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MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

All enquiries: Tel: 01252 787107 / 94222 7107

Fax: 01252 787110 / 94222 7110

Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Editor

Sarah Goldthorpe 01252 787096 (7096)
sgoldthorpe@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor

Joe Clapson 01252 787097 (7097)
jclapson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor

Becky Clark 01252 787099 (7099)
rclark@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Sports Editor

Richard Long 01252 787098 (7098)
rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Art Editor

Tudor Morgan 01252 787100 (7100)
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Designer

Maddie Marchment 01252 787101 (7101)
mmarchment@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Photographer

Graeme Main 01252 787103 (7103)
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Photographer

Steve Dock 01252 787103 (7103)
sdock@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Managing Editor

Steven Muncey 01252 787095 (7095)
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Business Manager

Andy Clarkson 01252 787105 (7105)
aclarkson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Advertising

Heather Shekyls 01252 787106 (7106)
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions

01252 787107 (7107)
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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ARMY

Ready to roll

AS ever, our November issue is dedicated to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Queen and country.

I hope our range of remembrance-themed features – from a look at the tragic losses of the First World War (pages 34-37) to the sacred sites keeping the memory of such soldiers alive (pages 28-30) – shows how these individuals will never be forgotten, even in centuries to come.

Also this month, we find out what the new Army Readiness Order means in practice for UK personnel (pages 46-47).

Whether sending troops to West Africa to deal with Ebola (pages 7, 39-40) or rising to the challenge of the Service's evermore varied training calendar (pages 8-9), it seems that Brig Tim Robinson's vision of the Army's "active edge" is already being put into action.

Read his interview in full to find out what will be expected of individuals over the coming months.

Finally, don't miss the details of the Service's new elite sport programme in our action-packed *SoldierSport* section.

Could the military have a wealth of Olympic stars in the making? The initiative hopes to find out.

Enjoy the magazine. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

S. Goldthorpe



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Picture: Steve Dock

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“The importance of observing the correct protocols is crucial”

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Personnel adapt to Vanguard role

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“It’s great to get a win when you have all eventualities covered”

RAPTC toast road race success

p92



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Pictures: Graham Harrison

Medical mission ramps up

Troops wage war on Ebola virus in Sierra Leone

BRITISH Army medics, logisticians and infantrymen are the latest of hundreds of Service personnel who have deployed to Sierra Leone to help tackle Ebola.

Military planners and engineers have been in the affected region since late August but the MoD has since committed a total of 750 troops to the effort to contain the disease, which is believed to have killed in excess of 4,500 people across West Africa.

As part of Operation Gritrock, soldiers from 22 Field Hospital, including nurses, doctors and infectious disease consultants, are operating a 12-bed specialist ward for health care workers.

The unit forms part of a larger 92-bed treatment facility, one of six being built by the UK (see map), that will provide direct medical care for up to 8,800 Ebola patients over the next six months.

"We need to provide sufficient reassurance to encourage medical professionals to help defeat this outbreak," said Lt Col Alison McCourt, the medics' commanding officer.

Meanwhile, personnel from 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, supported by troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, have established an Ebola training academy.

Due to be up and running as *Soldier* went to press, members of 5 Armoured Medical Regiment will use it to train local medics to protect themselves and contain the disease.

Speaking ahead of the deployment, Lt Col Matt Munro, commanding officer of 1 Scots, explained that his troops were very well prepared for the mission.

"There are some peculiar threats to this operation clearly relating to Ebola and of course there is a risk of soldiers contracting the virus," the officer said.

"But it is a very low risk because there are all sorts of practical and sensible measures that my people can employ to ensure the danger is kept to an absolute minimum."

At the end of October a Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship, RFA *Argus*, was due to arrive in the West African country carrying food, water and medical supplies as well as three Merlin helicopters, which will further boost the support effort.

● Medics inject vital expertise – pages 39-40

Ebola treatment centres



THIS MONTH IN REVIEWS



"The level of detail is better than ever"
★★★★★

PAGES 74-75



"A worthy prize winner"
★★★★★

PAGES 78-79

“There are peculiar threats to this operation”

NOMINATE A HERO

■ *THE Sun* is seeking nominations for its annual military awards ceremony.

The Millies will see a total of eight prizes presented to members of the Armed Forces at a glitzy evening, which will be broadcast on ITV later this year.

Shortlists for seven of the categories have already been selected by the Services but the "support to the Armed Forces" accolade will be decided by readers via the newspaper's website.

For details and to nominate someone visit www.thesun.co.uk

FAMILIES SPEAK OUT

■ **HOUSING**, rebasing and the military covenant were among the topics discussed at this year's Big Debate, organised by the Army Families Federation.

The conference gave loved ones the chance to pose questions to a panel that included senior military officers, civil servants and Anna Soubry, the Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans.

During the meeting questions were raised about what the MoD is doing to ensure there are enough schools and doctors to cater for Service families.

"There is definite worry about the impact of a sudden influx of families in areas like Salisbury," Army wife Louise King said.

"People don't know how the communities will receive them and if the health and education services will cope."

Maj Gen Adrian Dickinson, Director of Basing and Infrastructure, said detailed discussions with the relevant organisations were ongoing in Wiltshire, with the council "committed" to the changes.

During the event Miss Soubry announced that she was waging a personal war on mould in Service accommodation.

"It's unacceptable in this day and age," the politician said.

A SOLEMN SONG

■ **SINGER** Joss Stone and guitar legend Jeff Beck have teamed up to record a track in aid of this year's Poppy Appeal.

No Man's Land is a cover of a song written by Eric Bogle in 1976, which reflects on the First World War.

The pair will perform the single, which is out on November 3, at this month's Festival of Remembrance.

● We will remember them – pages 24-37

1 CANADA

PRAIRIE PROGRESS

MORE than 1,300 troops from the 1 Yorks Battlegroup took part in the latest phase of Exercise Prairie Storm.

The live-firing section saw Royal Artillery personnel fire a training round from the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, the first time the high-precision weapon had been used on Suffield training area.

In April the formation will take on the lead armoured battlegroup role within the Army's Reaction Force.



Picture: Sgt Mark Webster, RLC

2 UK

CATERING COMP

MILITARY chefs from across the three Services battled it out to be crowned champions of the kitchen at Exercise Joint Caterer.

The annual event, now in its 14th year, saw the troops compete in a wide range of classes at the Defence Academy at Shrivenham to show off their creativity, style and timing in operational catering.

"The standard we have been seeing here this year is first class," said judge WO1 Danny Taylor (RLC).

1

British Army Training Unit Suffield

IN NUMBERS

1,000

Troops from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps are due to take part in *Ex Arrcade Fusion* at RAF St. Mawgan this month.

British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

2

7

Germany

5

Gibraltar

8

Cyprus

4

Sierra Leone

British Army Training Unit Kenya

3

The Falkland Islands

“
The standard
we have
been seeing
is first class
”



EBOLA: THE FIGHT

UK troops have deployed to West Africa in a bid to halt the spread of the deadly virus – pages 7, 39-40

3 KENYA

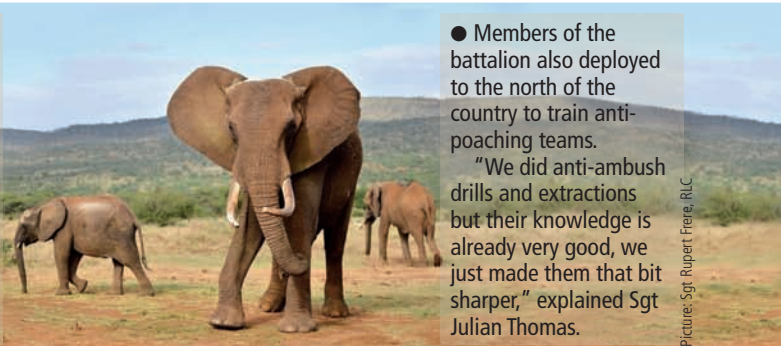
AFRICAN ACTION FOR WELSH GUARDS

MORE than 700 soldiers from the 1 Welsh Guards Battlegroup have honed their skills in the harsh terrain of East Africa.

