

The Forces' favourite paper



DFC with Bar holder Owen Hardy's story

● See feature on page 19



Provost was fit for a king

● See page 21

Win!

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday, August 11, 2023
No. 1566 £1.20

RAF NEWS



King honours bomber crew



See pages 16-17

Angling IS title is in the bag



● See page 28

Rugby Defence World Cup



● See page 30

Archery On target



● See page 31

Typhoon holds the Baltic line

UK jets scrambled 50 times on NATO Estonia mission



Simon Mander
TYPHOON TOP Guns have returned home to Scotland after intercepting 50 Russian aircraft on Nato Baltic Air Policing duties. Crews from Lossiemouth-based IX(Bomber) and 1(Fighter) squadrons flew more than 500 hours in four months from Ämari Air Base in Estonia on Quick Reaction Alert sorties to safeguard the Alliance's eastern flank.
● See p3 for full story

BiteSize

“We’ve raised a staggering £63,000 to help treat veterans with conditions like PTSD,”



Healing Military Minds founder Cpl Hayley Court raises the stakes with glitzy charity ball
See page 13

“We gave a good account of ourselves,”



Inter-Services Karate champ Cpl Georgia Lee
See p27

“It’s a hauntingly illuminating memoir of health workers during the Covid 19 epidemic,”



Script writer and former doctor and RAF officer Jed Mercurio on his new drama, *Breathtaking*
R’nR p4



UK joins Pacific drill

AIR FORCE personnel have returned from the largest ever military exercise between the UK, Australia and the US.

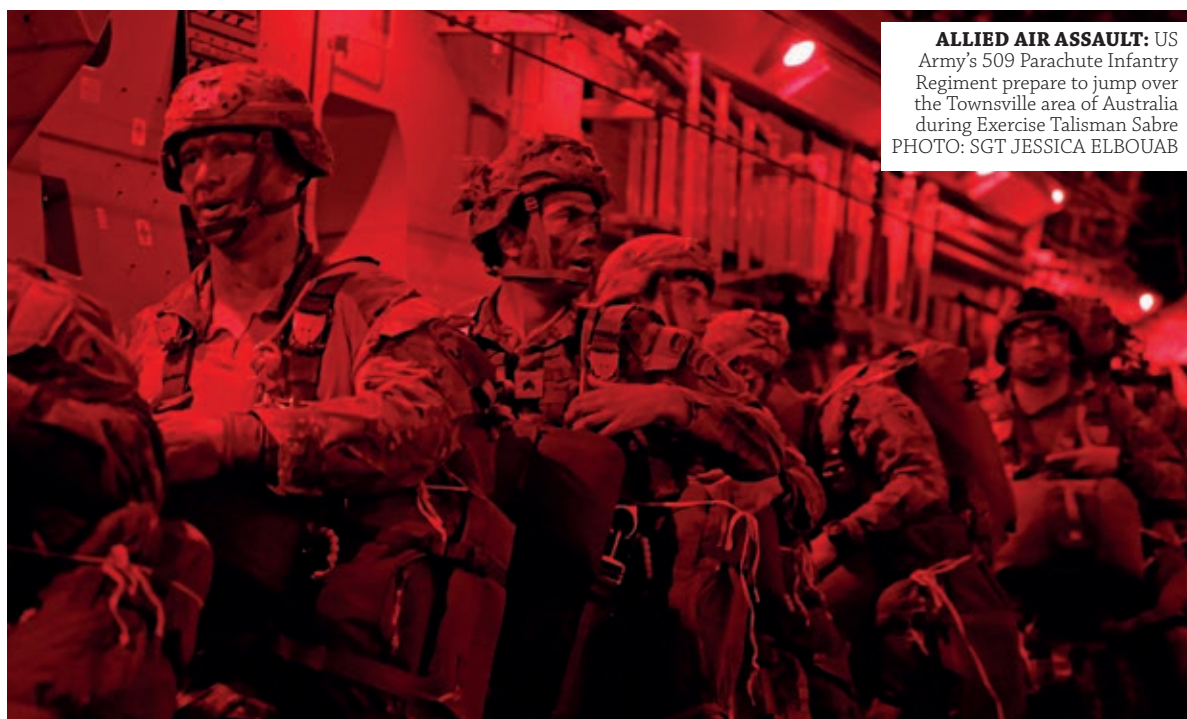
A 150-strong, Tri-Service British military force joined troops from 13 other nations for Exercise Talisman Sabre, to demonstrate their countries’ commitment to the Indo-Pacific region.

And UK personnel assisted in the search and rescue effort for the crew of an Australian helicopter lost at sea at the start of the manoeuvres, causing the deaths of four Australian soldiers.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: “Security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific is essential. Exercise Talisman Sabre demonstrates the UK’s commitment to the region and the strength of our ties with friends and allies.”

During the training, the UK Royal Marines Commando Force embarked on HMAS Adelaide, Australia’s largest warship, to conduct ship to shore landing drills essential for a high-readiness crisis response.

Aviation efforts were backed up by 4 Regiment Army Air Corps conducting arming and refuelling at forward bases, whilst 14 Signals



ALLIED AIR ASSAULT: US Army’s 509 Parachute Infantry Regiment prepare to jump over the Townsville area of Australia during Exercise Talisman Sabre
PHOTO: SGT JESSICA ELBOUAB

Regiment provided electronic warfare capabilities.

A Wittering-based logistics team supported F-35A and F-22 fighter jet operations at RAAF Curtin,

working with their Australian counterparts to prepare more than 40,000 meals for 600 personnel.

The UK’s maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific is set to be increased

with visits from a Commando Force Littoral Response Group later this year, and the Carrier Strike Group, which will return in 2025, building on its maiden voyage in 2021.



RAF News

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

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

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

News Editor: Simon Mander

Sport Email:
sports@rafnews.co.uk

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

Subscriptions and distribution:
RAF News Subscriptions
c/o Intermedia,
Unit 6 The Enterprise Centre,
Kelvin Lane, Crawley
RH10 9PE
Tel: 01293 312191
Email: rafnewssubs@subscriptionhelpline.co.uk

This Week In History



1940 The Hardest Day

RAF PILOTS shoot down 67 Luftwaffe aircraft for the loss of 31 fighters during the The Hardest Day – the most intense 24 hours of the Battle of Britain.

1945 Japan surrenders

THE JAPANESE formally accept the surrender terms of the Potsdam Proclamation. Allied forces cease offensive military operations after Emperor Hirohito broadcasts to the nation.



1971 Prince Charles graduates

FLT LT HRH The Prince of Wales graduates from RAF Cranwell College and is awarded his pilot’s badge by Chief of the Air Staff ACM Sir Denis Spotswood.

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

PTIs hit bikes for baby unit

SUPERFIT RAF PTIs got on their bikes to raise cash for a specialist baby centre that spent 88 days looking after a little girl born at just 25 weeks.

Waddington Physical Education Flight resorted to pedal power after hearing how a daughter of one of their colleagues was cared for by staff at Lincoln County Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

They took on the mammoth challenge of cycling 880 miles on watt bikes in under 12 hours to raise more than £1,500 for the centre, with donations still coming in.



I GOT YOU BABE: Waddington PTIs got on their bikes at shopping centre

RAFA gets veteran Matt back on track

STROKE victim Matt Wilks has put his life back on track with help from the RAF Benevolent Fund.

A serious skiing accident ended the 44-year-old former Lyneham-based Airframe Technician's military career, and he was forging a new path as a contractor when the attack led to him being rushed to hospital.

He said: "I did my last will and testament on my phone because I didn't think I would be able to write it. And I did a video to my kids to say goodbye. I really thought I was going to die."

Having lost the use of his left arm and leg his main problem was using the

upstairs loo unaided in the home he was renovating to share with wife Sarah and their two daughters.

After struggling to find support, a friend suggested the RAF Association might help and it secured funding through the Benevolent Fund for a downstairs bathroom and adaptations to his car.

Matt (pictured) said: "Now I've got my own bathroom space. It's been modified to be practical for me to use without help. It's set up for me, so it's great."

I'm going to get my RAF memorabilia on the wall once I get it framed - Sarah won't let me have a golden toilet seat though!"



Mission accomplished



JOB DONE: Personnel disembark and, right, Typhoon pilots were kept busy

Lossie return for squadrons after Estonia policing role

TYPHOON CREWS from Lossiemouth have returned from their QRA duties in Estonia,

THE Operation Azotize air policing mission began with RAF pilots flying the first-ever Nato joint air intercept, when they teamed up with the Luftwaffe to shadow a Russian air-to-air tanker and transporter. And the scrambles continued at a rate of around one every three days.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "The UK's successful leadership of Nato's air policing mission in Estonia, resulting in the interception of dozens of Russian aircraft by the RAF, sends a strong message to Putin that we stand united with our allies against any threat to our borders."

Support personnel from 140 Expeditionary Air Wing deployed at the start of March and the Typhoons were held at a moment's notice to intercept aircraft ignoring Nato regional air traffic agencies and failing to file flight plans.



Crews from IX(B) Sqn carried out the first intercepts before handing over to the world's oldest flying unit in service - 1(F) Sqn - in May.

Goldie said: "Our work with European partners and our Nato Allies continues to provide the backbone to European security, of which our pilots, aircrews and RAF

joined more than 250 aircraft and 10,000 personnel from 25 nations taking part in the largest Nato air deployment training since the end of the Cold War - Exercise Air Defender.

And they flew joint practise missions in the Arctic with Nato's newest member Finland and with future Alliance member Sweden.

RAF Air and Space Commander, Air Marshal Harv Smyth, said: "The RAF is committed to its role within Nato of collective defence to deter and defend against threats to its security. While in Estonia, 140 EAW excelled, participating in 12 major Nato and Joint Expeditionary Force exercises, in addition to the Air Policing role."

Britain's commitment to Estonia will continue through Op Cabrit, with more than 1,000 troops stationed at Tapa Army Base forming the UK's contribution to Nato's enhanced Forward Presence along its eastern border with Russia.



And in one 21-day period Russian fighters, long-range bombers, and reconnaissance aircraft were intercepted 21 times by British jets in coordination with the Portuguese and Romanian Air Forces.

Defence Minister Baroness

personnel have all formed a central part."

This month 140 EAW CO Wg Cdr Scott MacColl formally handed over leadership of the mission to the Spanish Air Force.

While in Estonia, the RAF jets

Andy helps vets in the long run



HONINGTON'S Andy Stonely has completed a 400km run raising £600 for Services charity SSAFA in memory of his ex-Royal Navy father-in-law who died in November.

The caring Catering Manager (above) completed the last 31kms of his challenge around the Suffolk airbase fortified by a Lucozade from a local shop before returning to work and a hero's welcome from colleagues.

Station Commander Wg Cdr Max Hayward said: "This is a fantastic effort and amazing achievement by Andy. A superb amount raised, which will go a long way to allow SSAFA to continue helping those still serving, as well as families and our veterans."

A Just Giving Page has been set up for further donations.

Shawbury gets peace of action

SHAWBURY has won the Firmin Sword of Peace for 2022 for its humanitarian activities and engagement with the local community.

The accolade recognises the Taking Football to Africa and beyond appeal based there since 2006 and its youth outreach programme promoting science and technology across Shropshire.

The Shrewsbury airbase last won the award, that replaced the Wilkinson Sword of Peace, in 2010.

Birmingham-based Firmin and Son have supplied swords and bayonets, cap badges and buttons, helmets and cuirasses to the military for more than 360 years.

**REACH OUT FOR TRUSTED
SUPPORT IN YOUR TIME OF NEED**

Forcesline is our free and confidential helpline and webchat service, providing support for regulars, reserves and veterans from the Armed Forces and their families.

Family, debt, housing, mental wellbeing, addiction or other problems - don't keep quiet, **talk to us**.

CALL FORCESLINE

0800 260 6767

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL. OPEN WEEKDAYS, 09:00 TO 17:30

ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

Regulars | Reserves | Veterans | Families

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760 in
Scotland Number SC049098 and in Republic of Ireland Number
20252001. Established 1888.

SCAN HERE
TO CONTACT
US ONLINE



ssafa.org.uk/forcesline

Bulletin



WINDFALL: Total payout from Edinburgh event tops £1.26 million

Tattoo payout for Scots vets

SCOTS VETERANS and their families are to get extra help following the latest £20,000 donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

They include former Air Force dog handler Mick McConnell from Moray whose foot was amputated after stepping on an IED in 2011.

Since then, the Fund, which has received £1.26 million in grants in total from the military extravaganza, has helped him buy a house so he and wife Lorna can live closer to family.

Mick said: "After we contacted the RAF Benevolent Fund, life just started getting better from then on. They supported us through the process of purchasing a house, which was a great relief when I was having my rehab."

Tattoo Chief Operating Officer Jason Barrett said: "The Tattoo's reach is far beyond our annual show, and it is a great privilege to be able to support such impactful projects that make a real difference to people."

TV Dambuster 'slur' apology

BBC TV chiefs have issued an apology after breakfast show presenter Sally Nugent described the historic WWII raid as 'infamous' during coverage of an anniversary flypast, sparking outrage from viewers.

In a statement the broadcaster said: "Though the raid is not without its critics, the use of the word 'infamous', with its strongly negative connotations, was not appropriate."

Hot shots

Simon Mander

CHINOOK CREWS have been honing their desert warfare skills in a Stateside hotspot.

Aircraft from Odiham's 27 Sqn are currently deployed to Naval Air Facility, El Centro, California, where temperatures can reach up to 49°C.

The Exercise Vortex Warrior training aims to equip personnel with the skills to operate in punishing heat and dusty conditions that make flying hazardous and where detritus ingested into all parts of the aircraft causes extra work for engineers.

The crews are also practising specialist skills such as low ambient light operations, mountain flying, gunnery and survival techniques difficult to carry out in the UK.



HEAT IS ON: Chinook crews operating in 49°C heat in California during Exercise Vortex Warrior
PHOTOS: CPL CONNOR TIERNEY

Andy salutes bomber crew's Dutch courage

Vet's mission marks 80th anniversary of epic Mulheim raid

Simon Mander

A VETERAN paid tribute to a wartime Lancaster crew shot down returning from an attack on Germany, at a Dutch memorial.

Andy Skinner from Bexhill on-Sea, who served in the RAF from 1975 to 1985, made a personal pilgrimage to Holland to mark the 80th anniversary of the 557-bomber raid on Mulheim in June 1943.

On its return to RAF Ludford Magna, Lancaster LM325 SR-J was attacked by a Messerschmitt 110 night fighter and crashed, killing five crew members.

Bomb Aimer Sgt Ted Williams bailed out and landed in the garden

of a local doctor but was captured and spent the rest of the war as a POW in Stalag Luft VI, near the Polish/Lithuanian border. He died in 2004 after being reunited with the Dutchmen who helped him.

In 2016, a permanent memorial was erected on the crash site.

