

## The Rookies' Answers

### The Teaser Poster

1. The poster shows astronomer Charles **Messier**...
2. ...astride a **Messerschmitt** KR200 Bubble Car (version shown was adapted by a New Zealander, Dave Blackmore "in a nod to manufacturer Messerschmitt's Bf 109 also known as ME109 fighter planes") ...

(There is a rock group called Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow which, in conjunction with Dave Blackmore, is suggestive of the village of Blackmore, near Ingatestone in Essex. This is part of a false trail to Blackmore / Ingatestone.)

3. ...wearing a rainbow football boot (a la Lionel **Messi**)
4. The tiny stained glass windows at the back are from Sainte Trinite in Paris, where the organist once was the composer Olivier **Messiaen**.
5. The rainbow bars represent part of the song "Deck the Halls". The colours represent the pitch of the notes, going up one note for each colour in the spectrum. The height of the bars represent the duration of the notes. The plus sign indicates that one note is sharp.
6. The other letters within the coloured bars point to verse 2 lines 3-4 of the song, and then change the lyrics to:

*FOLLOW ME IN **MESSY** PLEASURE (FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA)*  
*WHILE I SING OF BURIED TREASURE (FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA)*

7. All of the above points to a "**Messy**" theme.

### The Main Hunt

8. The title of the hunt is "*Another Fine **Mess***".
9. The pages of the hunt fit together as so:





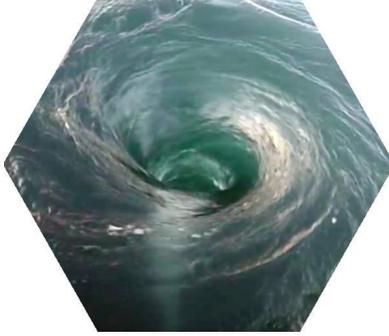
11. A clue to this connection is given by the postcard depicting Messiaen's birthchart. There is a large tea stain on the sign of Capricorn, which is one of the constellations depicted in the tea stains.
12. Each page of the hunt depicts the night sky at a different scale so that, when they are fitted together, the overall map is not accurate. This is indicated by the altered version of the poster on backs of the playing cards, which shows some of the stars out of position.
13. One of the constellations shown is Sagittarius. Part of this constellation is known as "*the Teapot*". The source of the tea stains perhaps.
14. There's a picture of Mr **Messy** at the start of a messy tangled line which links picture hexagons.
15. The hexagons have a messy theme. The table below shows the hexagons in order from Mr Messy to the treasure, their identity and link to the Messy theme, and the Messier object number represented by their position on the map of the night sky.

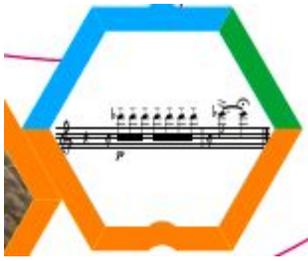
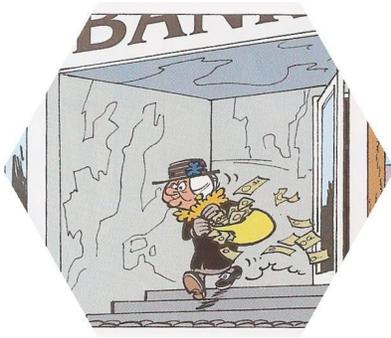
PICTURE	WHAT IS DEPICTED & MESSY LINK	MESSIER OBJECT NO. CORRESPONDING TO LOCATION

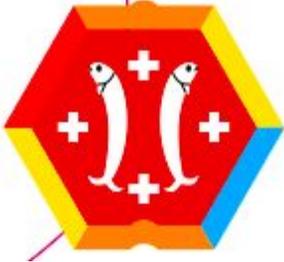
	<p><b>HORNET</b></p> <p>Messerschmitt Hornet</p>	<p>40</p>
	<p><b>AZOPHI CRATER</b></p> <p>Named after Al-Sufi, <b>Messier</b> Object Discoverer</p>	<p>65</p>
	<p><b>PLEIADES</b> SUPERCOMPUTER</p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 45</p>	<p>95</p>
	<p>GENERAL <b>PLUMER</b></p> <p>Commander at the Battle of <b>Messines</b></p>	<p>106</p>

	<p><b>YPRES</b> 1917</p> <p>The tactical objective of the attack at <b>Messines</b> was to capture the German defences on the ridge, which ran from Ploegsteert (Plugstreet) Wood in the south, through Messines and Wytschaete to Mt. Sorrel, to deprive the German 4th Army of the high ground south of Ypres</p>	<p><b>35</b></p>
	<p>IANNIS <b>XENAKIS</b></p> <p>Worked with Olivier <b>Messiaen</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
	<p>LIONEL <b>MESSI</b></p> <p>Surname <b>Messi</b></p>	<p><b>76</b></p>
	<p><b>ASCENSION ISLAND</b></p> <p>The Ascension, piece by <b>Messiaen</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>

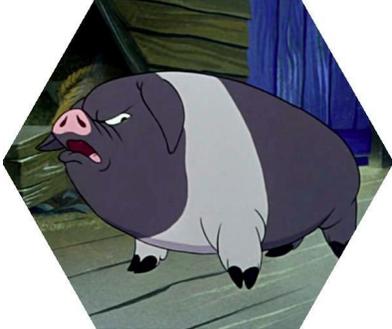
	<p><b>JUVENILE MUTE SWAN</b></p> <p>Cygnus constellation contains two <b>Messier</b> Objects, 29, and 39.</p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 39 is located at the tail of Cygnus.</p> <p>Also the Swan Nebula (aka the Omega Nebula) is <b>Messier</b> object 17</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
	<p><b>ESSEX FIRE SERVICE</b></p> <p>Their HQ is in Kelvedon, very close to <b>Messing</b>.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
	<p><b>PECKHAM</b></p> <p>one of the mines of the Battle of <b>Messines</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
	<p><b>ALEX DE LA IGLESIA</b></p> <p>Director of Lionel <b>Messi</b> documentary</p> <p>The tea stain over <b>Messi's</b> name is a big hint.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>