Exercise Askari Storm saw troops build up from section and company-level drills to a complex final mission.

Based on a fictional UN operation, the package tested personnel on river crossings, combatting conventional and insurgent enemy fighters, and ensuring the safe extraction of civilians caught in the crossfire.

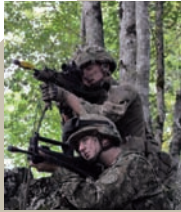
The package ended with voluntary work in the local community, adventurous training on Mount Kenya and a safari trip.



● Members of the battalion also deployed to the north of the country to train anti-poaching teams.

"We did anti-ambush drills and extractions but their knowledge is already very good, we just made them that bit sharper," explained Sgt Julian Thomas.

Picture: Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC



5 CROATIA

FUSILIERS IN THE FOREST

RESERVISTS from 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers travelled to the forests of Croatia for their annual two-week training camp.

Deployed as a fighting company, the troops were supported by Regular colleagues from the formation's 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion, The Rifles, along with a platoon of Croatian infantrymen.



Picture: SSgt Mark Nesbitt, RLC

HERRICK LATEST

Memorial on the move – page 13
Watchkeeper mission – page 17
Academy milestone – page 23

Afghanistan

Brunei

DRILLS DOWN UNDER



TROOPS from 4th Battalion, The Rifles have joined with international colleagues to take part in Exercise Suman Warrior in New Zealand. The package saw soldiers from Singapore, the UK, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand work on conventional and counter-insurgency scenarios.

4 IRAQ

TAKING ON ISIL

THE UK is beefing up its presence in Iraq following the recent deployment of a specialist team of 12 soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

The troops from the Army's Theatre Reserve Battalion in Cyprus spent a week in northern Iraq teaching Kurdish forces to safely maintain, operate and deploy 40 heavy machine guns donated by Britain.

As well as tasking the Royal Air Force to undertake a series of airstrikes, the MoD is planning further small-scale missions to the country to improve the Iraqis' bomb disposal and medical skills.

Meanwhile, the UK's Reaper remotely-piloted aircraft is being deployed to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to support the Iraqi government and coalition allies in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

“This is what airborne forces were designed for”

6 POLAND

JOINT JUMPS

PARATROOPERS from 16 Air Assault Brigade have taken part in a two-week training package in Poland to improve their understanding of different nations' operating methods.

Exercise Anakonda saw A Company of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment work with 12,500 soldiers from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the US.

The serials included a joint parachute assault to capture bridges on the training area.

“This type of mission is what airborne forces were designed for – to parachute in and capture key strategic objectives by surprise within a wider operation,” said Maj Ben Harrop, officer commanding A Coy.

7 GERMANY

BREATHING EASY

PERSONNEL from 20th Armoured Brigade have been put to the test on their chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear drills.

Exercise Poison Fist was aimed at building on the basic knowledge covered in military annual training test 7, as well as further familiarising troops with the new respirators.

Led by 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the two-day course took 120 soldiers from across the formation's units through progressively harder tasks, culminating in attacks while wearing the breathing apparatus.

8 CYPRUS

RED CAPS TESTED

REGULARS and Reservists from 4th Regiment, Royal Military Police practised their core skills during a two-week training package.

As well as covering fitness and close combat drills, Exercise Lion Star tested personnel on trade-specific tasks such as captured persons procedures and investigation techniques regarding sexual offences.

TOSCA MISSION

SOLDIERS from The Mercian Regiment have taken over the UK's contribution to the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.

The six-month deployment, known as Op Tosca, will see 213 Regular troops from the formation's 2nd Battalion and 62 of their part-time colleagues from the 4th Battalion patrolling the buffer zone between Greek and Turkish Forces.

“The troops will face situations where they need to use diplomacy and negotiation,” said CO Lt Col Paul Gilby.

The Mercian's arrival relieved 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards, who had been carrying out the role since the spring.

Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC



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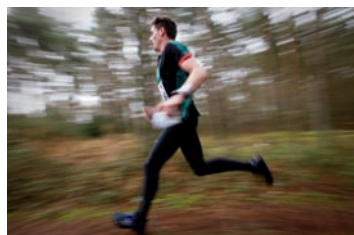
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"WE WERE THE TROPHY HOLDERS AND WANTED TO DO OURSELVES PROUD"

- LOGGIES RETAIN LAWSON CUP, PAGE 87



'DON'T BE AFRAID'

JUNIOR soldiers are being encouraged to join the world of Army orienteering.

The fast-paced activity, which sees competitors navigate from point to point through challenging terrain aided by a map and compass, is open to Regular and Reserve units and can be used as part of individual military training programmes.

"The message to soldiers is 'don't be afraid to take part'," said Lt Col Chris Huthwaite (RA), vice chairman of the Army Orienteering Association.

"The results are competitive, yes, but we have different courses appropriate to different standards."

The call comes as the annual Inter-Corps Orienteering Championships – Exercise Smart Runner – take place this month on November 15-16.

To find out more about the event or unit-level orienteering visit www.baoc.info

Five reasons to get involved in Army orienteering

by Lt Col Chris Huthwaite (RA), Army Orienteering Association

1. It can count towards military annual training test five (land navigation)
2. It's a great way of proving yourself – at top level orienteering is considered to be one of the most demanding sports
3. It improves cardiovascular fitness
4. It develops your map reading skills
5. It creates many opportunities for a social life and trips with fellow orienteers



IN NUMBERS



BLOODHOUND'S JET ENGINE

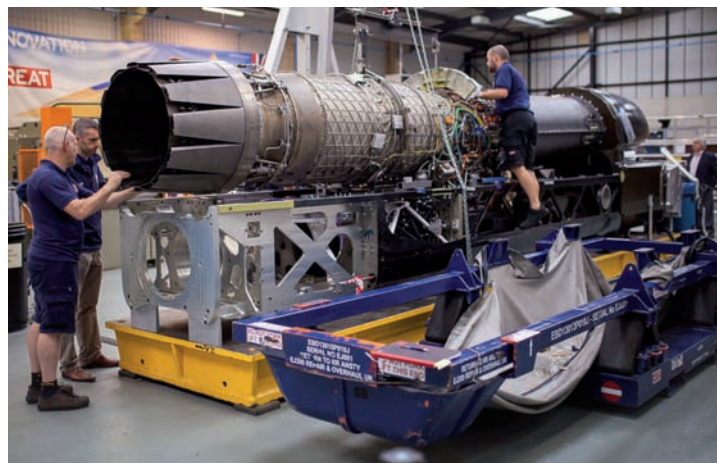
The powerplant weighs **one tonne...**

...and will be capable of producing **nine tonnes** of thrust.

The jet alone could power the car to **650mph...**

...but with Bloodhound it will only take it to **350mph**, at which point the rocket engine will kick in.