Mr Skinner visited graves of the crew at the War Cemetery at Uden, near Eindhoven, and laid a wreath on behalf of 101 Sqn Association at the cenotaph.

He said: "It was both an honour and a privilege to have been a part of this act of remembrance to the crew of Lancaster LM 325 SR-J and all our young men who lie buried here. We also remember the countless brave Dutch people who helped them."



TRIBUTE: Air Force veteran Andy Skinner places a wreath at Uden war cemetery, where crew who died when Lancaster LM325 went down over Holland are remembered



MICK MCCONNELL



Head of Learning Development

Salary circa £85k

To lead the development of next-generation ground-school learning content and systems

We need a pilot with executive experience of all aspects of pilot training:
who's looking for new intellectual challenges;
who can take critical decisions quickly and effectively;
who can lead a small, agile team creating high quality ground training;
who's creative, articulate, imaginative and likes to think outside the box.

You'll need to be intellectually flexible to rapidly adapt your military training skills to the civil aviation environment.

If that's you and you're hungry for responsibility, brimming with ideas and untapped energy and ready for an unusual blend of executive responsibility and hands-on creative work, then we'd like to talk with you.

To find out more, contact Graham Cownie (graham@padpilot.com 01452 728100).
Salary commensurate with experience and ability.

Standard issue for Hercules crews

Simon Mander

THE STANDARD of one of the RAF's most senior squadrons has been formally laid up in College Hall Officers' Mess at Cranwell.

The ceremony followed the retirement of the Hercules in June, ahead of the disbandment of 47 Sqn in September.

The Brize-based unit has been awarded more battle honours than any other fixed-wing squadron this century. 47 Sqn's Wg Cdr James Sjoberg

said: "It was an honour to attend the laying-up ceremony of the Standard. A superb ceremony by the RAF College team rounded off a period of fabulous celebrations of the Hercules and 47 Sqn.

"It was a sad moment to watch the standard being rested ahead of the formal disbandment, but I am reassured that the squadron will be reinstated at the first opportunity."

Formed in 1916, the squadron began its association with the Hercules in 1968, flying disaster

relief missions in Nepal, Ethiopia, Sudan and Turkey, and operations in the Falklands, the Gulf, the Balkans and Iraq.

In 2001 a 47 Sqn Hercules was the first UK aircraft to land in Afghanistan. The squadron scored another first in 2014 on Operation Shader with an airdrop to Mount Sinjar. A 47 Sqn crew was the last to leave Kabul during Operation Pitting – the mission to evacuate more than 15,000 Afghan nationals and UK citizens.



HISTORIC: 47 Sqn crew with their Standard at RAF Cranwell

West Side story

Jungle raid Chinook

hero hits the wall

Simon Mander

A CHINOOK veteran who took part in the daring rescue of British troops held hostage in civil war-torn Sierra Leone joined the RAF's roll-call of modern day greats as he added his name to Cranwell's Wall of Honour.

Dr David 'Finny' Finnigan joined the RAF in 1987 and after an operational tour in Northern Ireland rose to the rank of Master Aircrew and was selected to become an instructor, and applied to join 7 Sqn.

In September 2000 he took part in Operation Barras when Chinook, Lynx and Mil Mi-24 'Hind' helicopters flew troops into the jungle on a dawn raid to rescue 11 Royal Irish Regiment troops and a Sierra Leonean soldier taken hostage by a vicious West Side Boys armed gang.

They were held in squalid conditions at the gang's lair in the village of Gberi Bana, on the Rokel Creek, deep in the jungle.

During weeks of captivity they were subjected to beatings and mock executions by gang members fuelled by a cocktail of alcohol, cannabis and cocaine.

British forces launched their daring raid after negotiations broke down as the gang's demands became more outlandish.

One British soldier was killed and 12 injured during the fire-fight to rescue all the hostages.

Army troops were awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for their role in the mission and 7 Sqn was awarded the 'Sierra Leone 2000' battle honour for its role in the rescue.



INSPIRATIONAL: Finny signs the Wall of Honour and spoke about the raid to free hostages taken by terrorists in Sierra Leone

Aircrew Survival, Evasion and Resistance (SERE) Training Centre commanding officer Mark Fairhead said: "Finny described his first-hand experiences as an operations officer and later 2IC of the Joint Special Forces Air Wing.

"He described the capabilities and versatility of his beloved Chinook and drew on experiences of combat tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan to illustrate the importance of teamwork, whole force collaboration and leadership in adversity.

"The students heard his recollections of planning and executing offensive operations all over the globe and especially in his recounting of the lead up and execution of the mission to recover captured British troops held by the infamous criminal gang in Sierra Leone.

"Finny spoke of the



JUNGLE WARFARE: RAF Chinook lands a 105 gun on the beach during UK military operations in war-torn Sierra Leone in 2000. Below, a member of the notorious West Side Boys gang
PHOTOS: NAM



challenges of crew selection and the responsibility of putting men you know into harm's way, the thrill of action and the long-term effects of exposure to trauma.

"His candid delivery

left little to the imagination as he described going head-to-head with the enemy in all weathers and "by day and by night."

"On a personal note, it is always satisfying to see an old friend who I have admired and respected for decades come and sign the wall of honour – justly deserved," said Mr Fairhead.

In Brief



GRAND TOUR: Air Cdre Stu hits road for RAFA

Stu's bike hike

A FORMER helicopter pilot is to hit the road on a 2,600-mile solo motorbike ride to raise funds for the RAF Association.

Retired Air Cdre Stu Stirrat hopes to visit 60 branches on his journey, that starts in Halifax and takes in the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and the Isles of Lewis, Orkney and Shetland, before finishing back in Yorkshire at the end of the month.

Stu has set up a fundraising page on JustGiving.



BRIZE AND SHINE: Sgt Williams

Top trainee

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE specialist Sgt Neil Williams is celebrating scooping this year's Best Student Award on XXIV Sqn at Brize.

The Air Mobility Force NCO aced five exams on the A400M to win the title and is now studying for his aircraft licensing modules.

Maintenance Training School commander Oluwaseun Oderinde said: "Sgt Williams has clearly shown that with dedication and resilience success is inevitable."



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**



**DID YOU KNOW
WE CAN SUPPORT YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY?**

We can support you through the big challenges and the small changes.

We offer wellbeing services including counselling and mindfulness, emergency grants and financial assistance, and relationship support and holidays for you and your family.

We're the RAF's oldest and most devoted friend, and we're here to help.

Find out more: rafbf.org

CALL 0300 102 1919



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

Waddington riders rack up fundraising record

Staff Reporter
Waddington

CYCLISTS FROM Waddington are celebrating a record fundraising effort in the latest RAFA charity Ride.

A total of 31 bikers from the Lincolnshire station saddled up to raise £2,073 towards the whopping national tally of £110,000, beating

their fundraising efforts during last year's event.

Waddington charity ride organiser Wg Cdr Gerry McCormack said: "The cost of living crisis is making life really hard for many members of the RAF community.

"Collectively we can make a real impact in generating funds to help our brothers and sisters in need."



In Brief



FULL TERM: Computer image of the new terminal building at Akrotiri

Akrotiri revamp lifts off

Staff Reporter
Cyprus

CONSTRUCTION WORK has begun on a new £66million pound airport terminal at Akrotiri.

The updated passenger and freight handling hub at the RAF base is expected to improve conditions for Service personnel and their families stationed there and support operations in the region, such as the recent evacuation of civilians from Sudan.

The contract awarded by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation is part of the Project Apollo programme to improve, replace and earthquake-proof the Defence estate.

A team of contractors, architects and Royal Engineers took part in a ground-breaking ceremony to mark the end of preparations for building work.

Construction is due to start later in the year and expected to be completed in late 2026, with the demolition of the existing terminal and finishing groundworks the following year.

The construction project is expected to create hundreds of jobs on the Mediterranean island and in the UK with the Cyprus Service Provider employing local workers and British technical specialists.

Typhoon ups tempo on ops



OPS, THEY DID IT AGAIN: Typhoon sets record on NATO mission to counter Putin threat in Europe and maintain operations in Middle East

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS CONDUCTED more missions than ever last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the introduction of a new fast track servicing system.

The RAF's frontline fighter force flew more than 22,000 hours throughout 2022 – the second highest since it was formed – and clocked up record operational hours.

"It has been an unprecedented year in terms of the number of hours that we have flown on operations," said Typhoon Programme Director Gp Capt Matt D'Aubyn.

He said Putin's illegal attack demonstrated the need to maintain the fast jet's capability.

"The war in Ukraine has shown that control of the air remains vital for any military operation. But also, that it can still be contested by a small but intelligent force in the face of potentially superior mass technology," added Gp Capt D'Aubyn.

"That is why we need a Typhoon programme

that outpaces the threats and sustains our operational advantage."

He said the new ECRS Mk2 radar to be delivered by BAE Systems and Leonardo UK under an £870 million contract, and the Striker II helmet on track for the end of the year, were vital capabilities for the aircraft and an integral part of its weapon system.

BAE's Jez Milne said the war had a game-changing impact on in-service support and servicing as teams back at base were tasked with ensuring crews had enough serviceable jets.

He said: "Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year, the RAF came to us and said we want to increase our flying rate by at least 50 per cent. So, we had to increase our servicing requirements by at least 50 per cent, which was a significant challenge."

The extra hours were needed to maintain defence of UK and Falkland Islands airspace,

Operation Shader sorties in the Middle East, Nato air policing duties in Eastern Europe, and global exercise commitments.

He said within weeks by accelerating the time for clearances and bringing forward a radar software programme by two years they added an extra 12,000 flying hours into the RAF's bank.

"Collectively, we fuelled the fight for them – and allowed the Air Force to deliver what it needs to do. It was all about operational responsiveness, and our teams delivered," added Mr Milne.

A total of 21,112 hours were accumulated across the entire fleet within the calendar year.

Under the TyTan contract, BAE Systems enables a minimum of 179,000 flying hours over the 10-year deal with the company overseeing fleet management and maintaining 30 to 40 aircraft per year, with each taking between three and nine months.



THREAT: Russian SU-27



SPORTS LOTTERY

WILL YOU BE OUR NEXT
£10,000 JACKPOT WINNER?

Play for as little as £1 per week
whilst supporting your RAF charity!

Join today or increase your tickets at:

www.rafcf.org.uk



OPEN TO RESERVISTS!



Reservist and RAFCF beneficiary, Cpl Phil Hall - World Rally Championship co-driver



RAFCentralFund

BeGambleAware.org

The RAF Sports Lottery operates as a society lottery within the Royal Air Force Central Fund and is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk). The Royal Air Force Central Fund is a company registered in England and Wales 8555984, Charity registered in England and Wales 1152560, Charity registered in Scotland SC044299.

Registered office: Hurricane Building | HQ Air Command | RAF High Wycombe | Bucks | HP14 4UE
Principal office: RAF Central Fund Danesfield | New Lock Lane | Henley Road | Medmenham | SL7 2EY

Defence showcases combat firepower



COMBAT READY: Chinooks landing at Lulworth. *Inset left,* CDS Admiral Sir Tony Radakin and CGS Sir Patrick Saunders watch the action. *Below,* Army drone operator. PHOTOS: CPL REBECCA BROWN

Staff Reporter

A PAIR of Chinooks flew in military top brass as the Armed Forces showcased the UK's high-tech firepower ahead of moves to refresh the Defence Command Paper.

Forces Minister James Heapey, Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Patrick Saunders and Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin landed at Lulworth Range as the RAF, Navy and Army flexed their military muscle with the latest combat kit.

The exercise comes as the MOD looks to reassess Britain's defences in the wake of Putin's invasion of Ukraine and emerging threats from China in the Pacific.

F-35 Lightning and the RAF's Atlas transporter joined the drill, which also featured the RAF's 11 Group, 4 Light Brigade Combat Team, Future Commando Force, Army Special Operations Unit and 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Key to the demonstration were integrated tactics and combined arms warfare while developing capability-tested remote medical support and counter-unmanned aerial systems technology.

A spokesman said: "The UK has led the way in Europe on support for Ukraine's defence, galvanising the international community.



UPGRADED: Megatron version of Challenger II storms down a track at Lulworth Range

"The UK has remained a leading contributor to Nato and demonstrated our global reach through activity across all domains around the world, including in the South Atlantic, Caribbean, High North, across Africa, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as the Indo-Pacific."



WE ARE EXCELLENT. WE ARE QE.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has found Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate to be 'Excellent' across all schools, praising our pupils' outstanding academic achievements and personal development.

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2020/21 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2021/22 Forces families will pay just £1050 per term, per child (with the benefits of Childcare Vouchers this figure can be as low as £736 per term).

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on
01423 33 33 33 Email: admissions@qe.org

Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | www.qe.org

Emma and Steffan
EXPLORERS & TRAVELLERS

Proud to support



TOGETHER WE **EXPLORE**

COTSWOLD
outdoor

15% discount in-store and online for
all Armed Forces personnel, veterans and cadets.

Code: AF-MOD-2B

Expires 31.12.2023. T&Cs online.

As a member of the Armed Forces Covenant,
we're passionate about helping military personnel
unwind in the outdoors. That starts with the right kit.

Get discounts on the best brands and support from our in-store
experts to help you find the perfect fit for land or sea.

Book a free in-store boot or rucksack fitting to get started.
Plus, help your kit go further with our Repair & Care service or
give old kit a new home with our Recycle My Gear scheme.



Make the right choice with our in-store experts.



LIFT OFF: Horrible Histories illustrator Martin Brown and a member of the *Up In The Air* cast at Cosford

Hangar horror

THE HORRIBLE Histories team landed at the RAF Museum Midlands this month to launch the venue's blockbuster *Up in the Air* exhibition.

Martin Brown, who illustrated the successful series of comical history books for youngsters, was joined by a cast of actors who will be bringing the history of flight to life and showcasing some of the spectacular failures behind modern aviation.

Speaking at the exhibition launch Martin said: "I've always been fascinated by how us humans got into the sky – all the fatal failures and flimsy firsts.

"So where better to celebrate those triumphs and tragedies than at the RAF Museum Midlands with their brilliant new Horrible Histories, *Up in the Air* adventure?"



"The setting is amazing. You look up from building your own flying machine at the

Engineers' Workshop and realise you're a couple of metres away from a Chinook helicopter, or an enormous Comet airliner. It is awesome."

● *The exhibition runs all summer. For details go to: rafmuseum.org/HorribleHistories*

Hayley gets the Ball rolling



Staff Reporter

Brize Norton
CHARITY CRUSADER Cpl Hayley Court has her eye on the ball – in a bid to smash her own fundraising record and net more than £100,000 to help Forces fighters battling mental health problems.

The big-hearted 622 Sqn Reservist launched her charity Healing Military Minds in 2021 – and has raised more than £64,000, winning backing from Defence chiefs, celebrity endorsements and a string of awards from Forces welfare bosses.

