mourners were gathered.

He was later buried at Newark cemetery beside his wife Peggy, who died in 2016.

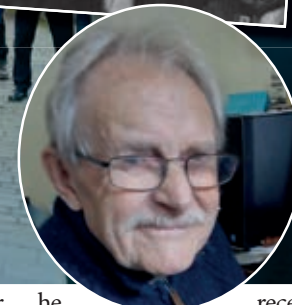
During the war he completed 37 bombing raids and was believed to be the last British crewman to take part in the perilous mission to drop supplies to Polish Resistance during the Warsaw uprising, which claimed the lives of 150,000 civilians.

Jim was wounded during his final mission with 178 Sqn and lost the sight in his right eye. After the war, he was awarded 20 medals by six different countries, including the Polish Presidential Gold Order of Merit and the Soviet Union War Veterans' Medal.

Paul Trickett, who cared for Jim



VETERAN HONOURED: Main, QCS carry coffin into Newark parish church, inset right, Jim Auton as a young airman during WWII and in later years



for many years, said: "He was a truly remarkable man with many stories to tell. He was proud of what he and his comrades did for the people of Warsaw. "He campaigned tirelessly for military charities, and for the Warsaw

air bridge to be properly remembered." After the war, he ran his own export business and helped to raise substantial amounts of money for military charities, for which he received an MBE in 2000.

When he became seriously ill last

year, he received a letter from the Polish Ambassador calling him 'a true friend of Poland', along with thousands of messages of support from Polish nationals on social media.



CHARITY TRAIL BLAZER: SAC Andy Watt

All fired up

FALKLANDS FIRE fighters netted more than £2000 in aid of the Australia bush fire relief appeal and other good causes.

Members of 905 EAW completed a relay marathon clocking up four miles each carrying 20kg of fire fighting equipment.

The event was organised by SAC Andy Watt, who said: "The relentless hills on rough ground were the hardest bit to overcome along the way.

"The motivation to complete the challenge was made stronger by knowing that the money raised was going to such a worthy cause, close to all our hearts in the Fire Service"

News bulletin



Robo challenge

NORFOLK STUDENTS battled it out at Honington in the regional heat of a national robotics competition.

Students from 10 local schools competed in a range of challenges to test their technical skills, supervised by technology ambassadors from the RAF station's Trade Group 4.

Colne Community College took top honours and will go on to the national final at Birmingham NEC next month.

WOs on the go

A TRIO of Warrant Officers from Digby are set to graduate as commissioned officers from Cranwell College.

Warrant Officer MAcr Steve Dixon, WO Chris Carr and WO Phil Morgan are set to graduate this month.



ROYAL VISIT: Marham youngsters welcome HM The Queen, below, meeting station staff at the new F-35 simulator training facility. PHOTOS: CPL JIMMY WISE

Staff Reporter

YOUNGSTERS FROM Marham turned out to welcome HM The Queen as she arrived at the home of the F-35 Lighting Force.

Her Majesty, who holds the rank of Honorary Air Cdre at Marham, was given a tour of the RAF's new training facility before a pilot from

617 Sqn demonstrated the state-of-the-art fighter's vertical landing manoeuvre.

Station Commander Gp Capt Jim Beck said: "It is always an honour to welcome Her Majesty to the station.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the new facilities now in use at the station."



HIGH-STAKES AIR COMBAT IN VEGAS

UK and Coalition Top Guns face off in Nevada as cyber warriors enter the fray



AIR POWER: RAF F-35 Lightning at Nellis Air Base

IT'S THE world's largest combat air drill and the big ticket event of the year for the RAF. Set in the vast expanse of the Nevada desert Exercise Red Flag is a high stakes proving ground for the UK's Typhoon, Voyager, and F-35 crews.

Born out of the high casualty rates among US pilots during the Vietnam War, the three-week exercise replicates real combat conditions to improve the chances of survival in current and future conflicts.

Air Vice-Marshal Ian Duguid, Air Officer Commanding 11 Group, said: "Red Flag is one of the pinnacle exercises of the Royal Air Force calendar.

"It helps us integrate with our American partners, the Royal Australian Air Force and our other coalition partners, so when we actually deploy on operations it's not the first time that we'll have worked together in such proximity."

The RAF deployed F-35 Lightnings from 617 Sqn, Typhoon FGR4s from 41 Test & Evaluation Sqn, a Voyager jointly operated by 10 and 101 Sqn, and an Air Operations Centre together with all the support required to operate 5,000 miles from home.

UK Detachment Commander Gp Capt Jim Beck said: "This is my sixth Red Flag and the bar has not only been raised a matter of inches, it's feet higher now.

"This is now multi-domain, which means we can really put the jets and our people through their paces. There is nowhere else we can get this level of training, assessment and qualification of our tactics."

Coningsby-based 41 TES are no strangers to the US, arriving at Nellis from California where they conduct trials and development work on Typhoon.

Sqn Ldr Andy Milikin is leading the contingent of 41 Sqn Typhoons. He said: "This training is peerless. To be able to operate with the Voyager, with F-35 and the deployed support unit brings us together in a way that you cannot do when you're at your own base in the UK. Red Flag gives you the best real-world training without actually going to war."

He added: "We've got a huge expanse of airspace in which we can fly. The threats which the Americans

TYPHOON:
New power
pairing
with F-35
PHOTOS: SAC
AMY LUPTON

provide are highly realistic and you really can't go anywhere else in the world other than Las Vegas to get this sort of training."

As pilots battle it out in the air, on the ground specialist cyber warfare units have been brought in to hack enemy information systems and cause chaos across the battle space.

USAF cyber team chief Lt Nathan Grafton



AOC 11 GROUP:
AVM Ian Duguid

said: "As a cyber aggressor my role is to try to get into your computer or your servers and get the information I want out and then take that capability away from you so you can't use it against my team."

It is not just the latest AI that poses the threat in the cyber realm. Gunnery Sergeant Mills of the US Marine Corps explained: "When you're dealing with the cyber fight you're dealing

with another individual, it's person versus person, not tool versus tool."

He added: "Having a thinking adversary emulated on the network allows us to help the Blue Forces adapt their tactics, techniques and procedures on the fly. That's real live training, the best we can provide, and it really helps you think outside the box."

The UK Cyber Detachment Commander Flt Lt Al Hall added: "We are here to give UK cyber protection teams



RAF VOYAGER: Air-to-air refuelling role during exercise

experience in a tri-service environment against a near peer adversary.

"We do not have to launch a missile to have an effect. A cyber attack can have a physical outcome such as affecting power distribution, computer systems or enemy aircraft. It is important to protect our networks to allow commanders to have confidence in our own systems."

Preparing for the World's biggest air combat drill is a logistical challenge. More than 250 tons of equipment arrived via land, sea and air to support the RAF detachment.

RAF Logistics expert Flt Lt Tom Williams said: "We had a surge of Movements personnel at the beginning to set up the exercise, taking delivery of more than 50 ISO containers containing equipment for the three aircraft types deployed and for 90 Signals Unit.

"Lightning and Voyager equipment had been shipped by sea from the UK and then taken overland to Nellis, and the Typhoon equipment was transported from China Lake.

"In addition, kit was transported by air – including an aircraft tow tractor and a 90SU Man SV Support Truck. There will be a further surge for the pack up and recovery when the equipment and personnel return to the UK."

He added: "This is the first F-35 deployment on Red Flag and we've had to deal with some challenges. It's been interesting to see how we overcame some of the initial teething issues to ensure a successful deployment.

"The good relationship with the US F-35 crews has been key to us successfully ironing out some of the nuances in sustaining Lightning through the supply chain, which is all part of why we come on exercises such as this."

A team of 25 personnel workers were also deployed to support the 350-strong RAF detachment.

Marham-based admin officer Flt Lt Rob Greenwood said: "Red Flag has worked like a well-oiled machine. Clearly operating such a large detachment overseas presents unique challenges but the Det Support Party have performed superbly well."



ALLIES: Cyber experts at work



DEBUT: RAF F-35s of 617 Squadron, Marham, see some action in the desert

Milestone as F-35 sees Red for first time

UK LIGHTNING FORCE achieved another milestone as it made its debut on Exercise Red Flag.

Five UK stealth jets flew out to Nellis for a showdown against some of the world's best pilots in simulated air battles of up to 80 combat aircraft.

Officer Commanding 617 Sqn Wg Cdr John Butcher said: "Red Flag has been amazing. Lightning has performed really well in this exercise. Our team has done fantastically well."