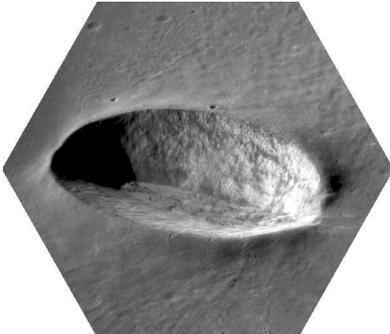
	<p><b>CATERPILLAR TRACTOR</b></p> <p>Caterpillar was one of the mines at the Battle of <b>Messiness</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
	<p>Stained glass window showing <b>NINEVEH</b></p> <p><b>Messiaen</b> used the “stained glass effect”</p> <p>This also relates to Jonah’s <b>Message</b> to the Ninevites.</p>	<p><b>90</b></p>
	<p><b>EVIL EYE</b></p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 64</p>	<p><b>36</b></p>
	<p><b>WHIRLPOOL</b></p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 51</p>	<p><b>70</b></p>

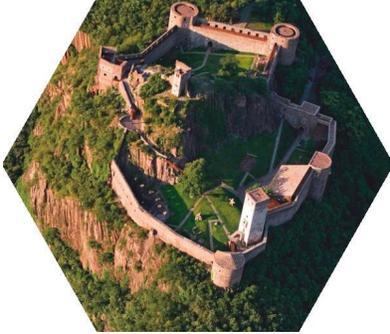
	<p><b>YVONNE LORIOD</b></p> <p>Messiaen</p>	<p>59</p>
	<p><b>ETON TRAINEES</b></p> <p>Eton Mess</p>	<p>30</p>
	<p><b>ADOLPHINE</b></p> <p>Messerschmitt Adolfine</p>	<p>8</p>
	<p><b>RING</b></p> <p>Messier Object 57</p>	<p>60</p>

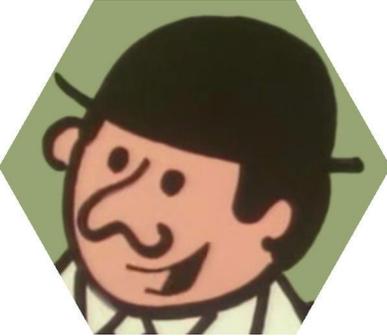
	<p><b>S</b>ALM-SALM FLAG</p> <p>Messier was born in SALM-SALM</p>	<p>58</p>
	<p><b>O</b>NDES MARTENOT</p> <p>Instrument used in several Messier compositions</p>	<p>69</p>
	<p><b>R</b>AINBOW</p> <p>Arcs en ciel being a theme in Messiaen's work</p>	<p>34</p>
	<p>MR <b>T</b>IDY</p> <p>Character from Mr Messy book</p>	<p>41</p>

	<p><b>ICENI</b></p> <p>Supposedly a derivative from the Saxons, the name of the village of '<b>Messing</b>' translates to 'Mæcca's people'. Popular tradition relates this to a battle between the Romans and Queen Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni tribe, on a nearby site called The Rampart.</p> <p>She destroyed a temple dedicated to Claudius (another hexagon)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
	<p><b>ELEPHANT</b></p> <p>The picture appears to be a copy of a section of a piece by Giulio Romano, entitled "<i>Four studies of an elephant</i>"</p> <p>"<b>Mess</b> Around" is a song by American rock band Cage the Elephant.</p>	<p><b>108</b></p>
	<p><b>FINGERPRINT.</b></p> <p>Fingerprinting pioneered by William Herschel, grandson of another William Herschel, a <b>Messier</b> Object discoverer</p>	<p><b>72</b></p>

	<p>ANDRES <b>I</b>NIESTA</p> <p>Teammate of <b>Messi</b></p>	<p>37</p>
	<p>RAINBOW <b>X</b>YLOPHONE</p> <p>Symbolising <b>Messiaen's</b> synesthetic association of music and colours</p>	<p>54</p>
	<p><b>I</b>DA</p> <p>Fossil from the <b>Messel Pit</b> fossil site</p>	<p>96</p>
	<p><b>N</b>APOLEON THE PIG from Animal Farm</p> <p><b>Messier</b> wrote an astrological treatise about Napoleon</p>	<p>10</p>

	<p><b>GOAL</b></p> <p><b>Messi</b> is about to score</p> <p>This still is from a match between Barcelona and Espanyol in September 2017. Messi is about to complete a hattrick.</p>	<p><b>66</b></p>
	<p><b>MESSIER CRATER</b></p> <p><b>Messier</b> Crater</p>	<p><b>107</b></p>
	<p><b>ECLAIRS</b></p> <p>Eclairs is a piece by <b>Messiaen</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
	<p><b>SWALLOW</b></p> <p><b>Messerschmitt</b> Swallow</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>

	<p><b>SIGMUNDSKRON CASTLE</b></p> <p>Messner Mountain Museum</p>	<p>110</p>
	<p><b>LEELA</b> from Futurama</p> <p>Named after a <b>Messiaen</b> Symphony the <i>Turangalila-Symphonie</i></p>	<p>93</p>
	<p><b>UNTIDY</b></p> <p>Untidy things are in a <b>mess</b></p>	<p>105</p>
	<p><b>CRESS</b></p> <p>Rhymes with <b>mess</b></p>	<p>97</p>

	<p><b>KNIFE REST</b></p> <p>The German word is “<b>Messerbänkchen</b>”</p>	<p><b>101</b></p>
	<p><b>ALLAEOCHELYS</b></p> <p>From the <b>Messel Pit</b> fossil site</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
	<p><b>MR NEAT</b></p> <p>Character from Mr <b>Messy</b> book</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
	<p><b>DUMBBELLS</b></p> <p><b>Messier Object 27</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>