Now the group she set up is hoping to top their achievements by staging a glitzy Tri-Service fundraising ball near their home station Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, in September.

HMM is bidding to repeat the success of last year's black tie event attended by more than 300 supporters

from across the UK military.

Hayley said: "Thanks to money raised from last year's ball, together with our other fundraising activities, we raised a staggering £64,000.

"The money will ensure that more veterans can receive support from Combat Stress for life-changing mental health treatment for conditions such as PTSD, now and in the future.

"We are hoping to build on the success of last year's Healing Military Minds Ball and we're excited to welcome a host of entertainers, many of whom have links to the military."

Since setting up the charity Cpl Court has won the Combat Stress Fundraiser of the year award, been named Oxfordshire's Reservist of the Year and made the regional finals of the Pride of Britain awards.

● Go to HMM's facebook page for details of the event.



FUNDRAISER: Guests at last year's Healing Military Minds Ball



Trenchard Brats launch memorial bid

Simon Mander

AN APPEAL to raise £100,000 for a new memorial to the 'Trenchard Brats,' who passed through Halton's RAF Apprentices' scheme has been launched.

The project is a tribute to the boys aged 15 to 18 from the UK and Commonwealth who trained at the Buckinghamshire base between 1922 and 1993.

RAF Apprentices' Association chairman Frank Denton-Powell who is leading the campaign said: "By the time the scheme ceased some 45,000 boys had been trained at Halton; of these, more than 100

attained Air Rank and 30 per cent were commissioned.

"Worldwide, the exploits and achievements of Trenchard's Brats are widely recognised. Perhaps the most famous is the inventor of the jet engine, Sir Frank Whittle.

"Ex-Halton apprentices took part in the Dambusters raid, and others were executed for their part in the Great Escape."

A bronze sculpture by military artist Tim Potts to mark their achievements dubbed 'Trenchard's Legacy,' is being planned for the existing Halton Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire opened 25 years ago.

The current Viscount Trenchard and Honorary Air Cdre 600 (City of London) Sqn said: "Trenchard's Brats made an outstanding contribution to the Second World War, sadly at a great cost of life."

Currently there are more than 2,000 association members and the appeal committee aims to raise donations from ex-Apprentices, their families and aerospace companies worldwide who employed ex-Brats.

There are more than 40 ex-Apprentices still serving in the RAF.

● For more details see: www.aldhaltonians.co.uk



MIGRANT CENTRE PLANS: RAF Scampton

Asylum set back

MOVES TO house up to 2,000 asylum seekers at the former RAF station at Scampton have been delayed until later this year as surveys are carried out on accommodation blocks at the Lincolnshire site, the government confirmed this month.



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Medalists
Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd
Bromsgrove



Specialists in Orders, Decorations and Medals



Suppliers of replacement and miniature medals.
Medal mounting in Court and Ordinary Style
Medals framed for display.

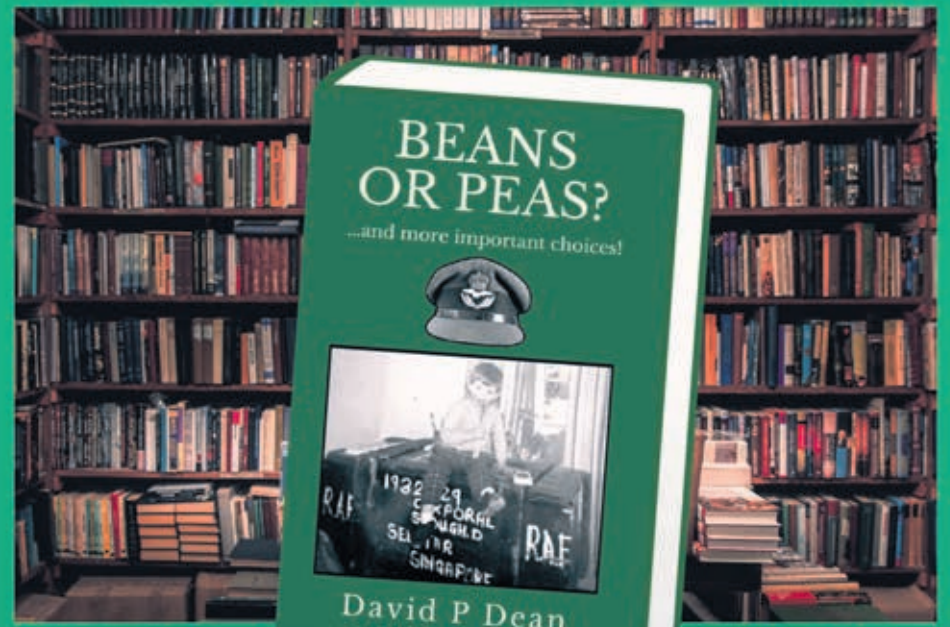
For all your medal related needs including the supply of ribbons, storage cases and other related items.
Bespoke Medal Manufacture

Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL

www.worcmedals.com

Tel: 01527 835375 email: sales@worcmedals.com



"Dixie Dean of the RAF" is a humorous memoir that chronicles the misadventures of a young man who becomes an RAF trainee cook during the National Service era. Through bawdy humor and irreverent tales, the book offers a lively glimpse into life on an RAF station in the 1950s while exploring personal growth and transformation.

A testimonial to enduring love

A whopping 600 pages!

Out on Amazon

Air Cadet Exclusive Offer

Subscribe to **RAF News** and get the **First 3 Months Free!**

Go to rafnews.co.uk to subscribe now
Offer Code AC01

RAF News - The Forces' Favourite Paper

Delivering the best frontline news, sport and features from across the RAF and UK Defence every fortnight.



British boffins' boost for Ukraine

Staff Reporter

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS have been praised for providing battle-winning support to the Ukrainian armed forces.

Since the start of Russia's illegal invasion hundreds of Defence Science and Technology Laboratory experts have been helping the defenders develop counter-drone technology and protection systems for weapons donated by the West.

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said: "DSTL has brought to bear the brilliance of UK Defence science – in partnership with industry, intelligence, and the

cunning of the UK and Ukrainian militaries – to deliver capability at pace for the Ukrainians.

"That has not only kept them in the fight but put them in a position where they can win."

Over the past year scientists have developed novel and innovative camouflage, concealment and deception techniques to improve the survivability of the M270 Multi-Launch Rocket System gifted by the UK.

They have also developed bespoke and readily available armour protection from specific Russian threats for the Challenger II main battle tanks.



UPGRADES: Improved armour plating for Challenger II among measures

And their work has helped integrate the British Starstreak short-range air defence system on to Ukrainian armoured fighting vehicles.

Photo of the week



AN ATLAS A400m loads up with kit and US military personnel during Exercise Mobility Guardian. PHOTO: ASI TOMAS BARNARD

Heroes of Korea's 'Forgotten War' are remembered

Simon Mander

COMMEMORATIONS WERE held across Britain to remember more than 1,000 Servicemen killed in the Korean War.

Among them a total of 32 RAF pilots served with 77 Sqn in the conflict, of which four were killed in action, one was taken POW and four were awarded the DFC.

Events at locations across the UK and in East Asia marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

In London, Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin and Defence Minister Baroness Goldie attended a Royal British Legion national memorial service on Horse Guards Parade.

And HRH Duke of Gloucester joined the South Korean ambassador and veterans at a Drum Head ceremony outside the Army's Headquarters.

Baroness Goldie said: "We come together to remember all the thousands of people who fought for freedom in the Korean War 70 years ago. Those who sacrificed their lives will never be forgotten."

In South Korea, Armed Forces Minister James Heappey and the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Patrick Sanders, laid wreaths at the Battle of Imjin Memorial, also known as the Gloster Hill, in memory of Gloucestershire Regiment soldiers killed in one of

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM: 77 Sqn Meteors in action in Korea in 1951. Below, Republic of Korea dancers performed at Horse Guards Parade as Defence chiefs marked 70th anniversary of the conflict



the war's deadliest battles.

And at The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire representatives of all three Services gathered at the Korea Memorial and Armed Forces Memorial.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 when the Northern Korean People's Army, backed by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea.

Britain and the USA heeded the

UN's call to defend South Korea, with 81,084 British personnel deployed – of which 1,106 troops were killed in action.

Armistice negotiations began in July 1951, but it took two years for a peace agreement to be signed.

Sometimes referred to as the 'Forgotten War,' the conflict gets scant attention compared to World War II or the Cold War.

In 2014 South Korea erected a bronze statue of a British soldier in Victoria Embankment Gardens to honour UK troops.

Today, two Royal Navy Offshore Patrol Vessels are permanently deployed in the Indo-Pacific to enforce UN sanctions against North Korea and the UK's Carrier Strike Group will return to the region in 2025.

In Brief



Nuke award breaks cover

RAF CREWS who took part in the UK's nuclear test programme are expected to receive a commemorative medal ahead of Remembrance Sunday – more than 70 years after the first British H-bomb was detonated.

Defence chiefs have unveiled the new award, which could be presented to more than 20,000 Service personnel, scientists and civilians from the UK and partner nations who took part in the test programme between 1952 and 1967.

The design features an atom surrounded by olive branches, and bears an effigy of King Charles, attached to a white, yellow, black and red ribbon, including lighter blue for the sky and ocean.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "I am delighted that this commemorative medal is rightfully given to our nuclear test veterans, who have made an invaluable contribution to the safety and security of the UK, and who we recognise and value for their service to our nation."

Veterans Minister Johnny Mercer added: "As thousands flock to the cinemas to watch *Oppenheimer*, it's important to remember the contributions of the veterans, scientists and staff who worked on Britain's nuclear programme.

"Our nuclear deterrent continues to underpin both our security and the security of our Nato allies."

Feature

Dambusters raid 80th anniversary

All the King's m

His Majesty honours the WWII Bomber C



TIME WITH MONARCH: Veterans meet King Charles, left to right: Mid Upper Gunner Bert Hammond, Pilot George Pritchard, Mid Upper Gunner Jeff Brown and Pilot Rusty Waughman
PHOTOS: AS1 MOHARRAM



BILL WILLIAMS: Pilot with Photo Reconnaissance Unit

WORLD WAR II Bomber Command heroes enjoyed a cuppa by Royal appointment when King Charles made his first visit to Lincolnshire as monarch.

Eighteen of the dwindling band of RAF crew who defied the odds stacked against them during deadly missions which claimed the lives of more than 50 per cent of their comrades met His Majesty at the annual Battle of Britain Memorial Flight hangar Tea Party.

The Royal guest later explored the interior of the unit's Lancaster during a tour to mark the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters Raid in May 1943.

And among those he met were Bomber

Command aircrew who flew the iconic aircraft on the raids which shattered the Nazi war machine.

They included:

Pilot **Flt Lt Rusty Waughman DFC AFC** who survived the Nuremberg raid in March 1944, when 97 aircraft were lost – including a quarter of 101 Sqn in one night.

Mid Upper Gunner **Bert Hammond, 98**, who volunteered aged 18 and, having learned Morse code as an air cadet, was also wireless operator on a 514 Sqn raid on Gelsenkirchen when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire putting their instruments out of action.

Air Gunner **Jeff Brown, 97**, who signed

up at Lord's Cricket Ground and took part in the Operation Manna food drops over Holland.

Post-war he stayed in the RAF, took his commission and retrained as a pilot despite having a 'low G tolerance,' which made him black out. He was discharged and worked at Avro on the Vulcan and Nimrod.

Two former Photo Reconnaissance Unit pilots also met His Majesty, including **Flt Lt George Pritchard, 99**, who enlisted after the Luftwaffe bombed RAF Croydon, killing one of his friends, where he worked in a cardboard factory as a boy.

He flew 'Wooden Wonder' Mosquitoes from RAF Wyton searching for U-Boats and

by Simon Mander

en Crews



READY FOR ACTION: WWII bomber crews who manned aircraft including the Lancaster (main picture)



HOST: Officer Commanding RAF Coningsby, Gp Capt Billy Cooper, leads HM The King passed BBMF building during his visit



on D-Day reconnaissance.

WO Bill Williams, 102, volunteered for the Photo Reconnaissance Unit after hearing they flew blue Spitfires and survived 44 operations in India with 681 Sqn, flying unarmed with no navigational aids. He left the RAF in 1946.

Combat Air Force Commander Air Cdre Howard Edwards hosted the visit.

He said: "It has been a real honour to welcome His Majesty and to bring together veterans from the Second World War, the BBMF team that upholds their legacy and the Typhoon pilots and engineers who conduct frontline operations today."



ROYAL WAVE: The King bids farewell after his visit

His Majesty also took interest in a Chipmunk trainer in the hangar – the same aircraft type he learned to fly at Cambridge University in 1968.

BBMF commanding officer Sqn Ldr Mark Sugden said: "For our veterans and the BBMF Team, this was certainly a day to remember."

His Majesty also congratulated 29 Sqn personnel who took part in an 18-ship Typhoon flypast on June 17 following Trooping the Colour spelling out CR over the heads of the crowds.

Roll of Honour



ROYAL APPROVAL: HM The King meets Navigator Eddie Humes and ROC Plotter Iris McClements

Veterans at the event included:

MOSQUITO PILOT Flt Lt Colin Bell DFC, 102, who conducted 50 raids over Germany with 608 Sqn (Pathfinder Group) – 13 of them over Berlin.

FLT SGT Henry Townsley DFM, 103, who joined the Merchant Navy as an engineer but transferred to the RAF because he suffered sea sickness. He completed two tours with 97 Sqn and recalled bombing La Spezia and landing in North Africa where his Lancaster broke down, but he repaired it himself to return home.

AIR GUNNER Taff Owen, 99, flew with 153 Sqn from Scampton to attack U-boat pens in Kiel then took part in Op Manna.

LANCASTER NAVIGATOR WO Eddie Humes, 101, was the sole survivor after his aircraft was shot down on his 17th operation. Taken in by a Belgian family, he was handed over to the Germans because of his severe injuries and spent the rest of the war in POW camps, surviving the long march from Poland to Austria from where he was sent to France to be repatriated.

BOMB AIMER WO Frank Tolley, 102, volunteered after the Blitz on Coventry. Posted to 625 Sqn, he completed 22 ops but most fondly recalls the Dutch food drops. He said: "People were out in their thousands waving up to us, we were waving down to them. It was superb. To have done that after all that bombing, to be able to save lives. They reckon we saved thousands."

US NAVY pilot **John Kent, 98**, flew a full tour of 30 missions on Wellingtons before moving on to Lancasters and, finally, Dakotas in the Far East.

JOHN COOPER'S flying training was stopped following the Atomic Bomb attacks on Japan, but he was finally posted to 101 Sqn at Binbrook to fly Lincolns and later took part in the King's Birthday flypast in 1955 and re-trained as an Air Traffic Controller.

FS RAY PARK, 98, flew his first mission aged 18 and completed 40 Ops before his 20th birthday.