For many of the squadron's junior pilots, who have only rehearsed some of the missions in the Marham simulator, the complexity of Red Flag was a daunting prospect.

"They've been getting airborne and going into a 40 versus 40 aircraft fight with Russian surface-to-air missiles looking at them and the whole thing has been incredibly exciting," said Marham station chief Gp Capt Jim Beck.

He added: "They will know whether they can crack it for real. The jet is performing at the top of its game, with a set of sensors we've never had access to before. These are fusing together and really proving why we've invested in this awesome capability."

Air Vice-Marshal Ian Duguid, Air

Officer Commanding 11 Group, added: "This is a key milestone for Lightning. It's not just about the high-end aspect of what we're doing in the air on the exercise.

The ability to deploy halfway around the world with the right spares and support mechanisms in place to keep the aircraft and the crews going is also a challenge.

"It is a milestone ahead of the future embarkations on to HMS Queen Elizabeth in a few months' time."

For one of the more experienced Lightning pilots the significance of the exercise was clear.

He said: "The size of the airspace, the number of aircraft and the simulated enemy air defence systems on the ground gives you the opportunity to stretch the capability of this jet to the maximum possible extent.

"The situational awareness and the ability to understand and control all the battlespace is amazing and light years ahead of any capability we've had in the Air Force."

"The way information is presented to you through the helmet – which gives you this 360 degree view of the battlespace – is unparalleled, incredible, a massive leap from the Tornado GR4 I flew previously."



MARHAM CHIEF:
Gp Capt Jim Beck

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R'n'R



**Tony Gardner
is Bang on**
● p4

**Some-king wonderful
is here ● p4-5**



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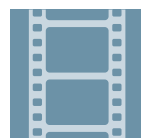
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Film review

The Lighthouse

18 rating, out now

Classic film isn't light work

A LATE-NINETEENTH century ghost story set in a lighthouse in New England is never going to be an upbeat rom-com.

A weathered keeper and his freshly imported assistant divide the duties, with young Winslow (Robert Patterson) taking the more gruelling and physically demanding jobs, whilst Wake (Willem Dafoe), pictured left, looks after the light itself, guarding it with almost religious fervour.

Stuck with only each other, and as a storm prevents them from leaving, what begins as minor grievances will grow into cut-throat resentments as the isolation tears at their sanity.

There is a mythic energy expressed though stark and sometimes surreal imagery as well as ornate language straight from the writings of Melville and Milton.

These two masculine figures, young and old, are left to stew in a steaming froth of bitterness and paranoia, bubbling out into Shakespearian soliloquies with biblical wrath.

Dafoe delights in the extremes of his character, filled with both humour and fury. Patterson's anger will spill out also, squirming under the regime of the man who controls his pay.

Shot in black and white, through



lenses a century old, the square aspect ratio is tall enough to capture the phallic lighthouse in all its glory, and creating mountains of Patterson and Defoe's faces: hairy, crusty and carved with age.

With the image boxed in, the claustrophobia is transferred straight to the audience and you

can almost smell the salt and damp.

This is no ordinary film, it is a fever dream of symbolism and dark poetry; of seagulls and sirens. It is both artistic and crass, exhibiting all manner of bodily fluids as the two keepers drunkenly spiral into madness. Co-written and directed by Robbott Eggers, whose

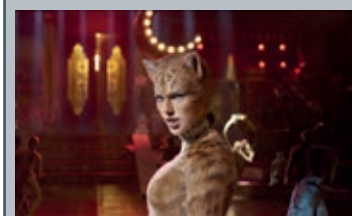
debut *The Witch* had a similar affection for period detail and dialogue, *The Lighthouse* plunges into the same waters, only deeper and darker with less to hold onto.

●●●●● Review by Sam Cooney

■ *The Lighthouse* is on general release

UK Box Office Top 10

1	Doolittle
2	Birds of Prey
3	1917
4	Parasite
5	Bod Boys of Life
6	Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker
7	Bombshell
8	JoJo Rabbit
9	Just Mercy
10	Frozen 2



Source: BFI



Music

Interview

Sigala - World Tour

Club legend Sigala set to spin hits across the globe

UK DJ and Brit Award nominated producer and artist Sigala is heading off on the first part of a world tour, that is sure to raise his profile even higher, after last year's smash hit single *Wish You Well*.

Sigala, who recently released a single *We Got Love* with Ella Henderson, took time to talk with *RAF News* about the tour and his musical world.

When did you first discover dance music and decide to try your hand at it?

I actually can't pinpoint exactly when I discovered dance music, but I was involved in a lot of bands in my teens.. The whole production and song-writing thing naturally evolved from there really.

You're no yet 30 and already you've achieved such incredible success. Is it what you expected?

Nothing about it is expected. Music has always been such an integral part of my life and I worked hard on many different projects before landing on Sigala.

Your music has become anthemic in clubs. What's it like when you hear it?

It never gets old hearing your song played on the radio... so much time and effort goes into each track, it's always a hugely proud moment to know that people are listening and enjoying my music.

How does it feel having other people as the face of your music?

It is one of my favourites parts of what I do; being able to work with amazingly talented people and learn from them and their creative processes. I'm very happy they are the face of my music - I think people would get bored if it was just my face.

Who is the dream collaboration?

There are many so I feel like I always change my answer... But a couple of names would be Anne-Marie or Tiesto.

Tell us about the process of putting the tour together.

For me it's essential that my live show is always evolving and

feels new and exciting to everyone, including myself. Before the tour starts I spend lots of time in the studio and in rehearsals trying to perfect the show and the experience.

On the tour what can we expect, will there be any special guests, what are you planning for the stage show?

I'm really looking forward to showing people the next stage of the Sigala show - I want people to come and experience for themselves so trust me on this one. It's doubly exciting as this is the first time I will take my live show outside of the UK.

What do you do during your down time when on tour?

I try and explore a place as much as possible - I generally only ever have a few hours in each city before moving on but I will fit in what I can.

After the tour, what does the future hold for Sigala?

My main priority for 2020 is getting out new music. I have



loads of amazing music that I want everyone to hear, so that's really going to be my focus once the craziness of my tour has subsided.

Sigala's world tour began on February 9 and ends in Belgium on March 28. For full details and tickets, visit: sigalamusic.com



Bang Bang! a big shot in the arm for ex doctor Gardner

Playlist Top 10

7:48

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TONY GARDNER stars in John Cleese's stage-writing debut *Bang Bang!* now on tour until May 9. Here's his Top 10 playlist:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Underworld
Born Slippy |
| 2 | Rufus Wainwright
I Don't Know What It Is |
| 3 | Maggie Rogers
Alaska |
| 4 | Oasis
Sloide Away |
| 5 | Joni Mitchell
Coyote |
| 6 | Curtis Mayfield
Move On Up |
| 7 | The Wedding Present
My Favourite Dress |
| 8 | Ben Folds Five
One Angry Dwarf and 200 Solemn Faces |
| 9 | Nothing But Thieves
Amsterdam |
| 10 | Amerie
1 Thing |

HIS NAME may not be that familiar, but you'll certainly know his face, especially if you're a fan of top TV comedy and drama – and a certain cult children's show that notched up more than 100 episodes.

Actor Tony Gardner has played smooth Leader of the Opposition Dan Miller in Armando Iannucci's searing political satire *The Thick Of It*, excelled as the philandering Professor Shales in Channel 4's hit campus-set comedy *Fresh Meat* and starred as troubled City high-flyer-turned-café owner Michael in Jack Dee's hilarious sitcom *Lead Balloon*.

Gardner will also be recognisable to viewers for his role as John, ex-husband of Caroline (Sarah Lancashire) in the hugely successful BBC comedy-drama *Last Tango In Halifax*.

And who can forget him as the dad, Brian Johnson in Yorkshire TV's *My Parents Are Aliens* that was so popular it ran for eight series from 1999 to 2006?

Now he's treading the boards in no less than comedy legend John Cleese's first-ever stage play, *Bang Bang!* Described as 'a hilarious blend of French farce and *Fawlty Towers*', the show is on a national tour until May and co-stars Tessa Peake-Jones (Raquel in *Only Fools And Horses*) and Wendi Peters (Cilla Battersby in *Coronation Street*).

It's an adaptation of famous French farceur Georges Feydeau's 1892 work *Monsieur Chasse*. Cleese said: "Farce is my greatest love – *Fawlty Towers* consisted of 12 farces – and I think UK audiences will love this hilarious classic."

Gardner is also a dedicated Feydeau fan – having already appeared in a production of Feydeau's *Where There's A Will* – and, he confessed, a huge Cleese admirer too.