	<p><b>JEANNE LORIOD</b></p> <p><b>Messiaen's</b> sister-in-law and world's leading exponent of the Ondes-Martenot (another hexagon)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
	<p><b>OMEGA</b> from Doctor Who</p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 17</p>	<p><b>51</b></p>
	<p><b>VACUUM</b> CLEANER</p> <p>Vacuum cleaners clean up <b>mess</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>
	<p><b>EUROTAMANDUA</b></p> <p>From the <b>Messel</b> Pit fossil site</p>	<p><b>32</b></p>

	<p><b>FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b></p> <p>Opera by <b>Messiaen</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>
	<p><b>ROSARIO</b></p> <p>Birthplace of Lionel <b>Messi</b></p>	<p><b>89</b></p>
	<p><b>ONTARIO</b></p> <p>One of the mines of the Battle of <b>Messines</b></p>	<p><b>75</b></p>
	<p><b>MESSALINA</b> from <i>I, Claudius</i></p> <p><b>Messalina</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>

	<p><b>BEEHIVE</b></p> <p>Messier Object 44 (also the hexagons fit together as in a beehive)</p>	<p>47</p>
	<p><b>RUPPRECHT VON BAYERN</b></p> <p>German commander at Messines</p>	<p>73</p>
	<p><b>UNDERMINE</b></p> <p>References to mines used at Messines.</p>	<p>87</p>
	<p><b>CLAUDIUS</b></p> <p>Husband of Messalina (another hexagon) and a temple to him was destroyed by Boudicca of the Iceni (another hexagon)</p>	<p>80</p>

	<p>ST <b>ELOI</b></p> <p>One of the mines of the Battle of <b>Messines</b></p>	<p>17</p>
	<p>CAROLINE <b>HERSCHEL</b></p> <p>Discovered several <b>Messier</b> Objects</p>	<p>46</p>
	<p><b>INWORTH</b></p> <p>In the Parish of <b>Messing-cum-Inworth</b></p>	<p>56</p>
	<p>Gina Torres as <b>NEBULA</b> (from TV show Hercules)</p> <p><b>Messier</b> Object 13 was described as a nebula in the constellation Hercules</p>	<p>57</p>

	<p><b>DIPSTICK</b></p> <p>Messiaen piece called Diptyque</p>	<p>29</p>
	<p><b>SOMBRERO</b></p> <p>Messier Object 104</p>	<p>109</p>
	<p><b>IRISH DIVISION</b></p> <p>Battle of Messines</p>	<p>62</p>
	<p><b>OLGA GARCIA</b></p> <p>No. 10 in Barcelona's women's team, cf Lionel <b>Messi</b>, No. 10 in the men's team</p> <p>Also connects to the essay, A <b>Message</b> to Garcia.</p>	<p>38</p>

	<p><b>LIA HALLORAN</b> Artist influenced by <b>Messier</b> objects, resulting in exhibition "Deep Sky Companion"</p>	<p><b>84</b></p>
	<p><b>TREASURE CHEST</b> The Treasure is hidden in <b>Messing</b></p>	<p><b>86</b></p>

16. Arranged in the order following the tangled line from Mr Messy, the initial letters of the objects spells out a festive message from the puzzle setters.

**HAPPY XMAS. EPIC NEW YEAR SORT I.E. FIXING MESS. LUCK AND LOVE FROM BRUCE HINDSIGHT**

(or possibly **HAPPY XMAS. EPIC NEW YEAR SORTIE FIXING MESS. LUCK AND LOVE FROM BRUCE HINDSIGHT**)

17. An alternative reading could be:

**HAPPY XMAS. EPIC NEW YEAR. SORT, I.E. FIX, "ING MESS". LUCK AND LOVE FROM BRUCE HINDSIGHT**

... suggesting "Messing" as the location *via* an anagram.

18. Arranging the hexagons in numerical order by the associated Messier object number, the initial letters of the object spell out the message:

19. **FIND AN ESSEX PLACE AMID EVERY EIGHTH BOX IN SYRIA GO W FROM CH TURN L PICK UP MESS**

20. *W FROM CH TURN L* means West from Church and turn left.

21. The hexagons fit together into the grey outline shape, which is shaped like Syria, with their outside colours matching, as follows:



22. Although it is actually Syria, the more obvious first guess is that this is a map of Essex. If so, the hexagon which begins with I and depicts a town sign is in the correct location for Ingatestone. This is part of a false trail to Ingatestone.

23. Starting from Messalina you can trace a line through consecutive hexagons that says "MESSING ORD XREF TL". Messing is in the Ordnance Survey TL grid ref.

24. There are a series of dominoes, the first one of which is red. There is also a picture "domino": one one half it shows three Popes (Paul VI, Eugenius IV, and Nicolas IV), on the other 4 actors (Helen McCrory, Ken Stott, Maxine Peake, Neil Dudgeon) from the TV series **Messiah**. This represents (Alexander) Pope's **Messiah**.

25. There is a redacted sentence with one letter highlighted in red. It matches the first line of Pope's **Messiah** which is: *Ye Nymphs of Solyma! begin the song.* The highlighted letter is the H in nymphs.