FORMER HOME Guard Ken Oatley, 101, trained as a navigator and was posted to 627 Sqn (Pathfinders) at Woodhall Spa, where he completed 22 sorties in Mosquitos.

ROYAL OBSERVER Corps Plotter Iris McClements was based in York monitoring aircraft movements to warn of enemy attack or to track raids over Germany.

FLT LT DR JAMES BURT, 101, is perhaps the RAF's oldest surviving medic, serving with Bomber Command and 617 (Dambusters) Sqn at Waddington and Scampton from 1946-48.

Infrastructure service project - a case study



The Task

A multi-tank decommissioning programme of a BFI (Bulk Fuel Installation) was awarded to LCM from one of our defence customers.

The team carried out fuel uplifts from the various tanks and pipelines ahead of the industry clean, de-gas and certification. Phase two of the work was to remove all useable assets from site, this was completed, and the goods were palletised, wrapped, and transferred to a local site for safe storage.

Scope of Works

On arrival the LCM team collected their security passes which enabled them to travel around the base to the various work locations. Our welfare unit arrived and was positioned in the designated area, the work area was segregated with heras fencing and safety signage.

Once all paperwork was completed and the toolbox talks received, the engineers began scoping out the area and preparing for:

- **Stage 1:** The removal and disposal of all fuel from the various vessels and

pipelines. All fuel was taken off site for disposal at a licenced facility.

- **Stage 2:** The draining and removal of the FWS (Fuel Water Separator) All internal elements were bagged up and removed from site for disposal.

- **Stage 3:** Flushing and purging of all fuel lines was completed at various points along the pipelines to ensure no fuel remained within the system.

- **Stage 4:** Main bulk tank (1,250,000L capacity) for man-entry cleaning. The tank was vented, and the lids carefully removed. The cleaning process was carried out with a 7-person confined space entry crew. On completion the tank was dried and certified gas-free.

- **Stage 5:** Non-man-entry tank clean to the remaining tanks on site. 1 x 30,000L backflush tank, 5,000L slops tank, 7,500L gas oil tank. All tanks were cleaned, and all washing removed from site. On completion of the



The Outcome

The client was left happy with LCM's professional approach and quality work. All health and safety procedures were strictly followed and adhered to; no incidents were reported, and the engineers enjoyed a partial Red Arrows show to top up the experience.

cleaning tasks, salvageable assets were identified and removed for possible use across the military estate.

Some of these included Hamworthy pumps, ATEX lighting and switches; the FWS (Fuel Water Separator) all TRVs (Thermal Relief Valves) and DPIs (Differential pressure indicators) were salvageable, as well as two engine-driven generators, dispense meter, slam-shut valve and the entire control panel and tank gauging system.



Proud to be a technician.

Use your skills to gain international recognition and demonstrate your commitment to your profession with an EngTech or ICTTech status.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

theiet.org/proudtechnician

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is registered as a Charity in England and Wales (No. 218094) and Scotland (No. SC205646). The Institution of Engineering and Technology, Futures Place, King's Way, Colindale, London, NW9 1UH, United Kingdom. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0

By Tracey Allen



BIGGIN HILL, APRIL 1942: Owen Hardy with fellow 72 Squadron New Zealander Dave Waters (right), killed in a flying accident the following month



DISPLAY PILOTS: The 71 Sqn aerobatic team in front of their bronze eagle trophy: Flt Lt Smart, left, Owen Hardy, centre, and Sgt Jackson



95TH BIRTHDAY TREAT: Mr Hardy prepares for flight in a Spitfire at Goodwood on July 31, 2017 with (left to right) Matt Jones, New Zealand Red Arrows pilot Emmet Cox and Tim Granshaw



AIRBORNE: With Jones at the controls, photographed by Cox



BACK DOWN TO EARTH: Mr Hardy waving after his special flight

“Heroes? No. But we did have guts...”

That was the verdict of Kiwi Spitfire ace and DFC with Bar holder Wg Cdr Owen Hardy, on himself and his fellow pilots

DESPITE HIS distinguished wartime service, World War II Spitfire pilot and New Zealand ace Wg Cdr Owen Hardy, who was awarded the DFC twice, maintained that he was ‘no hero.’

Hardy, who died in 2018 aged 95, said in an account of his life that he wrote for his family: “People tend to regard veterans of the Second World War as heroes, but I hope that these writings will dispel any such ideas. Like those I fought alongside, I was no hero. True, a few airmen considered themselves heroes and acted the part, both during and after the war. Thankfully, there were few such individuals, and they were seen for what they were, eventually, if not at the time. Some even enjoyed the conflict. For the majority though, it was simply a crisis not of their making which could only be resolved by fighting.”

Hardy’s memoir, which he said was never meant to be a book, has now been edited by Air Marshal GA ‘Black’ Robertson – whose father, Spitfire ace Ron ‘Robbie’ Robertson,



WE HAVE copies of *From Spitfires to Vampires and Beyond* to win. For your chance to own one, answer this question correctly:

Win!

When was Owen Hardy awarded the Légion d’honneur?

Email your answer, marked Owen Hardy book, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by September 1. Please include your full postal address.

served with Hardy on 72 Sqn in 1942 – and was recently published as *From Spitfires to Vampires and Beyond, A Kiwi Ace’s RAF Journey*, by Grub Street (grubstreet.co.uk).

Hardy wrote: “It was a mix of ordinary people with ordinary emotions drawn from ordinary walks of life who fought in my war. They weren’t heroes in the true sense of the word, nor did they consider themselves to be. But they certainly had guts. It was

a privilege to know and serve with them during the war, and to work with those who bore the burden of conflict with distinction thereafter.”

The book tells the fascinating story of Hardy’s career; he left home in Auckland at 18, intent on joining the RAF, and aged just 20 was at Biggin Hill with 72 Sqn under Battle of Britain hero Brian Kingcombe. D-Day found him flying over the Normandy beaches with 485 (New Zealand) Sqn.

Finding himself unable to settle as a civilian again back in New Zealand after the war, he returned to the RAF for the second phase of his remarkable Service life. He converted to jet fighters and flew Vampires before he was appointed a flight commander on 247 Sqn, went on to command 71 Sqn, and formed and led a Vampire aerobatic team. Hardy was awarded the AFC in 1953.

After attending the RAF Staff College, he had a long period specialising in air defence guided weapons. He held appointments at the Air Ministry, served at the RAF HQ in Cyprus and, in 1966, was made commanding officer of RAF North Coates, Lincolnshire.

He retired from the Air Force in 1969 and worked as a planning officer for Portsmouth City Council, then Hampshire County Council.

Hardy was forthright in his description of serving as a WWII fighter pilot.

He said: “There was fear too, of course. Except for an unfortunate

few, it was suppressed. Danger, even if overlooked, was rarely far from the subconscious mind. We never lingered on mortality either. The regular movement of pilots, on leave or on posting, helped conceal the prolonged absence or even loss of a friend. It didn’t pay to get too close to comrades – a lesson quickly learned...”

“Inevitably, there were hectic parties, but few individuals ever got blind drunk when on operations. There were those you could trust implicitly and others you relied on only at your peril.”

Hardy was awarded the Légion d’honneur in 2016 and, on his 95th birthday, he flew in a Spitfire once more (this time a two-seater), with the Boulton Flight Academy from Goodwood, and took the controls during a barrel roll.

He said: “Every flight in a Spit is a thrill. But after 70 years, the one I had on my birthday was just a bit more exhilarating. It was just like going back and being in the office again really, everything was so familiar.”



broga[®]

Broga[®] is the original fitness yoga.
Bringing accessible yoga and mindfulness to the men
and women powering our bases nationwide.
Inquire now about hosting a course on base.

broga.com

MOD approved yoga training certification
Graphic Design: designerdesigner.studio

By Tracey Allen

Feature

Fit for a (future) king

Charles III experienced glamour of Jet Provost



PILOT: The then Prince Charles, centre, at Cranwell for a refresher course in 1976 and, left, RAF recruitment poster from the 60s promoting the glamorous side of flying jets



THE JET Provost was the basic trainer for the RAF from the late 1950s until it was retired in 1993. In the latest addition to its Boys series, publishers Grub Street (grubstreet.co.uk) have released *Jet Provost Boys*, by David Watkins, in which the author explores the history of the aircraft through the memories of former RAF air crew and foreign air force personnel. It features reminiscences from pilots who flew the aircraft in both the training and operational roles.

Watkins said: "Eager to promote the new jet trainer, the RAF placed numerous glossy adverts in the various aviation journals, magazines and newspapers during the late 1950s and early 1960s which focused upon the glamour and the excitement of young men eager to join the RAF for a career, which included flying the Jet Provost."

He added: "Many of these aspirants would not only experience their first taste of jet flying in the Jet Provost but also be a part of the innovative 'all-through' jet-flying training sequence, designed to radically transform the RAF's flying training syllabus and be subsequently adopted by many leading air forces."

As well as being used as a basic training aircraft, the Jet Provost

the 1960s and 70s. And it was part of the prestige Golden Eagle Flight at RAF Cranwell, which taught the then Prince of Wales how to fly. In summer 1970 Sqn Ldr Richard Johns, a squadron commander at the RAF College Cranwell (who went on to become ACM and Chief of the Air Staff), was appointed as the jet-flying instructor to Prince



COMBAT ROLE: Strikemaster

was involved in the civilian and military display flying circuit during



PELICAN CROSSING: 1964 RAF Red Pelicans display team used the Jet Provost

Charles. The Prince returned to the college for a refresher course in the autumn of 1976.

Watkins explained that when the Jet Provost Mk.5 model became the BAC 167 Strikemaster after some modifications, it assumed a counter-insurgency and light-attack role.

He said: "In August 1968, Saudi Arabia became the first country to receive its initial order for 25 Strikemaster Mk 80s, and by the

time the last airframe rolled off the production line in 1983, a further 10 overseas air forces had purchased the type.

"Eventually, 700 Jet Provost and Strikemaster airframes were built at Luton and Warton, and those sold to foreign air arms would experience limited ground-attack operations in border disputes and internal warfare in Ceylon, Ecuador, Nigeria, Sudan, South Yemen and Venezuela; whether it was desert or jungle operations, both aircraft proved to be reliable and effective."

The Strikemaster was crucial to the Sultan of Oman's Air Force during the Dhofar War, assisting in a significant turning point in the conflict, he added. Some of the story of that largely forgotten campaign is recalled in the book by those involved in the war.

The author noted: "Throughout its Service career the Jet Provost attracted a variety of personal and conflicting opinions from aircrew, which ranged from: 'My introduction to the Jet Provost

WE HAVE copies of *Jet Provost Boys* to win. For your chance to own one, simply tell us:

When was the Jet Provost retired from RAF service?

Email your answer, marked **Jet Provost Boys competition**, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to **RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE**, to arrive by September 1. Please include your full postal address.



Obituary

Wg Cdr Martin Bee, AFC, QCVSA



TOP SECRET:
Bee was not even allowed to record U-2 flights in his log book

RAF U-2 spy plane pilot

WING COMMANDER Martin Bee, who has died aged 84, was one of a small, select group of RAF fighter pilots who flew the top-secret Lockheed U-2 reconnaissance aircraft whilst serving on an exchange appointment with the United States Air Force.

Bee joined up at the RAF College Cranwell, where he excelled, becoming an under-officer and being awarded The Queen's Medal as the outstanding cadet of his entry. In addition, he was awarded three academic prizes and his colours for swimming and water polo.

After completing his training as a fighter pilot in 1958, he was posted to 74(F) Squadron, known throughout its existence as 'Tiger Squadron'. Initially he flew the Hunter, but two years later the squadron became the first to be equipped with the Lightning. The squadron was tasked to form an aerobatic team and Bee flew in the Number Seven position in the nine-aircraft formation. As the official RAF aerobatic team, the squadron appeared at the Farnborough and Paris Air Shows and Bee flew a solo display at other air shows.

In 1964, he was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base in California to join the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Detachment G. Here, he was introduced to the U-2, an aircraft of unique design known as the 'Dragon Lady'. Capable of flying above 70,000 feet, it provided an all-weather intelligence-gathering capability.

The existence of the unique aircraft was brought to the world's attention following the shooting down of Gary Powers over the Soviet Union in May 1960. The involvement of RAF pilots in the development of the aircraft remained top secret for decades and some aspects of their work remain classified.

In the five years that Bee flew it, he tested



DISPLAY TEAM PILOT: Bee is greeted on arrival in Sweden for an air show with the Lightning aircraft

many of the increasingly advanced variants of the single-engine aircraft, including those capable of in-flight refuelling and others able to operate from the decks of the US aircraft carriers.

In the summer of 1965, Bee was tasked to demonstrate the aircraft to a group of US Senate members and visiting senior RAF officers. The aircraft, weighing 16,000lbs, had a single engine providing 17,000lbs of thrust so it was not possible to take off at full power for fear of damage to the fragile airframe. With its glider-type wings, the aircraft took

off at 90 knots and Bee immediately rotated into an 80-degree climb as full power was slowly applied. In a minute the aircraft had reached 10,000 feet.

Bee then had to demonstrate the landing. Speed was reduced to 82 knots as special landing flaps were lowered. Just as the aircraft touched down, the landing parachute was deployed and the wings kept level as the ground crew arrived to fit the outriggers on the extended wings.

Such was the secrecy of the work of the RAF pilots, none of the flights were recorded in their log books, and for many years, their closest colleagues were unaware of their work.

Years later, Bee described his experiences on the U-2: "Am I glad I was a young pilot in my 20s at the time these demos were flown. Such sheer power, spectacle and fun is unlikely to be permitted these days.

"The U-2 goes up quickly, but comes down slowly as, like a glider, it has little drag. Landings require attention to detail as the undercarriage track is less than a metre. Popping the drag chute just above the runway sets up a perfect landing attitude. Is there another jet-powered aircraft that lands on an aircraft carrier that requires power to be cut to idle before the round-out and engaging a wire?"

Soon after returning to the RAF in 1969, Bee was awarded the Air Force Cross, but no citation was published.

In 1969, he became a flight commander at the RAF College Cranwell and two years later returned to the Lightning world as a flight commander on 111 Squadron, the 'Tremblers', and where he impressed everyone with his easy charm and professionalism as a fighter pilot. The squadron knew little of his earlier experiences, other than his membership of

the Tigers formation aerobatic team.

On promotion to Wg Cdr in 1972, he assumed command of 56 Squadron based in Cyprus and flying the latest version of the Lightning, the F-6. One particular example of his intuition and forward thinking arose just prior to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in July 1974. With mounting tension on all sides, he was clearly frustrated at the lack of direction from the local headquarters. Of his own volition, he stopped training flying and generated the full complement of squadron aircraft fully armed. Some two days later, the headquarters called to instruct him to generate all 56 Sqn aircraft in war configuration. With some satisfaction he replied: "My squadron of 15 Lightnings are on the flight line fully armed, ready to go!"