He said: "When I was growing up I was an enormous *Monty Python* fan, I had the records and knew the sketches inside out."

It was his love of comedy that started Gardner on the road to becoming a professional actor – while at medical school he and



LOUCHE: Gardner plays philandering Duchotel in Cleese's French farce *Bang Bang!*

fellow student Phil Hammond (now also a successful comedy performer, a *Private Eye* contributor and still an NHS doctor) took their show *Struck Off And Die* to the Edinburgh Fringe – it was later adapted for Radio 4.

Gardner added: "Feydeau is fantastic, brilliant at constructing a farce and John's a great joke writer as well so the combination of the two is hopefully going to be a great success."

Gardner plays the philandering Duchotel and when his wife Leontine (Peake-Jones), a respectable society lady, discovers she has been hoodwinked by her husband, who is always pretending to go hunting but really chasing after other 'prey', she vows to take revenge on him.

While Duchotel is away, his lifelong friend comes calling – and he's also on the hunt. Will Leontine get caught in his sights or set a trap of her own? Gardner said: "The play is set in the late nineteenth century. I suppose you could call it a bedroom farce but it's not the 'whoops, ooh vicar sort of thing' – it's much more sophisticated than that. It's great fun to play period stuff."

He said he's 'very lucky' to have

worked with another of his comedy heroes, Jack Dee, and been in two top comedy shows that spawned several series.

He explained: "Michael in *Lead Balloon* was a lovely role, the same with Shales in *Fresh Meat*. If you're in a comedy that goes on for more than one series it just gets easier and easier for two main reasons – one, it's obviously a success and two, they start writing to your strengths and you just look better and better as the series continues."

Acting, surprisingly, wasn't Gardner's first career choice – he fulfilled a childhood ambition to become a doctor and combined acting roles with working as a GP until concentrating on acting full-time from 2000.

He admitted: "I always feel a bit of an imposter because I'm not trained as an actor, it's just something that I've fallen into really."

But it's not always been easy. He added: "It's tough out there, I've had a fallow few years and I couldn't get arrested for theatre work for 20 years."

Then he went on to work with the eminent director Sir Peter Hall and hasn't looked back.

Gardner added: "I'd love to do more theatre, I'd really like to work at the National. I love having an audience – it's very exciting."

Go to: bangbangtour.co.uk for tour details.

By Tracey Allen



The Big Interview

BALD AND brooding, Yul Brynner was magnificent in the 1956 film version of *The King and I*, co-starring Deborah Kerr.

Set in Bangkok in the 1860s, Anna Leonowens, a widowed British schoolteacher, has been hired to educate the children of the King of Siam.

Anna is sweet natured but spirited and, though their relationship can be unconventional and tempestuous, it is not long before she wins the heart and mind of her employer.

A moderniser in an imperialistic world, the King is struggling with his own principles and ideology.

Director Bartlett Sher – fresh from his huge Broadway success of *To Kill A Mockingbird* – reigns supreme in his version of *The King and I*.

Not only has the critically-acclaimed Broadway hit had a record-breaking season in New York, it continues its UK tour after a sell-out run at the London Palladium.

With almost more great songs than the *King of Siam* has wives (and he's tied the knot many times over) Sher's interpretation of Rodgers & Hammerstein's Tony Award-winning classic from the golden age of musicals is a triumphant revival.

The show features a company of more than 50 world-class performers, including Ethan Le Phong and Paulina Yeung in the roles of the young lovers and there's a full-scale orchestra keeping them company by playing one of the finest scores ever written – including songs such as *I Whistle A Happy Tune*, *Getting to Know You*, *Hello Young Lovers*, *Something Wonderful* and *Shall We Dance*.

Performing as Anna, fresh from her West End success, is Annalene Beechey, and Darren Lee is the King, replacing Jose Llana.

RAF News spoke to leading lady Annalene about the show:

Q What first attracted you to the part of Anna?

Absolutely everything! Anna has a wonderful journey throughout this show, she's tough, feisty, funny, warm and believes so passionately in the power of knowledge. She also has the most beautiful songs – vocally and lyrically.

Q What were your first thoughts when you were offered the role?

I was, and still am, very honoured to play this role. It's a Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical and Bartlett Sher's Tony Award-winning production is simply beautiful. I was also maybe a little worried about dancing the polka in that huge skirt!

Q If you could go back in time and meet the real-life Anna, what would you say to her?

I'd tell her how extraordinary she is. A courageous pioneer. And how much I admire her.

Q There is a real love story at the heart of the musical – what do you think attracts Anna to the King?

There is a tremendous amount of respect between Anna and the King, which grows throughout the show. Anna sees in the King a man who wants to know everything, to be the best that he can be to protect his people, which sparks in her a challenge, and mutual admiration.

Annalene Beechey



CHILD'S PLAY: Annalene with the kids, as Anna

Won over by King? Yes, Siam



REIGN OVER: Annalene with former 'king' Jose Llana

very deeply for the world in which she is preparing her pupils to live.

Q The real King of Siam had 82 kids – what do you think of that?
Excessive! Two is quite enough for me.

Q What's it like to dance in a huge crinoline petticoat?
Hard. You stop and it keeps moving. And it's very heavy, almost 20 kilos.

Q What's the most challenging aspect of touring?
Being away from my family. I have a husband and two children, so thank goodness for technology, but as long as I can see them at the weekends we're all okay.

Q When you're on tour – what's the one thing you can't live without?
I hate to admit it, but it's my phone. Aside from that, earplugs! And my pillow. I need my sleep.

Q Broadway World describes your voice as 'angelic', how do you take care of it?
That's very lovely. I look after it. I steam my voice, drink lots of water, wear a lot of scarves in the colder months and try not to eat too much chocolate.

Q How does this part differ from other roles that you've played?
I've never played a mother before. I love working with the children on stage. They are just wonderful; full of energy, funny and sweet.

The King and I tours Milton Keynes (Feb 25-Mar 7), Liverpool (Mar 10-21), Bristol (Mar 24-Apr 4), Woking (Apr 7-18) and Wimbledon (May 5-17).

Visit atgtickets.com/shows/the-king-and-i for bookings.



Competition Books

RAF West Malling/Don't Let Them Bag the Nines



Night fighters and Nines

THE HISTORY of the Service's first night fighter airfield is beautifully captured in author Anthony J. Moor's new hardback *RAF West Malling*.

Moor spans the decades from the original grass track airfield through to the arrival of a concrete runway, to its strategic Cold War night-fighting role.

The home of Guy Gibson and John 'Cat's Eyes' Cunningham would always have incredible tales to tell and Moor tells them superbly in this must-have, well-illustrated read (Air World books, £25) that bristles with one gem after the other.

In *Don't Let Them Bag The Nines*, the memoir of De Havilland pilot Captain Frederick Williams MC DFC, the manuscripts of the DH4s photo reconnaissance and bomber pilot is the real stuff of heroes.

Starting from Williams'

original stationing in Nancy in 1918, before his return to Blighty with a Croix de Guerre, the History Press publication (£12.99) will have you sat next to him in the air, giving an amazing insight into his thoughts during raids and the ever-changing world of the RAF and fighter flying.

For a chance to win both titles, answer the question: **What plane did Capt F. Williams fly?**

Email your answer, marked West Malling/Nines 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 March 6.

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

By entering RAF News competitions you agree to us holding personal details for the purpose of sending out prizes.



Competition Film

Cinema Made in Italy



Female directors star

CINEMA MADE in Italy and RAF News have a pair of tickets to give away to celebrate the six-day film festival.

This year's event showcases 10 movies, placing female directors in the spotlight, kicking off with *If Only* on March 5 (8.30pm) including intro and Q&A with director Ginevra Elkann and; *Dafne* on March 5 (6.30pm) with intro and Q&A with director Federico Bondi.

The festival will also feature a screening of *The Night Porter*, on March 8 (2.30 and 6pm) as part of the Sunday Classics day.

Running from March 4-9, the festival at Ciné Lumière London in Kensington will also be screening *Stolen Days*, *Flesh Out*, *Volare*, 5 is *The Perfect Number*, Carlo Sironi's *Sole*, *Simple Women* and *Bangla*.

RAF News has a pair of tickets to the Q&A and screening of *Dafne* on March 5 at 6.30pm.

For a chance to win simply tell us:

What film is being screened as part of the Sunday Classics?

Email your answer, marked Cinema Italy, 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 February 25.

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

For tickets visit: institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere. Tickets: £12/£10 (concessions); £9/£7 (concs) for films in the Sunday Classics; £5 (25 and under).

