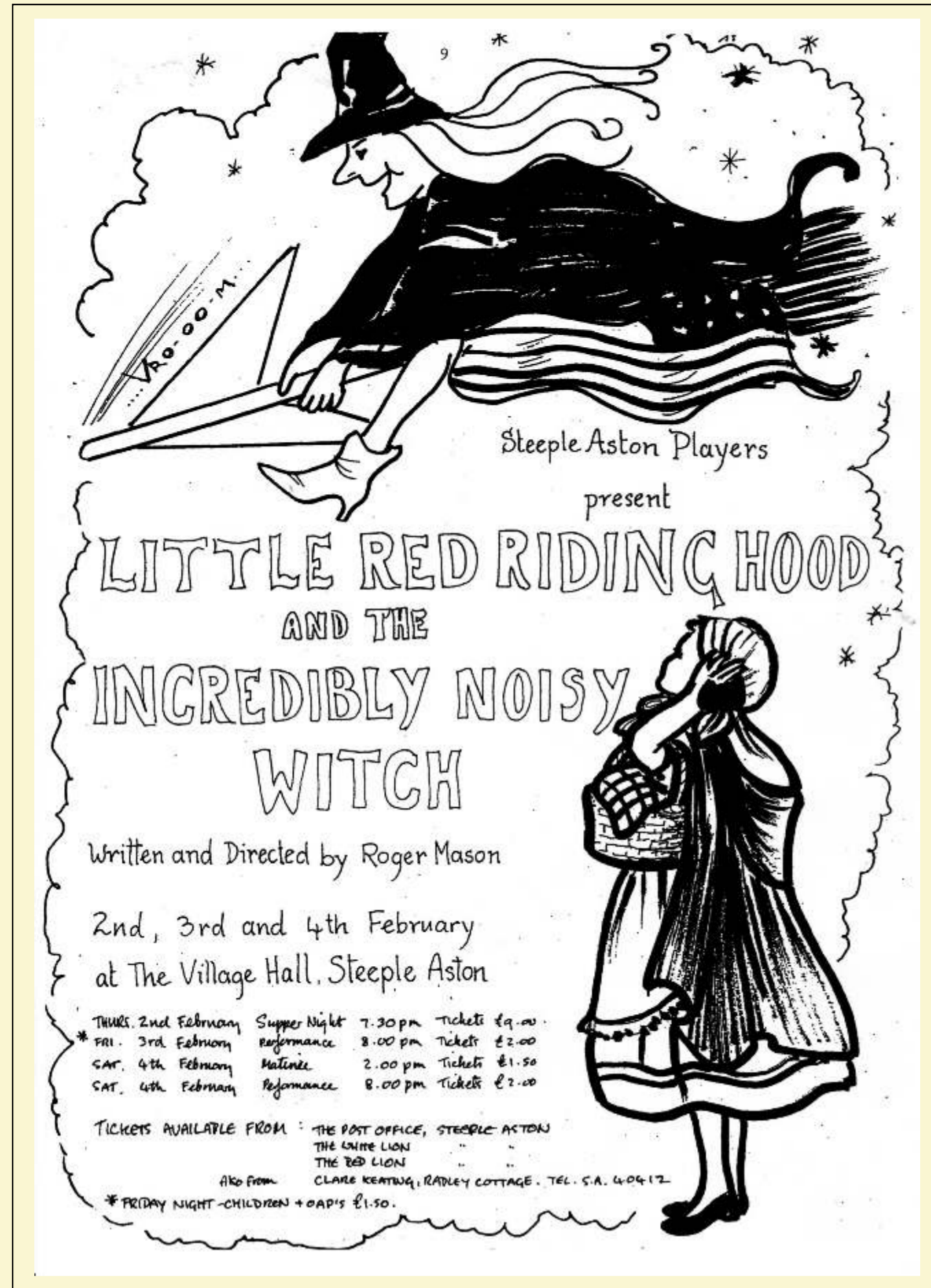