26. This points to the fact that the red domino (2:5) represents an H (the second word, fifth letter) of the first line. Applying this rule to each successive line of the poem leads to

<i>Ye nymphs of Solyma! begin the song:</i>	<i>H</i>
<i>To heavenly themes sublimer strains belong.</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>The mossy fountains and the sylvan shades,</i>	<i>L</i>
<i>The dreams of Pindus and the Aonian maids,</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Delight no more. O thou my voice inspire</i>	<i>L</i>
<i>Who touched Isaiah's hallowed lips with fire!</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>Rapt into future times, the Bard begun:</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>A virgin shall conceive, a virgin bear a son!</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>From Jesse's root behold a branch arise,</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>Whose sacred flower with fragrance fills the skies:</i>	<i>L</i>
<i>The ethereal spirit o'er its leaves shall move,</i>	<i>T</i>
<i>And on its top descends the mystic dove.</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>Ye heavens! from high the dewy nectar pour,</i>	<i>R</i>
<i>And in soft silence shed the kindly shower!</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>The sick and weak the healing plant shall aid,</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>From storms a shelter, and from heat a shade.</i>	<i>R</i>
<i>All crimes shall cease, and ancient fraud shall fail;</i>	<i>M</i>
<i>Returning Justice lift aloft her scale;</i>	<i>R</i>

<i>Peace o'er the world her olive wand extend,</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>And white-robed Innocence from heaven descend.</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>Swift fly the years, and rise the expected morn!</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>O, spring to light, auspicious Babe, be born!</i>	<i>L</i>
<i>See Nature haste her earliest wreaths to bring,</i>	<i>S</i>

### **HELP LIONEL TO REARM REBELS**

27. This relates to a news story about Lionel Messi sending secret messages to arms runners. Yes really! Well, not really, but it was a real story. His dribbles / passes were interpreted as instructions to Syrian rebels as to how to transport arms over the border with Lebanon (near the city of Homs) to Al-Mayadeen
28. The grey shape containing the hexagons represents a map of Syria. The picture of Messi appears over an image of a gun when slotted into its space - which corresponds with where the arms come into the country over the Lebanese border near Homs. The hexagon with the picture of the goal appears over the Arabic word الميادين, which is a place name - Al Mayadeen (different spellings are available), which is in the appropriate place within the map. Messi's thought bubble hearts correspond with a path from him to the goal / from Homs to Al Mayadeen. These are also the only two hexagons with the same colours on all sides.
29. The clue about rearming rebels suggests two things. Firstly, it suggests that there is some message to be found in the direction of Messi's movements and, secondly, it suggests that the image of a gun might be something which can be used to assist some rebels or other. The main candidates for the rebels to be armed are the Iceni and the Dumbbells hexagon, which in fact depicts a banknote from the Isle of Man, where there was a rebellion in 1651.
30. Although the correct message from Mr Messy's tangled line is SORT I.E. FIXING MESS, a more natural first reading of the message is SORT BY FIXING MESS. This is a false trail which leads to the idea of moving the hexagons by fixing one or more of them in place, and rotating others around them.
31. The image of Lionel Messi has a thought bubble above his head containing 7 hearts, coloured in accordance with the first 4 colours of the rainbow. The shape of the

hexagons suggest a path for him to follow and, if this path is followed (starting from Ypres), it finishes with the goal hexagon.

32. This path does not yield a useful message but the Match of the Day image has a clue in that, like Messi's thought bubble, it is coloured using horizontal rainbow stripes. However, the stripes go through the rainbow in the opposite direction, which suggests that Messi's path should also go in the opposite direction, starting by travelling down rather than up.
33. If this path is followed, it spells nonsense which ends with the letters -MAS, which is suggestive of a festive greeting. The fact that the goal does not appear to be in quite the right place also suggests that Messi is in slightly the wrong position.
34. The false clue SORT BY FIXING MESS suggests that Messi, Messalina or the Messier Crater is the hexagon to be fixed in place. But this neither arms the rebels nor allows Messi to be moved. Therefore, the Ypres hexagon, which denotes the Messines ridge, is to be fixed first. If the six hexagons around it are rotated two places anti-clockwise, the Manx rebels will be armed.
35. It is clear that Cress needs to be moved to create a festive greeting, so now it is time for Messi to be fixed in place, and the hexagons around him (including Ypres) to go one place clockwise. To complete the message, Ypres must be fixed in its new location, with the hexagons around it moving one place clockwise.
36. The route from Messi to the goal suggested by the hearts (and extended so that it starts from Mr Tidy) now goes via:

*TIDY - NINEVEH - MESSI - ELOI - CRESS - MAS*

***i.e. Tidings and have a messy hell of a Christmas***

37. There is an alternative solution which is less festive but marginally more helpful. The Icenis can be armed by fixing Mr Neat and rotating 180 degrees around him. Messi's path will end on the hexagon depicting Napoleon the pig, which is one of a sequence of hexagons spelling out MESSING. This would be roughly the correct location for Messing-cum-Inworth, if the map were one of Essex.
38. The MESS part of MESSING (Messalina, Eton, Sombrero, Sigmundskron) can now be fixed. If so, (restarting from the original locations of the hexagons), the hexagon which is now known to be Inworth can be rotated to Napoleon's original position, its correct location on a map of Essex.





## FOUILLIS = MESS

44. These themes appear in Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*. From the preface: "Ces épées de feu, ces coulées de lave bleu-orange, ces brusques étoiles : voilà le fouillis, voilà les arc-en-ciel!" These are themes in the hunt: the piece of music representing rainbows is linked by a line to the hexagon with the picture of the rainbow; the "sudden stars" to a list of comets; the "swords of fire" links to the hexagon with the Essex Fire Service insignia (the swords are found on the Essex flag); and "mess" to one of the tangles.

45. There is a series of pictures of birds, which all feature in Messiaen's *Catalogue d'Oiseaux*.

1. Alpine chough - Catalogue Number 1 (facing right)
2. Black eared wheatear - 4 (R)
3. Black eared wheatear - 4 (R)
4. Short-toed lark - 8 (L)
5. Tawny owl - 5 (R)
6. Curlew - 13 (L)
7. Black eared wheatear - 4 (R)
8. Tawny owl - 5 (R)
9. Cetti's warbler - 9 (L)
10. Reed warbler - 7 (L)
11. Black wheatear - 12 (L)
12. Short-toed lark - 8 (L)
13. Reed warbler - 7 (L)
14. Alpine chough - 1 (R)
15. Curlew - 13 (R)
16. Buzzard - 11 (L)

46. The *Catalogue d'Oiseaux* consists of 13 pieces all representing different birds. As the birds are shown facing in two different directions, there are 26 combinations in all, which is suggestive of an alphabetical cipher. Therefore, the catalogue numbers relate to the letters A - M when the bird is facing right, Z - N when facing left. This leads to:

### **ADD SENDER TO STAMP**

47. This is an instruction relating to the postcards (more of which later).

48. There is an 8x8 minesweeper grid. When it is solved, the 9 bombs are in the following locations:

Row 2 column 3

R3 C1

R3 C4

R3 C6

R4 C4

R5 C1

R5 C7

R7 C5

R8 C5

49. There is an 8x8 letter square. It is printed over a map of Oosttaverne, just south of Ypres on the **Messines** Ridge, a WW1 battlefield.