Ciné Lumière: 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT.

DAFNE: Win tickets for screening



Your Announcements

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

Seeking 60s Cyprus line-up



IF anyone can remember back as far as 1961 and can recognise any of those in this photo taken in small bar in Regina Street 1961 when I was on TSF Nicosia, please contact me. Ian W Seaman (Instrument Mechanic). Email: ianjazz@tiscali.co.uk.

Running 80k for The Few

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

The Hurricane 80K Challenge is a virtual race, commencing April 21 to July 10 and costs £20 per person. Entrants have exactly 80 days to run, walk, swim or bike

80K in a location of their choice. Participants will have access to a downloadable log sheet to record their 80K before being rewarded with a bespoke, commemorative 80K Challenge medal. All proceeds from the challenge will go towards the RAF Museum, registered charity 244708. For further details or to register you place visit: rafmuseum.org.

Kidz open doors at Cranwell



RAFA KIDZ CRANWELL, the station's nursery, has been officially opened by Mrs Kate Wigston, the wife of the Chief of the Air Staff.

Mrs Wigston, *above*, said: "Having been part of the RAF family for many years, I am aware how important a facility such as RAFA Kidz is and will be for years to come.

"It has been an absolute pleasure to officially open the RAFA Kidz nursery at RAF College Cranwell and to see the impact a facility such as this has on the military community." RAFA Kidz is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Royal Air Forces Association, the charity that supports the RAF family. It delivers fun,

affordable and nurturing early years childcare in a welcoming environment, on RAF stations. Grp Capt Bettington, RAF College Cranwell, said: "We are delighted to have RAFA Kidz on board to facilitate the running of our nursery and to provide sustainability into the future for the RAF family.

When serving parents send their children to a RAFA Kidz nursery, they will also be supporting their RAF colleagues. Any additional income will be invested back into the nursery and into RAF welfare activities delivered by the RAF Association." Popular projects such as free station Wi-Fi and Storybook Wings.



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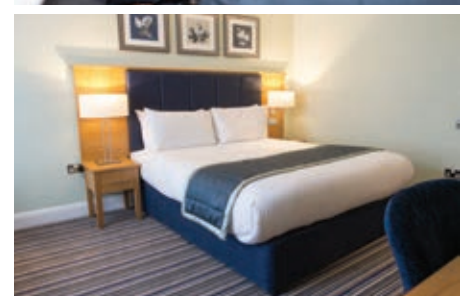
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Prize Crossword

No. 267

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the six letters in yellow squares to find an RAF station.

Across

- During row, George the First becomes an animal (5)
- High-flier requiring two pairs of wings (7)
- Once overweight, now a lesson to us all (7)
- Condensed cheese, French (5)
- Heartless speed leads to loathing (4)
- Make sense of Ed's return with figure of no importance (8)
- Ruler found in west Sardinia (4)
- Girl from Los Angeles ship (4)
- Was this PM everyone's cup of tea? (4,4)
- First Zeppelin included a little metal (4)
- One count, left out of country (5)
- Fatty substance found in part of England producing oil naturally at first (7)
- Nice person commenting on excellent breakfast (4,3)
- Penniless and shattered (5)

Down

- And 2 Down. Britannia's quiet soubriquet (3,10,5)
- See 1 Down
- Sweet tear, Elizabeth's first (4)
- British Rail carries large jug to beer-maker (6)
- Grand Old Party loses its head to barman (8)
 - Maybe this gal gets off bus (7)
 - Once they leave, even cheery effects produce fizz (13)
- Royal egg broken over building's frightening face (8)
- Plane ruined a party (7)
- Result of flying from New York to London, say (3,3)
- Inspector general finds toilet in cold house (5)
- Sending back buns a right slap in the face (4)

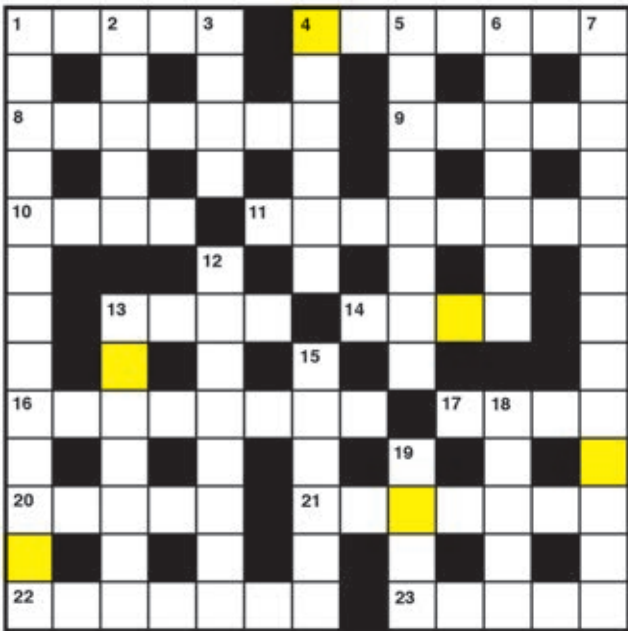
Name

Address

.....

RAF word Crossword No. 267

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Prize Crossword' 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 March 6, 2020.

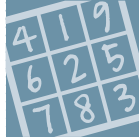


Solution to Crossword No. 265

Across – 1. Halo 8. Methuselah 9. Hastings 10. Code 12. Valley 14. Trance 15. Winner 17. Easter 18. Deaf 19. Veterans 21. Wellington 22. Dais

Down – 2. Aquamarine 3. Omit 4. Stingy 5. Russet 6. Leuchars 7. Shoe 11. Decree Nisi 13. Landfill 16. Ravine 17. Estate 18. Down 20. Rand

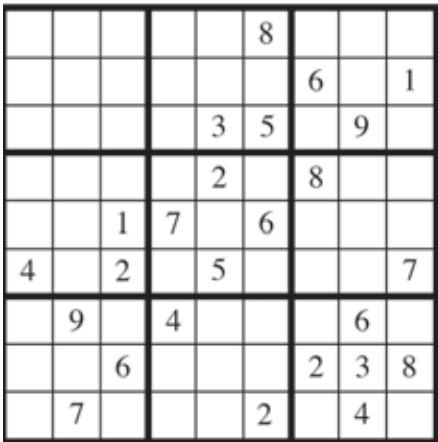
WWII location - Arnhem



Prize Su Doku

No. 277

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.



Name

Address

.....Su Doku No. 277

Solution to Su Doku No: 276

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

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Su Doku' with the number in the top left-hand corner to RAF News, to arrive by March 6, 2020.



Theatre

Dial M for Murder

UK tour

The perfect crime?

Strictly winner leading police a merry dance

A NEW production of the classic thriller *Dial M for Murder* has started its 2020 UK tour.

The genre-defining thriller – based on Frederick Knott's stage and screen play, made world-famous by Hitchcock's iconic 1954 film – will be directed by Anthony Banks (*Gaslight* and *Strangers on a Train*).

TV and stage favourite Tom Chambers (*Top Hat*, *Strictly Come Dancing* winner 2008) stars as the charismatic and manipulative Tony Wendice, a jaded ex-tennis pro who has given it all up for his wife Margot, played by Samantha Womack (*The Girl on the Train*,



'MARGOT': Sam Womack

The Addams Family, *EastEnders*).

When he discovers she has been unfaithful his mind turns to revenge and the pursuit of the 'perfect crime'.

Christopher Harper (*Coronation Street*, *Strangers on a Train*) performs in the dual roles of Captain Lesgate and Inspector Hubbard; and Michael Salami (*Hollyoaks*) is Max Halliday, Margot's lover.

The tour includes Glasgow (March 3-7), Milton Keynes (April 14-18), Birmingham (April 20-25) and Brighton (June 2-6).

■ Visit atgtickets.com/shows/dial-m-for-murder for full details.



MANIPULATIVE: Tom Chambers (left) as the scheming Wendice with Christopher Harper, who plays both Capt Lesgate and Insp Hubbard

Crew View

Red Flag

Senior Aircraftman James Milne, Gunner, 2624 Squadron RAuxAF Regiment, RAF Brize Norton



“I’m part of the Force Protection Team providing round the clock flight line security for the Typhoons and Lightnings. Being on Red Flag is a good experience and great preparation for future deployments in an operational theatre. This is my first detachment with the RAF, I previously served with the Royal Marines for nine years. I’m a qualified Mountain Bike instructor and am running a course for personnel whilst out here.”

