THE RAF IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY

RAF Life:

At Home
On Deployment
On Duty
RAF LIFE:
AT HOME

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FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JULIE GIBSON’S MESS DRESS HANDBAG

1990s

RAF units hold formal but friendly dinners for their officers and visiting guests when special mess dress must be worn. This bag belonged to Julie Gibson, who became the RAF’s first female regular officer to graduate as an RAF pilot in 1991.
ROYAL AIR FORCE CYCLING JERSEY

1990s

Over 70 different sports disciplines are played in the RAF. Sport is encouraged to maintain fitness and to develop qualities such as respect, excellence and team spirit.
Charities such as RAFA, the RAF Benevolent Fund and the RAF Charitable Trust offer support to serving and former RAF personnel and their families.
RAF LIFE:
ON DEPLOYMENT
British forces in Germany were gradually withdrawn following the end of the Cold War in 1990. This tankard marks the closure of RAF Bruggen in 2001, ending a continuous RAF presence in Germany since 1945.
Markets, shops, restaurants and sports facilities were established on Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan to provide entertainment for the multi-national population of over 25,000 service personnel. This souvenir was purchased from a stallholder.
CORPORAL
SONY CAMPBELL'S
BIBLE

2007

This bible provided comfort to Sony Campbell, a ground Aerospace Systems Operator, on deployment in Afghanistan. Sony’s story can be explored in the RAF Stories exhibition in Hangar 1.
Information packs are given to the next-of-kin of a serviceman or woman on their deployment overseas. They contain details of how to keep in touch and the support available for families and partners.
Guides such as this are issued to servicemen and women prior to deployment overseas. They provide up-to-date operational information and best practice for personnel to use in their operations and training.
RAF LIFE: ON DUTY
RAF UNIFORM BADGES

1980s–2010s

Fewer than 10% of RAF personnel are aircrew. These badges represent just a small selection of the variety of trades and units that support the RAF in the delivery of their mission.