“This is a fantastic moment”



Picture: Stefan Majoran

Jet engine powers supercar on

Soldiers move another step towards 1,000mph vehicle

THE team aiming to build the world's first 1,000mph car has achieved a significant milestone by fitting its Typhoon jet engine for the first time.

The Bloodhound vehicle, which is being constructed by civilian experts and five soldiers from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, now has an EJ200 powerplant fixed to its upper chassis.

An attempt to break the current land speed record of 763mph is scheduled to take place at Hakskeen Pan in South Africa next November ahead of a further bid to reach 1,000mph in 2016.

"This is a fantastic moment in the project," said Mark Chapman, Bloodhound's chief engineer. "It's great to see the jet engine fitted; it validates the many years of hard work by our engineers."

In another boost to the car's crew, Maj Oli Morgan (REME), Army team leader on the project, has been named the 2014 Modern Day Visionary by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Maj Morgan's role sees him lead a small team of expert technicians as well as managing and training

more than 150 educational ambassadors.

"I'm immensely humbled to be recognised for my work," said the officer.

"The project's goal is to inspire a new generation into careers in

science, technology, engineering and maths."

For updates on Bloodhound visit www.bloodhoundssc.com or follow the team on Twitter via @BLOODHOUND_SSC



...A year's supply of tasty steak pies

LAST month's spine lines clues may have sent a shiver down the back of our thrill-seeking readers.

Inspired by our feature on adventurous training in Canada, Biafo (in Pakistan), Fedchenko (in Tajikistan), Hubbard and Margerie (both in Alaska) are the names of glaciers.

This month we have teamed up with Holland's Pies (www.hollandspies.co.uk) to offer three lucky readers a real winter warmer of a treat – a year's supply of pies.

To be in with a chance of winning a delicious mix of 52 steak and Guinness pies and puddings – which come in frozen packs of two and can be cooked in the microwave in just five minutes – tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Send your answers to the usual postal address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by November 28. Bon appetit!





“CERTAIN LARGER INDIVIDUALS ONLY DO BICEP CURLS IN THE PUB” – TALKBACK TRIALS, PAGES 55–59

NEW ERA FOR GUNNERS

■ ARMY 2020 plans are continuing apace with the restructuring of the Service's 1st Artillery Brigade.

The Tidworth-based formation has taken command of nine regiments of the Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery, as well as Central Volunteer Headquarters RA.

Part of Force Troops Command, the brigade's mission will be to prepare and generate deployable gunnery assets in support of 1st and 3rd (UK) Divisions.

In January the HQ will take over regional responsibilities for the south-west counties when it subsumes 43 Wessex Brigade.

'LEAD BY EXAMPLE'

■ SOLDIERS are being urged to pass on their skills to the next generation by volunteering with the Army Cadet Force (ACF).

The organisation, which brings adventure to around 46,000 youngsters across the UK, is on the hunt for new instructors.

It is looking for former Regular personnel, Reservists or those from military families to lead its 12- to 18-year-old cadets.

"I was a little scumbag when I was a teenager but the cadets straightened me out and prepared me for life," said Capt Jim Boyden (R Signals, pictured below), a volunteer with the Sussex Cadet Force.

"They did such a good job with me that I wanted to put something back."

He added: "Soldiers help to bring a certain credibility to cadet training."

"It's a good way to keep your military skills current and to retain a link with the British Army after you leave."

To volunteer with the ACF visit www.armycadets.com/armyleavers



■ ROYAL Engineers get to grips with the Python rocket-powered mine clearance system during Exercise Prairie Storm 3 in Alberta, Canada. The month-long training package saw the 1 Yorks Battlegroup hone their skills and drills ahead of becoming the Reaction Force's lead armoured battlegroup in April 2015. For more details on the training read pages 8-9.

Picture: Sgt Mark Webster, RLC

Army apologises to bullied soldier

AN ex-paratrooper has received a formal apology from the British Army after it was found that his regimental sergeant major had bullied him.

Triple amputee Tom Neathway, who served as a corporal with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was working at the Parachute Training Support Unit at RAF Brize Norton when the verbal abuse took place.

A Service complaint panel's findings concluded that Neathway was also failed by his commanding officer.

Such hearings are not usually made public but following widespread media coverage of the case, a spokesman for the Army said: "The panel, on behalf of the Defence Council, has formally apologised to ex-Cpl Neathway and made recommendations for the chain of command to consider."

"The Service has appointed a suitably empowered officer, unconnected with the events, to investigate all matters arising from the panel's decision."

In March the MoD announced a quicker process for dealing with soldiers' grievances as well as the creation of a Service complaints ombudsman.

The Speak Out campaign also continues to be championed by the organisation in a bid to stamp out bullying.



The Army takes bullying and harassment very seriously and those who are affected should speak out. Not only does it affect a soldier's health and morale but it damages operational effectiveness. Here are some ways to get help:

- Talk to a mate
- Inform your commander
- Speak to a higher level in your unit chain of command
- Approach the unit's equality and diversity adviser or assistant
- Talk to a welfare officer or padre
- Contact the confidential Speak Out helpline on **01264 381922**, military **94391 7922** or email army-speakout@mod.uk

The helpline team is trained to offer advice and assist with resolving issues without a drawn-out process. They can also offer guidance on Service complaints.

TOWER POPPY PROJECT COMPLETE

■ A DISPLAY of ceramic poppies encircling the Tower of London has been completed to mark Remembrance Day.

The installation features 888,246 flowers inside the landmark's dry moat – one for each British and Commonwealth soldier killed during the First World War – and was created by artist Paul Cummins and theatre stage designer Tom Piper.

All of the poppies have already been sold for £25 each, and are expected to raise more than £15 million for The Royal British Legion, the Confederation of Service Charities, Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes and SSAFA. Follow [#TowerPoppies](https://twitter.com/TowerPoppies) on Twitter.



“IT WAS SEEN AS A BIT OF A DEAD-END CAREER PATH” – INT CORPS AT 100, PAGES 50-52



Bid to improve housing support

New management for Service families' accommodation

A NEW contract for the management of Service families' accommodation (SFA) will make the system more responsive, according to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO).

A joint venture will see companies Carillion and Amey take over the running of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland on behalf of the DIO from the start of this month.

Then on December 1 similar arrangements will be introduced in England and Wales.

The firms will run services such as allocation of move appointments, provision of furniture, maintenance and improvements.

The system promises to see families getting a greater role in checking and signing off work and more guidance on march-in standards.

A national telephone number for all SFA enquiries is being created, as well as 27 local customer centres for face-to-face assistance.

Personnel will also receive a guide



to the new services.

Information will be made available through the chain of command, Army Families Federation (AFF) and the Hive centres.

“We have the promise of something fantastic but we cannot tell until the details have been released,” said Catherine Spencer, chief executive of the AFF.

Army wife Kim Brimble added: “If they can narrow the call-out time period for getting things repaired that would be good because currently people are spending full days waiting around for workmen to show up.”

For details visit www.gov.uk/dio/sfa

“We have the promise of something fantastic”

■ THE MoD has announced new charges for SFA. The combined accommodation assessment system will replace four-tier gradings from April 2016. Read [ABN150/14](#) for more information.

EVEREST OF CAVES

■ A TEAM of soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Rifles, the Combined Services Caving Association and the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme have reached the depths of one of the world's deepest cave systems.

Known as the “Everest” of caving, the Gouffre Berger in France is some 1,120 metres deep.