Flight Sergeant Gillian Collier, Detachment Warrant Officer, RAF High Wycombe



“As the Detachment Warrant Officer, I’m here to support the Chief of Staff and Detachment Commander with regards to standards and discipline. This is the first time I’ve fulfilled this role. It’s been a steep learning curve but enjoyable, both from an administration perspective and seeing this coalition exercise first-hand. We have a number of Royal Navy personnel here, so I’ve had to familiarise myself with Navy rules and procedures, which whilst broadly similar do have some peculiarities.”

Flight Lieutenant Al Hall, UK Cyber Detachment Commander, RAF Waddington



“This is my first experience of attending Red Flag but I was the Project Officer last year and have been heavily involved in the planning. It’s really exciting for me to see the exercise in operation and to witness what works and what could be improved on. Seeing these plans come to fruition is really rewarding. I’ve been in the RAF for 17 years and have watched cyber warfare develop and form an increasingly important role on the battlefield. Of primary importance is the integration with partner nations and the constituent parts of the detachment that we would not normally see.”

RED FLAG, widely regarded as the most complex and demanding air combat training exercise in the world, took place at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada earlier this month. *RAF News* spoke to some of the personnel drawn from across the Service who deployed to the huge air base near Las Vegas about their roles and experiences in the USA.

Acting Corporal Cathy McLeod, RAF Police Reserves, 607 Squadron, RAF Leeming

“I’m a member of the Force Protection Team which comprises regular and reservist personnel drawn from across the RAF. In civvy street I am a Support Worker for adults with learning disabilities, so this is something completely different to what I’m used to. It has been a real eye opener for me seeing how the RAF team works together to get the jets airborne each day. I’ve also undertaken some adventurous training hiking in Red Rock Canyon. If you want to travel and be challenged, I can thoroughly recommend serving in the RAF Reserves.”



Sergeant Charlotte Williams, Registered Nurse, RAF Halton



“I am one of the nurses deployed on the exercise and work alongside a Doctor, a Medic and a Physiotherapist. This is the first exercise I’ve covered having previously served on Aeromed and it’s been a really good experience. The medical team has gelled well together, which has made for a good working environment where we can learn from one another. The Medic and I are running twice-daily sick parades at the hotel whilst the Doctor runs clinics from the base. Should there be a higher level of trauma then we can access the American services as our main role is primary care.”

Warrant Officer Jon, 617 Squadron, RAF Marham



“I have been in the RAF for 32 years and this is my first Red Flag exercise. It’s been a year of firsts for 617 and this is the highlight. This is the first time we’ve deployed somewhere where we’ve had to be self-sufficient, building the IT and the support network in order to operate the aircraft. The engineering team have worked hard and learned a great deal, supported well by our American Allies. I think we’ve grown as a team, which will stand us in good stead when we return to Marham in due course.”

Corporal Adam Scott, Adventurous Training Instructor, RAF Lossiemouth



“My main role is to provide adventurous training for the personnel on the detachment, though I have provided some physical training instruction too. It’s great to be able to provide the opportunity for individuals to break from their normal hard-working routine and give them the chance to develop themselves while hopefully having fun. Everyone has been so enthused but then it is awesome to wake up every day and not worry about the weather. My main concern has been about sun cream and water intake rather than anything else. My job is brilliant and is the fulfilment of a boyhood dream inspired by meeting RAF PTIs at RAF Leeming.”

Dresden: A city too far?

“The attack was considered a military necessity by more important people than myself”

Sir Arthur Harris,
Bomber Command



DRESDEN: Destroyed

THE CITY of Dresden in Eastern Germany, together with Chemnitz and Leipzig, had long been on Bomber Command's 'non-immediate' target list but they had been spared since attacks against oil facilities had been the priority.

By January 1945 the war in Europe was moving into its final months. The Allied armies in the west were making preparations for the crossing of the River Rhine and the Soviet armies were making rapid progress through Poland and towards Eastern Germany.

It was realised that heavy attacks against Berlin and the

BY GRAHAM PITCHFORK

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



three major eastern cities would provide powerful assistance to the Soviet advance and on January 25, 1945, the British Joint Intelligence Committee recommended air attacks should be carried out.

The following day the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, intervened and in a terse memo asked 'whether Berlin and no doubt

other large cities in East Germany should now be considered especially attractive targets'. He concluded 'pray report to me what is going to be done'. This caused a flurry of activity and the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Portal, conferred with his US counterparts and on the 27th Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, the chief of Bomber Command, was ordered to make plans to attack the four cities in conjunction with the USAAF Eighth Air Force, based in England.

In early February Churchill attended the inter-Allied conference at Yalta when the Russians asked the Western powers to bomb centres of communication to prevent the arrival of German reinforcements and to assist the Soviet advance.

On February 8 the Combined Strategic Targets Committee issued a new directive listing 10 towns selected because of their importance for military transportation to the Eastern front. Dresden was the second priority after Berlin.

Dresden was a large city which housed numerous key industries and was a focal point for road and rail communications. It was also seen as a possible control centre for the German armies fighting in the east.

As Air Commodore Henry Probert, former head of the Air Historical Branch, makes clear in his autobiography of Harris,

Bomber Command's chief had significant reservations about an attack on Dresden but once ordered to proceed he spared no effort to complete the task. The raid was mounted on the night of February 13-14 and Harris planned to send in two large waves of Lancasters three hours apart. Mosquitos of the Pathfinder's Light Night Striking Force were to attack nearby cities as a diversionary tactic. More than 350 Halifaxes of No 4 Group were tasked to attack the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen, near Leipzig, 15 minutes before the Lancasters arrived over Dresden.

The first aircraft arrived over Dresden at 10.15pm and marked the target for the 244 Lancasters that followed, the majority dropping incendiary bombs. There was little opposition. The second wave of 529 Lancasters carrying high-explosive bombs arrived over the burning city at 1.30am. During the morning, 311 USAAF Fortresses arrived. Later in the day another 210 Fortresses attacked the marshalling yards.

The destruction of the ancient city, with its many wooden buildings, was immense with three-quarters of the central nine square miles destroyed, including more than 75,000 houses.

The precise number of casualties will never be known but the figure of about 25,000 has become accepted as the most likely. Six



CRITICISM: Bomber Command's Harris

Lancasters were lost on the raid.

The controversy surrounding the Dresden raid started immediately and has continued for the past 75 years. Many believe it was 'a city too far'. On March 28, when the war situation had changed dramatically since his intervention in January, Churchill wrote to the Chiefs of Staff and questioned the need to continue bombing German cities 'simply for the sake of increasing the terror'. This note appears to ignore his long-term support for the bombing campaign and has been seen as an attempt to disassociate himself from the raid that he had instigated.

Harris was angry at the criticism of Bomber Command and his crews and to many he has been used as the scapegoat for the controversial raid. He deserves the last word. His only comment on the raid was: "The attack on Dresden was at the time considered a military necessity by more important people than myself."



ONSLAUGHT: Nearly 800 Lancasters and more than 500 USAAF Fortresses attacked Dresden



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Suraya heralds new century at RAF Cranwell

Simon Mander

RAF College Cranwell

CRANWELL HAS marked its centenary celebrations overseen by its first ever female Commandant.

Air Cdre Suraya Marshall is the 41st head of the Lincolnshire college since its first Cadet entry arrived in February 1920.

Speaking to *RAF News* she said: "It's an incredibly proud day. This is the oldest air academy in the world and it's the first to reach 100.

"I really enjoyed Officer Training. The friends I made going through it, I'm still very close to today, whether they've stayed in or left, Cranwell creates a real bond."

A former Tornado F3 Navigator with 25 Sqn at Leeming, and both 5 Sqn and 56 Sqn at Coningsby, Air Cdre Marshall believes she's the first of many women to lead the institution and that in future non-aircrew will also be Commandant.

She said: "I'm particularly proud to be the first female Commandant and it's wonderful that it coincides with a significant milestone in the College's history.

"Traditionally this and other senior posts have been filled by the aircrew cadre, but the Chief of the Air Staff is driving change to open more opportunity to all branches, so, it's a merit-based system, which doesn't depend on having wings or a brevet on your chest.

"The Air Force recruits on ability and that's appropriate because we are a technical, innovative Service and we demand skills we can only get on that basis."

She said from August Officer Training will change dramatically under Project Mercury which will modernise teaching methods and technologies, introduce modular courses and eradicate duplication of training so, for example, ex-rankers joining the officer cadre won't have to repeat lessons already learned.

"It's a huge step forward not just tinkering at the edges but a fundamental rewrite, we've thought about the future and what sort of skills and attributes we will require our officers to have and designed the course to deliver those," said Air Cdre Marshall.

