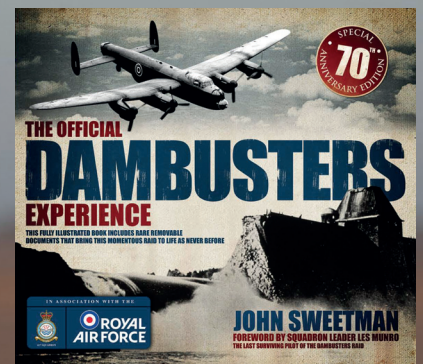


R'n'R

Win Dambusters books

● P5



The big interview

Man of the world – adventurer Jason Lewis

● P4

Inside

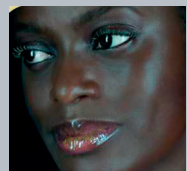
Win!

Tickets to stage show of top TV comedy ● P3
Bomber Command books ● P5

Regulars
Announcements ● P6-7
Prize Crossword & Su Doku ● P8



RED ARROWS Team Manager, Sqn Ldr Ruth Shackleton, will sing opera solos at a concert at Lincoln Cathedral on April 20 for RAF charities. For tickets email: rafat-manager@mod.uk.



Here's Ruth's iPod Top 10:

- 1 **Salvatore Licitra**
Vide Cor Meum
- 2 **Dimitri Shostakovich**
Piano Concerto No2 in F
Opus 2 Andante
- 3 **Richard Strauss**
Beim Schalfengehen
- 4 **Sergei Rachmaninoff**
Rhapsody on a theme from Paganini
- 5 **Bedrich Smetana**
Die Moldau – Vltava Ma Vlast
- 6 **Kristina Train**
Dream Of Me
- 7 **The Average White Band**
Pick Up The Pieces
- 8 **Des'ree (pictured above)**
I'm Kissing You
- 9 **Lionel Ritchie**
Dancing on the Ceiling
- 10 **Jackie Wilson**
Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher

The big interview Jason Lewis

Global challenge

How to tackle crocs and circumnavigation

THERE AREN'T many people who can legitimately describe themselves as a 'professional adventurer' – but Jason Lewis is one of those few.

The first person to circumnavigate the globe by human power, he's written a book *Dark Waters*, about his amazing achievement and will be appearing at literature festivals over the next few months to talk about how he managed to keep going for 13 years to complete his Herculean task.

Described by the *Daily Mail* as 'arguably, the most remarkable adventurer in the world today', the author, explorer and 'voice for global sustainability', now in his mid-40s, started the challenge in 1994 with friend Stevie Smith and finished it in 2007. On the way he overcame malaria, septicaemia, survived a crocodile attack in Australia and arrest in Syria on suspicion of spying.

Jason explained: "By human power means without assistance from any motors, so I was cycling, hiking, roller-blading, rowing, kayaking and swimming.

"The crocodile attack happened so fast – the croc mistook my kayak for an impostor. When the attack happened I just dealt with it, I was more scared afterwards. I fended



INTREPID: Jason's expedition included biking through Nepal, above. His book about his amazing adventure, below
PHOTO: KENNY BROWN

it off with my paddle, which the croc broke in half. Luckily I wasn't injured. I had a satellite phone with me and called a croc expert for advice. I ended up spending the night up a headland with the croc patrolling in the water below me. By the morning it had gone. I got no sleep – I was kept awake by mosquitoes all night."

His incarceration in Syria was, not surprisingly, another frightening time.

Jason said: "I was crossing from Syria to Egypt by bike, my Sudanese visa ran out while I was waiting for one into Egypt and I was arrested by border security as I was in the country illegally.

"I was interrogated for a couple of days – they didn't believe my story that I was just a stupid tourist.

"I had taken photos at the border and they charged me with espionage – that carried a 40-year sentence. I thought I would never see my family again.

"Then a fax machine in the corner of the room spat out my permission from the Ministry in Cairo to go there, so I was free to leave."

Jason decided against following

expedition as an educational tool so being able to share it with young people also kept me going.

"At the start I was using a sextant, by the end I was using the full complement of satellite technology and had a whole entourage of people following my progress. I didn't want to let any of them down."

He visited hundreds of schools worldwide and used Expedition 360 to help establish numerous educational programs.

