

London 2012 Olympics gathers momentum



The Olympic Flame travels 102.13 miles, carried by 117 inspirational Torchbearers, into Wales with an evening celebration taking place in Coopers Field, Cardiff. The Flame will visit a number of iconic landmarks including the Elgar statue at the start in Worcester, Cardiff Castle and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff where the Flame will be carried by rugby hero Sam Warburton who currently plays rugby for the Cardiff Blues.



Top of the world: Kenton Cool proudly shows the 1934 medal on Mount Everest olymp

While the London Olympics spectacle is gathering momentum record-breaking climber Kenton Cool takes 1924 Games medal to summit of Mount Everest

The celebrated British climber Kenton Cool (pictured left) has fulfilled an 88-year pledge to take 1924 Olympic medal to the top of the world. Cool successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest in the early hours of Friday after setting off from camp four for the gruelling trudge through waist-deep snow in darkness.

The 38 year-old, who has now scaled Mount Everest a national record-breaking 10 times, said in a note from his expedition team that to have the 1924 medal, which was awarded to the 1922 British Expedition seeking to climb Everest, finally on the summit was "humbling" and "simply amazing".

Plans to conduct interviews with the top were thwarted because of frozen laptops and other communications equipment.



Cool has been accompanied by Keith Partridge, who was filming the climb.

Both have descended to camp four and are making their way to camp two. Cool said: "To have with me an Olympic gold medal awarded to the 1922 team is humbling."

All of the 21 members of the British Everest Expedition in 1922 were awarded the Olympic medal for mountaineering at the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix, France, and Cool took a medal loaned to him from Charles Wakefield, the grandson of expedition member Dr Arthur Wakefield.

London plans massive Olympic security operation

Britain is preparing to mount its biggest ever peacetime security operation for the London Olympics, involving thousands of police and military personnel backed by warships, fighter jets and surface-to-air missiles



Typhoon fighters at Northolt on standby to counter 9/11-style attacks



SECURITY PERSONNEL
 Up to 12,000 police officers on duty at Olympic venues and villages during busiest days - 9,000 of them in London
 7,500 military personnel inside venues to perform screening and search tasks
 Another 5,000 military will assist police, including sniffer dog teams, bomb disposal squads and 1,000-strong rapid reaction force
 Extra 1,000 military to provide logistical support
 More than 13,000 private security guards at venues, plus 3,000 unpaid volunteers to help scan ticketholders

RAF airbase
 Army base / barracks
 Special forces base
 Naval vessels

AIR DEFENCES
 E-3D Sentry electronic surveillance aircraft at Waddington, Lincolnshire
 Sniper-carrying Puma helicopters at Territorial Army base in Ilford

Planned missile sites
 Rapier at Blackheath, Enfield, Shooters Hill and Epping Forest
 Starstreak on rooftops at Bow and Waltham Forest

NAVAL FORCES
 Sea King surveillance helicopters based at Northolt
 HMS Ocean amphibious assault ship (above) moored on River Thames at Greenwich. Will serve as base for sniper-carrying Lynx helicopters and hundreds of Royal Marines
 HMS Bulwark landing ship (right) and auxiliary vessel Mounts Bay to guard sailing venue at Weymouth

POTENTIAL THREATS
 Al-Qaeda: Large plot planned overseas. Terror group carried out attacks on London's transport system on July 7, 2005
 Lone operator: Action by extremist individual, such as 2011 Norway attacks by Anders Breivik, in which 77 people were killed
 Irish dissident: Attack by Irish republican group not reconciled to Northern Ireland peace process
 External row: Terrorism resulting from international dispute, such as killing of Israeli athletes by Palestinian gunmen at 1972 Games



Aerial photo

Cycling Road Race



Road Race Route

Route Direction
 Start: The Mall
 Finish: The Mall

Total Distance:
 Men 250km approx
 (approx 156 miles)
 Women 140km approx
 (approx 87 miles)