Lt Aaron Dishman, leader of the Rifles contingent, said his group had been complete novices when they began training for the expedition a year ago.

“It was hard work – we spent 36 hours underground and were on the go for most of that time,” he added.

“But it was an awesome experience and really showed the value of robust adventurous training.”

To get involved with Army caving email csca@militarycaving.co.uk



Picture: Stefan Marjoram

Bastion memorial comes back

Wall moved as troops prepare for final Herrick ceremony

A VIGIL has been held in Afghanistan to mark the transfer of the iconic memorial wall at Camp Bastion to the UK.

The monument, which bears the names of all 453 British troops who have died on Op Herrick, has been the focus for commemoration and reflection since it was built in 2002.

As this issue went to press the wall was being deconstructed.

Its new home will be the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, where the names of the fallen will be re-engraved on sand coloured stone alongside the original brass plaques.

“The wall has become a bastion of our collective memory of those who we have lost during this campaign,” commented Brig Rob Thomson,

deputy commander of Regional Command (South West).

“Its rightful and timely transfer from this land to ours will ensure that the memories of a foreign field are brought home in the right way and will endure for future generations.”

Later this month UK personnel will take part in the final Remembrance ceremonies of Op Herrick.

Members of 2nd Battalion, The Rifles will pay their respects at Camp Souter in Kabul while their colleagues from 5th Battalion attend a service in Kandahar. A ceremony is also planned for the Afghan National Army Officer Academy.

The opening date for the new memorial will be announced once combat operations have ended.



Picture: Cpl Mark Lamer, BY

Chief to ‘set record straight’

THE Service's most senior officer has said he is determined to set the record straight on the role of the Army Reserve.

In a statement to troops, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, Chief of the General Staff, revealed he had been “disappointed” by recent debate on the organisation's new structure.

He explained that Regular troops are not being replaced by Reservists and that the Army 2020 structure is all about making the Service more flexible.

“We must evolve to face emerging threats and this requires increased agility and innovation, placing greater emphasis on diversity so we are open to new thinking and the widest possible talent,” he said.

“We should be in no doubt that whatever the size of the Army and whatever its roles, we must have Reserves. They are essential to our military capability, crucially important for securing our position in the nation and linking us to civil society.”

Gen Carter also conceded that more must be done to balance the needs of civilian employers, families and the Army.

Read the full statement in [ABN 146/14](#).



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**"I WANT TO SMASH IT AND
MY TARGET IS 100 MILES"
- MUDDER MISSION, PAGE 91**



FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



KILLER RUN IN KABUL

EX-SERVICEMEN are tackling back-to-back marathons around Kabul in a bid to raise £5,000 for the charity Help 4 Homeless Veterans. Steve McCowlliff (ex-RRF) and Chris Huxley (ex-Cheshire), both security managers working in the city, aim to row, run or cycle the 52-mile course in eight hours. Visit www.justgiving.com/kabuldoublemarathonchallenge for details.

**To help the veterans raise
£5,000 text ECDU50
followed by £2, £5 or £10
to 70070**

RIDERS BOOST CHARITY COFFERS

MILITARY personnel, veterans and civilians joined forces to raise money for charity by cycling 500 miles from Edinburgh's Holyrood Palace to the Tower of London in five days. Each of the 21 participants in the Ride of Britain challenge raised a minimum of £1,300 for SSFA to help the cause continue its support to serving and former troops and their families.



AMPUTEES AT SEA

TWO former soldiers were among the first all-amputee team to successfully swim the English Channel. Stephen White (ex-RGJ, pictured second from right) and Jamie Gillespie (ex-RE, pictured second from left) took on the feat together with two ex-Royal Navy colleagues in aid of Blesma. The group underwent months of rigorous training ahead of the relay crossing, which they completed in poor weather in a time of 12hr 14min.

**Money raised:
£3,000
For:
Blesma**

A YEAR OF PAIN

ROYAL Electrical and Mechanical Engineers based at Abbey Wood are embarking on a year-long campaign to raise money for charity. The ten-man team are aiming to complete one half-marathon per month throughout 2015 in aid of the ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Macmillan Cancer Support.

**To help the team reach their
£4,000 goal visit:
www.virginmoneygiving.
com/team/remerunners2015**



**“
I wanted
to make a
difference
”**



COMBATTING STRESS

A SOLDIER who decided to raise money for Combat Stress after seeing Ross Kemp's *Invisible Wounded* documentary has raised more than £6,000. Pte Paul Meehan (MPGS, pictured) staged bucket collections at supermarkets and train stations in North Yorkshire and undertook two Great North Runs and the Leeds Half Marathon. "I have seen many of my friends have breakdowns," said Pte Meehan. "I wanted to try and help make a difference to at least one person's life."

**Money raised:
£6,000
For:
Combat Stress**

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Picture: Andrew Linnett



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"I ALWAYS REMEMBER PEOPLE IN MY HEART" - NEVER FORGET, PAGES 24-26



Veteran stripped of Military Cross

A FORMER major has been stripped of the Military Cross he won in Afghanistan in what is believed to be the first time a gallantry medal has been withdrawn.

Robert Armstrong (ex-RA) was awarded the honour in 2009 for his leadership under fire when a convoy he was travelling in was attacked by the enemy.

According to the officer's citation, his "instinctive actions and personal courage" had saved lives but an investigation was launched after doubts were raised over the version of events.

The cancellation of the award was confirmed in the *London Gazette*.

An MoD statement said the honours and awards system "relies

entirely on the integrity" of those involved in the process.

"Where there is doubt it is essential that the circumstances are investigated thoroughly, as the Army has done in this case," it continued.

"The review concluded that the citation in question contained a number of inaccuracies and falsehoods."

CALL TO HELP CULL

■ SHARPSHOOTING soldiers are needed to bolster the Defence Deer Management (DDM) section.

DDM runs a membership and training scheme covering all aspects of deer management including culling, preparing carcasses for human consumption, clearing scrub, erecting observation posts and undertaking minor forestry work.

It wants to recruit more troops as the UK deer population, which has now topped 1.5 million, continues to climb with many living on MoD-owned land.

Culling has to take place regularly to prevent overgrazing, diseases and road traffic accidents.

SSgt Mark Springall (REME), a recently qualified deer manager, said: "I've been all over the country doing this and particularly enjoyed building high seats in woods, butchering venison for my family and taking part in deer counts."

Training takes approximately two years to complete and can be part-funded by the standard learning credits scheme.

For more details visit the DDM page on the Defence Gateway.



“It means tactical decisions are better informed”



5 things to know about Watchkeeper

1 Watchkeeper can detect and track targets beyond visual range with great precision, providing near real-time support



2 It is controlled at all times by two highly skilled junior NCO pilots using a keyboard and mouse

3 Before it takes off the UAS is programmed with instructions so it knows where to go if communications are lost



4 It weighs less than 500kg and has a wingspan of 11 metres, allowing it to glide down in the unlikely event of engine failure

5 Watchkeeper can be deployed within two hours of being unpacked from its container



Picture: Cpl Mark Lamer, RY

New arrival in Afghanistan

Watchkeeper takes up force protection role in desert

BRITISH troops in Afghanistan are being watched over by the Army's latest unmanned air system (UAS), Watchkeeper.

The asset, which can offer support for up to 14 hours at a time, has begun operations in the country, providing force protection for soldiers as UK Armed Forces prepare to leave.