He said: "The big thing for me is that an expedition has to have a point to it and that's where our educational foundation has come in, using the expedition as an educational tool.

"My particular interest is in sustainability – and there was an environmental aspect to my whole journey. I learnt to adapt to survive on the ocean on a little boat, then I applied what I learnt, about living within my means, to my life on land."

His advice to would-be adventurers is to have a point to your expedition and to commit to it: "Think 'what else can I do with this other than just for my own benefit? If you have a dream the main thing is to commit to it because there are so many reasons why it doesn't happen.

"Stevie and I stepped off a cliff at one point during the planning for our expedition – we took a leap of faith and, in my experience, that played out."

Dark Waters The Expedition True Story of the First Human-Powered Circumnavigation of the Earth (Billyfish Books, £13.50) is a finalist for the US Foreword Review Book of the Year and a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award.

Jason will be appearing at the Chipping Norton Literary Festival on April 21, at the Stratford-Upon-Avon Literary Festival on April 27, in Swindon on May 6 and in Arundel on May 18.

● For more information visit: www.chiplitfest.com and jasonexplorer.com.

INTERVIEW BY Tracey Allen



Competition

Win *The Official Dambusters Experience*

by John Sweetman

Carlton, £30 www.carltonbooks.co.uk

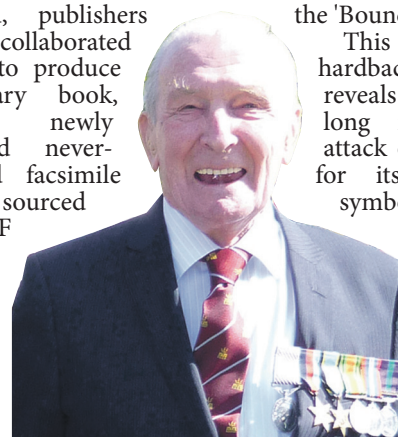


Iconic raid's official story

THE DARING 'Dambusters' raid on May 17, 1943, when a special force of British Avro Mark III Lancasters attacked and destroyed the Möhne and Eder Dams in Germany, was one of the iconic moments of World War II.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of WWII's most audacious raid, publishers Carlton have collaborated with the RAF to produce an extraordinary book, containing newly researched and never-before-published facsimile documents sourced from the RAF archives.

With a foreword by Les Munro, the last surviving pilot of the raid, *The Official*



Dambusters Experience by John Sweetman, out now, tells the story behind the attack, and re-lives the attack itself under the leadership of Wing Commander Guy Gibson, as he and his men deployed, for the first time, the devastating new secret weapon developed by brilliant scientist Barnes Wallis, the 'Bouncing Bomb'.

This fascinating hardback, pictured right, reveals how the hours-long raid, a pinpoint attack on a target chosen for its economic and symbolic value, took many months of development and planning.

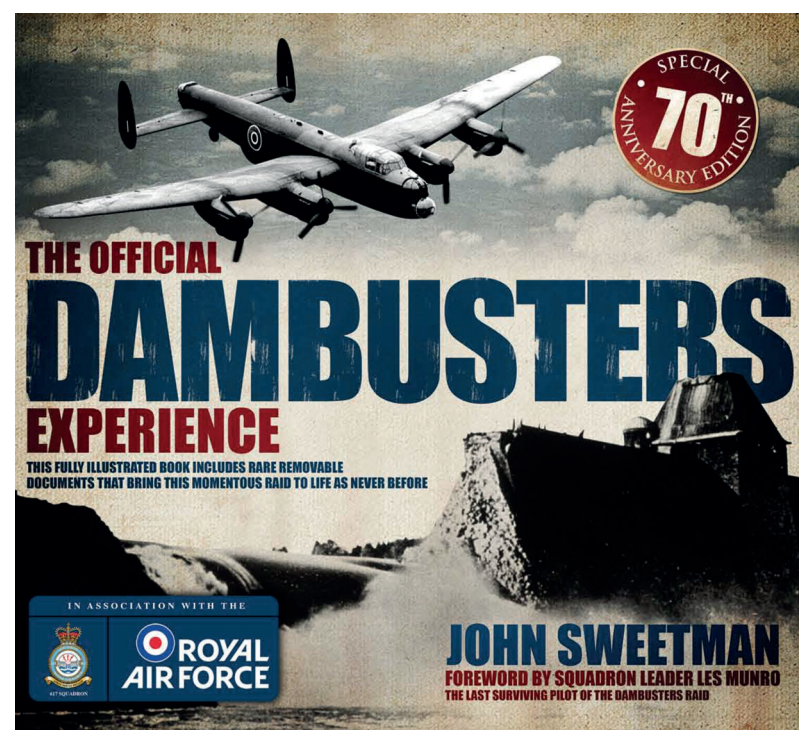
Fully illustrated and accompanied by beautifully reproduced