The squadron, known as the 'Firebirds', flew fighter patrols over the island following the invasion on July 20. His leadership was much admired. One of his junior pilots (later an Air Marshal) described him as "talented, insightful with a dry sense of humour, he was the type of intelligent leader who provided a wonderful example to us all, and we gained so much from his wisdom."

After attending the National Defence College and serving in MOD at a time of drastic defence cuts, Bee reluctantly decided to leave the RAF. In addition to his AFC, he was also awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air.

Bee joined the Sultan of Oman's Air Force for the latter stages of the Dhofar War. He became the base commander of the former RAF airfield at Salalah, where he flew light transport aircraft and helicopters. He later joined the Dubai Royal Flight as chief pilot, flying the Gulfstream IV. He remained in this post for the next 17 years, flying worldwide routes until his retirement.

Air Cdre Jack Broughton, OBE

Obituary

Night nav & air defence specialist

AIR CDRE JACK BROUGHTON:

Immensely popular and having a unique empathy with his members in the Air Crew Association, of which he was chairman

AIR COMMODORE Jack Broughton, who has died aged 89, was assessed as an exceptional night-fighter navigator before specialising in the airborne early warning role and commanding a Bloodhound surface-to-air missile squadron in Germany.

Trained as a navigator during his period of National Service, Broughton served on Meteor and Venom night fighters before spending three tours on the Javelin, including three years with No. XI Squadron based in Germany. During this period, he attended the All-Weather Fighter Combat School Course at the Central Fighter Establishment at RAF West Raynham, graduating with an exceptional rating and A2 grading before returning to join the staff.

In 1969, he began an exchange appointment with the Fleet Air Arm completing a tour on the Gannet AEW 3, which included a period embarked in HMS Ark Royal with 849B Flight.

On returning to the RAF, he formed No 8 Shackleton AEW Squadron at RAF Kinloss in Scotland. After promotion in 1973 to wing commander, he commanded No 25 (Surface to Air Missile) Squadron, equipped with the Bloodhound Mark 2 system and with its headquarters at RAF Bruggen.

The squadron provided area air defence cover for the three RAF airfields on the West German/Netherlands border.

With his stentorian voice, infectious enthusiasm and great humour, his command of the march past of his ageing colleagues during the annual reunion was a spectacle all enjoyed

In 1975 he served on the operational requirements staff in MOD responsible for developing the Nimrod AEW 3 and then its replacement, the US E3A. After three years, he assumed command of RAF West Drayton, the UK Air Defence Ground Environment hub for UK and continental military traffic, and the London Air Traffic Control Centre for civil aircraft movements.

In 1980 Broughton was appointed to be the RAF National Military Representative in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe at Mons in Belgium, where he served three very happy years in the international environment.

In 1984 he became the Commandant of the Royal Observer Corps based at HQ 11 Group at RAF Bentley Priory. This

appointment provided the final piece of the jigsaw whereby Broughton claimed to be the only person to have served in all five air defence specialisations – all-weather fighters, airborne early warning aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, the air defence ground environment and the observer corps. His final RAF tour was as Director of Control Airspace Policy at the National Air Traffic Services.

On retirement Broughton and his wife moved to Southport in Merseyside. Few senior RAF Officers retire to the north west of England so offers of voluntary work were difficult to ignore. The first appointment was to serve as Chairman of the international Air Crew Association, an organisation for mainly retired military aviators keen to form groups

to recall their Service days. In the event some 22,500 former aircrew joined the association over the years, at its maximum it had 12,000 supporters. With more than 120 branches in the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and on the continent, it was an active tenure he held for 16 years.

Broughton was immensely popular and had a unique empathy with the wartime aircrew who made up the bulk of the membership. With his stentorian voice, infectious enthusiasm and humour, his command of the march past of his ageing colleagues at the annual reunion was a spectacle all enjoyed... not least Broughton himself. At the end of his tenure, he was appointed OBE.

He then became Chairman Treasurer of the ACA Archive Trust for a further 12 years. Locally, he was appointed Vice-Chairman of TAVR and President of the Merseyside Air Training Corps Wing and Deputy to the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside. He joined the Liverpool University Education Committee and for 16 years served as Chairman of Trustees at the Southport & District RSPCA Shelter of 200 dog and cat places.

After the death of his wife Audrey in November 2012, he moved to Sheringham to live near their son. In the next seven years he became Secretary of the RAFA Sheringham & District Branch and served as Chairman of the two local Probus clubs.

Motoring

Ford Raptor, from £59,530

Tim Morris



Raptor rapture



Big is beautiful for Ford's relaunched mud marvel

NOTHING SCREAMS 'USA' louder than a big-bottom pickup truck and Ford's latest Ranger Raptor is pretty gobby, at that. What's more, to make sure that its subtle looks are not overlooked by the British masses, Ford has decided to launch this particular model in 'Code Orange'. The only way you could make it look more American would be to paint the stars and stripes on the tailgate.

Exterior

It makes one hell of a statement and, to the untrained eye, you could mistake it for the full-fat F-150 that dominates US roads. The Raptor has recently undergone a massive relaunch and this new version has evolved. The front is dominated by the huge Ford grille, again straight from the F-150. 'C-clamp' LED headlights flank the grille, with wide wheel arches adding to the imposing front end. All this, plus its high stance, makes it look practically gargantuan in proportions and that is a goooood thing. It looks even better in the dark.

Details, such as the standard-fit off-road 17" wheels with BF Goodrich all-terrain tyres, bonnet air intakes and chunky side-steps all complement the theme. I'm still not convinced about the Jurassic Park themed 'Raptor' stickers on the rear flanks, but I may be in the minority there.

Interior

The cabin has been extensively updated and it looks great. Somehow Ford has managed to turn a hardy farm workhorse environment into something that feels like a sports model. It has a feeling of quality, thanks to the use of materials that look and feel good. The biggest win here is the seats which, Ford tells us, are inspired by the Raptor fighter jet.

Trimmed with red leather and soft suede, they look so appealing that I was nearly tempted to lie down and press my face into them.

There's plenty of space inside, easily enough to accommodate five six-footers. The rear seating position is a little upright, due to the flat back window, but you soon get used to it.

A central 12" portrait touchscreen dominates the centre of the dash. As you would expect, it controls the infotainment functions and has a simple menu structure. It comes with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay smartphone mirroring as standard. Mercifully Ford has retained physical air-con

Pros

- Great fun off-road
- Massive fashion statement
- Big cargo bay and lots of space inside

Cons

- Expensive to run
- Does not qualify as a 'commercial vehicle' for tax
- Warranty not as good as rivals

Verdict

The Ranger Raptor is the most versatile pick-up truck on sale

Ford Raptor

at present. It is staggering fun off-road and 'Baja Mode' makes it worth every penny of its £60k price tag, if you're ever going to use it. Even if you're not going to hit the trails, the Raptor is the biggest fashion statement you'll ever drive and, costing about the same as a mid-range German saloon, it's still good value for money. If you want to bring a bit of Fightertown USA to Blighty, it's an easy win.

controls however. These are much easier to operate on the move than menu-based systems and a good plus, as far as I'm concerned.

On the road

The upgraded Raptor has a lot to offer. There's a new 3.0-litre twin-turbo V6 petrol engine mounted in the bay, delivering a respectable 288bhp and 362lb ft of torque through Ford's upgraded four-wheel drive system. It now features uprated suspension, front and rear electronic locking differentials,

a high-low transfer box and a 10-speed paddle-shift auto gearbox.

Don't get too excited though because you still have two-and-a-half tonnes to haul, unloaded. The stats are: 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds and a top end of 111mph. It therefore feels eager, rather than rapid and that's a bit of a shame, because the Australian version of this car delivers 392bhp from the same engine. We're restricted in the UK due to being part of the 'European market'. Something tells me that Raptor buyers will



be upgrading their software after purchase, not that I can endorse such action, obviously.

Where the Raptor really shines is off-road because, at heart, it's basically a rally car on steroids. Put it into 'Baja' mode and the exhaust note changes to a loud growl. Ford could have made it louder here, in my book, but it's enough to set you up for a bit of aggressive off-roading.

There's a suite of electronics that tune the car to make you look like a rally pro when you're thrashing it over rough terrain. The Fox Racing suspension with 'Live Valve' damping does a good job of keeping you off your roof, even when you're getting serious air-time over undulating trails. If you really want to impress your passengers you can turn on the G-Force meter to see what you're pulling on the jumps.

The only downside is the fuel



consumption because, although slightly better than a 5.0 V8, you'll get 20mpg, at best. Thrash it and you'll be lucky to get half that figure. If the fuel worries you, there is a more frugal 2.0-litre diesel available, but where's the fun in that?



RAF News

The Forces Favourite Read

Hit your target market with **RAF News** - the official newspaper of the Royal Air Force since 1961.

Reaching an audience of more than 50,000 readers every fortnight, **RAF News** is the Forces' favourite newspaper delivering exclusive news, features and sports action from across UK Defence.

To discuss your advertising in
RAF News please call or email:
T: +44 (0)7482 571535
E: edwin.rodriques@rafnews.co.uk

RAF News
The official voice of the Royal Air Force



Bay of plenty



DROP ANCHOR: Super-yachts are a common sight



Mix with the super-yacht crowd in 'hidden' Cyprus



STYLISH: Grecian Park's pool



SUNNY DELIGHT: Deck with a view at 5-star hotel

CYPRUS IS an idyllic holiday destination that attracts visitors from around the world. The year-round sun, sandy beaches, tiny coves and quaint villages make it an appealing destination for the family, while the party resorts are perfect for young couples or singles.

If you like it lively, Ayia Napa takes some beating. That never-ending mix of stag/hen parties and large-scale tourism can be heaven for some and hell for others however. Within easy reach of Ayia Napa, Konnos Bay is an altogether classier affair.

Location

A place that could (and should) have been called millionaires' bay, nestled on the edge of Greco National Park, this much quieter spot would look right at home in any James Bond film. It has real star quality.

Standing on the cliff walks above Konnos beach, you look down on a shimmering sea that starts in a vivid shade of turquoise at the shoreline, tapering to a cool blue as it hits deeper water. Luxury yachts bob in the bay, moored in the sheltered cove, providing their discerning

occupants with easy access to the most beautiful side of the island.

In the shallow waters, near the white sands of Konnos Beach, you can tan effortlessly in the baking sun, before heading up the cliff paths to where the summer temperatures are a couple of degrees cooler, thanks to the offshore breeze.

You can find top-notch restaurants right on the beach, or higher up the cliffside. And all just 45 minutes from Larnaca International Airport.

Stay

We stayed at the 5-star Grecian Park Hotel. In this luxury complex you'll find three restaurants, a coffee shop and four bars, along with a casual shop by the pool which is open daily, offering refreshments and snacks. There's a well-equipped spa, gym, on-site hair salon, tennis courts, children's playground and a mini-club for children aged 4-11 (open from July to August).

At the centre of the resort sits a giant lagoon-style outdoor swimming pool, with a shallow children's pool attached. There's

also an indoor pool with a jacuzzi. Pool towels are available from the health club reception and, like the loungers/umbrellas, are free of charge to guests.

Everything about Grecian Park Hotel feels sharp and the attention to detail gives it the edge over other hotels in the area. Polite staff are always on hand to help and you do feel that you're getting the VIP treatment.

Room

We had the pleasure of staying in a large deluxe suite, with sea view. Thick pillows, comfortable mattresses and modern décor make it feel expensive.

Air-conditioning, satellite flat screen TVs, hairdryers, mini-bars, free wi-fi, a private safe and coffee/tea-making facilities are standard in all rooms, but the suites take luxury to new levels with flowers, fresh fruit and complimentary wine on arrival.

Relax

Konnos Beach is fairly well hidden from the masses so it's quieter than most and slopes gently

into the sea, making it a great place for children. Time it right and you can enjoy sunrise and sunset swims completely alone.

Take a gentle walk to the Cyclops' cave or stroll further into Greco National Park to take in the most striking landscape that the island has to offer.

Adventure

Diving, paragliding, kitesurfing and boating are all big attractions nearby. You can hire luxury boats, jet-skis and kayaks from Konnos Beach. You can also have a go at wakeboarding, waterskiing or being Iron Man, with a jet pack.

Set 1km from the hotel there's also a horse ranch, with staff who will lead you through Cape Greco National Park on horseback.

Eat

The hotel has a large and beautifully presented restaurant, where you take breakfast every day. The range of food is impressive, cooked perfectly, with plenty of cold alternatives to give a lighter start. Staff are on hand to tell you what's available and will cook certain dishes to order.

Within the grounds you'll find

the exotic Cliff bar, where you can enjoy food and cocktails until late. The hotel also houses the renowned UMI Japanese & Sushi Bar restaurant, which provides fine dining with the best views of Konnos Bay.

The excellent Ravioli's Italian Restaurant sits opposite the main hotel but is owned and operated by Grecian Park.

Downsides

Just the cost: a standard double room, with a partial sea view, will set you back £230 per night in September, increasing to £450 per night for the Deluxe Suite. That said, offers are available and you certainly get what you pay for.

Verdict

Almost everywhere you'll find that Cyprus has pulled its socks up since the millennium but few areas can boast the level of quality that you'll find in Konnos Bay.

Visit
 ● grecianpark.com/en
 ● mikewatersports.com
 ● visitcyprus.com/index.php/en

5 pages of the best of **RAF Sports** action

MARTIAL ARTS

Forget Bruce Lee, we've got Georgia Lee

Cpl kicks her way to IS Karate gold



JUST FOR KICKS:
Cpl Lee (right) brought the medals home in the Karate sparring category
PHOTOS: LPHOT
UNAISI LUKE

IT WAS a day of close-run things as the Service's martial arts stars came runners-up in all three disciplines at the recent Inter-Services at RAF Digby.

Despite the second places overall in Karate, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) and Taekwondo (TKD), there were individual gold and silver medals across the board, notably for Flt Lt Scott Griffiths, first in both Gi (wearing a traditional suit) and No-Gi divisions in BJJ, and Cpl Georgia Lee, first in the team Kumite (sparring) in Karate with AS1 Jessica Collis and a Navy stand-in. Lee also won bronze in the individual category.

Lee said: "We had a week-long training camp where we were able to practise some of our favourite techniques and learn others from different coaches.

"This along with my own training schedule meant the team and I were as ready as we could be for the Inter-Services. We gave a good account of ourselves."

Speaking after his debut IS, Griffiths added: "I was very thankful to have



STRIKE A POSE: Sgt Alistair Bevan

teammates in my corner giving instructions through the round, otherwise I would have missed points.

"My round was a straight final, so knowing that I'd won gold was a great feeling and definitely gave me a lot of confidence about competing in general."