Watchkeeper can complete surveillance and target acquisition tasks and relay imagery by day and night thanks to a range of advanced optical and infrared sensors and a cutting-edge radar

"The enhanced real-time situational awareness that Watchkeeper provides means that our local understanding is greater, our tactical decisions better informed, and that, ultimately,

personnel on the ground are safer," commented Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton.

Once the drawdown process is complete the UAS will return to its home in Wiltshire where Royal Artillery troops will continue training with it in restricted airspace over Salisbury Plain.



Mechanic's mercy mission

A UGANDAN soldier is calling on the Service community to donate clothes and supplies to impoverished communities in his home country.

LCpl Thomas Musuuza (REME, pictured) was inspired to act after the birth of his son in 2011.

"I started to consider the future he would have and then I thought of the children back in Uganda," the 30-year-old explained.

"We live in a land of endless opportunity in the UK but over there, there are kids hunting in garbage for something to eat."

Despite a busy posting to Canada and studying for a diploma, the junior NCO has already gathered two tonnes of second-hand goods, which he distributed to the country's orphans, street children and homeless mothers back in 2012.

He returned even more determined to help and is now planning another



shipment in June 2015.

"I want to see the project through to the end," he added.

"I know what a difference it makes and I won't stop."

Anyone who can donate clothes, shoes, toys, school items, sanitary towels or cash is asked to email LCpl Musuuza via tmusuza@yahoo.co.uk or visit the "Dress a Child in Uganda" Facebook page.



“FOR SIX MONTHS THE ADRENALIN WILL BE RUNNING AROUND THE UNIT”

– READINESS ORDER REVEALED, PAGES 46–47

DECORATION DECIDER

■ THE MoD is considering whether to allow Reservists who have served for at least ten years to carry letters after their name.

It is yet to be decided whether this should stem from a new decoration or the existing Volunteer Reserve Service Medal, holders of which are not currently allowed to use post-nominals.

The proposal is part of a wider review into Army honours criteria, which is due to be completed by the end of the year.

The study is also looking at extending the conditions for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to include officers.



MORE RANGE DAYS

■ SOLDIERS training in Catterick will have more opportunities to practise live firing thanks to a new state-of-the-art range.

The multi-million pound Heronree North facility features two 600-metre, ten-lane electronic target ranges, fitted with the latest targetry system technology.

Brig David Maddan, commandant for the School of Infantry at Catterick, said the facility would improve the experience for Service personnel.

“It also enhances capacity by allowing live-firing to take place for up to an additional 500 range days per year,” added the officer.

CHARITY PHOTO CALL

■ A COMPETITION has been launched by ABF The Soldiers’ Charity to find images for its 2016 calendar.



Instead of using the work of official Army photographers, the organisation has decided to showcase pictures by soldiers, veterans, cadets and their families.



Entries must fit into one of eight categories – training, veterans, Reserves, serving, families, cadets, sport or First World War commemoration – and the winners will be

announced next year.

The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2015 and for details visit www.soldierscharity.org/photocompetition

HOME TRUTHS



A personal view from Louise Simpson, evidence director at the Army Families Federation...



Is life harder for Army couples?

DUAL serving families – that is, those where both partners are in uniform – often comment that the questions in the AFF’s annual survey do not relate to their specific situation.

They also say they need the MoD to have a better understanding of the challenges they face.

With limited influence over fundamental issues such as postings and pay, representing this cohort can be difficult but we are keen to understand more.

We already know there are 1,536 dual serving couples in the Army and that the main barriers to the retention of these personnel are deployments and postings, which can place partners miles apart.

And when you factor in children, the situation can become virtually insurmountable.

Another issue for women is one common to the wider world of employment – that of equitable promotion opportunities.

As of July there were 7,920 females in the Service representing less than nine per cent of the manpower. A significant proportion of them will be working mothers who, we know, already find it hard to sustain Army careers.

If they are part of a dual serving family, have they had to become the primary carer while their partner concentrates on his career?

On the face of it, these issues appear to be the same as those in the civilian world.

But as a spouse of a serving soldier, I find my husband’s inflexible working conditions mean that I am still responsible for the majority of

the childcare despite being a full-time employee.

Fortunately, I have found a solution by taking a civilian job with flexible working hours.

But by its very nature the Army is a fairly rigid employer and those roles that do offer some degree of leeway are often not the ones that lead to fast-track promotion.

The X-factor payment is given in recognition of the unique conditions of military life such as exposure to danger and separation.

But when there are two people operating under these conditions, does something have to give?

The new employment model is looking at flexible working and one of the options being discussed is the ability to transfer to the Reserves for a period of time to allow for other commitments.

But there is a danger this could become a career-limiting move.

What else can be done so the Army can encourage retention of both serving soldiers in a family?

Could the MoD look at a career path without the X-factor that would allow flexible working hours? Or do more to support childcare options?

Could the electronic housing application be changed to make it easier for dual serving families to find an abode that suits both their work locations?

These are just a few of the challenges we are aware of so we have created a survey to better understand this situation.

Visit our website during November and give us your feedback.

www.aff.org.uk

“By its very nature, the Army is a more rigid employer”



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"I KEPT THINKING HOW MUCH RESPECT I HAD FOR THE LADS THAT FOUGHT THERE"

– REMEMBRANCE REFLECTIONS, PAGE 94



Milestone for Afghan academy



THE first intake of cadets from the British-mentored Afghan National Army Officer Academy have completed their training.

A total of 243 troops graduated after finishing the 42-week leadership course, which is based on the ethos of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"These leaders will strengthen Afghan forces as they continue to provide security for their people," Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said during a visit to the facility near Kabul.

Picture: Cpl Chantelle Cooke, RAF



REMEMBERING ARMY'S FALLEN GURKHA HEROES

■ THE bravery of the Army's Gurkha soldiers has been honoured with the unveiling of a new monument at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Known as a chautara – a stone resting place traditionally used by Sherpas in the Himalayas – it was built by members of the Queen's Gurkha Signals with the help of a professional stonemason.

It bears the 19 cap badges of every Gurkha unit since the fighters first swore allegiance to the Crown in 1815.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by around 400 people including Princess Anne.

Nepalese troops have served with the British Army in virtually every major conflict of recent times, including Iraq and Afghanistan, and it is estimated that more than 200,000 of them fought during the two world wars.

A series of events will take place next year to mark 200 years of Gurkha service to Great Britain.

SIGNALS HUB STEPS UP

■ BUILDING work has started on two projects at Beacon Barracks in Stafford that will prepare the site for the return of troops from Germany.

The first blocks have been laid of a new combined mess facility within the camp and of 346 family homes on land adjacent to the site.

Further redevelopment plans include new workshops, single living accommodation, offices and a junior ranks cookhouse, as well as retail, leisure, sports and medical facilities.

The town will become a major Signals hub as 1st and 16th Signal Regiments join 22nd Signal Regiment at the barracks next year.

Creativity in combat

Service personnel showcase their artistic talent

A SPECIAL exhibition of paintings and sculptures by soldiers and their family members is being held in the run-up to Remembrance Day.

The display at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, has been organised by the Army Arts Society.

The pieces, which are all for sale, range from images of front-line action to reflections from those at home and will be showcased until November 10.

"The strongest works are not necessarily the most technically accomplished, they are the ones produced by soldiers in the field," said the curator of the exhibition, OCdt Anthony Moylan (University of London OTC).

"Things that are done live in the

arena of operations have the most potency because they are so true."