Would-be F-35 pilot Officer Cadet Annie Smith, 23, from Croydon was one of around 100 members of D Sqn on parade for the big birthday which saw a flypast by a Coningsby-based 29 Sqn Typhoon.

Officer Cadet Smith said she never considered a military career until she went to Bath University and met members of the Bristol University Air Squadron.

She said: "I joined the University Air Squadron and it was the most amazing thing that happened to me. It gave me the opportunity to fly, to do adventurous



DEBUT: Air Cdre Marshall with Air Marshal Richard Knighton at her first graduation parade at Cranwell College PHOTOS: GORDY ELIAS



RAF ICON: Tornado

training, and get a real experience of what Air Force life is like, not just the job, but the lifestyle and I fell in love with it."

Aspiring engineering officers Officer Cadet Ibrahim, 21, from Manchester, and Officer Cadet Martyn Matt, 22, from Hastings, are both alumni of Welbeck Sixth Form College, which prepares students for military careers.

Officer Cadet Bilal Ibrahim, whose elder brother graduated from Cranwell last year, said: "I've always wanted to join the Air Force, my parents weren't born in this country, but have a good life here, so I thought it's a good way to give back, that's my inspiration."

Officer Cadet Matt said: "When I was younger, I was always interested in how things worked, my eyesight wasn't good enough for flying so being a pilot was out of the question but I still wanted to be in the Air Force because it has some of the most up-to-date technology and I wanted to be part of a tradition, something bigger than myself."

 HAMILTON



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G-LOVELY EFFORT: Looking pristine in the parade

PHOTOS: Miss Luka Waycott

Johnson hat-trick joy

Exemplary recruit awarded three trophies



OVER THE MOON: Reviewing Officer Station Commander RAF Valley, Gp Capt Chris Moon

THOMPSON **INTAKE** successfully graduated from Recruit Basic Training with an impressive display watched by family and friends and with a flypast by a Hawk T2 from 100 Squadron, RAF Leeming.

Flights 11 and 12 – 89 recruits in all – marched out on to the Henderson Parade Square behind Flight Commander Flt Lt Tom Clark.

The Queen's Colour was paraded and borne by Flt Lt Megan Rowlands, supported by Colour Warrant Officer Emma Rousell and Colour Escorts Sgt Consterdine and Sgt Perkes.

Group Captain Chris Moon, Station Commander RAF Valley, was the Reviewing Officer and was escorted by Cpl Helen Rimmer.

The Musical accompaniment was from the Central Band of the RAF, under direction from WO Gardner.

Successful recipients of the trophies and awards were:

■ **AC Johnson** received

The Rothschild Trophy, awarded to the recruit who achieves the highest overall standard in Initial Force Protection Training.

■ **AC Griffiths:** The Halton Aircraft Apprentice Shield for achieving the highest standard in physical education.

■ **AC Johnson:** The Halton Aircraft

Apprentice Trophy, awarded to the recruit who achieved the highest overall standard in drill and deportment.

■ **AC Terry:** The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund Trophy, awarded for displaying the greatest effort and determination.

■ **AC Lewis:** The Mayor of Aylesbury Trophy, awarded for the best overall performance.

■ **AC Jelley:** The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire's Trophy, awarded for the best overall performance on his flight.

■ The Lord Trenchard Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding Recruit on Intake, went to **AC Johnson** making him a three-trophy winner, which doesn't happen often.



● See p26 for prize winner pictures

HE'S NO DUMMY: New recruit with young well-wisher

News

EXERCISE:
63 Sqn

PHOTO: SAC
Iain Curlett

Ceremonial Gunners in the firing line

DRILL MASTERS from the Queen's Colour Squadron swapped their ceremonial finery for combats during Exercise Cold Eagle.

The RAF Regiment unit, which holds the world record for completing more than 2,700,000 foot and rifle drill movements in 23 hours and 55 minutes, practised day and night attacks during the training.

Section Commander Cpl Mike McGarr said: "It was a great opportunity to get back into the field and exercise our Force Protection skills and drills in a realistic training environment."

The Live Fire Tactical training



saw Gunners shoot static targets using live ammunition in four-strong fire teams and sections of

eight. Operations Officer Flt Lt Gareth Fisher said: "It's always pleasing to see how swiftly the Gunners of 63 Sqn RAF Regt transition to their Force Protection role and demonstrate the same degree of professionalism."

"We now look forward to delivering ceremonial excellence throughout 2020."

Northolt Station Commander Gp Capt Nick Worrall added: "It's easy to forget that the Queen's Colour Squadron Gunners not only feature front and centre in the ceremonial role, but also provide essential skills in airfield defence and Force Protection that enable Air Operations at home and overseas."

Thompson Intake trophy winners take a bow



AC GRIFFITHS: The Halton Aircraft Apprentice Shield



AC JOHNSON: Had his hands full with Rothschild and Halton Aircraft Apprentice awards, plus he also won the Lord Trenchard Trophy



AC LEWIS: The Mayor of Aylesbury Trophy



AC TERRY: The RAF Benevolent Fund Trophy



AC JELLEY: The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire's Trophy

PHOTOS:
Luka
Waycott

Wg Cdr Paul Farnes, DFM

Obituary

Last Battle of Britain ace Paul Farnes dies

WING COMMANDER Paul Farnes, who has died aged 101, was the last surviving Battle of Britain ace.

He joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in April 1938 and joined No 501 Squadron at Filton in September 1939. When the Germans invaded the Low Countries and France on May 10, 1940, its 16 Hurricanes took off from Tangmere and headed for Betheniville, near Rheims.

The squadron was in action immediately and on May 12, Farnes shot down a Heinkel III bomber and shared in the destruction of another. Two days later he and a colleague shot down a Dornier bomber. On the 27th, he possibly shot down another Heinkel. As the situation in France deteriorated, and losses mounted, the squadron returned to Britain.

Farnes and two others acquired a boat at St Malo and sailed for Jersey, where they were reunited with the few remaining pilots who had escaped with their Hurricanes. The squadron soon re-grouped at Croydon. Farnes described the events in France as a “shambles”.

As the opening phase of the Battle of Britain opened in mid July, the squadron moved to Gravesend where it was to see a great deal of action. Farnes opened his account on August 12 when he shot down a Junkers 87 Stuka dive-bomber near Folkestone. He shot down two more on the 15th and a Dornier bomber on the 18th. Later he engaged a Messerschmitt Bf 109 over Kent and destroyed it.

Throughout September, the squadron flew at intensive rates and Farnes was credited with damaging six enemy aircraft. On the 30th, he had a problem with the hood of his Hurricane and broke away from his formation to return to base. Near Gatwick he encountered some anti-aircraft fire, which he thought was directed at him. He then saw a Junkers 88 bomber at the same height. He closed in and fired and the bomber dived into the ground near the airfield. He landed and was taken to meet the surviving pilot. Farnes went to shake his hand but the German pilot refused.

Before the end of October, when the Battle was over, Farnes probably destroyed a Messerschmitt fighter. Commenting years later, he said: “Even when you saw 200-300 enemy bombers and about 100-200 Bf 109s, and there were only 12 of you, I can’t honestly say that I was ever frightened in the Battle of Britain.”

No 501 Squadron remained in the frontline longer than most other squadrons and was credited with destroying 149 enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain. Farnes had claimed six and was awarded an immediate DFM and commissioned. His squadron commander wrote: “He has shown skill, calmness and reliability in combat. By his successes and untiring effort, he has set a fine example to others.”

After the Battle, Farnes instructed fighter pilots at a training unit in Cheshire before joining a similar unit in Aden. In February 1942 he returned to fly operations as a flight commander with No 229 Squadron, first in North Africa and then in Malta.

He was soon in action in his Hurricane and on April 2 he damaged a Junkers 88 before the escorting enemy fighters intervened. Over the next three weeks Farnes damaged at least another six enemy aircraft but the fighting



ACE: Wg Cdr Farnes during the Battle of Britain and, *right*, in more recent times

was so intense he had to break off some of the engagements before he could confirm the results of his attacks.

During this period, the squadron’s new commanding officer was wounded and Farnes was promoted to take command. On May 9, Spitfire reinforcements were

launched from the US aircraft carrier *Wasp*. As one prepared to land at Malta, and with its wheels already down, a Messerschmitt Bf 109 bounced it. Farnes saw this and pounced on the enemy, damaged it and drove it away. The Spitfire landed safely.

