



ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB

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RAFOC REMINISCENCES AND RAMBLINGS - WEEK 153 (Extra) 13th MARCH 2023

It seemed as if there were a few articles which did not make Issue 153, sorry for that, so we have corrected it now and we are now up to date. It's been good for 153 issues, and we will endeavour to keep it that way.

39 SQN RAF STANDARD LAID UP:



The 39 Squadron Standard has been lodged in the Rotunda at College Hall Officers' Mess, RAF Cranwell in a short ceremony following Squadron's disbandment in July 2022.

The lodgement ceremony was attended by members of 39 Squadron who handed over the Standard to RAF College Cranwell, where it will be housed in the Rotunda until such a time that the squadron is resurrected. The standards are consecrated items, and therefore the only persons who may handle them with bare hands are the monarch or the clergy. Number 39 Squadron was originally formed as part of the Royal Flying Corps during April 1916 as the first of the Home Defence squadrons. It came to prominence following William Leefe Robinson's successful destruction of a German Airship; an exploit for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross and the squadron gained its nick name 'The Zeppelin Killers'.

The interwar period saw 39 Squadron deployed to Risalpur on what is now the North West Frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Here they were tasked with policing the tribal areas by airborne observation and intervention if needed. During World War Two, 39 Squadron spent the majority of its time on the shores of the Mediterranean flying the Blenheim, Beaufort and Beaufighter. Initially as a strategic reconnaissance squadron, then as an anti-shipping squadron based out of Egypt and finally, based out of Italy conducting raids against infra-structure and supply lines in Yugoslavia. 1958 marked the start of 50 years of 39 Squadron flying the Canberra, tasked primarily with tactical and strategic reconnaissance. Over the years both the airframe and the equipment on board the Canberra saw continuous upgrade with the PR9 ultimately being deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick before the unit's disbandment in 2006. In January 2007, 39 Squadron became the RAF's first Remotely Piloted Air System squadron, with its headquarters at RAF Waddington but based at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, flying the General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper. When 39 Squadron disbanded in July 2022, it had flown MQ-9 for more than 90,000 operational hours.

RAF TYPHOONS WITH LUFTWAFFE:



RAF and German Air Force Typhoon jets have been conducting joint flights ready to carry out the first integrated NATO Air Policing operational scrambles together in Estonia.

The RAF personnel in Estonia, from 140 Expeditionary Air Wing, with RAF Lossiemouth based IX(Bomber) Squadron operating the RAF Typhoon FGR4, that have deployed. The Expeditionary Air Wing will take over the leadership of the long-established NATO Air Policing mission in Estonia from April. To achieve this integration, the personnel from the two air forces have trained together to fully understand each other's processes including maintenance and operating procedures. Both air forces fly the Eurofighter Typhoon, but there are national differences and for a joint detachment to fully integrate all aspects of the operations is a first. Now jets from each air force will fly together on live NATO controlled intercepts. The German Air Force detachment is from the 71 Tactical Air Wing 'Richthofen' and once they hand over the lead of the NATO Air Policing Mission in April, they will remain in Estonia till the end of April continuing to conduct integrated scrambles before returning to Germany. "Today marks a great 'first' for our two Air Forces. We have been working together for

some time and the level of cooperation has now reached a new level. It continues to be an absolute pleasure to work with our German allies on all aspects of our mission - from maintenance and operation of the jets to planning and logistic activities". Wing Commander MacColl, 140 Air Wing Commander.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DIG INTO MOD DATA:

DEFENCE archaeologists are using a new online database to protect heritage sites on military bases across the UK and abroad. This record will help manage finds including Bronze Age sites, Norman churches, medieval fields and Cold War facilities. Among them is the excavation of Roman buildings at Dreamer's Bay, an ancient port complex in Akrotiri, Cyprus, and Barrow Clump on Salisbury Plain. The MOD manages more than half of the government's historic sites. The database provides access to heritage records and condition buildings, 700 scheduled monuments and tens of thousands of archaeological finds on Defence land. The system captures remains at overseas sites including RAF Akrotiri, Gibraltar Naval Base and Mayan Temples on the British Army's training area in Belize.

DREAMLINER DELIVERY DELAY:



Boeing has suspended deliveries of the 787 Dreamliner following a new issue that was found in a part used near the front of the plane, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said on Thursday. Boeing is "conducting additional analysis on a fuselage component," the FAA said. "Deliveries will not resume until the FAA is satisfied that the issue has been addressed," it added.

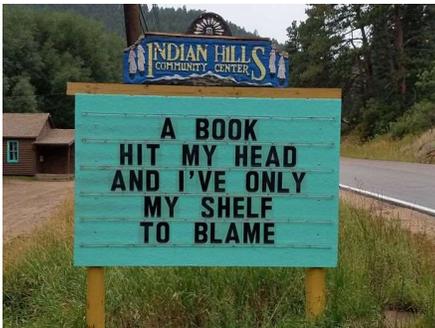
REMEMBER WHEN?



2 March 1969 - Concorde 001 made its first test flight from Toulouse. Reflecting the treaty between the British and French governments that led to Concorde's construction, the name Concorde is from the French word *concorde*, which has an English equivalent, *concord*. Both words mean agreement, harmony or union.

Construction of two prototypes began in February 1965: 001, built by Aérospatiale at Toulouse, and 002, by BAC at Filton, Bristol. Concorde 001 made its first test flight from Toulouse on 2 March 1969, piloted by André Turcat, and went supersonic on 1 October 1969.

STREET POSTERS THAT MAY INTEREST:



End of Issue 153 (extra).....