The exhibition was organised in support of Westminster Abbey's "going to war" autumn theme, to compare the experience of battle in 1914 with the deployments of today.

"I think the artwork is absolutely brilliant – it's a real privilege to have it here," said Iain Blythe, administrator at the Westminster Abbey Institute.

"The display shows that the military has some very talented soldiers and family members."

In 2011 the Army Arts Society started sending packs of watercolours, sketchbooks, pencils and brushes to troops on Op Herrick.

For more details on the group visit www.armyartsociety.org

“The military has some very talented soldiers”



Clockwise from left: *Home Sweet Home* iPad print by veteran Eddie Beddoes, oil painting *Lest We Forget* by Sgt Richard Salter (R Signals) and oil painting *Sniffer Dog* by Lady Elizabeth Kitson

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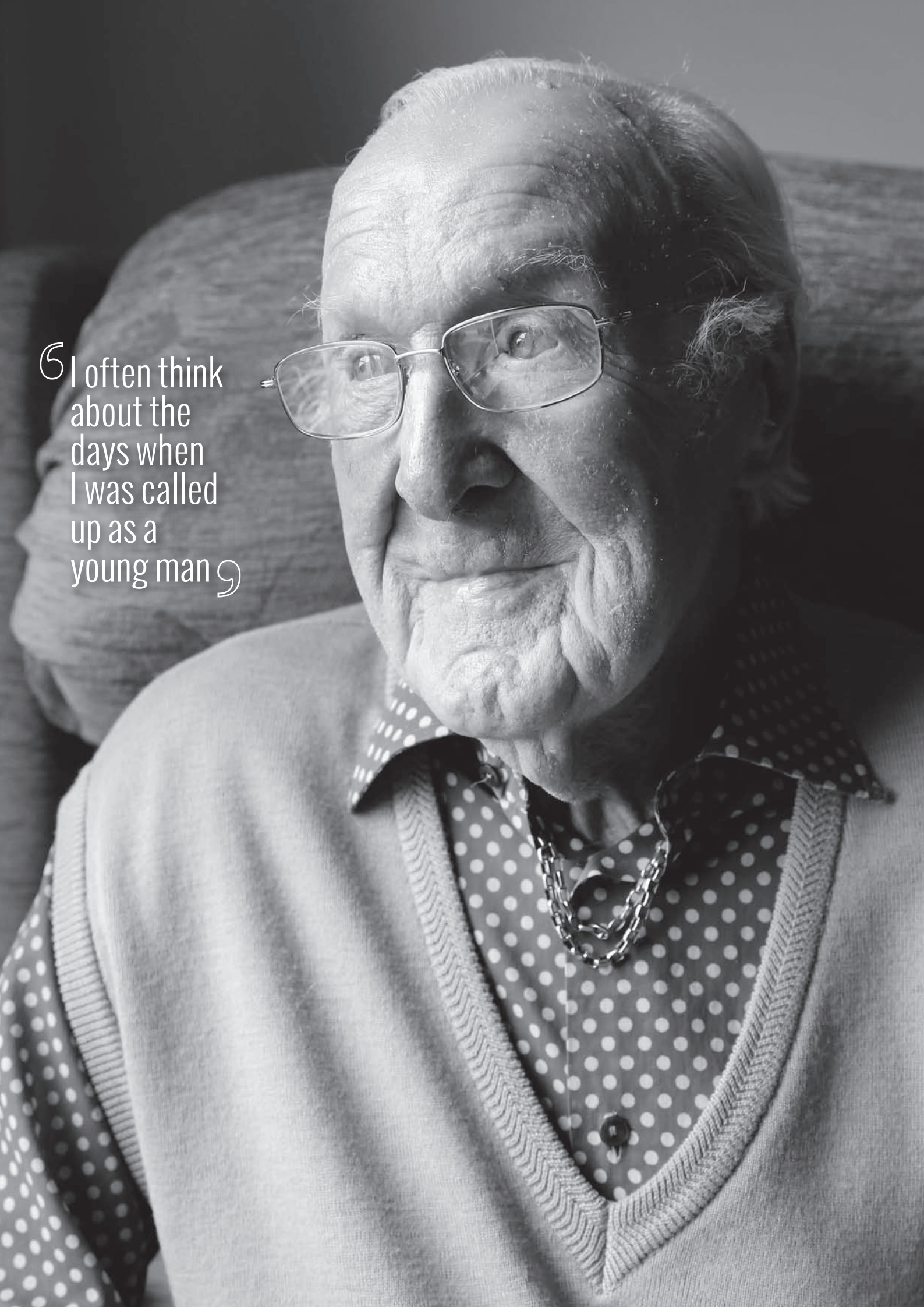


> TOWER OF LONDON

FOR THE FALLEN

SIGNALLER Greg Morrin (251 Sig Sqn) contemplates the "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" installation at the Tower of London. The display features 888,246 ceramic poppies, one for each British and Commonwealth soldier killed in the First World War. After Remembrance Day the flowers will be sold to raise money for Service charities.

Read more about the project on page 12. Picture: Steve Dock



“I often think
about the
days when
I was called
up as a
young man”

ON A MISSION TO REMEMBER

REPORT:
SARAH GOLDTHORPE

PICTURES:
STEVE DOCK

When looking back becomes a struggle

AS Service personnel come together to mark Remembrance Day this month, it seems inconceivable that their life-changing experiences in Afghanistan may one day vanish from memory.

But that is the reality facing the very oldest of the UK's five million-odd veterans.

For these individuals, reflection is a far greater undertaking than a two-minute silence on November 11 – it is a daily battle to retain the precious details of a career rapidly fading from their minds.

And while some maintain a very clear picture of their time spent serving Queen and country, others suffering with dementia have lost all knowledge of the fact they were ever in uniform.

At The Royal Star and Garter Home in Solihull – one of a handful of UK nursing homes catering specifically to ex-Service personnel and their families – residents who are vulnerable to the progressive brain disease find evermore creative ways of remembering previous conflicts and the ultimate price paid by their comrades.

"Certain people here find it helpful to revisit the past and deal with their experiences but others don't," deputy manager Gill Dunn told *Soldier*.

Along with a team of more than 100 staff, she runs a residential facility that prides itself on providing what it calls reminiscence therapy.

The idea is that by talking about their combat experiences in discussion groups or using aids such as photographs or military music to reflect on the past, the mood and wellbeing of residents is improved. »



» Books, magazines and memory boxes containing wartime relics all help the pensioners to rediscover memories and keep a sense of solidarity within the Midlands-based establishment.

"We try hard to maintain the Armed Forces link," Mrs Dunn continued.

"I think it's sad when that part of people's past is forgotten because really it's the very substance of their lives.

"But we don't push anyone to look back if they don't want to."

Douglas Naylor, a 96-year-old former captain in the Royal Army Service Corps, spent 20 years in uniform and is one of those who enjoys recounting his experiences.

"Remembrance Day itself doesn't mean that much to me because I always remember people in my heart," he said.

"I often think of the days in 1939 when I was called up as a young man."

For the veterans who are suffering with dementia, eight so-called "remembrance pods" help them to recall all-but-lost experiences.

Pop-up rooms (pictured below) mimicking old-fashioned haunts – a theatre, sweet shop and dance hall, to name three – transport the residents back to bygone eras that are familiar and comforting.

Such escapism allows individuals to familiarise themselves with the person they are rather than the medical condition they have.

And even for those who recognise little of their past, it can be surprising how the military connection can sometimes manifest itself.