By the end of May there were sufficient

Spitfires on the island so No 229, with its Hurricanes, was withdrawn. Farnes led the survivors to Egypt and after a four-and-a-half hour flight they landed at Sidi Barrani with only a few minutes of fuel left.

In July he was posted to the air headquarters in Iraq, where he remained until January 1945. He was mentioned in despatches.

On his return to Britain he served on a number of fighter squadrons including No 611 Squadron, flying the Mustang, an aircraft that was not to his liking. He then commanded 164 Squadron with Spitfires until August 1946.

Farnes remained in the RAF and, after a spell in the Air Ministry, he instructed at a fighter school and then at a jet flying school. He served in Egypt and returned to Britain in 1953 to serve at HQ Fighter Command. He left the RAF in 1958. He received the Air Efficiency Award.

Farnes was very proud to have served in the Battle of Britain and to have won the DFM. He regularly attended the annual thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey. In 2015, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle, he described the occasion as “moving” and went on to say: “It was very emotional when we walked out of the Abbey, the audience applauded – it had never happened before – I was very moved by it.”

He was a strong supporter of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust and attended the annual reunions at the memorial at Capel le Ferne until last year. He was the last of the veterans fit enough to attend the annual event.

In later life he commented: “I didn’t at the time, but latterly and gradually I came to realise the importance of the Battle of Britain.”



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Sport



7 pages of **RAF Sport** starts here

● **Roses rocking and rolling with Amy: P29**

WINTER SPORTS



New heroes of Telemark

See p30

SNOW JOKE: Above, a Service skier takes on a slope during the RAF Alpine Sports Championships, for full story see pages: 30-31

PHOTO: SAC SAM HOLDEN

POLO

Young Turk fires GB

Officer Cadet leads country to anniversary win

OFF CDT Rosanna Turk made a swift and impressive impact on Team GB's polo stars as she captained them to glory in India.

Turk, guided the team to victory at the Manipur Open event, the first time the team have ever won there.

Turk said: "I was lucky to have this opportunity and lucky enough to also pick up the overall tournament MVP, (Most Valuable Player) which was quite a surprise.

"It was an incredible tournament to be a part of, and made even more special with the ties to Polo150.

"It really showed the global outreach polo can have and of course highlighted the long links the sport, from India, has with the

military, it being brought home to Britain by officers 150-years ago.

Turks added: "Along with no national success, I am not aware of any Service personnel playing in the event before, so it was a proud moment to represent the RAF."

Turk, who scored a brace in her team's 5-2 win over America, captained Lorna Broughton, Heloise Wilson-Smith, Alice Walsh, and Hannah Parry Jones (reserve) during the tournament staged in the far East of India.

The tournament, which closed the Polo150 celebratory events, was played at the Imphal Sports stadium, on Manipurian ponies which are much smaller than

normal polo ponies, and only exist within the Manipur region.

Against a field of teams from Egypt, India A, India B, USA, last year's finalists and Argentina, the defending champions and hot favourites.

First up, the team faced India A and produced a comfortable 17-0 win.

Their next opponents were hot favourites Argentina and the result would not be easy.

The score remained fairly even until the third chukka when GB took a 6-3 lead.



CHUKKA CAN:
Above, action from the Indian tournament

Continued on page 29:

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Sport

CRICKET

Amy and Roses bloom to start Six Nations in style

France Women	13
England Women	19

Daniel Abrahams
 HQ Air Command

A POWER PACKED display saw England women's rugby union stars produce a decisive start to their Six Nations campaign beating France 13-19 in Pau.

Defending their title, the Reds Roses, featuring Fg Off Amy Cokayne at Hooker, led throughout, at the Stade du Hameau, scoring three tries on their way to victory.

Speaking after the team's fourth win in a row, Cokayne, who had been out for an extensive period due to injury, said: "Physically I felt fit, got a few club games under my belt, so I was ready for this challenge. The French were a tough opponent and away it was a real challenge, so it was great to get the win and that tough fixture out of the way early in the campaign.

"We are avoiding any talk of defending our title, rather attacking and taking it again.

"We've had players out through injury, but the players who came in today stood up well. With the World Cup a year away, there is such a great opportunity for everyone.

"We have real challenges in this year's Six Nations. Scotland away will be in front of a passionate crowd and it will be cold up there. We also have Italy away and they can produce any sort of result, so we will have to be on our best there also.

"Wales have new people in charge so they will surely be



ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE: Main, Cokayne scoring an eighth minute try against Wales in a previous Six Nations win at Arms Park, Cardiff, below, in the historic IS winning team last year

PHOTOS: SBS

looking to spark and hit the ground running, so there is no time off."

With her eyes on everything Service rugby, Cokayne added: "Even though we are at the start of this Six Nations, I know I will be straight back into the RAF matches as soon as tournament finishes. We have a training camp, which I

will go straight to. As a team we are looking to defend the title there as well, but for the first time.

"We know we hurt the Army and the Navy last year's Inter-Services, but we felt that pain for 20 years, so we know what they are going through and we know what to expect from both teams,

in regards to them being wounded animals by last terms' results and looking for revenge. The RAF face the Army at Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester KO: 11.30am on April 4. Ticket details are available online at: arytickets.com/army-v-raf.

They women then play the Royal Navy at Twickenham Stoop

on April 18, KO 2.30pm. Ticket details are available online at: navyrafmatch.uk/9/tickets.

England face Ireland at Castle Park on February 23, 12pm KO.

Follow the Reds Roses and RAF women's rugby union on Twitter [@englandrugby](#) and [@RAFRU_Women](#).

POLO

University challenge too strong



Continued from page 28:

A win would see GB into the final, but the holders were not giving up that easily scoring a fourth goal.

Turk's team dug deep and held on to the 6-4 score line and the win.

America were the opponents in the final looking to go one better than a year ago. With the scores

even at the break at 2-2, GB needed to impose themselves and the found three goals to win it 5-2, with goals from Broughton, Walsh, Wilson-Smith and a brace from Turk.



Inside line

Getting the downlow

Novice Alpine athletes find feet while stars fight it out for Inters spots

STAFF Reporter
HQ Air Command

THE SLOPES of Austria were once again the prefect proving ground for the Service's Alpine winter sports stars at this year's RAF championships.

With Inter-Service spots up for grabs, the competition over the week-long event was as fierce as ever, with newcomers also getting the chance to grab some vital slope and run time all under the eyes of expert coaches.

Telemark team captain Wg Cdr Johnny Young said: "The Championships proved to be really successful for us, with new faces joining the development squad, plus we had a competitive race to prepare us for the Inters.

"We are able to field the same team as last year, which is good continuity for us and we have a great team spirit.

"We are hoping to challenge for individual placings and work for

"We have been working hard to see our sport grow, so that we are a force to be reckoned with at this year's Inters"

the best team result we can." Wg Cdr Nicola Duncan, Snowboard chairman said: "There are a few new faces making their way into this year's team, which is excellent.

"We still have a very youthful look to us, and they are a close knit team who pretty much started their snowboarding journey together, so it will come down to how the individual riders perform on the race day, but either way, they will represent the RAF well, both on and off snow.

"The selection was difficult because boarders now seem to specialise in one discipline of the sport, and with the IS requiring three events it's not been easy.

"We have been working hard to see our sport grow, so that we are a force to be reckoned with at the Inter-Services and we can only do

that if we grow grass root talent."

The Inter-Station ski event went to Brize Norton, while Wg Cdr Young won the Telemark GS.

The individual slopestyle snowboarding title went to Sarah Boon – ladies and Adam Woolley, men's.

The PGS title went to Cpl Natalie Fields, ladies, Sgt Josh Rathbone, men.

Fields also won the boarder cross, with Flt Lt Luke Shaw took the men's title. Cpl Rachel Hughes won all the ski titles: individual slalom, Leonardo and MBDA Super G, with SAC(T) Barnaby Rudge taking the title in the men's individual and MBDA Super G. Sqn Ldr Howard Fielder took the men's slalom and Leonardo Super G. Follow the Inter-Services on Twitter @rafwintersport.