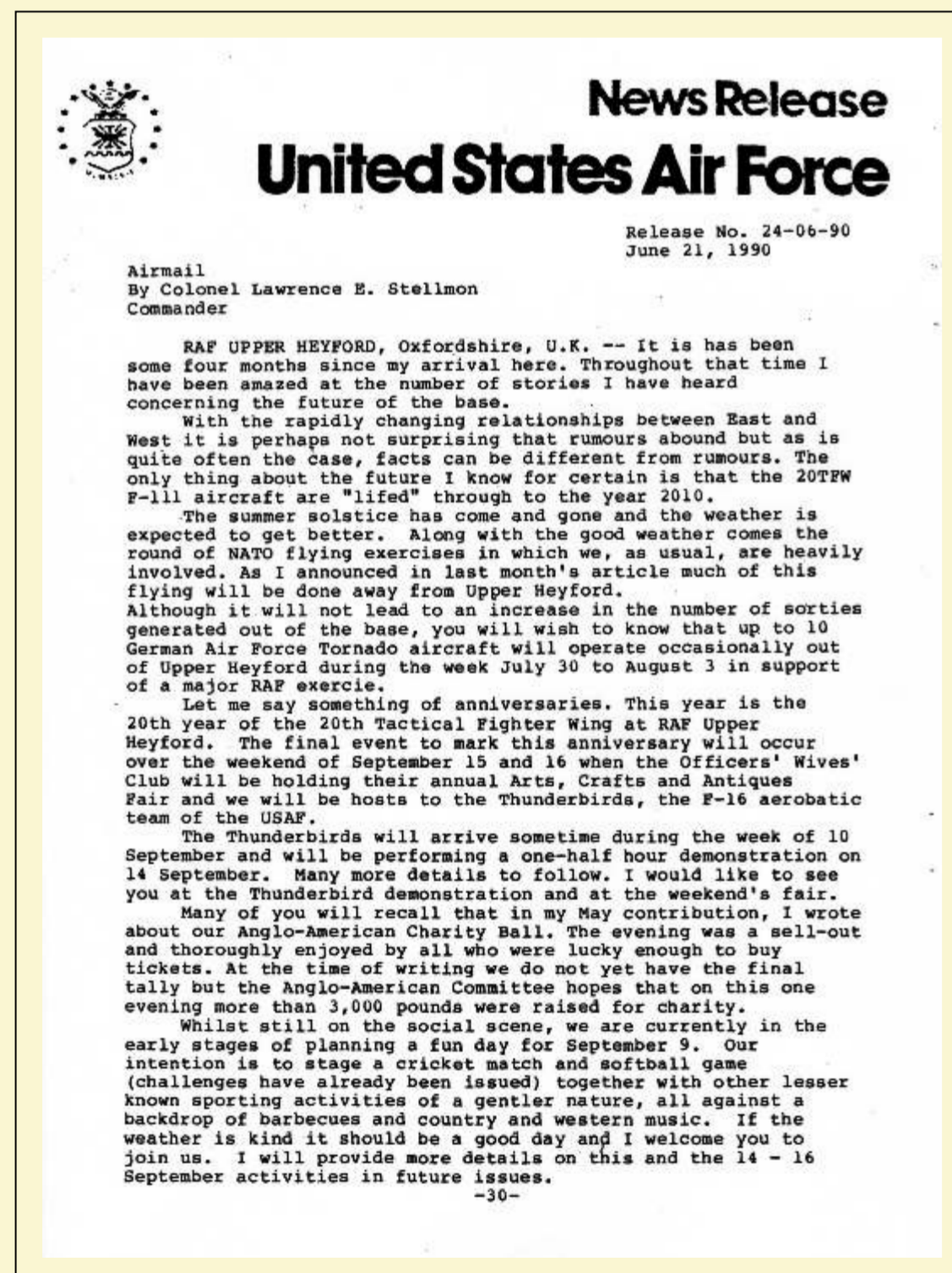


THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 5



January 1990: SAL carries this promotion poster for a pantomime by the Steeple Aston Players of "Little Red Riding Hood and the Incredibly Noisy Witch". Representatives of the Base are invited to attend. They politely decline.



1990 to 1991

- 1990 March: Two airmen die in a training exercise in The Wash.
- May: Defend Steeple Aston raise press and media publicity encouraging villagers to contact newspapers and relevant public bodies.
- June: Reported 90,000 spectators at air show.
- August: Gulf War begins. Iraq invades and annexes Kuwait.
- 1991
- February 5th: It is announced that USAF Upper Heyford will be "drawn down". F-111s will return to the United States starting in 1992 and will only return "periodically" to take part in training and exercises.
- February 28th: Gulf War ends.

1990 February SAL: a report that property values have fallen by 15-20%.

April SAL gives notice of huge air show planned for May 6th with NATO, US Army, Navy, vintage aircraft and Red Arrows Display team.

June SAL reports complaints about resulting noise, fuel stench and traffic congestion from the May air show.

July In nearly every edition of SAL during this period, The Base Commander produces a USAF News Release bulletin at the same time as Defend Steeple Aston delivers its own report.

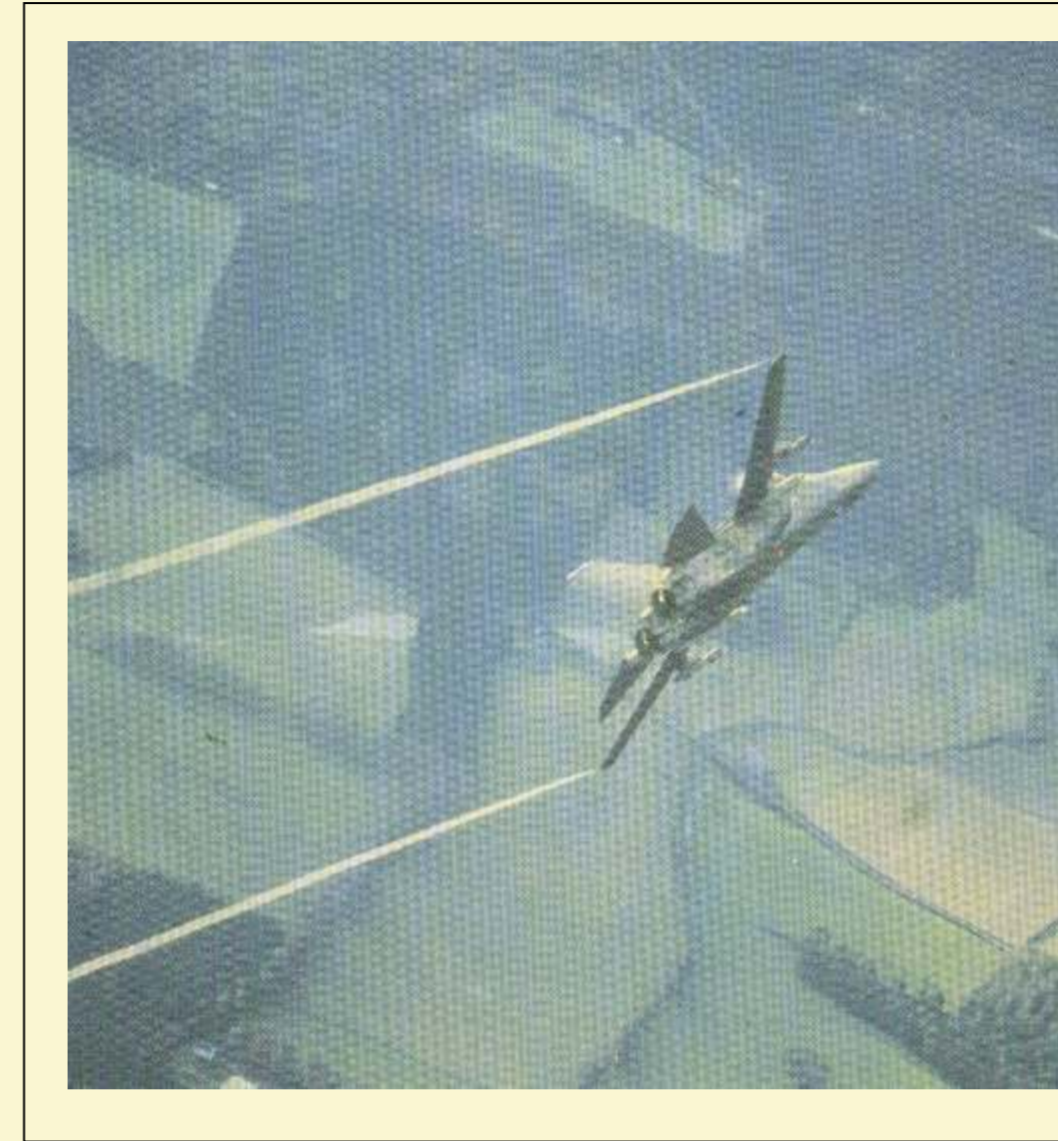
November "News Release" acknowledges "rumours about the future of the Base". PC reports a meeting instigated by Tony Baldry with Cherwell and Parish councillors asking about the consensus of opinion locally regarding the future of the Base. PC and Defend Steeple Aston decide to stick to the emphasis on reducing noise and compensation claims rather than campaigning for Base closure.