Opening the tournament, the karate team had a new look to its personnel, but despite honourable efforts they were unable to recapture their pre-Covid dominance, losing out to deserving winners the Royal Navy, achieving two gold and four silver medals.

After his team came second overall in the BJJ, with five bronzes, nine silver and six gold in the Gi and two bronze, nine silver and seven gold in No-Gi, BJJ team leader FS Stewart Bonner said: "There were some outstanding results, I am very proud of everyone who stepped on to the mats."

The TKD stars secured nine gold, 11 silver and four bronze medals on their way to runners-up behind the Army.

● Follow RAF Martial Arts on Instagram @ [rafmartialarts](https://www.instagram.com/rafmartialarts).



BJJ: Cpl Simon Marshall gets to grips with opponent

Would you like to see your sport featured in RAF News? Send a short report (max 300 words) and a couple of photographs (attached jpegs) to: Sports@rafnews.co.uk

Sport

Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk

ANGLING



TITLE'S IN THE BAG: FS Danny Hurst with some of the RAF catch, and with teammate Mark Collinson and trophy, inset below

ANGLING

Hunt and Jones take pairs event



WINNERS: 8's great for Hunt & Jones

IT WAS a returning romp for angling duo FS Matt Hunt and Sgt Tony Jones who led the third-round pairs event at Thorney Weir from start to finish.

Following a mid-season break for spawning, the duo blitzed all-comers winning with a huge haul of 205lb 5oz, almost 100lb more than runner-up pair WO Reg Verney and WO Richard Cooke.

Starting in strong winds at the famous West Drayton venue, the competition saw its first catch courtesy of AS1(T) Zack Hope, landing a 25lb common carp.

Hunt and Jones began their campaign following a flurry of catches across the competition with Jones hooking a 26lb 6oz mirror carp before Hunt followed up with a 14lb common and 23lb mirror moments later.

Hope hooked again before Hunt added a 21lb mirror and 26lb common in the space of 45 minutes to round off the first afternoon.

Once darkness fell, a strong wind reduced the catches, with AS1(T) Steve Golland kicking things off as the sun rose with a 20lb mirror, followed by a 24lb common an hour later to spring up the leader board.

Sgt Martin Emery and FS Matt Whittaker made their presence felt with a 21lb mirror and two 22lb mirrors while in the peg next door Hope added commons of 21lb and 19lb at the halfway mark.

Hunt and Jones broke their extended silence with Jones landing 21lb commons and mirrors and Hunt registering a 28lb common to maintain a gap on the field.

The rain then started to fall but before the downpours AS1 Chris Payne hooked a new PB in the shape of a 30lb 6oz common.

The rain lasted until the early hours, when the catches began to start mounting up – Verney and partner Cooke hooked their second and third fish, meaning only 7lb separated 2nd and 5th and 25lb separated 2nd to 7th.

The big hitters came to the party as the action drew to a close, with Sgt Stu Thomson and partner FS Coleman in peg 3 leaping from 6th to 4th.

Verney then landed more inside the last five minutes, but the final flurry was not enough as he and Cooke ended in second on 109lb 12oz, with Whittaker and Emery third on 108lb 10oz.

The biggest fish of the event was Payne's 30lb 6oz common carp.

Match winners

Daniel Abrahams

THE RAF Drennan anglers stormed to further Inter-Services glory retaining the title again after dominant displays in the Match Angling Championship on the Gloucester Canal.

In the weeks leading up to the event, RAF anglers spent many days practising the different sections (Pilot, Permali, Marina, Hempstead Bend & Netheridge) of the waterway.

Following three days of practice the final anglers were chosen from the 15 present and the two-day championship began.

The RAF team consisted of: Flt Lt Richard Tomala (Cranwell), FS Barry Bright (High Wycombe), FS Michael Dalziel (Halton), FS Daniel Hurst (Coningsby), Chf Tech Mark Collinson (Waddington), Sgt Andy Beasley (Cosford), Sgt Steven Reid (Wittering), Sgt Stu Thornton

Anglers retain Inter-Services title

(High Wycombe), Cpl Toby Pepper (Marham) and Cpl Paige Wardle (Brize Norton).

Team captain Hurst said: "The warmth and sunshine for the opening match wasn't ideal bream weather. It was apparent they weren't feeding close into the bank, as they were on practice days, so an immediate change of tactic was required."

Tomala opened the scoring, bagging a huge 10kg 625g specimen – the biggest of the day for the team.

Hurst added:

"Some considerable margins stood out in the results, particularly for Steven Reid, who weighed in more than 5kg 675g ahead of his closest competitor. Following closely behind was Michael Dalziel, with a lead of 4kg 425g. Overall, the team fished incredibly well, achieving seven section wins and three third places."

"This gave us a total of 16 points, with the Army on 20 and Royal Navy on 24. Knowing we had the tactics right gave us huge confidence going

into day two; we just had to hang on."

Thornton bagged a section win from the Marina, with 5kg 375g, over 2kg clear of the next angler.

Hurst said: "Overall, on the team front, we had six sections wins, three seconds and a third place."

These results gave the airmen a total of 15 points, which, when added to the previous day's score, gave a total of 31 – 10 points clear of the Army in second with 41 points and the Royal Navy were third with 48.

Dalziel, Reid and Bright were the stars of the show, winning their sections on both days.

● Follow the team on Facebook @DrennanRAFMatchAngling Team.



CYCLING

Men's team time it right



RALLYING

The car's the star at Fairford

IT WAS lights, camera action for the Service's new Rally Team member, a racy Ford Fiesta ST unveiled at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford.

Proudly sporting RAF livery, the car will be fighting for podium spots across the country this coming season.

The unveiling was designed to highlight the engineering skills, teamwork and competitive spirit in the association and sport, showcasing the unique recruitment and retention opportunities in the RAF.



RAF Rally project officer Wg Cdr Craig Teasdale said: "There are so many shared benefits between competitive rallying and the demands of operations in the RAF. Intense teamwork forged by competition with precise engineering, all done under challenging circumstances, applies equally to operations and rallying."

RAF Rally Deputy Director, Sqn Ldr Phil Bruce, added: "Rallying involves a crew competing against the clock in austere terrain where every second counts and the crew only have their bravery, courage, technical abilities and wits to survive and prevail."

"The car, known as the 'T Car,' is aimed at all RAF personnel who have always wanted to try rallying but have not been able to afford the high start-up costs.

"The T Car enables personnel to train and develop the skills required through mentoring and eventually compete in a full UK stage rally."

The car is expected to make its debut in the Tri-Service Conningham Cup later in the year.

● Follow RAF motorsports on Instagram @raf_motorsports.

They're IS champions

THE 2023 IS Time Trial cycling championships saw RAF glory for the men's riders and a hard-fought third for Cpl Claire Weston in the women's race.

The Reading Cycling Club-hosted event, held over a flat 25-mile course, saw the club's Clive Pugh Memorial race event run alongside the high-profile Services race.

In calm weather with no tail or head winds the race tested the riders to their limit, with the RAF men's team working superbly throughout to produce a memorable finish, winning with a five-minute lead.

Cpl Will Lewis (RAF Waddington) then finished as the second military rider and first RAF male, in a time of 51 minutes and 41 seconds.

He said: "Reading CC provided a great event and course to host

the IS Champs on. I'm relatively new to the TT scene, coming from a road background. I was pleased with how I rode considering I am still riding on borrowed kit from friends.



WESTON

"Cycling isn't the cheapest sport and without the support we get from the RBL and RAF it wouldn't be possible."

The women's race saw a tight-fought battle amongst some strong competition, where Weston (RAF Akrotiri) cemented third place from the Army with a time of one hour one minute.

RAF team rider Cpl Sarah Toms said: "The result was the perfect outcome after a tough day's racing and making Claire's journey back to Cyprus a heavier one with her silverware."

● Follow RAF Cycling on Instagram: @rafcycling.

TOP RAF MAN: Cpl Will Lewis was also second overall



RUGBY LEAGUE

Service acumen helps Panthers in hunt for Wembley cup glory

Daniel Abrahams

THE BIGGEST date in the rugby league calendar – Challenge Cup finals day – will have a distinctly RAF flavour to it as Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton helps lead out Halifax Panthers.

Clayton (pictured right) is performance coach for the Betfred Championship team, who will play Batley Bulldogs in the 1895 Cup in the last of three finals matches on the day at Wembley Stadium.

He said: "It will be a great day for the town and club and for me personally, but there is still work to be done."

Clayton was pivotal to establishing the sport of rugby league within the RAF and

Armed Forces and went on to play, captain and coach at Service and UKAF level. He was present when the Panthers stormed to glory at Rosslyn Park, beating London Broncos 6-10 last month.

Since he began working with them five years ago, Halifax have reached the Challenge Cup semi-final in 2019 and this season's 1895 Cup final, in the club's 150th year.

Clayton said: "My work with the club began under the previous head coach Richard Marshall and a lot of it stemmed from pre-season team building activities such as communication, leadership and



Photo: Simon Hall

trust. I have facilitated pre-season camps at RAF Wittering, RAF Coningsby and DST Leconfield, utilising military team building activities, as learnt during my tenure delivering the Intermediate Management and Leadership Course as a Flight Sergeant on ACS.

"The head coach, Simon Grix, wanted me to become more aligned with the team and club. My knowledge of and time around the game helps it all blend into one."

"A lot of hard work has been done and the proof of the pudding is the team are now at

Wembley. This club is a sleeping giant, but it's waking up."

Grix added: "The final is a great opportunity to show how we go about our business. Damian's role has grown, he is now here every week, he is my right-hand man on most game days."

"He is from the military where standards are high, his standards are very high and he has helped me introduce that into the club, which is paying dividends."

"A lot of what was done to achieve victory in the semi was instigated through Damian and the final is now a big chance to make our mark."

● Follow Halifax Panthers on Instagram @halifaxpanthers.

Sport

Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Voice UK star's youth team hit right note with national trophy

TEAMS from across the UK battled it out on the pitch at the RAF-sponsored kickoff@3 youth football national finals.

Players from Belfast, Luton, Croydon, Durham, Kent and Nottingham took part in the tournament at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Bromley, South London.

The RAF engagement team and Air Cadets from Penge, Biggin Hill and Sidcup helped out and saw eventual winners Hope FC, from Croydon, lift the trophy. The team are managed

by singer Roger Samuels, who appeared on TV's *The Voice UK*.

Kickoff@3 is a charity working across the UK to provide young people with access to sports facilities, training and competition.

Over the last year more than 12,000 boys and girls competed for a place at the national finals.

Not only was it a red letter day for the young sportsmen and women, but a fundraiser for the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust charity.



ON SONG: Hope FC and Roger Samuels (2nd left)

RUGBY UNION

The world at their feet

UKAF squad led by RAF FS head to France for Defence Cup



BRITANNY IS the destination and Defence World Cup glory the aim of the UKAF rugby union team headed by RAF dynamic duo FS Justin Coleman and Fg Off Dave Manning.

Finalists last time out in Japan, the squad, with RAF head coach Coleman at the helm, are holding one last training camp at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth before heading to France for the month-long, 12-team tournament.

UKAF – who played a warm-up game on Armed Forces Day, losing 24-42 to a North of England Select XV at Kingston Park, Newcastle – will open their account against Tonga on August 19, before facing Georgia and Spain in Pool two.

Coleman's backroom team reads like a who's who of Service rugby union, with Lt Col Tim Osman and LH Silivenusi Buinimasi as his assistant coaches, and Sgt Bruce Smith team manager, with Cpl Kev Briggs as Strength and Conditioning coach.

On gaining the head coach role, Coleman said: "It's a real honour. I have stood in for the Sevens before, but this is the pinnacle of Services rugby, so it is flattering to be appointed.

"As for setting down playing style and so on, it's a work in progress at the moment. We



have set out how we want to play and I am hoping that with the high level of Service players involved, those foundations can be quickly built upon.

"The focus is now on our training camp at HMS Temeraire before we head off to France. Once there, it will be a lot of testing and adjusting with the players having to adapt on the pitch as the pool games come thick and fast, but I find that challenge exciting."

The 30-man squad features 12 RAF players, and RAF captain Fg Off Manning in the captain's role, something he is relishing. He said: "I'm looking forward to it, what an honour to be given the armband.

"I have been around a while and fortunate enough to be captain for my Service and club [Henley Hawks].

"Many of the UKAF lads have played together, so bonds already exist. We know people will step up to the plate, it's unspoken.

"Our day job puts us into those situations and that is ingrained in us, so the rugby side of things is no different.

"We know we will be tested, to the limits, but we are ready. We want to face the best, we want to beat the best, we play to win, not to take part."

HIGH HOPES: UKAF v North of England Select XV action (also top right)

Catch all the Defence World Cup action at: Forces.net (sports) and cmmr-bretagne2023.com

Would you like to see your sport featured in RAF News? Send a short report (max 300 words) and a couple of photographs (attached jpegs) to: Sports@rafnews.co.uk

WATER SPORTS

Medals for pool stars at the Inter-Services

Men's water polo players and women divers lead way



A SEMI-FINAL GB Masters archery berth was the reward for Sgt Ellie Spinks at the National Sports Centre, Lillehall.

Spinks, who took up the sport just two years ago, competed in the ladies' Barebow event against a field of 250 archers, including Olympic level athletes.

She began the event with a personal best score of 537 in the qualification rounds,

Ellie's on target

missing out on third place by just one point.

The score saw her well placed in the head-to-head knockout stages and, pushing through each round, she produced solid displays to reach the semis.

There she lost out to Sheila Hudson, the

current GB number one.

Spinks was then left to battle out the third-place play-offs and coming back from four down she hit a series of excellent shots (9-8-8), but her opponent just tipped the scales with 10-9-8 scores, leaving the RAF star to settle for fourth.

● Follow the association on Instagram @ rafarchery.

Daniel Abrahams

THE SERVICE'S pool athletes made a big splash at Aldershot with podium spots galore, including team wins in the men's water polo and women's diving.

In the swimming Flt Lt Hannah Dodwell was out in front, setting two Tri-Service records. The Brize Norton athlete was the top woman, finishing with records in the 800m and 400m freestyle.

Cpl Tiegan Child was second overall in her first Inter-Service Championships.

Sgt Jordan Youngman finished first in the 100m freestyle in a time of 52.29 seconds, setting a personal best and RAF record.

Overall the ladies finished second in the swimming IS, the men third.

The water polo stars opened their account with a 12-10 win over the Royal Navy, with four goals from Sqn Ldr Simon Almond, three from Chf Tech Ben Kingshott and a strong debut in goal from Fg Off Sutton.

With the Army next up, the RAF trailed 12-8 after the opening three periods, but stepping up their intensity pushed their opponents back, scoring seven goals to the Army's one to win 15-13 and reclaim the IS title.

The victory gave debut wins to Flt Lt Jack Platts, Fg Off Henry Elwell-Sutton and AR Aaron Trevor, with a 20th Inter-Services win for Sqn Ldr Trevor Down. The women's team lost 18-11 to the Army.

