



LASER NEWS

Journal of the Air Cadet Headquarters London and South East Region



Supersonic Guest meets Essex Air Cadets



Wg Cdrs Andy Green (centre) & Glen Mayes, OC Essex Wg with Award Winners
Image by Rgn MCO LaSER

Essex Air Cadets met an inspiring visitor at their Annual Awards Presentation held at Shire Hall, in Chelmsford. The supersonic land speed record holder, Wing Commander Andy Green RAF, was the guest

speaker at the ceremony attended by over 300 cadets, staff and parents from Essex on Friday 16th March 06.

Supporting the evening were many civic leaders and top brass from the military, including The

Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, the Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford Councillor Firth, Air-vice Marshal Collins CB AFC, the President of Essex Wing Air Training Corps, and Group Captain Hakin OBE, Commandant, Air Cadets London & South East Region. Wg

Cdr Green said, there were many parallels between driving a supersonic jet-car and piloting RAF's fighter-jet, one of which was that both required support groups, "working as dedicated teams", the evidence of which are "all too apparent in the award winning cadets"

Spring/Summer 2007 In this issue

Regional Commandant's Message	
London Cadets help Commemorate Aviation History	2
LaSER's first Aerospace Camp	3
Annual Region Service at St Clement Danes	4
LaSER SNCOs reach Arnhem for Salvation Army	
Lewisham Cadets Climb to New Heights	5
History Time Travel for 282 (East Ham) Squadron	
LaSER Awards for Top Sports Cadets	6
LaSER Team secure 3rd place at Corps Cross Country	7
Sussex Wing - LaSER Media Competition Winners	
Special Mothers' Day presents from Two LaSER Air Cadets	8



Middlesex cadets- compelling subject for London Tonight's 3million viewers

Middlesex Cadets' African goodwill mission hits Regional TV

London Tonight, capital's daily evening TV news programme ran a series of reports on Middlesex Wing's Ghana Expedition, Jubilee Eagle.

The daily reports from the embedded reporter, Ben Scotchbrook were compelling

viewing for 3 million Londoners with frequent positive comments from Alastair Stewart, the programme's anchor man. The cadets took time out to help refurbish a village school during their adventure training expedition, winning admiration from local village elders.



Regional Commandant's Message

Horizons", appropriate, catchy and invented by LaSER, courtesy of Middlesex Wing!

Cadets come and go, but without keen, committed and enthusiastic adult staff the ACO goes nowhere.

Potential staff should be warmly welcomed into the Air Cadet family and be made to feel part of the unit they are joining. Alongside recruitment we should

be working hard to retain existing staff.

The system of CVQs is but one of the tangible rewards available to our adult staff for their work with cadets. Commandant AC is also working on some innovative awards for our stalwart volunteers for their investment in our young people. We in the Air Cadet Organisation should also seek even more volunteers from ex cadets, parents of cadets, relatives of cadets, who already

provide a rich vein of recruits. Once we have hooked our potential adult it is our job to ensure, by good leadership, training opportunities and fulfilling and rewarding tasks that they stay in the ACO.

My Message is clear and simple – recruit many, retain more!

*Gp Capt Hakin OBE RAFR
Regional Commandant
LaSER*

We are now on our recruitment campaign – primarily aimed at adult volunteers. The National slogan is "Expand your

London Cadets help Commemorate Aviation History

Cadets from London Wing witnessed the unveiling of the New Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Badge, housed in the Church of the Royal Air Force, St Cement Danes in Central London.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) commissioned a slate depicting the badge of the flight which has been laid in the floor of the church. The badge was unveiled on the 11 Feb 2007 in an especially poignant year for the Memorial Flight, as it is celebrating 50 years of

service since its formation in 1957. The Flight is a living, flying memorial to all those who flew, maintained and supported the RAF aircraft during wartime operations. Flt Lt Raj Patel, London Wing Ceremonial Officer said " BBMF represents a tangible link between the modern RAF and its forefathers, and continues to inspire in many young people a desire to serve this country in the air. It is of great importance that the next generation has pride in its own history and the sense of identity that this creates"



*Flt Lt Raj Patel with Sqn Ldr Al Pinner RAF, OC BBMF
Image by MCO London Wg*



LaSER's first Aerospace Camp



*Aircrew emergency drills
Image by LaSER Aerospace Officer*



*Merlin operational flying experience at RAF Benson
Image by LaSER Aerospace Officer*

London & South East Region ran its first Aerospace Leaders Camp at RAF Halton, in February 07, for 24 selected senior cadets, who are aspiring for careers in aerospace. The busy programme, led by Wg Cdr Chris Morrell, LaSER's Aerospace Officer, included presentations and visits, to military and civilian establishments.

Cadets visited British Airway's Operations Centre at Heathrow, getting an insight into, flight planning, pilots' briefings and maintenance of 747 and 777 aircraft engines. At the airline's Aircrew Training Facility cadets had an opportunity to experience emergency

evacuation drills from a simulated smoke filled aircraft. Real flying was also on the agenda on a visit to RAF Benson, when cadets boarded RAF's latest helicopter Merlin for some operational demonstration including ramp-lowered flying.