According to Mrs Dunn (pictured right), one previous occupant of the home would find contentment peeling potatoes for hours on end because that was one of his catering roles in the Army.

And more recently, a Parkinson's disease sufferer who was struggling to walk managed to find his feet when staff issued the familiar cry of "left, right, left, right".

"When they are reminiscing the residents tell fantastic, often funny, stories which generally seem to include more ups than downs," activities manager Annette Stockham commented.

"As they talk it creates a camaraderie.

"One ex-Serviceman recently recounted losing friends as a prisoner of war and you could hear his voice getting slower and slower as he told the story.

"But the others jumped in and guided him through the memory.

"We've also witnessed women sharing tales about what they were doing in England while the men were at war and it brings it home that, yes, it was hard at the front but things were also difficult for the females. It creates a mutual respect."

Despite such activities happening throughout the year, Remembrance Day itself still holds huge significance at The Royal Star and Garter Home.

"It is a very proud day and very moving," Ms Stockham continued.

"It's the one occasion when everyone makes sure they are up and dressed with all of their medals on. Ill or not, they get out of bed."

For 93-year-old Maggie Webster (pictured top), a former sergeant in the Royal Corps of Signals who was tasked to the Government Code and Cypher School during the Second World War, November 11 conjures memories of family tragedy.

"My sister's husband was killed in North Africa and left her with four children," the veteran recalled. "The Army wrote to her to tell her they would be taking a shilling out of her pension for the blanket he had been buried in and that's the only time I saw her cry.

"I think for some people they don't want to remember things like that, but for me Remembrance Day is about recalling the people I worked with and taking comfort from that.

"When I joined the Army it opened a new life to me and coming to live in this place has made me come alive again."

At 90 years old, Alan Smith, also a former signaller, is similarly optimistic about visiting the past.

"You think about the good times more than the bad," he added. "I remember courting a beautiful Italian girl when I was serving in Italy.

"She couldn't speak any English and my mother certainly couldn't speak any Italian – I often still wonder what that meeting would have been like."

Aside from all the inspiring stories and activities inside this residential home, the single event that perhaps best reflects its determination to honour the past is the final journey taken by residents after they die.

Rather than being discreetly taken away via the back door, their coffins are proudly draped with the Union Flag and a poppy wreath, and paraded through the main foyer to the raucous applause of staff and residents.

A fitting end to a life and contribution that will never be forgotten. ■



When they are reminiscing the residents tell fantastic, often funny, stories



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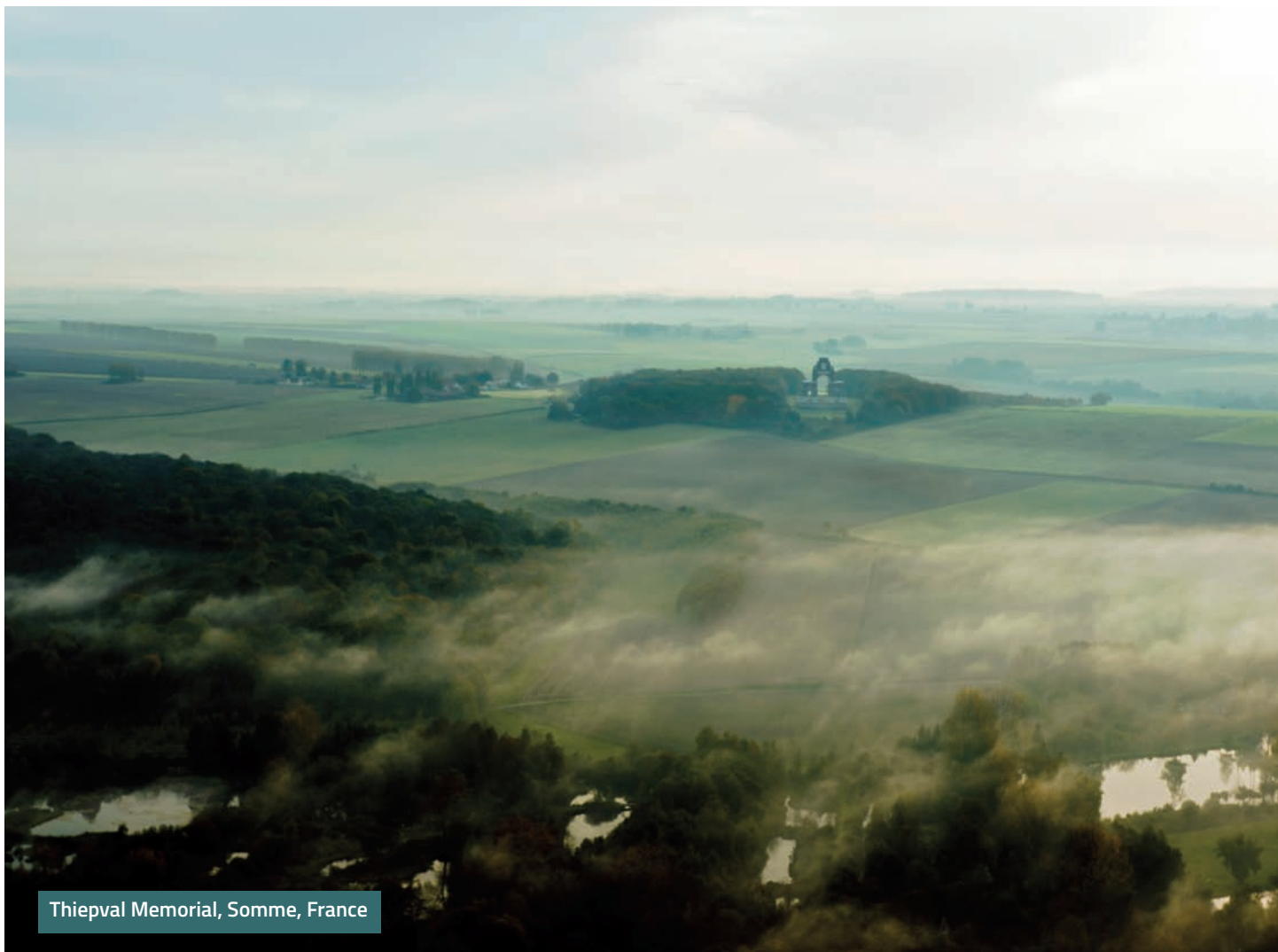
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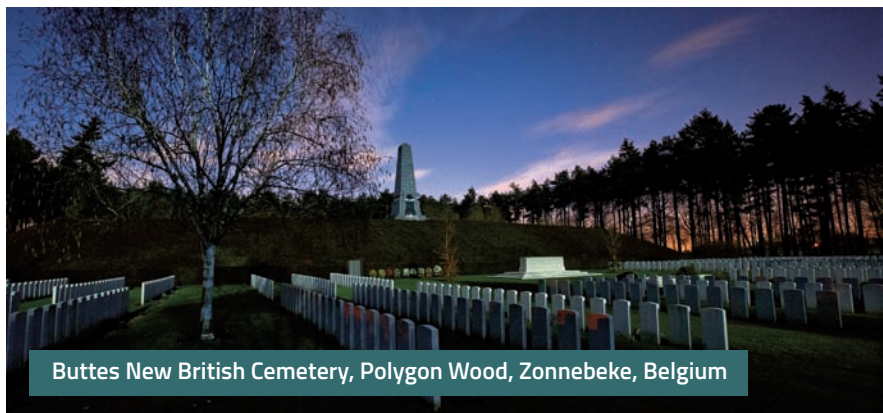
Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Trekopje Cemetery, Namibia



