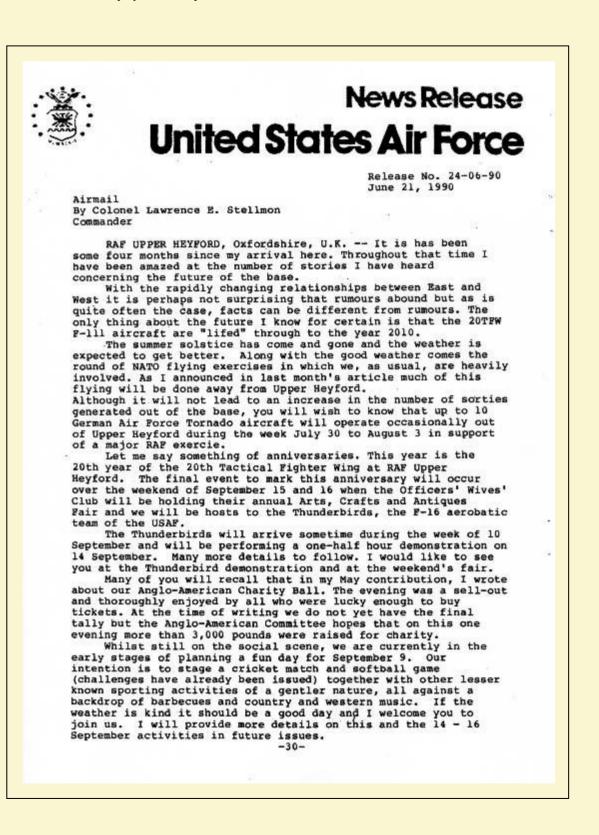


January 1990: SAL carries this promotion poster for a pantomime by the Steeple Aston Players of "Little Red Riding Hood and the Incredibly Noisy Witch". Representatives of the Base are invited to attend. They politely decline.



## THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 5

#### 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 5<sup>th</sup>: 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 28<sup>th</sup>: 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

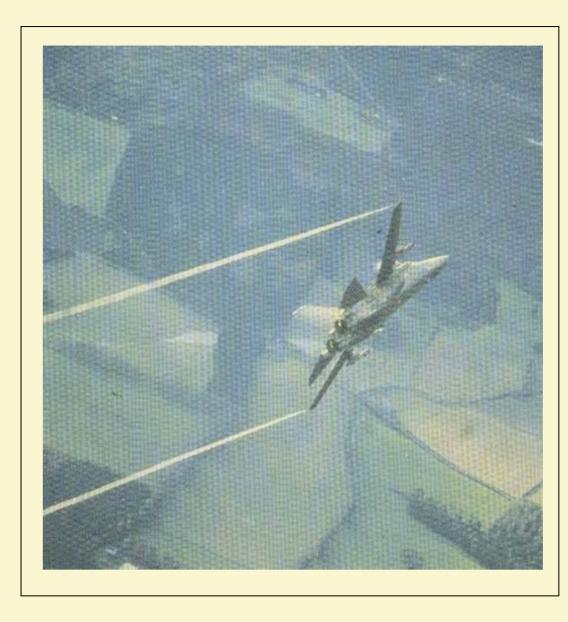
November "News Release" acknowledges "rumours about the future of the Base". PC reports a meeting instigated by Tony Baldry with Cherwell and Parish councillors asking about the consensus of opinion locally regarding the future of the Base. PC and Defend Steeple Aston decide to stick to the emphasis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

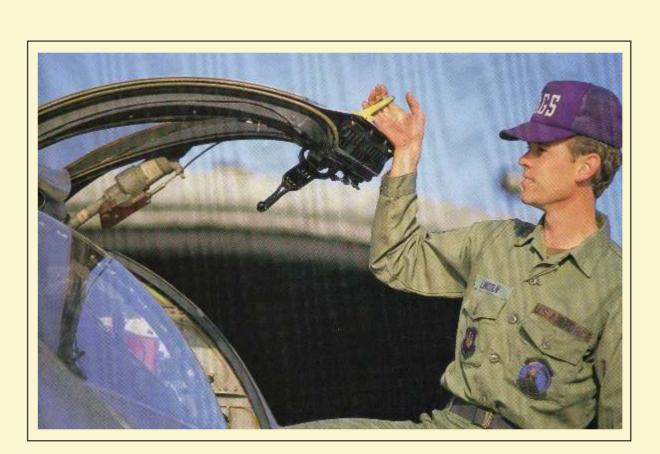
.991 January. "News Release" admits to many complaints about outdoor ground testing of engines, especially as the new facilities for "hush houses" are not yet ready.

