

208 Squadron 'Valley Wings' Article – November 2014

As 2014 draws to a close, 208 Sqn looks back at a long and productive year. In the 11 months since January, the mighty Sphinx has flown nearly 3000hrs (13% of that flown by Sqn Ldr Arlett) in over 12 different countries; graduated 8 students to the Front Line; 3 IDT students to Saudi; refreshed 20 pilots for RAFAT and 100 Sqn, and worked up 3 new QFIs. On top of that we have currently 4 Kuwaitis, 6 RAF and 2 RN students on course . not a bad effort from a Sqn of only 14 QFIs (inc. the Execs) and total aircraft strength of 10 jets.

Recently we graduated Stu "You may have seen me in such BFBS films as..." Roberts and Steve "AD God" Iwanek to the Frontline. They have been streamed Tornado . Enjoy Lossie! Wait...What do you mean that was a spoof? Where've then gone then? Typhoon?! Well in that case, nice one guys...but don't worry, you still get to endure sometime at Lossie!

TW 80 KAF are still progressing through the Range phase, hampered by the return of the glorious Welsh winter weather. We hope the guys can complete the harassment of South Wales before Christmas and return in the New Year for the pleasure of Air Combat.

V149 are now at the end of their AFT dream, having progressed at some haste and will come back in January to the delights of Tac Wpns. The students have already opened the book of *Druid Spells* and started their rituals to please the Prembrey weather gods. Fingers crossed youd hopefully miss out on the standard weather impediment!



V149 struggle with the pace of FJ flying

We welcome the new course, V150, comprising of: Flt Lt Michael Newsome, Tristan Le Lohé, Robert Curran and Fg Off Adam O'Hare (Lesley, we may need you for translation) who have been released from Ground School into the affectionate hands of Mostyn Payne. After their long course at Linton and multiple holds, the guys are determined to get their solos on the mighty T1 squeezed in before the Christmas leave. Gents welcome to the premier training unit and good luck for the rest of the course.

Onto Staff News. Frenchie (an ex Tuncano QFI and Seaking Pilot) has completed his conversion on the jet and is now at in the hands of C Flt for his AFT QFI work up.

Crazy Bruce and Charlie Butterfingers have been enduring Sawley's endless nibbing as they worked towards their A2. Crazy achieved his in mid Oct and Charlie after a slight detour via his Defence Train the Trainer's Training Trainer course has taken a several month delay. Massive well done Crazy; it's a great accomplishment to achieve . enjoy having your evenings back.



Neil, Andy and James enjoy a night under the stars

Kingers, after completing over 6000 hrs of Duty Pilot and Duty Auth has finally been let loose in the cockpit after his biking escapades 6 months ago. Enjoy your rest bite from the relentless ground duties - get some more QFI hours under your belt and avoid any further Mach 1 Shaving rashes! In other newsõ Dudsõ enjoy the deskõ

The Sqn also welcomes SAC Finley Hanslip who has been released from the Tower. Finn, I'm sure Sean is really happy you've joined the team - he can get some much deserved leave in now.

The Sqn's AT aspiration for the year has been accomplished! Ex Million Feet, climbing 1.1 million feet to represent the 1.1 million flying hours of the legendary Hawk T1 was completed over the past year with AT days all over Snowdonia. On most of the days the team endured the harsh Welsh weather whilst conquering such ranges as the Glyderau, Carneddau and Yr Wyddfa or completing different mountain bike courses throughout the National Park. 208 completed the challenge on Fri 14 Nov with the final ascent of Snowdon.



Completion of Ex Million Feet

From all on 208 Sqn, we wish you a Nadolig Llawen and we all pray that Hurricane Glyn D r doesn't re-attack this New Year!!!!