In the diving AS1(T) Charlotte Goodman dominated both the springboard and platform events to take the Tina Childs Trophy. Superb diving all round saw the RAF take first, fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth positions in the springboard. In the platform the RAF took first, fourth and fifth places, with Flt Lt Sophie Trotter excelling herself to see the RAF home in both disciplines.

In the Men's competition, WO Kevin Davidson took the bronze in the springboard and the silver in the platform competitions, as the Service came runner-up to the Army.

● Follow RAF swimming, diving and water polo on Instagram @ rafswimming.



THE NEW WAY TO CONTACT YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE

FOR ADVICE ON:

- SYMPTOMS, CONDITIONS OR TREATMENT
- REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS
- MEDICALS
- LIGHT DUTIES CHITS
- TEST RESULTS

TO GET STARTED:

1. GO TO ECONSULT AND FIND YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE
2. FIND YOUR SYMPTOM, CONDITION OR REQUEST
3. FILL OUT A QUICK FORM
4. YOUR PRACTICE RESPONDS WITH ADVICE, A PRESCRIPTION OR AN APPOINTMENT



Announcements

- p6-7
Puzzles
- p8

R'n'R



Street-smart: Faye Tozer stars in hit show

● p4-5

**Win
Woody
Allen top
titles**
● p5



A Coat of Arms and Surname History Scroll for *YOUR* family name.

**GREAT
GIFT!**

Discover the fascinating origins of your surname plus the earliest-known coat of arms for a bearer of the name, with this beautiful printed scroll.

Ever wondered about the story of your own name? *Hall of Names* has the history of more than a million surnames and you can see your own surname's history faithfully reproduced on high-quality A3 parchment paper. A full colour rendition of the name's earliest-known coat of arms also features at the top of each scroll to create a real talking point. If there is a motto, this is usually in Latin with a translation at the end of the scroll. With attention to detail, the surname history is extensively researched and includes fascinating facts and intriguing details about your chosen surname.

Look what you can find out!

- Name origins
- Spelling variations
- Early movements
- Lands owned
- First migrants to the New World
- Notable bearers of the name
- Passengers on the Titanic
- Convicts to Australia

Beautiful border graphics complement the coat of arms and relate to the name's country of origin. Each surname history scroll comes with an individual certificate number and a gold seal. In addition, a bibliography of sources is printed on the reverse. These beautiful scrolls are a real talking point, and the perfect gift or keepsake to celebrate a family name. Plus, the scrolls are available unframed or in your choice of two stunning quality frames, hand finished in our UK workshop.



RAF News SPECIAL OFFER!

Readers of **RAF News** are entitled to 10% off any Coat of Arms and Surname History Scroll.

Framed: Was 39.99, now £35.99
Unframed: Was £24.99, now £22.49

*Your discount is automatically applied

HALL^{OF} NAMES
Your history revealed

Order today by visiting
www.hallofnames.org.uk/raf

01984 632120

Will it be happy ever after for Charlotte and Ralph?



ENGAGED: But Charlotte (Rose Williams) hasn't just got eyes for fiancé Ralph (Cai Brigen)

THE THIRD and final series of lavish period drama *Sanditon* starts on ITVX on August 17, inspired by Jane Austen's last, unfinished novel.

Series one to three have been sold globally to more than 190 territories including Japan, Norway, Brazil, Australia, Spain and Israel.

Rose Williams, who plays *Sanditon's* heroine Charlotte Heywood, said: "I'm excited for audiences to meet the brilliant new characters of season three, and to see how all *Sanditon's* original inhabitants' adventures conclude. It's been a true gift to play Charlotte."

The final series features new characters including Lady Montrose (Emma Fielding, *Van der Valk*), the quintessential Austen mother, who arrives in *Sanditon* with one objective: matches for her children, Lydia and Henry.

Lydia (Alice Orr-Ewing, *A Very English Scandal*) is an independent young woman who is not as eager for a match as her mother, and Lord Henry Montrose (Edward Davis, *Emma*) is charismatic and confident, but he holds a secret.

Rowleigh Pryce (James Bolam) is a wealthy, curmudgeonly investor who teams up with Tom Parker (Kris Marshall) on the town's expansion, but their plans become complicated when Rowleigh runs into the formidable Lady Denham (Anne Reid).

Also new to *Sanditon* is Alexander's brother, Samuel Colbourne (Liam Garrigan) – a lawyer, and a charming bachelor who makes a lasting impression on the returning Lady Susan (Sophie Winkleman).

Charlotte returns to *Sanditon* with her fiancé in tow but is forced to come to terms with her unresolved feelings for Alexander Colbourne (Ben Lloyd-Hughes). As they keep getting drawn together,

Sanditon returns for third and final series

can they continue to ignore their feelings?

Meanwhile, Georgiana (Crystal Clarke) is horrified to discover a claim on her newfound inheritance. With the help of Samuel Colbourne, she battles in court to keep what is hers.

"Charlotte is suffering with deep internal conflict across season three," Williams explained. "She feels a responsibility to her family and to Ralph, but a knowingness that she'll be giving up a potential life filled with adventure and finding a partner that would intellectually stimulate and challenge her. She let herself fall for Colbourne for a moment, now she is telling herself that following her heart will only lead to it breaking."

She said: "Georgiana and Charlotte are both navigating their positions in society. Georgiana is coming into her inheritance, moving through the pressure, implications and challenges of having such riches. She's also

dealing with the complexity of moving through Regency England's twisted legal system, her position as an heiress, a woman of colour, and being unmarried.

"Charlotte is moving through the reality of having no riches, and the need to marry for the financial security of her family. They both deep down reject the societal pressure to marry for the sake of security yet are pushed into corners unable to escape those pressures."

She added: "Charlotte has changed immensely from season one. We met a farmer's daughter with dreams of adventure, who became enchanted and forever changed by characters and experiences worlds apart from her upbringing.

"She's experienced deep heartbreak, learnt about the cruel realities of the world, and decided in confidence on her true values. By the end of season three she deeply knows who she is and has decided she'd like to live her life on her own terms."

The first two series of *Sanditon* are available on ITVX.



HEIRESS: Georgiana (Crystal Clarke) faces the challenges that often come with great wealth



Competition

The Six Million Dollar Man (PG)

The Complete Collection. Out on Blu-ray on August 21
Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises

You'll feel a million dollars if you win this 34-disc set

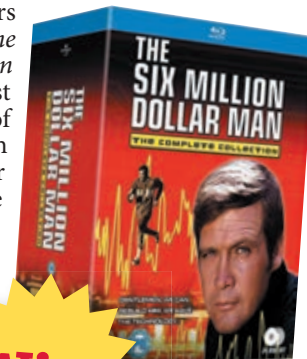
ENJOY ALL 100 uncut episodes across five seasons of the groundbreaking television show, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, now all digitally re-mastered and restored in high-definition on 34 discs including

1,479 minutes of extras. Lee Majors starred in the lead role of astronaut Steve Austin and *Charlie's Angels* star Farrah Fawcett – married to Majors during his time on *The Six Million Dollar Man* – featured as a guest star in four episodes of the series, one in each of the show's first four seasons, playing three different characters.

After crashing during an experimental aircraft test, astronaut Austin is barely alive and clinging to life. The government decide to use funding for a secret bionics project to create the next generation of covert operative – an agent with bionic limbs that give him superhuman strength and enable him to run speeds of more than 60 miles per hour, along with a bionic eye that allows him to see details over a mile away.

Col Austin wakes up after his almost fatal crash to find that he now possesses integrated bionic technology. For his second chance

Prize worth £250



Win!

at life he is coerced into taking on specialized missions for the Office of Strategic Operations.

Many other famous faces appeared in the long-running show, including Kim Basinger,

Lindsay Wagner, Sonny Bono, William Shatner and Jenny Agutter. Sandra Bullock had an early major screen role in *Bionic*

Showdown: The Six Million Dollar Man and The Bionic Woman, one of three made-for-television movies included in the Complete Collection's extras. And Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) guest-starred in the first of the television movies – *The Return of the Six Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman*, which he talks about in the extras.

One lucky reader could win a set of The Complete Collection on Blu-ray, rrp £249.99. For your chance to own it, tell us:

How many seasons were there of *The Six Million Dollar Man*?

Email your answer, marked Six Million Dollar Man competition, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by September 1.



TV
Breathtaking



BEHIND THE MASK: Joanne Froggatt stars as hospital consultant Abbey Henderson, based on writer and medic Dr Rachel Clarke

Covid 19: A doctor's story

JOANNE FROGGATT (*Liar, Angela Black, Downton Abbey*) stars in the forthcoming Covid-19 drama *Breathtaking*, written by Rachel Clarke, Jed Mercurio and Prassan Puwanarajah.

Filming of the three-part series, in which Froggatt plays frontline hospital consultant Dr Abbey Henderson, was completed in Northern Ireland earlier this year. It's based on Clarke's personal memoir of the pandemic, which she adapted for television with former junior hospital doctors Mercurio (*Line of Duty*) – who is also a former RAF officer – and Puwanarajah (*The Crown*).

Mercurio (pictured below) said: "Everyone at [producers] HTM Television has felt privileged to dramatise Rachel Clarke's hauntingly illuminating memoir of health workers struggling to cope with the extraordinary challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic."

"I'm honoured to have collaborated with Rachel and Prasanna on this important drama, and thrilled to be working with a cast led by Joanne Froggatt and crew led by director Craig Viveiros."

Viveiros (*Angela Black*) said: "After reading the first few pages of the



script, I knew this was a project I wanted to be involved with. Its unique, bold and unflinching take on life on the frontline during the pandemic was immediately captivating.

"I'm delighted to once again be working with Joanne Froggatt, her ability to effortlessly bring the humanity and empathy to any character she portrays meant she was the perfect performer to bring Abbey to life."

He added: "Shooting a large part of the mini-series in long, real-time sequences should make for captivating viewing and allow the audience to be immersed in the struggles our real-life heroes faced in the wards and emergency departments across the country, day after day, during the pandemic. This story is a chance for their voices and sacrifices to be seen and heard."

After completing filming for the three-part series Froggatt said: "I feel truly honoured to be playing Dr Abbey Henderson in *Breathtaking*, based on Dr Rachel Clarke's beautifully written, poignant and shocking book."

"When I first read the incredible scripts they moved me to tears on many occasions. I felt so passionately that I had to be a part of telling this

story, the real story, of what was really happening behind the closed doors of the hospitals during the pandemic.

"Our NHS staff are nothing less than absolute heroes in my eyes, and I hope telling this story goes a little way towards us understanding their truth, their lived experience and honouring their unbelievable commitment and sacrifice on behalf of us all."

Set in a fictional big-city hospital, the drama narrates how frontline medical staff endured fear and frustration as they desperately tried to save the lives of coronavirus patients.

Against a backdrop of news footage from the early months of 2020, the series follows Abbey in her daily work whilst weaving together the stories of her fellow doctors, nurses, patients and the paramedics whose ambulances were queued outside hospitals as the NHS tried to cope with a tsunami of devastating cases.

Clarke said: "There is so much misinformation and rewriting of history around what really happened inside our hospitals during the pandemic. The truth is, NHS staff gave everything they had in impossible conditions that sometimes cost them their lives. It is an honour to try to depict the courage and decency of my NHS colleagues on screen."

First Steps treading t

Former pop star Faye and a

BIG NAMES Faye Tozer, Les Dennis, Samantha Womack and Michael Praed are starring together in a new UK tour of the classic musical *42nd Street*.

Best known as a member of the BRIT Award-winning pop band Steps, Tozer's theatrical credits include *Singin' In The Rain* at Sadler's Wells and on tour in the UK and Canada, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* at the Apollo Theatre, and touring productions of *In The Spotlight*, *Over The Rainbow*, *Me And My Girl*, *Love Shack* and *Tell Me On A Sunday*. Faye was also a runner-up in BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2018.

Dennis most recently played Grandad Trotter in *Only Fools and Horses The Musical*. Also in the West End he played Wilbur in *Hairspray* opposite Michael Ball at the London Coliseum, Amos Hart in *Chicago* and Bill in *Me and My Girl* and his many TV credits include Michael Rodwell in *Coronation Street*.

Womack starred as the White Witch in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* in the West End. Her other credits include the role of Rachel in *The Girl on the Train* both in the West End and on tour, Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* UK tour, Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* at the Barbican and on tour, and Miss Adelaide in Michael Grandage's production of *Guys and Dolls* alongside Patrick Swayze. On screen she's played Ronni Mitchell in *EastEnders*, Mandy in *Game On*, and been in *The Kingsman* franchise.

On stage Praed has starred in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *High Society* and *The Sound of Music*. His TV credits include the role of Frank Clayton in *Emmerdale*, Prince Michael in *Dynasty* and the titular role in *Robin of Sherwood*.

42nd Street features a hit parade of toe-tapping songs, including the title number, *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, *Shuffle Off to Buffalo* and *I Only Have Eyes For You*.

It tells the story of young and beautiful Peggy Sawyer (Nicole-Lily Baisden), who arrives in New York City fresh off the bus from small-town America, dreaming of her name in lights. She quickly catches the eye of a big-time director and lands a spot in the chorus line of Broadway's newest show...and when the leading lady gets injured, Peggy gets her shot at stardom.

Tozer plays Maggie Jones, the writing partner of Bert Barry (Dennis).



PEGGY: Baisden with Marsh (Praed)

© Johan

She revealed: "Les and I actually have a little bit of history via Steps because he came and did a sketch for us for *Steps Into Summer*, a television programme we did. Over the years I've bumped into him at gameshows and things but what a joy to be sharing the stage with him, and what an absolute pro he is!"

Faye is a very experienced musical theatre performer and had her first musical role in *Tell Me On A Sunday* in 2004.

She admitted: "I wanted to get into

s to Tozer the boards

galaxy of stars in 42nd Street



WRITING PARTNERS: Barry and Jones (*Dennis and Tozer*, also inset)

musical theatre from a really young age. It was amazing having Steps come first, and then having a wonderful life in musical theatre as well. The transition for me was quite interesting, mostly because of how people initially perceived me, but it's been so wonderful to be somebody who surprises audience members who might have a preconceived idea of me. I just absolutely absorb myself in the show and in my love of theatre and I'm so lucky to tread the boards in between the times that I'm with Steps."

The star is also well used



DOROTHY BROCK: Samantha Womack

to going on tour, having first hit the road when she was 18.

She said: "I always have a prepped bathroom bag with all my bottles ready to go – when I come home at the weekend I fill the bottles back up and then they go back in the bag. I have a tiny speaker which is amazing and I've got a plug that has all my leads in it ready to go, so I can just plug it in at the hotel or wherever and I can charge my watch, my phone, my iPad. I always take my iPad with me when travelling so it's loaded with all the programmes I'm watching just in case I get stuck on a journey."