50. The minesweeper grid shows a time of 310. There were several battles fought at Ypres, the last of which concluded on 2 October 1918, so the “puzzle was solved” and peace fell on the region on 3/10.

51. The minesweeper grid and the letter square are linked with a grey line, they are also both 8x8 grids, and the fact that the letter square is printed over a picture of a minefield indicates that the two are linked.

52. There is a symbol which combines a bomb and a key linking the Jeanne Loriod hexagon to the letter square. This suggests that the Jeanne Loriod hexagon is a key to solving the letter square, and that the minesweeper puzzle is also linked. In fact, this hexagon maps to **Messier** Object 20, the Trifid Nebula, which indicates that a trifid cipher should be used to decode the letter square.

53. When the locations of the bombs in the minesweeper grid are matched to the letter grid it spells GAYGOPHER. (There is actually a Gay Gopher on Twitter, he’s an LGBT mascot and therefore has a rainbow profile picture, in keeping with the theme of the hunt).

54. GAYGOPHER is an anagram of GEOGRAPHY. General Harrington, Chief of Staff to General Plumer, the British Commander of the Second Army at the Battle of **Messines** (one of our hexagons), said on the eve of the battle: “Gentlemen, I don’t know whether we are going to make history tomorrow, but at any rate we shall *change geography*”, which explains the anagram of geography.

55. The fact that the letter square contains a 27th character (+) also supports the use of the trifid cipher.

56. Removing the letters "GAYGOPHER" from the encryption and using this as a code word decodes the letter square. The period used is 5, as suggested by the scoreboard.

**ORDER CARDS BY MOVEMENT APPLY RECIPIENTS TO SENDERS  
RETRANSLATE**

This is another instruction relating to the postcards (more of which later).

57. There is a map of France. There are several locations marked by red hexagons, blue squares and white ovals. There is a bomb symbol. The map is surrounded by a circle containing letters and then a further circle containing heraldic symbols.

58. The red hexagons are:

Laon - birthplace of astronomer and **Messier** object discoverer Mechain (he discovered Messier object 107, which is beside the map of France on the "tea stain" map.)

Rumigny - birthplace of astronomer and **Messier** object discoverer Lacaille

Coutances - birthplace of astronomer and **Messier** object discoverer Le Gentil

Belgentier - birthplace of astronomer and **Messier** object discoverer Peiresc

59. The blue squares are:

**Messei**

**Messery**

**Messigny-et-Vantoux**

**Messimy**

60. The white ovals are:

Avignon

Ambert

Grenoble

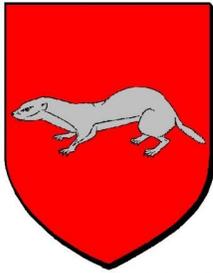
Nantes

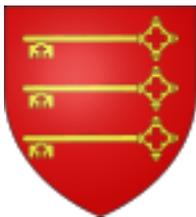
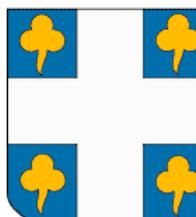
These are all places where **Messiaen** spent his childhood.

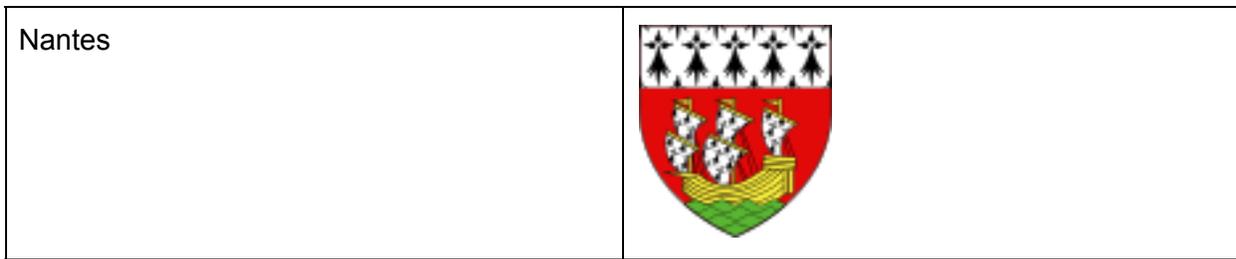
61. The bomb symbol marks **Messines** / Oosttaverne (the location of the battle shown in the background of the letter square).

62. The bomb symbol links to the word TREASURE which is a clue that the treasure is located not far from a battlefield (i.e. The Rampart).

