

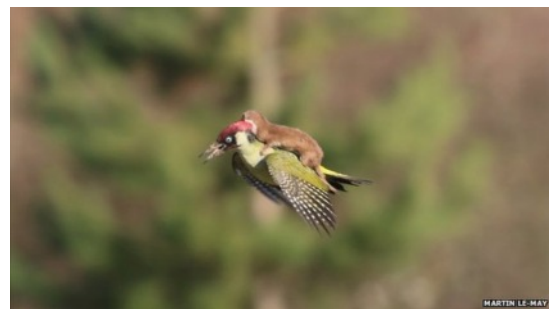
208 Squadron 'Valley Wings' Article March 2015

A warm welcome from Corsica! At the time of this submission, the mighty 208 Squadron will have just deployed with 6 jets to FAF Solenzara. The guys will be conducting Air Combat Training for Tactical Weapons (TW) Course 82 and Close Formation for V150, along with other staff training in the 10 day detachment. The remaining 208 contingent will continue holding up the fort by completing TW course 81 KAF's medium level CAS phase.

Since returning in January, TW81 KAF have endured the relentless 1 v 1 and 2 v 1 air combat phase, protecting Valley's airspace from the endless persistence of the *Independent Cornish Air force*. Other than the odd sore neck and the occasional strained eyes, the course has battled through and now has the end in sight. They have a few low level sorties to get them proficient in the low level environment before they progress onto evasion and the final Op sorties. Guys keep up the hard work; not long until you get to return home!

TW82 have concluded their successful harassment of Pembrey range in South Wales and now move into the air combat arena. Unlike the poor fellows of TW81, TW82 have been given the pleasure of (hopefully) nice, Corsican weather instead of the unyielding Welsh wind. To make sure all things are equal, they will be *rewarded* French Ground Controlled Interceptors for their 2 v 1 training...pas de chance! V150 are steadily advancing through the AFT syllabus having completed their: Night flying; general handling all the way to Progress Check; and a fair chunk of the low level navigation phase - all since returning from the Christmas grant. They have deployed to Solenzara to complete their Close Formation phase. I hope you enjoyed the 0345 wheels to get to Manchester and then the mad rush across Paris to make your flight transfers?

Departing the 208 family, after a measly 2 years on the Sqn, Flt Lt Mark "Most-yn" Payne has been pilfered by "The Others" and started ground school with Neil Battersby. In fairness this suited Mostyn as he prefers not to fly and a long ground school will make him very happy – good luck on your new Sqn...traitor...



Mostyn's Final Flight



Neil and Mostyn Leave 208 Sqn for the *Darkside*



In The Face!!!

Suzanna Sawle, Tom's long suffering wife has delivered their first son, William Donald Sawle, who unlike his father, arrived early – Sawley are you sure this is your son...? From the Sqn, congrats to you both; enjoy the saga of sleepless nights...again.

We also welcome to the 208 Family: Wg Cdr Chris "Fiddler" Kidd, who returns to Valley after a tour on the GR4 and the delights of Air Command. He is currently mid-way through his TW QFI work up but will be taking a slight pause when Elise gives birth in the near future; Sqn Ldr Nic "Wes" Wesley, who has return to Valley and TW after many years prancing around in Air Cadet gliders - I hope the transition between ridiculously slow and 420kts isn't too painful; and finally we welcome Flt Lt Keith "Fruitbat" Frewin who also returns to Valley but this time as an AFT QFI. The past few years, Fruitbat has been tinkering with Tutors with CFS at Cranwell but will now stand up as the AFT CFS Examiner – Creamies, with your A2s on the horizon start getting your bribes in now!

In final but highly exciting news, XX350 has rolled out of the major servicing programme and onto the line. "What's so special about that?" I hear you cry. XX350 is the Sqn aircraft that has been painted up to celebrate the Centenary of WW1 when 208 Sqn was formed. The jet has its rear section painted in the Sqn colours of the War and has the names Sqn Cdr Bromet DSO and Flt Cdr Huskisson DSC, detailed next to the cockpits to honour them as the Sqn's first bravery Medal recipients. 208 Sqn would like to thank the RAF Valley paint shop and the Babcock Major team XX350 looks great and is testament to the skills of those involved with this aircraft project.

Until next time air combat over the Mediterranean is calling followed by French cuisine.....Au revoir.



XX350 in WWI Paint Scheme



XX350 Maintenance Test Flight



XX350 in Flight



XX350 Rear Section