The group enjoyed a visit to the research establishment at Boscombe Down, where they met Director of QinetiQ Operations, and the Commanding Officer of the Empire Test Pilots' School. Cadets were given a tour of the hangers to see test aircrafts and met pilots and senior engineers who explained their roles and career progressions. Other visits included Duxford Museum and Marshall Aerospace at Cambridge.

Cadets' made a presentation in the Officers' Mess at Halton to

the Regional Commandant, Gp Capt Leslie Hakin, on their week's activities. A presentation on Air Power by Director Defence Studies, Gp Capt Neville Parton, rounded off the highly successful camp.

Future camps are planned for February 2008. The participation criteria will be for senior or staff cadets; minimum age 16, and with a significant interest in aerospace. Applications will be called for in September 2007.



LaSER senior cadets- Future Aerospace Leaders?



Essex Wing Contingent



Region Church Service

Annual Region Service at St Clement Danes

The Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication took place at St Clement Danes Church, the central church of the Royal Air Force, in the Strand, on Sunday 4th February 2007.

wings in the Region - Essex, Kent, London, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex - led by the Band of 1312(Southend-on-Sea) Squadron, formed a splendid sight as they marched from Lincoln's Inn Fields, down Kingsway and around Aldwych into St Clement Danes Church.

the Resident Chaplain, The Rev (Gp Capt) Richard Lee QHC, RAF and the Regional Chaplain, The Rev Christopher Miles, C Eng MIET, RAF (Rtd). The lessons were read by the best female and male cadets of the Region in 2006, Sergeant Joanna Belben RAF, currently undergoing aircrew training at the RAF College, Cranwell and formerly

of 308(Colchester) Squadron and Cadet Flight Sergeant Adam Coffey of 312 (City of Canterbury). Rev Lee preached a stimulating Sermon, taking in the history of the Church and our continuing part in the story. The prayers were arranged and led by the Rev Clifford Goble, Kent Wing Chaplain together with four cadets of Kent Wing.

Five hundred cadets of all six

The Church Service was led by



Lord & Lady Garden, Mrs Hakin & Gp Capt Hakin and Air Comdre Batt



Revs Clifford Goble & Christopher Miles, Rgn Chaplain

Images by Rgn MCO LaSER



LaSER SNCOs reach Arnhem for Salvation Army

Two LaSER cadets from 1341 (Thundersley) Squadron raised £700.97 for the Salvation Army Training Centre in Hadleigh, Essex.

Inst Cadet Sgt Edward Cerny (19) and Cadet Sgt James Morgan (17), (pictured), had spent much time preparing for the Nijmegen march, by attempting the gruelling 50 km a day march instead of the normal 40 km. Despite the march being cancelled on second day, due to excessive heat, the two SNCOs decided to aim for Arnhem in hired bicycles. They visited the Airborne Museum to pay their respects to the fallen heroes at the Arnhem War Memorial. Flt Lt King, OC 1341 (Thundersley) squadron said "The SNCOs are very keen and enthusiastic cadets, who worked extremely hard and were completely self-motivated. We



Image OC 1341 Sqn

are all very proud of their achievements".

Derek Bill deputy manager of the Salvation Army Training Centre

said "This means an awful lot to us. The two cadets have done an outstanding job, raising a substantial amount of money for

us. This particular money is for equipment for a new training kitchen we have installed and it will buy us a lot of equipment".

Lewisham Cadets Climb to New Heights



Cadet Nathan Priestnall, reaching new heights!

Image DMCO London Wg

January's miserable weather was not enough to dampen the spirits of thirty cadets and their instructors from 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron, who spent a weekend trying a range of exciting adventure training activities at Blackland Farm, West Sussex.

to take part in climbing a 30 ft wall, abseiling down a 10 metre tower, hurtle down a long zip wire above the trees, and archery lessons. Flt Lt Caroline Tracey, OC 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron said of her cadets, "They were really keen to learn, and were desperate to try everything. They gave 100%, and showed guts and a great sense of fun - they made it enjoyable for me to teach them".

The cadets had the opportunity



History Time Travel for 282 (East Ham) Squadron



Cadet Flynn laying his tribute at the railway tracks of the Auschwitz Concentration Camps
Image OC 282 Sqn

Nine members of 282 (East Ham) Squadron went on a historic adventure to Krakow in Poland, which included a visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camps.

The visit left a lasting impression on the whole group. The cadets saw evidence of Nazi's "industrial scale" programme to kill three million people. "It is hard to imagine that there was a time where people were murdered under such terrible circumstances and knowing that the Nazis were getting away with it for such a long time without no-one knowing, is just

horrifying", said a shocked ICWO Akhtar. To mark the occasion, Cadet Flynn placed a St. David's Cross on the railway at the entrance of Auschwitz II – Birkenau. The message on the cross read, "In loving memory, 282 (East Ham) Squadron, Air Training Corps".