63. The coats of arms of the above places are:

Place	Coat of Arms
Laon	
Rumigny	
Coutances	
Belgentier	
Messei	

Messery	
Messigny et Vantoux	
Messimy	
Avignon	
Ambert	
Grenoble	



64. The icons in the circle around the map are elements taken from these coats of arms, with a letter next to them

LETTER	ICON	COAT OF ARMS
E		Ambert
O		Laon
R		Rumigny
F		Messimy
I		Ambert
R		Messigny-et-Vantoux
M		Avignon or Belgentier
O		Laon
E		
M		Messigny-et-Vantoux
T		

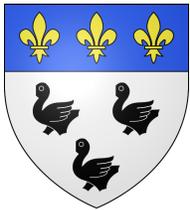
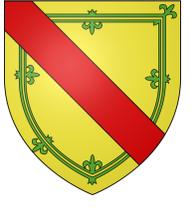
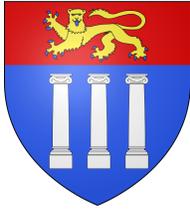
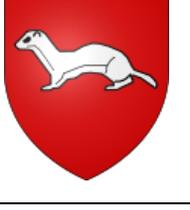
A		
E		
R		
R		
M		Laon
H		Grenoble
O		Messery
E		Coutances
R		Coutances
R		Nantes
I		Coutances
A		Avignon
A		Ambert
L		Coutances
L		Avignon
D		Messery

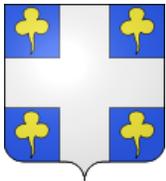
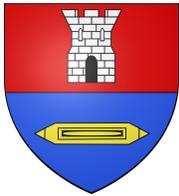
F		Coutances
R		Avignon
R		Grenoble
Y		Messei
A		Messimy
O		Nantes
G		Messimy
F		Messimy
M		Messery
G		Rumigny
E		Avignon or Belgentier
A		Laon
N		Ambert
U		Messimy
T		Messei
L		Ambert

S		
B		Nantes
R		Messimy
E		Grenoble
O		Messei
G		Messigny-et-Vantoux
U		
O		Grenoble
N		Laon
T		Laon
D		Messimy
T		Laon
P		Belgentier
O		Messimy

65. The three hexagons within the circle and the tea stains on it, provide various clues as to which towns are depicted by the coats of arms. For example, the tea stain on the duck of Laon, and the Napoleon hexagon, jointly indicate that this is from a town in which a battle was fought during the Napoleonic Wars, the Battle of Laon.

66. Combining the letters associated with the elements from each coat of arms, in the correct order (the background shield first, then the other elements in order top to bottom, left to right) gives descriptions matching the senders of the postcards (more of which later). The original symbol marking the town on the map - square, oval or hexagon - matches up with the postmark on the postcard matching that description.

Place	Coat of Arms	Letters (rearranged)	Postcard Link
Laon		OTTOMAN	Sultan Bayezid II (an OTTOMAN ruler)
Rumigny		GR	Albert Einstein (GR = General Relativity)
Coutances		FLIER	Amelia Earhart (a famous aviatrix or FLIER)
Belgentier		MP	Nancy Astor (the first female MP)
Avignon		EARL	The Earl of Leicester

Ambert		ALIEN	Elliot from ET (a film about an ALIEN)
Grenoble		HERO	Hercules (a legendary HERO)
Nantes		BRO	Bharata (the BRO of Rama, the recipient of the postcard)
Messei		TOY	A reference to the toy mascot on Riiser-Larsen's expedition
Messery		DOM	Dom Pero da Covilha
Messigny-et-Vantoux		MGR	Monsignor (Mgr) Laboa
Messimy		OFFGUARD	JR Smith (his position in basketball is OFF GUARD)

67. The remaining symbols are: white background, red chevron, “boxing glove” x 3, yellow flower x 3 and the remaining letters are: ETAERRSU = **TREASURE**
68. The remaining symbols can be combined to form a coat of arms that is from the village of **Messing** in Essex, indicating that the treasure can be found there.



69. There are 12 postcards. Each has a picture on one side, and on the other a message, a stamp with a bird on it, and a postmark. The “to / from” section is blank, but can be deduced from the message.
70. The pictures on the postcards each represent a movement from **Messiaen’s** work “*Des canyons aux étoiles... (From the canyons to the stars...)*”. We decoded the instruction “order cards by movement” so these are listed in the appropriate order.

Picture	Repre sents	Stamp	Postmark	Message	From / To	Link to table above
<b>Desert</b> dunes (Hello, <u>God</u> )	<i>Le désert</i> (the <b>desert</b> )  (Moveme nt no 1)	Blue Rock Thrush (facing right)  3R = C	Hexagons	Here’s this year’s money for holding my brother in Rome. You look after him and I’ll stay out of Venice.	Sultan <b>B</b> ayezid II  To  Pope <b>I</b> nnocent VIII	OTTOMAN (Sultan Bayezid was an Ottoman Sultan)

Baseball player Adam Jones of the Baltimore Orioles	<i>Les orioles</i> (the orioles)  (Movement no 2)	Curlew (facing right)  13R = M	Hexagons	Your paper on invariants is outstanding ; its logic is poetic. No man could have done better.	Albert Einstein  To  Emmy Noether	GR (General Relativity)
An astrological birth chart representing Messiaen's date of birth	<i>Ce qui est écrit sur les étoiles</i> (what is written in the stars)  (Movement no 3)	Cetti's Warbler (facing right)  9R = I	Ovals	It was no goblin, and it wasn't mine. But since you asked, it's gone home now.	Elliott (from the film ET)  To  Tyler	ALIEN (ET was an alien)
Robin Williams on a chat show	<i>Le cossyphé d'Heuglin</i> (the white-browed robin chat)  (Movement no 4)	Reed Warbler (facing left)  7L = T	Squares	Sorry you got wet it was nice of you to try and rescue me, but I was all right because we got to the North Pole	Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen  To  Lincoln Ellsworth	TOY (a reference to the mascot on Riiser-Larsen's expedition)
Roman soldier (hello god)	<i>Cedar Breaks et le don de crainte</i> (Cedar Breaks and the gift of awe) Cedar	Golden Oriole (facing left)  2L = Y	Ovals	Don't be later coming back. Your sandals need filling and I'm not keen to immolate myself.	Bharata  To  Rama	BRO (Bharata and Rama were brothers)