42nd Street tours to Cardiff (August 14-19), Milton Keynes (August 28 to September 2), Liverpool (September 4-9) and six more venues with the current cast. Casting is to be announced for tour dates in 2024.

● Go to: 42ndstreettour.com for full tour information.



Competition

Hannah and Her Sisters/Manhattan (15)

Out on Blu-ray and DVD on August 28

(Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises)



Woody Allen's triple Oscar winner

ONE OF Woody Allen's best-loved films, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, released in 1986, won three Oscars. It stars Mia Farrow as Hannah, a devoted wife, loving mother and successful actress. She's also the emotional backbone of the family, and her sisters Lee (Barbara Hershey) and Holly (Dianne Wiest) depend on this stability while also resenting it because they can't help but compare Hannah's seemingly perfect life with theirs. But with her husband Elliott (Michael Caine) becoming increasingly interested in Lee, it's clear that Hannah might have problems of her own.

The cast also features Max von Sydow, Carrie Fisher, John Turturro and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Caine won the Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting Role while Wiest won Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Allen won Best Screenplay, beating *Crocodile Dundee*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Platoon* and *Salvador*.

Nominated for two Academy-



Awards, *Manhattan*, released in 1979, is Allen's portrait of modern relationships set against a backdrop of urban alienation. Sumptuously photographed in black and white (Allen's first film in that format) it is accompanied by a magnificent Gershwin score which includes *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Allen plays Manhattan native Isaac Davis – the 42-year-old has a job he hates, a 17-year-old girlfriend, Tracy (Mariel Hemingway), whom he doesn't love, and a lesbian ex-wife, Jill

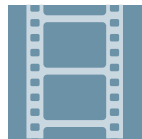
(Meryl Streep), who's writing a tell-all book about their marriage... and whom he'd like to strangle. But when he meets his best friend's sexy, intellectual mistress, Mary (Diane Keaton), Isaac falls head over heels in lust. Leaving Tracy, bedding Mary and quitting his job are just the beginnings of Isaac's quest for romance and fulfilment.

We have copies of both titles on Blu-ray and DVD up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning one, tell us:

In which year was *Manhattan* released?

Email your answer marked Woody Allen films competition, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4EL, to arrive by September 1.

Please mark on your entry which film you prefer to win, and whether on Blu-ray or DVD, and include your postal address.



Film

Klimt & The Kiss

Exhibition on Screen

Love The Kiss? Be a part of the film

THE MAKERS of forthcoming film *Klimt & The Kiss* are calling on fans of the painter to be a part of the new 90-minute movie.

Director Ali Ray (*Frida Kahlo, Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman*) is looking for photographs of fans with their Klimt keepsakes for a big montage moment to be shown at the end of the movie.

In cinemas from October 30, *Klimt & The Kiss* will be the first film from Season 11 of Exhibition on Screen.

The Kiss by Gustav Klimt is one of the most recognised and reproduced paintings in the world. It is perhaps the most popular poster on student dorm walls from Beijing to Boston.

Painted in Vienna around 1908, the evocative image of an unknown embracing couple has captivated viewers with its mystery, sensuality and dazzling materials ever since it was created. But just what lies behind the appeal of the painting – and just who was the artist that created it?



ICONIC: Gustav Klimt's painting of entwined lovers features on mugs, bags and duvet covers

Klimt & The Kiss explores the scandalous life and the rich tapestry of influences behind one of the world's favourite paintings.

A spokesperson for filmmakers Seventh Art Productions said: "Delving into the details of real gold, elaborate decoration, rich symbolism and simmering erotica, this close study of the painting takes the audience to the remarkable turn of the century Vienna when a new world was battling with the old.

"Klimt was a titan of the Art Nouveau movement, creating decadent new worlds which merged tender sensuality, ancient mythology and radical modernity.

"Please send new or old photos of yourself next to your *The Kiss*

poster back in college, drinking out of your *The Kiss* mug, under your *The Kiss* duvet, carrying your *The Kiss* tote bag or showing off your *The Kiss* tattoo – the more diverse, the better."

Send your photos to: marketing@seventh-art.com. By submitting, you are agreeing to the free use of your photograph/image/story in the upcoming film by Exhibition on Screen.

Previous Exhibition on Screen films from Seventh Art Productions include *Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition*, *Tokyo Stories* and *Pissarro: Father of Impressionism*.

● Go to: seventh-art.com for more details.



Your Announcements

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

Seeking

SEEKING members of IFN4/66 nav inst course held at Newton from April 1966 to March 1967 – particularly: Trevor Jones, Howard Methley, Bob Brobson, Terry Whitford, Colin Wood and Mick Marlow. There were five others, but can't remember their names, sorry. Please email Malcolm Hodgson on: hodgson8448@gmail.com.

SEEKING any air or ground crew from 203, 210 and 205 Sqns involved in Shackleton operations from RAF Changi and RAF Labuan during the Indonesian Confrontation of 1963-65. Please contact: Tony Fairbairn: email: tony.fairbairn@btinternet.com or call: 07752 337907.

SEEKING anyone in the 309th entry at RAF Hereford from May 1967 until April 1968. I was in C Flight 4 Sqn. Please email Ian Dall: iandall622@gmail.com.

LOOKING for any members of the 47th entry TG19 Hereford 62-64. Any still about? Please contact Jim Cummins via email on: Carol_cummins@aol.com or call: 01302 532865, 07517 416702.

Reunions

45TH Entry C Flt 3 Sqn Suppliers reunion Friday/Saturday, September 22 and 23 at Barns Hotel, Cocksparrow Lane, Huntingdon, Camnock, Staffs. For details contact: Dinger Bell, tel: 01482 377625.

THE RAF Masirah and RAF Salalah Veterans Association Reunion Gala Dinner is to be held on Saturday, October 7 at the Hatton Court Hotel, Upton St Leonards, Gloucester GL4 8DE. If interested in joining the

Association please contact Membership Secretary, Harry Player, on: chrisarry714@gmail.com.



THE RAF and Defence Fire Service reunion will take place from Friday, November 3 to Sunday, November 5 at the Sketchley Grange Hotel and Spa, Sketchley Lane, Hinkley, Leicestershire, LE10 3HU. Visit: rafanddfs.co.uk/ reunions or contact Don Pape, email: donaldpape252@yahoo.com or Mike Clapton, email: fire.bucket@btinternet.com Please visit the website to see how to join. We welcome new members.

Associations

RAF Armourers past and present. Do you know that the RAF Association has an Armourers Branch? Its aim is to provide welfare support and comradeship for all who have served or currently serve as an RAF Armourer. See: rafaarmourers.co.uk or contact the committee via: plumbersrest@outlook.com.

IF you trained as an RAF Administrative Apprentice (or are related to one) we would be delighted to welcome you to the RAFAA Association. See: rafadappasn.org; or contact Mem Sec on: 07866 085834 or Chairman on: 01933 443673.

RAF Catering WOs' and Seniors' Association (RAF CWO & SA): all serving or retired TG19 Warrant Officers or Flight Sergeants and all former Catering Branch Officers are invited to join the RAF CWO & SA. We meet twice yearly. Please email: davescott10@hotmail.co.uk.

Veterans Network

A new network for veterans working in support of the RAF has been launched. Veterans in Defence (Air) connects vets and reserves working across the Air domain.

Angus Murray, the network's chair, said: "The network is an independent sub-group of the main MOD Veterans in Defence Network. It is formed of veterans (irrespective of what Service previously served in), created to unite, support, and inform our country's former Servicemen and women.

"Founded by veterans, the network is designed to provide an opportunity where people can connect with others who have shared lived experiences, access resources and find support in their roles – should they seek it."

He added: "We are dedicated to uniting and supporting veterans beyond their military service. If you're a veteran looking to find old friends or make new ones, seeking support in your job, or you simply want to get involved and help us build a better future for our fellow veterans, we encourage you to get in touch with the Veterans in Defence (Air) Network today." Email: angus.murray150@mod.gov.uk for details.

Remembrance Service

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire at midday on Sunday, August 20 for the 372 Servicemen, 69 while serving with the RAF, and 21 British policemen who lost their lives during the 1955 to 1959 Cyprus emergency. Please email Les Smith at: cyprusveterans@gmail.com for more details of the service and if you would like to attend.

Obituary

Léon made journey from Belgium to join the RAF



TOP PILOT: Léon Rubin, fourth from left, centre row, after receiving his RAF wings in Canada. He finished first on his course. Inset below, after making a parachute jump aged 90

A MEMBER of the Free Belgian forces who escaped as a teenager from the German occupation in Belgium, went on to train as a Spitfire pilot and was awarded 13 medals during his military career, has died aged 97.

Léon Rubin was 17 when, on December 14, 1942, encouraged by the Resistance and travelling under the assumed name of Fred Kirkup, he started his long and dangerous journey via France and Spain – where he was briefly jailed – to Gibraltar, from where he secured a passage on a convoy to Britain.

His friend David Ryder said: "Instead of being welcomed on arrival [to the UK], he found himself put under interrogation for days. After finally convincing his hosts that he wasn't a spy, he enlisted in the RAF."

Léon planned to join the Free Belgian forces when he was just 15 and spent the next few years learning English and saving money for the journey. He didn't tell his parents about his plan and left them a note to tell

them he had left.

A Swiss citizen as his father was born in Switzerland, once the interrogators were satisfied Léon was telling the truth about why he came to Britain, he was referred to the Swiss Embassy in London.

He remembered: "There I was informed that my father had been moving heaven and earth to find his missing son. I was told I would be sent back to Switzerland which, I bluntly told them, I would refuse. Finally, my parents were informed of the situation and agreed to emancipate me."

Léon later learned that Hubert Pierlot, Prime Minister of the Belgian government in exile, had insisted he was granted permission to join the Belgian section of the RAF. He joined the RAF on September 15, 1943.

On March 22, 1944, he was sent to complete training in Saskatchewan, Canada. He received his wings on March 2, 1945 – two months before the war in Europe ended. His medals included the Commander's Cross of the Order of Leopold II, the Croix de Guerre with Palm and the

Defence Medal (GB).

He was demobbed on February 4, 1946 and followed in his father Armand's footsteps, training in the watch business. After three years in Switzerland, Léon returned to Belgium to work as a commercial agent for Tissot and, later, Emile Pequignet.

"But he couldn't give up flying entirely. After acquiring Belgian citizenship, he served as an auxiliary in the Air Force from 1949 to 1957, ending his military career with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel Aviateur," said David.

Léon met his wife-to-be, Rayky, at an aviation ball in 1951. The couple married in England in 1953 and had three children. Rayky passed away in 2014. Léon had five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

He retired at 65 and remained active. When he was 73 he took his first parachute jump, with his 17-year-old granddaughter Audrey.

He made another jump 17 years later, aged 90.

His daughter Marion described her father as 'a tough, yet humble man with a great, great sense of humour.'



How to use our service

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

Important Notice

The publishers of *RAF News* cannot accept responsibility for the quality, safe delivery or operation of any products advertised or mentioned in this publication.

Reasonable precautions are taken before advertisements are accepted but such acceptance does not imply any form of approval or recommendation. Advertisements (or other inserted material) are accepted subject to the approval of the publishers and their current terms and conditions. The publishers will accept an advertisement or other inserted material only on the condition that the advertiser warrants that such advertisement does not in any way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act. All copy is subject to the approval of the publishers, who reserve the right to refuse, amend, withdraw or otherwise deal with advertisements submitted to them at their absolute discretion and without explanation.

All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Mail order advertisers are required to state in advertisements their true surname or full company name, together with an address from which the business is managed.

Join special event for 504 Sqn

A PARADE is being held at RAF Wittering on Saturday, October 14 to mark the presentation of the Number 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron Standard.

Are you an ex-member of 504? Would you like to attend the Parade and post-parade reception in the Warrant Officers' and SNCOs' Mess? This is a fantastic



opportunity to catch up with old mates and, maybe, make some new ones. It's sure to be a truly memorable day.

If you'd like to be part of this historic event, please scan the QR Code and complete the form, or email Cpl Paul Chapman at: Paul.Chapman242@mod.gov.uk

■ **Completed returns must be received by October 2.**



Your Announcements

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

Halton House opens to public



FILM STAR: Halton House has featured in many movies

THE PUBLIC have the rare chance to see the impressive interior of Halton House next month when Halton House Officers' Mess holds an Open Day, on September 10, as part of the National Heritage Open Days scheme.

Built by Alfred de Rothschild in 1883, Halton House has been used extensively as a location for filming. Examples include: *The King's Speech*, *The Queen*, *The World is Not Enough*, *The Crown*, *Downton Abbey* and *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*.

The Trenchard Museum, where more

can be learnt about the history of the Buckinghamshire station and the RAF's Apprentice Scheme, and the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre, which illustrates the history of flight, will also be open.

Extensive parking is available at Halton House and free transport is provided to allow attendees access to The Trenchard Museum and the Flight Heritage Centre.

■ Please note: Halton House has very limited disabled access and has no disabled toilets.

Safe space for Benson

A NEW wellness hub at RAF Benson, called The BenZen Space, was officially opened by AVM Suraya Marshall, AOC 22 Group, at the Oxfordshire station recently.

Flt Lt Pete Welsh, who leads the hub project, said: "It's taken us 18 months to finally complete the hub and give Service personnel and dependents a safe space, whilst promoting wellbeing activities such as mental health education courses, yoga & pilates, a relaxation room, horticultural workshops and many more.

"The aim is to promote positive mental well-being on station and to stretch out to the local Benson community for veterans too."

He added: "You don't need to be suffering with a mental illness to benefit from the facilities. Conversely, we want people to be prevented from suffering with a mental health disorder so a dedicated space to hold these activities and education was



TEAMWORK: The BenZen Space committee at the official opening with AVM Suraya Marshall, centre

what we had in mind. We feel the space will also help tackle stigma around mental health discussions.

"I believe Benson is the only station to have both a wellness hub and garden in the same space. I am chair of a voluntary community gardening club and I have a number of volunteers who use the group as a way of improving their mental health.

"I am building a schedule

for horticultural workshops that will encourage serving personnel, dependents, children and veterans into horticulture. Bulb planting, tree planting, rose pruning and wildlife corridors are just a handful of ideas for workshops I will be running."

● If interested in finding out more, email: BEN-Engagement@mod.gov.uk or drop into the BenZen Space on the ground floor of the station's learning centre.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

RAF News

The Forces Favourite Read

Hit your target market with **RAF News** - the official newspaper of the Royal Air Force since 1961.

Reaching an audience of more than 50,000 readers every fortnight, **RAF News** is the Forces' favourite newspaper delivering exclusive news, features and sports action from across UK Defence.

To discuss your advertising in **RAF News** please call or email:
T: +44 (0)7482 571535
E: edwin.rodriques@rafnews.co.uk

The official voice of the Royal Air Force