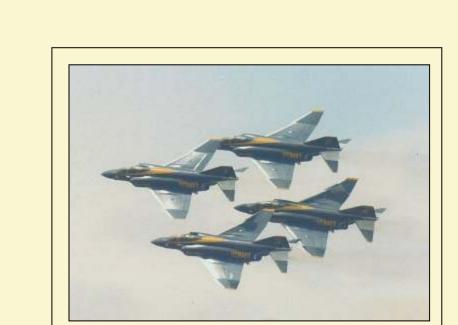
"News Release" confirms the change of status at the Base. Colonel Stelman states concern about the 1,000 civilian jobs at USAF Upper Heyford. "Defend Steeple Aston" express relief that the "uncertainties and speculations of the last few months are behind us" but are still concerned by the implications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

"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.







News Release

**United States Air Force** 

that I write my last magazine column for Steeple Aston Life.

general, announced by Air Force officials on Jan. 8.

Headquarters in Ramstein, Germany, within a month. Sweet, because it comes as a result of my selection for promotion to brigadier

In these short 18 months in command of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know many of you in the community. In most cases, your understanding and acceptance of our mission overcame the disruption in your

lives caused by our aircraft noise. For those active in the Defend Steeple Aston group, I respect the basis for your cause and salute the skill and at times restraint, that you displayed in

believe I was able to gauge sentiment and I appreciate you sharing your thoughts with me. Further, for those of you who wrote, communicating your support, it was heartwarming. My major

alternatives. I can only join with you in hoping that the major events in Bastern Europe will stay stable and eventually result in a reduction in the need for NATO's current level of forces. We are justly proud of our contribution to the long standing peace in

interesting areas. Barbara and I grew to love the Cherwell Valley and all the villages that make it so pleasant. Thank you, again, for being so kind and I would ask that you continue your support

C.S. public holiday, no F-111 flying.
 Enlisted Wives Club Bazaar.

- U.K. public holiday, no F-111 flying. - Anglo-American Charity Ball. - U.K./U.S. public holidays, no F-111 flying.

Burope -- and will continue to stand ready.

You are blessed with one of the world's prettiest and most

Feb. 1: Mar. 31 Apr. 13 May 6 May 7 May 19 May 28

carrying out your campaign.

As I traveled around the area and talked to many of you, I

frustration was the inability to find a solution to the problem that was paramount on your minds. My charter to ensure mission readiness and safety was truly in conflict with all the viable

20TFW/PA APO NY 09194 AY 263-4038

RELEASE NO. 03-01-90

### UNITED NATIONS GULF ACTION Angle 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

#### UNITED NATIONS GULF ACTION Anglo American Gulf Support Group

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

Accommodation for relatives of casualties ......

he headings below, please complete and return this form.

Preferred period: up to 1 week ..........

. "Priends of the Hospital" work
Morale and Welfare ......

(Own appropriately insured vehicle necessary)

5 Any other volunteer skills (please specify) .......

Name: Address:

elephone: ....

Please Return to : The Community Relations Adviser (attn: Gulf Support Group) 20TFW/CRA RAP Upper Heyford

Oxon OX5 3LN

# STEEPLE ASTON

The struggle continues, but those of you who saw the London Plus interview with Roger Freeman will know that the MoD are not giving anything away except the 'modified' flight path over the chicken huts and an offer to buy 13 houses in Upper Neyford. They seem to be keeping back the Ardley noise test results - presumably from embarrassment.

At the inter-village meeting on October 28th we got unanimous support to press for a runway realignment. Freeman is dismissing this idea as far too expensive, but is he going to buy up whole villages (Ardley)? And how will he deal with our constant opposition to every move from the

Meanwhile, Tony Baldry has tabled a Parliamentary motion in favour of realignment which has the support of 70+ MPs. He is also looking to raise the issue in an adjournment debate. If he is successful we should all be prepared to travel to London in support and fill the visitor's gallery.

The crucial, final, decisions may well be under way at the MoD when you read this. Many people have written to George Younger and to Roger Freeman - that's good. But now is the time to get as much attention to the problem from the media as possible. We want to try and get the issues examined more thoroughly. Fortunately we shall have good television coverage through Country File (expected to go out on Sunday November 27).

Now is the time for everybody to write to the editor of their own newspaper pointing out the important issues and adding personal comment and experience. Points like the following (but don't include them all

How can the MoD carelessly decide that planes are getting older and heavier (ie more dangerous) and had better fly straight over villages and schools.

There is no appeal, no right to challenge the MoD, no inquiry. They are

Is it really possible to talk of buying out a whole Oxfordshire village?

What about the safety record? There was a crash just short of the school in 1969. Fills have a regular crash record. Will the MoD accept responsibilty in advance for any crash in the villages? The 'modified' flight path

Will the MoD now be introducing cruise missile carrying planes to fly directly over us?

A short, sharp letter to your paper giving your views on one or other of these issues could get published.