	Breaks is a natural <b>amphitheatre</b>  (Movement no 5)					
Jodie Foster in Contact, a film about receiving a <b>message from space</b>	<i>Appel interstellaire</i> ( <b>interstellar call</b> )  (Movement no 6)	Cetti's Warbler (facing right)  9R = I	Hexagons	Good idea! I'll see if I can land there. I was wondering how I'd get across the Pacific xx	Amelia <b>E</b> arhart  To  Gene <b>V</b> idal	FLIER (Earhart was a pilot)
<b>Bryce Canyon</b> , Utah	<i>Bryce Canyon et les rochers rouge-orangé</i> ( <b>Bryce Canyon</b> and the red-orange rocks)  (Movement no 7)	Woodlark (facing right)  6R = F	Squares	I would send an envoy to Portugal, your majesty. In fact, why not allow me to go back at last?	Pero da <b>C</b> ovilha  To  Empress <b>E</b> leni of Abyssinia	DOM (da Covilha was a Portuguese gentleman)
Blank (with a <b>musical note</b> on a tea stain that corresponds with the <b>star Aldebaran</b> )	<i>Les ressuscités et le chant de l'étoile Aldebaran</i> (the resurrected and the <b>song</b> of the <b>star</b> )	Tawny Owl (facing right)  5R = E	Hexagons	You can tell Mr Hitler from me: no-one will take him seriously while he looks like Charlie Chaplin	Nancy <b>A</b> stor  To  Joachim von <b>R</b> ibbentrop	MP (Astor was the first female MP)

	Alderaba n")  (Movement no 8)					
Atticus Finch from To Kill a Mockingbird	Le moqueur polyglotte (the mockingbird)  (Movement no 9)	Alpine Chough (facing left)  1L = Z	Ovals	I would buy your life with all I have, but it was noble of you to give another man your water	The Earl of Leicester  To  Philip Sidney	EARL (of Leicester)
"Your Secret Name"  "The secret name of god" is a line from the poem the Wood Thrush by Jeanie Tomasko	La grive des bois (the wood thrush)  (Movement no 10)	Black eared Wheatear (facing left)  4L = W	Ovals	This one looks even more monstrous than the last. It might be helpful if you bring a torch	Hercules  To  Iolaus  *There is a link from this card with a TV logo to the hexagon with a character from the TV programme Hercules	HERO (Hercules was a hero)
Hawaiian Islands	Omao, leiothrix, elepaio, shama (all birds from Hawaii)  (Movement no 11)	Alpine Chough (facing right)  1R = A	Squares	Man, just for you I'll put a shirt on. When we visit the White House I'll even wear a suit!	JR Smith  To  Barack Obama	OFF GUARD (JR Smith's playing position)

The Battle of <b>Zion</b> from the film Matrix Revolutions	<i>Zion Park et la cité céleste</i> ( <b>Zion</b> Park and the celestial city)  (Movement no 12)	Short toed lark (facing left)  8L = S	Squares	You can take refuge here as long as you like. I just hope you like metal.	Monsignor José Sebastián Laboa  To  Manuel Noriega	MGR (Monsignor)
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71. Where a postcard contains “Hello God”, it indicates that the recipient is a divine or semi-divine figure, and the same applies to the postcard which says “Your Secret Name”, because the wood thrush connection shows that it is God’s secret name to which it refers. Rama is a god and both Iolaus and Innocent VIII (like most medieval popes) are semi-divine figures.
72. The postcards have various tea stains on them, which typically fall on pronouns. These are to give emphasis to the importance of being careful about properly identifying the sender and the recipient of each postcard from the context.
73. In the absence of instructions, the natural thing to try is to construct a message by alternating senders and recipients. This appears to produce a message in French which begins BIEN ET but the rest of the message is nonsense. It would be tempting to think that the instruction to RETRANSLATE applies to this message, but it doesn’t.
74. Our first instruction is to ADD SENDER TO STAMP. To do this you take the initial letter of the sender, and add it to the letter suggested by the bird on the stamp, following the *Catalogue d’Oiseaux* code used before. You take the numerical position of both letters within the alphabet, add them together, and translate that to a new position number and letter.
75. Our next instruction is to ORDER CARDS BY MOVEMENT. As above, we have ordered the cards from 1 to 12 according to the order of movements in *Des Canyons aux Etoiles*.
76. Our next instruction is to APPLY RECIPIENTS TO SENDERS. The initial letter of of the recipients spells out the word INTERVERSION.
77. Interversion is a French word which has the general meaning which is the same as the English word “inversion”, meaning a reversal.

78. Intversion also refers to a permutation scheme used by Messiaen (notably in his work *Quatre Etudes de Rythme* in relation to a series of 12). An example of an interversion in this work is changing a sequence ordered from 12 to 1 to the specific sequence 6, 7, 5, 8, 4, 9, 3, 10, 2, 11, 1, 12.
79. NB changing the order of the postcards from the page numbers on which they were originally found to the order of the movements has some of the properties of an interversion but it does quite not fit with any of the interversions in Messiaen's scheme.
80. The interversions of Messiaen are a specific example of a card shuffling technique known as a "Mongean shuffle". Messiaen himself described it as a permutation in the form of an open fan.
81. The initials of the senders of the postcards, which are numbered from 1 to 12 below, in the order in which the postcards appear in the *Canyons* sequence, must be reordered from 12 to 1, by way of an inversion or a reversal.
82. Secondly, the interversion in paragraph 78 above must be applied in order to reorder the postcards for a further time. The cumulative effect of these reorderings is to reorder the postcards numbered from 1 to 12 to the sequence 7, 6, 8, 5, 9, 4, 10, 3, 11, 2, 12, 1.
83. The word RETRANSLATE can be understood in several ways. It could be that two different interversions, or reorderings of the postcards, are being applied. It could be that two different meanings of the French word interversion are being used. Or it could be that the letters have to be converted into numbers in order to apply the interversions, and then have to be converted back into letters again.