SLOPING AROUND: Clockwise from bottom left, action from this year's RAF Alpine Sports Championships

PHOTOS: SAMANTHA HOLDEN





TEAMS FOR IS20

Telemark:
Wg Cdr Jonathan **Young** (C)
Wg Cdr Adam **Shave**
Sqn Ldr Patrick **Mitchell**
Flt Lt Richard **Pike**
Flt Lt Christopher **Carrington-Smith**
Cpl Steven **Fryer**

Ski:
Men's:
SAC(T) Barney **Rudge** (C)
Sqn Ldr Howard **Fielder**
Sgt Gary **Smith**
Flt Lt Rafe **Higson**
Sgt Tom **Clare**
Fg Off Alistair **Dobson**
Flt Lt Sam **Power**
Fg Off James **Gray**
Flt Lt Will **Lupton**

Ladies:
Flt Lt Claire **Nixon** (C)
Cpl Rachel **Hughes**
LAC Philippa **Baxter**
Flt Lt Genevieve Rolleston-**Smith**
Flt Lt Hannah **Witchalls**
Flt Lt Sylvia **Prendergrast**
Flt Lt Charlotte **Reid**
SAC Hannah **Ward**

Snowboard:

Men's:
Flt Lt Paddy **Morris** (C)
SAC(T) Sean **Davy**



SAC(T) Adam **Wooley**
Sgt Josh **Rathbone**
Sgt Chris **Challenor**
Flt Lt Ozzie **Lennon**
SAC (T) Kieran **Giles**
Cpl Sam **Brown** (Dep Men's Capt)
Flt Lt Luke **Shaw**
Sqn Ldr Charlie **Hatch**

Ladies:
Flt Lt Lissy **Mason** (C)
Sqn Ldr Nat **Feeney**
Sqn Ldr Sarah **Boon**
Cpl Hannah **Pringle**
Flt Lt Nessa **Fields**
Cpl Nat **Fields**

Reserve/Hill Team:
SAC Dom **Brown**
SAC(T) James **Richardson**



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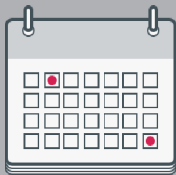
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Sport**SQUASH**

Stars have day in court

Midlands club hosts for second year

STAFF REPORTER
HQ Air Command

THE SERVICE squash stars at the RAF Championships made a welcome return to Wolverhampton recently.

The Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, was the host venue for the second year, with the association using its state of the art Rankedin tournament system, and on the courts the usual high-quality action produced some thrilling results and outcomes.

SAC(T) Oscar Hill was crowned RAF Open Champion, having had a fantastic run, including defeating two former champions - Sqn Ldr Michael Hallett in the quarter-finals and Wg Cdr Paul Warner in the semis.

Hill then went on to beat RAF men's captain Sqn Ldr Phil Rea, a final debutant, to take the title.

Head of RAF squash development, SAC(T) Robbie Coils, said: "Last year Hill won the RAF and UKAF Under 25 individual title and the determination and drive he possesses for the sport has led him to more glory and it could just be the start."

Tournament referee FS Paul Partington, won the Over 40s trophy for the first time.

Parrington beat Sgt Mark Nuttall in a thrilling five-game final, which could have gone either way until the final minutes of the clash.

In the ladies' event, women's captain, Sgt Lucy Corrigan, won the title. SAC Ben Mearns won the Under 25s event and SAC(T) Tom Jugg won the Racketball event.

The match was to prove one of endurance, with Meanrs winning out after a brutal 68-minute final.

RAF Coningsby and Benson took five of the trophies between them.

Coils added: "There was lots of healthy competition in all categories, especially in the Under 25s, where the RAF are looking to defend their Inter-Services title



COURT IN: Above and right, action from the recent Championships
PHOTOS: RAF HALTON PHOTO SECTION

later this month.

"We also welcomed lots of new participants, who turned up to take part in the championships which is a great sign that Squash is driving the development of players from grass roots up and a lot of time and planning is put into attracting more new players.

"The competition between players, both old and new, has given team captains a lot to think about before they make selection of teams for the Inters.

"As an association, we are always on the look out for new players of all abilities."

Anyone interested in participating in the sport can contact us through our social media platforms, on Twitter @RafSquash or Facebook @rafsquash.



Winners:

SAC(T) Oscar Hill - Open Champion.
FS Paul Partington - Over 40s Champion.
Sgt Lucy Corrigan - Ladies Champion.
SAC Ben Mearns - Under 25s Champion.
SAC(T) Tom Jugg - Racketball Champion.

Sport

EQUESTRIAN

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Gold standard gets set

Military day sure to bring colour to spring



RACE GOERS and military fans alike are set for the year's biggest Service horse racing event the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown on March 6.

This year's meeting consists of six races, which includes four professional races and two for military jockeys: The Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Memorial Handicap Hurdle; and the Grand Military Gold Cup.

The Grand Military meeting provides a great day of quality racing in a relaxed environment to meet former comrades and celebrate service in the Armed Forces. The Gold Cup race, which dates back to 1841 has featured RAF riders including Air Cdre James Stevenson on the 1960s and Cpl Jim Earnshaw in the 1980s.

More recently SAC(T) Sam Williams has made several

appearances, with Flt Lt Camilla Howard being the Service's first female rider in the race in 2013.

Tickets can be purchased for a discounted price using the promotional code GM2020 at: sandown.co.uk or telephone: 0344 579 3012.

Sandown Park may also offer discounts for hospitality boxes, visit site for details. The first race is at 2.20pm with the last at 5.10pm.



ON THE RUN-IN: Main and above, action from previous GM Gold Cup races
PHOTOS: SANDOWN RACE COURSE

Ciara blows girls off course

THE SERVICE'S female rugby union stars' most prestigious fixture of the year so far, suffered at the hands of Storm Ciara.

The IS warm-up fixture against Saracens Women at their Allianz Park, Hendon

home was to feature a string Service's team lead by captain Sqn Ldr Chrissy Siczowa.

But, the storm, which battered the country, was deemed too extreme for the match to take place, after a meeting with the stadium's safety team. Follow the team on Twitter @RAFRU_Woman.



FOOTBALL

Point proved as MDS slot home late spot kick

Continued from back page:

SAC George Barber went agonisingly close to an equaliser as he headed a Willis corner narrowly over.

And it was the airmens set piece play that led to their opening goal in the 21st minute.

A delivery from the right caused chaos in the Army defence and a composed SAC Liam Wood collected the ball on the edge of the area and rifled a half-volley into the roof of the net.

Forward SAC Joe Spalding was the next to threaten, sprinting clear on the right, but his low cross was smothered with SAC Alex More ready to pounce.

After a series of early exchanges after the break, the half dipped, and the first real chance did not arrive until the 73rd minute, when Tpr Nathan Donnachie (RAC) was thwarted by Rutherford in another one-on-one battle.

Wood was denied a late winner by the offside flag but the RAF's pressure was rewarded in injury time as Willis converted his



penalty. The RAF airmen can seal the title with victory over the

Royal Navy at the home of Oxford City.

CHASE ME: Above, RAF MDS stars leave two Army players in their wake

PHOTOS: GRAEME MAIN, SOLDIER MAGAZINE

Sport

Alpine champs get rocking

● Sport P30-31

Squash stars court action

● Sport P33

Off Cdt's GB polo win in India

● Sport P29

FOOTBALL

FIRST BLOOD

U23s slot home late penalty to beat Army

Army	1
MDS	2

Staff Reporter

Aldershot

SKIPPER SAC Kyle Willis ruthlessly dispatched a last-gasp penalty to hand the RAF a 2-1 win over the Army at Aldershot in the opening U23s (Men's Development Squad) Inter-Services clash.

The midfielder held his nerve from the spot after substitute SAC Nial Gannon was bundled over in the box and the goal proved to be the decisive final act of an enthralling match in Aldershot.

Head coach FS Leon Duke, said: "The Army made it tough. We settled down after their goal and we played some football dominating possession for the rest of the half. After we equalised, I thought we were much the better side.

"At half time I told the lads we needed to control the game better and start dictating the tempo of the game.

"I told the lads they needed to control the game better and they did."

"We got in behind multiple times, but we just could not get on to the end of our crosses. The late show from Willis was just reward I thought.

"Overall, I felt like we could play better, but typically of IS football it ended up just being a battle for the

three points." After a bright opening in which a strong penalty appeal was turned down, the visitors found themselves firmly on the back foot as the soldiers seized control.

The hosts' first meaningful effort came in the 12th minute as Air Tpr Scott Hynd (AAC) latched onto a through pass from Pte Nathan Hutchinson (RLC) only to be denied in a one-on-one duel with RAF keeper SAC James Rutherford.

The striker quickly put the disappointment behind him when, just a minute later, he collected a ball over the top and emphatically found the bottom corner.

Having weathered the storm, the RAF set about imposing themselves on the game.

Continued on page 34:



PITCHED BATTLE: Main and below, action from the Inter-Service opening match win by the MDS at Aldershot

PHOTOS: GRAEME MAIN SOLDIER

MAGAZINE





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