1991 January. "News Release" admits to many complaints about outdoor ground testing of engines, especially as the new facilities for "hush houses" are not yet ready.

"News Release" confirms the change of status at the Base. Colonel Stelman states concern about the 1,000 civilian jobs at USAF Upper Heyford. "Defend Steeple Aston" express relief that the "uncertainties and speculations of the last few months are behind us" but are still concerned by the implications of "stand-by" status.

April "Defend Steeple Aston" point out inconsistencies in proposals about future flying at the Base. USAF have exaggerated the rate of withdrawal and the MOD have been vague about future plans. There is a great deal of flying from the Base, mostly in transporting men and equipment. The campaign will continue. "News Release" apologises for so much activity and emphasises the dispatching of food aid to the Kurdish people.

June/July Two letters from villagers critical of "the selfish few" who wish the Base gone, especially on the grounds of the employment to locals it has provided.



UNITED NATIONS GULF ACTION
Anglo American Gulf Support Group

From: Sir Mark Norman, Bt., DL., Chairman.
The Anglo American Community Relations Committee for RAF Upper Heyford and Croughton may need your help. If you live within reasonable distance of the military contingency hospitals at RAF Bicester or RAF Little Rissington, please read on.
United Nations military action in the Gulf is likely to cause casualties, some of whom may transit through or stay longer at these local hospitals. Casualties could be from any of the participating nations.
The Gulf Support Group seeks a limited number of volunteers willing, if called upon, to help in various ways. The Group is compiling a register of local people willing to volunteer. If you feel that you can offer positive voluntary assistance under any of the headings below, please complete and return this form.

UNITED NATIONS GULF ACTION
Anglo American Gulf Support Group

1/We should like to be registered as volunteer/s willing to assist, if called upon, in the following way/ways:

1. Accommodation for relatives of casualties
Preferred period: up to 3 days
2. Convalescent residence
Preferred period: up to 1 week
3. "Friends of the Hospital" work
Nursing and Welfare
4. Driving
(Own appropriately insured vehicle necessary)
5. Any other volunteer skills (please specify)

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

Please Return to: The Community Relations Adviser
(attn: Gulf Support Group)
21776/CBA
RAF Upper Heyford
OX15 3JL

