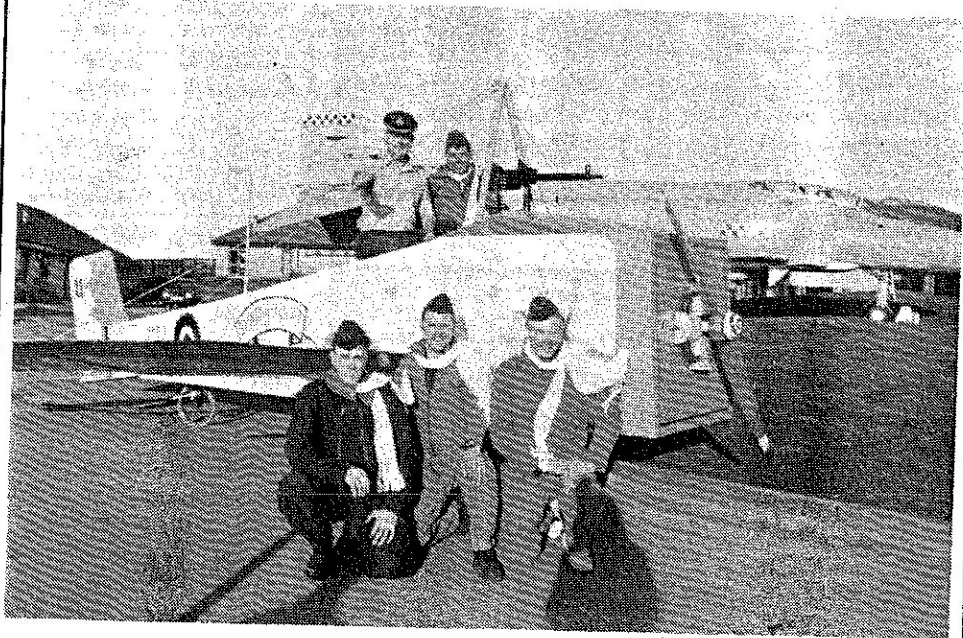


WINNER ... AGAIN!



Entries for the popular Ythan Raft Race come in all shapes and sizes and despite the unorthodox design of the St Olaf Lodge raft it won the Bill Stewart memorial trophy for the sixth year running.

"The Spirit of St. Olaf" and its intrepid crew Mark Templeton, Ewan Robertson, and Derek Clark are pictured above visiting RAF Buchan before the big day.

Group Captain Mike Shields offered to cast an expert eye over the craft while Jeff Preston demonstrated the machine gun to deal with any other competitors who get in their way.

As this year was the tenth consecutive time the Cruden Bay boys had entered the

competition they were determined to make a big impact although their lowing flying stunt under the Ellon road bridge was not as impressive as expected - they didn't actually get airborne!

Team spokesman Gordon MacKay said after the race that although the main focus is always on the race itself, the members of the St. Olaf crew also enjoy the lead up to the event when they all pull together to construct what they hope will be an entry to catch the judges eye.

A film crew from BBC Scotland's Big Country programme was also on board to film the event and it will be shown later in the year. (RB 911/24)

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