	<b>Stamp</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Sender + stamp</b>	<b>Intervert</b>
<b>1</b>	C(3/26)	B(2/26)	I	(3+2 = 5/26 =) E	7 = I
<b>2</b>	M(13/26)	E(5/26)	N	(13+5 = 18/26 =) R	6 = N
<b>3</b>	I(9/26)	E(5/26)	T	(9+5 = 14/26 =) N	8 = F
<b>4</b>	T(20/26)	R(18/26)	E	(20+18 = 38/26 =) L	5 = A
<b>5</b>	Y(25/26)	B(2/26)	R	(25+2 = 27/26 =) A	9 = L
<b>6</b>	I(9/26)	E(5/26)	V	(9+5 = 14/26 =) N	4 = L
<b>7</b>	F(6/26)	C(3/26)	E	(6+3 = 9/26 =) I	10 = E

8	E(5/26)	A(1/26)	R	(5+1 = 6/26 =) F	3 = N
9	Z(26/26)	L(12/26)	S	(26+12 = 38/26 =) L	11 = T
10	W(23/26)	H(8/26)	I	(23+8 = 31/26 =) E	2 = R
11	A(1/26)	S(19/26)	O	(1+19 = 20/26 =) T	12 = E
12	S(19/26)	L(12/26)	N	(19+12 = 31/26 =) E	1 = E

84. As per the table above, when all these instructions are followed the message produced is:

***IN FALLEN TREE***

85. There are 8 cards with blue edges, most of which have a combination of words and pictures. Another blue edged card has 8 red spots along a river.

86. These cards provide further visual directions on how to reach the treasure when arranged in the correct order, followed by the final two instructions “IN FALLEN TREE” (from the bird sequence and postcards) and the result of the BE-GERM cipher (see derivation below). The correct order of the cards is presumably determined by using the words on the cards (but we’re not sure how...).

Picture	First Word	Second Word	Correct order to find treasure
Alpine choughs ... face to face = A...Z	PINE	PORTER	7
Wreath on round window	WHOLE	CRUISE	1
Public footpath sign	PINK	RANGES	2
Stile	BEAT	GENT	3
Tree	NECK	GEAR	4
Post	HEN	GALE	5
Frozen pond	CAKE	WRING	6
List of codes **	BE	GERM	8

87. \*\*The card with the list of codes has references to the Royal Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP). The ASP published a “Cipher Code for Astronomical Messages” by Edward S Holden. Applying this to the words on the card gives various locations in the night sky. Those locations match with Messier objects as follows:

<b>Right Ascensions</b>	<b>North Polar Distances</b>	<b>Messier Object No.</b>	<b>Picture Hexagon in this location</b>
HODIVATE 104 68	FONAHOLD 078 11	96	IDA
LARENDOW 185 36	DULINIZE 056 58	57	NEBULA
LAFERKIN 180 38	HUFATION 114 23	8	ADOLPHINE
FAPIPTIK 064 20	HORIBODE 110 44	41	TIDY
LUGOROUS 205 89	HIPERKIN 102 38	73	RUPRECHT
BAPEBLOW 004 27	DOPAFRAS 049 08	32	EUROTAMANDUA
DUDIREKT 053 61	DUGILEGE 055 52	36	EVIL EYE
KINOCEAN 161 70	HOZINODE 112 59	80	CLAUDIUS
LFAVISH 180 26	HUDABATE 113 02	20	LORIOD
HOYALONE 111 15	DAPARINE 034 20	108	ELEPHANT
LUGEMBUE 205 35	HIPEJEKT 102 32	72	FINGERPRINT
JALIRIZE 122 62	FOLABOUT 077 03	86	TREASURE

88. Putting the letters from the Hexagons together from these Messier objects spells:

***IN A TREE CLEFT***, which is the final clue to the treasure's location.

89. The fact that the last letter comes from the word "Treasure" is another indication that this is where the treasure can be found.

90. And lo, we travelled to MESSING, went WEST FROM THE CHURCH, turned LEFT, followed the pictures in order, ("pick up mess" i.e. pick up the trail marked by the photographs) which are locations on the way from the village leading to and in Coneyfield Wood.













91. We then found a FALLEN TREE, looked in its CLEFT and found the TREASURE!



10



Globular cluster  
Ophiuchus, 16h 57.1m -04° 06'

M10



Apparent magnitude 6.4  
Approximate distance (light years) 14,000  
Angular diameter (arc-minutes) 15.1  
Described Charles Messier, 1764



OL

92. There is a curved line with dates. It is linked with a dotted line both to a piece of music that reads “sudden stars” and to a black and white picture depicting a comet (*The Great Comet of 1769 over Nuremberg*, by Paul Küfner).

93. The dates are years in which **Messier** discovered comets. The designation of those comets are:

C/1760 B1  
C/1763 S1  
C/1764 A1  
C/1766 E1  
C/1769 P1  
D/1770 L1  
C/1771 G1  
C/1773 T1  
C/1780 U2  
C/1788 W1  
C/1793 S2  
C/1798 G1  
C/1785 A1

94. By matching the list of years to the letter associated with that comet, it gives:

***PUB PALATABLE BUT WE SUGGEST GET A TABLE***

95. This suggests the location of the treasure has a nearby pub - The Old Crown is in **Messing** and was indeed determined to be “palatable”.

96. It is also a clue to how to solve the astronomical cipher on the BE-GERM card. There is a tea stain on the words “Pubs” and it is necessary to “get a table” in order to solve the cipher.

### **Hint(s)**

97. We were sent a hint with playing cards, and a mangled quote.

98. We identified the quote as being based on Alexander Pope’s *An Essay on Man: Epistle II* “*Know then thyself, presume not God to scan; The proper study of mankind is man.*” This gives a hint to the other Pope work we needed to solve the Dominoes Puzzle - Pope’s *Messiah*.

99. The sequence of cards: King of Spades, 5 of Spades, 6 of Hearts, 6 of Clubs, Queen of Hearts, Queen of Clubs, 8 of Hearts, Queen of Diamonds, 5 of Diamonds. Spades and diamonds represent A to M in the order from Ace (low) to King, while hearts and clubs represent N to Z in the same order, so the message reads:

***MESSY YULE***

This gives a hint to how to solve the sequence of bird stamps.