memorabilia surrounding the raid, from log-books and flight-plans to eye-witness accounts of the damage inflicted on the dams, this unique homage to the famous Dambusters – 617 Sqn – is an essential companion to one of the war's most exciting and memorable moments.

Les Munro said: "As one that took part on the Dams Raid... I never thought for one moment that I would take part in an operation that would be recognised at the time and subsequent years as a major event in the history of the British war effort in the air."

John Sweetman is one of Britain's most renowned military historians. He is Honorary Research Fellow at Keele University and former Head of Defence and International Affairs at Sandhurst.

He has written many books on WWII including *The Dambusters Raid*, *Tirpitz: Hunting the Beast* and



Bomber Crew: Taking on the Reich.

We have five copies of *The Official Dambusters Experience* to win. For your chance to win one, simply answer this question correctly: *Which famous RAF Squadron was known as 'the Dambusters'?*

Email you answer, marked *The Official Dambusters Experience*

competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, RAF High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4UE to arrive by April 26.

HERO: Dambuster Sqn Ldr George 'Johnny' Johnson, left, was a bomb-aimer on the Lancaster with 617 Squadron



Theatre

Driving Miss Daisy

On tour nationwide www.daisyontour.co.uk

Don does it his way



DON WARRINGTON says there's no point in resenting the fact that people still identify him with Philip Rigsby's posh tenant, in the classic 1970s TV sitcom *Rising Damp*.

The Shakespearean actor, who recently starred in the BBC drama *Death In Paradise*, is currently treading the boards as chauffeur Hoke Coleburn, pictured above, in the stage adaptation of *Driving Miss*

Daisy, sharing the stage with Gwen Roberts who plays the eponymous prickly southern matriarch.

Don said: "There would be very little point in resenting it, it's not something I carry with me. That's how it is until I manage to do something else that eclipses it."

He describes Hoke (famously played by Morgan Freeman in the film version) as 'honest, shrewd, intelligent and with a sense of humour.'

The play, he said 'deals with the body politic, in that we are all controlled to some extent by the political situations we live in whether we like it or not.'

The distinguished actor, who has worked with the National Theatre, and at the Bristol Old Vic and starred in TV ads for Kenco coffee, plans to film more *Death In Paradise* as The Commissioner after the *Driving Miss Daisy* tour ends, then return to the stage with 'a new play in the theatre', he said.



Competition

Win *The Red Line* by John Nichol

Collins, £20 www.harpercollins.co.uk



Human story of night of war

DEDICATED TO all the members of Bomber Command, Gulf War hero John Nichol's new book, *The Red Line*, tells the story of the night of March 30, 1944 when 795 RAF aircraft set out for Nuremberg – 10 aircraft and 700 men did not return.

More men from Bomber Command died on that single night in World War II than the total RAF losses during the whole of the four-month-long Battle of Britain.

The raid that evening began as a 'run-of-the-mill' operation the RAF

and the USAF were involved in every week. It ended with Bomber Command's heaviest losses of the war.

The Red Line sheds fresh light on the story of this disaster. Former navigator Flt Lt Nichol, shot down and captured during the first Gulf War, has interviewed the few surviving veterans of the raid, British and German, on the ground and in the air, to tell the human story of one night at war.

We have five copies of *The Red Line* to win. For your chance to win one, simply answer this question correctly: *What was John Nichol's rank when he was shot down in the first Gulf War?*

Email your answer, marked *The Red Line* competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, RAF High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4UE to



arrive by April 26.

AUTHOR: John Nichol at the Bomber Command Memorial, left,