Other more pleasurable visits included, lunch meeting at the British Consulate at Krakow, a trip to one of the biggest Aqua Park's in Europe and a tour of the amazing ancient 327 metres deep Wieliczka salt mine, known as "the underground salt cathedral of Poland".



LaSER Team secure 3rd place at Corps Cross Country



Image DRSO LaSER

LaSER cadets were successful at the Inter-Region Cross Country in January 2007 at RAF Cranwell.

The U15 Boys ran away with the 1st place trophy, the Junior Women came 2nd Junior Men 3rd, Under 15 Girls 4th and U17 Boys 5th. Overall the Region came 3rd, 6 points short of 2nd place

The following cadets will run for Corps on 31 March 2007.

Cdt D Wood 1374 Sqn Middlesex (2nd in the under 15 Boys Race)

Cdt T Pritchard 1015 Sqn Sussex (4th in the under 15 Boys Race)

Cpl C Grounds 54 Sqn Sussex (1st Junior Men Race)

Sgt I Penney 328 Sqn Surrey (2nd Junior Women Race)

LaSER Awards for Top Sports Cadets



Left: I/FS Trudie Lewis of 1838 (Elm Park) Sqn, London Wing - LaSER Sportswoman of the Year 2006. Right: I/FS Chris Wilce of 225 (Brighton No 1), Sussex Wing - LaSER Sportsman of the Year 2006

Image DRSO LaSER

Deputy Region Sports Officer writes: Trudie represented her Squadron at Athletics, gained a Wing Blue for Swimming and Netball and gained a Corps Blue for Hockey. She is the Deputy Sports Officer on her Squadron whilst also actively promoting sports throughout London Wing. She is a Level 1 Hockey Umpire, Netball Umpire, a Rugby Referee, has also completed a Community Sports Leaders Award and holds a Step into Sport qualification. At Wing and Region levels I/FS Lewis has assisted with the coaching of the Junior and Senior Hockey and Netball Teams and lead the Region Senior Hockey Team to Victory for the first time in it's history as the Captain.

Chris represented his Squadron at

Athletics and Swimming, gained a Wing Blue for Soccer, a Region Blue at Cross Country and gained a Corps Blue for Rugby. He is 225 Squadron's Sports NCO and is keen to promote sport amongst his peers and actively encourages others. Chris has completed the Community Sports Leaders Award and holds a National Foundation Rugby Referee Certificate (Pt 1) and a Sports First Aid Certificate. He assists his Wing Sports Officer by organising, training and managing the Wing Junior and Senior Rugby Teams. FS Wilce would like to be a Physical Training Instructor in the Royal Air Force.

Both cadets were presented with £50 cheque and a trophy at the Inter-Wing Cross-country at RAF Uxbridge in Dec 06.

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Sussex Wing - LaSER Media Competition Winner

Sussex Wing won LaSER's 2006 Media Competition, judged by a panel consisted of the Regional Commandant, Region MCO and the Essex Wing MCO. The winners listed below both received a Digital Compact camera each. For 2007 Media

Competition details contact your Wing MCO.

PHOTO (CADET) COMPETITION - FS Catherine Rattle, 2530 Sqn Sussex Wg; for a near perfect image of a cadet planning/studying the OS map at the camp -site with the sun setting in the background

through the trees.

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS - Flt Lt Hearn-Grinham, OC 225 (Brighton NO1) Sqn Sussex Wg; for local press coverage,(with two images), of the Sqn members in a Tristar KCI as part of the RAF Flypast on HM Queen's Birthday over Buckingham Palace.

Special Mothers' Day presents from Two LaSER Air Cadets



Sgt Amy Morgan with mum Julie.

Image by Rgn MCO LASER



CWO Kristina Pisano with mum Susan

Image by Rgn MCO LASER

Two London and South East Region, (LaSER), Air Cadets gave very special presents to their mums on the mothering weekend. Cadet Sergeant Amy Morgan, (16), and Cadet Flight Sergeant Kristina Pisano, (19), gave the best presents any mum could wish for, by being recipients of awards for outstanding Air Cadet Service.

Amy of 1341 (Thundersley) Squadron was named Air Cadet of the Year-2006 for Essex, at their Annual Awards Presentation held at Shire Hall, in Chelmsford. A very proud mum Julie said, "I am absolutely surprised by my daughter's award and the

whole family is very proud of Amy's achievements".

Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, The Lord Imbert QPM JP, appointed ICWO Kristina Pisano, from 241 (Wanstead & Woodford) Squadron, as the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for 2006. The presentation of certificate by Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL, took place at Fulham Territorial Army Centre, Headquarters of London's Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. Kistina's mum Susan said, "I am very pleased for Kristina, and glad her hard work and commitment has been recognised". Both the cadets are hoping to join the Royal Air Force after completing their higher education.



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