Plymouth Naval Memorial, England



Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke, Belgium

Pictures: 2014 CWGC/Michael St Maur Shell

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

PHOTOGRAPHS SHED NEW
LIGHT ON WAR GRAVES

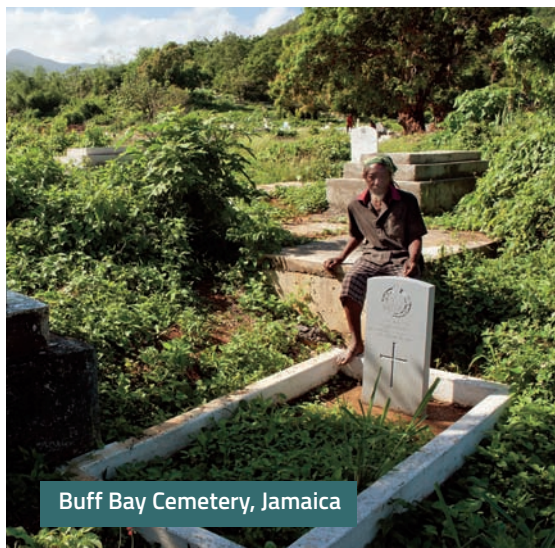
Report: Richard Long

AS the Service stops to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice this month, one man's remarkable pictures reflect on their final resting places.

For the Fallen boasts a selection of images from sites across the globe that are dedicated to keeping the memory of military heroes alive, from headstones in the remote Namib Desert to the 72,000 names inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial in France. →



St Finnan's Isle Burial Ground, Scotland



Buff Bay Cemetery, Jamaica



St Symphorien Military Cemetery, Belgium



Beach Cemetery ANZAC, Gallipoli, Turkey

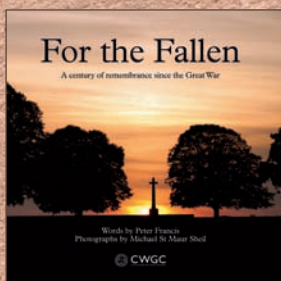


Morogoro Cemetery, Tanzania

→ Acclaimed photographer Michael St Maur Sheil spent almost a decade working on the book project.

His efforts provide an insight into the sheer volume and spread of more than 23,000 Commonwealth War Grave Commission locations worldwide – as well as the dedication of the 1,200 staff who tend to these poignant sites.

In the title former journalist Peter Francis offers a fascinating overview of the organisation's history and charts how founder Fabian Ware enlisted the likes of Rudyard Kipling and architect Edwin Lutyens to help ensure that the fallen would never be forgotten. ■



● ***For the Fallen*** from AA Publishing is out now, priced £25



Cliveden War Cemetery, England



Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, Somme, France



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MILITARY MYSTERIES

ONE TEAM'S QUEST TO IDENTIFY BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN HEROES

Report: Steven Muncey

Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN the remains of 15 First World War soldiers were re-interred in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Bois-Grenier in France last month, it marked the end of a long journey in more ways than one.

For the relatives of the fallen York and Lancaster Regiment troops and for representatives from the dead soldiers' successive unit, The Yorkshire Regiment, it was a chance to pay their respects and formally bury the personnel with military honours 100 years to the month after they were killed in a battle at Beauchamp Ligny.

Meanwhile, for a small band of civil servants based at the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) at Imjin Barracks in Gloucestershire, the occasion marked a hugely satisfying conclusion to months of complex detective work.

The JCCC may be well known for managing notifications of deceased or injured Service personnel from current conflicts but the efforts of this particular sub-unit, which was established in 2005, are unheralded to say the least.

From their small office in the bowels of the former RAF station Sue Rafter and her two assistants, Deborah Morgan and Richard Walters, quietly go about managing the complex process of identifying and re-burying recently discovered remains of British military personnel from campaigns dating back to the Great War.

This involves analysing any physical evidence found at the scene, scanning military museum archives and regimental records, war diaries and even DNA samples – when they are available – to try and track down the identity of fallen soldiers.

The scope of their duties also includes searching for surviving relatives through regional media campaigns, then providing them with reassurance and a friendly point of contact throughout the process.

They even work with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to organise the eventual burial ceremonies.

"It's a very rewarding, unique job and we feel very privileged to be able to do it," says Sue. "When you meet the families of the fallen and have final closure it really is amazing."

Their work starts as soon as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is alerted to the discovery of a fresh set of remains.

Photographs of what is found at



IT'S REALLY
IMPORTANT
TO THE
RELATIVES
THAT WE DO IT
PROPERLY

the site and any artefacts uncovered at the location are shipped over to Gloucestershire for analysis.

First World War personnel were issued with perishable fibre identification tags, rather than metal ones, so the smallest pieces of uniform material, buttons, clasps and personal effects can provide the team with a crucial breakthrough in the identification process.

"It's amazing but even a hallmark on a ring or locket can provide a valuable lead," says Sue.

Her team frequently spends weeks trawling through National Archives documents and regimental museums in order to narrow down which unit saw action in a particular area.

"In the Beauchamp Ligny case we knew there was a battle at this site involving personnel from the York and Lancaster Regiment on October 18, 1914 and again on October 23," she explains.

"The regimental museum is up in Sheffield so I went there to discover what records they had that could help our investigation.

"They revealed that 58 soldiers went missing in action during the two battles at the site.

"This helped us to narrow down the identification efforts on the remains of the 15 Servicemen that were discovered."

The team was provided with access to DNA testing two years ago but this isn't always the panacea that people expect – the quality of organic material can be hugely affected by a number of factors such as climate, for instance.

"Heat and sun erodes DNA and we have had cases from Malaysia, for example, where it simply wasn't feasible to do testing," says Sue.

"But northern France is fairly cold so if there are traces to be found – and that is still rare after 100 years or so – there's a chance they will be useable," she adds.

DNA screening is an expensive process so when the team is assessing whether it should be carried out or not, the ratio of how many personnel are missing to the number of remains found is the starting point.

At Beauchamp Ligny, with 15 soldiers unearthed and 58 troops known to be victims of the two battles there, the process was judged to be manageable and relatively cost-effective.

A local media campaign was conducted around Sheffield – where most of the regiment's members were recruited from back in 1914 – to locate people related to the 58 missing soldiers.

Then the arduous process of obtaining good quality DNA samples



Above: Last month's burial ceremony for the York and Lancaster Regiment soldiers
Picture: Richard Watt

Far left: Sue Raftree and Deborah Morgan analyse First World War artefacts from Loos, France

from them had to begin – a task that's not as easy as it might sound.

"Believe it or not, the closest relatives are not always the best candidates because DNA is a very complex thing – that's where our genealogist comes in," says Sue.

"The mixture of males and females in the bloodline, for instance, can be a major factor in determining the best quality donor – and that person may actually turn out to be a second cousin twice removed.

"This can delay the process as the results sometimes take two or three months to come back to us – it's not like *The Jeremy Kyle Show* where an identity is revealed the next day."

The team were fortunate in the Beauchamp Ligny case, however, with relatives of 54 of the 58 missing troops coming forward and 11 successful matches eventually produced.

Sue and her team then contacted the families and went to admirable lengths to provide reassurance and comfort when it was needed most.

"We tell the families personally we

have identified their relative, which even for descendants of First World War soldiers can be a bit of a shock," says Sue.

"For the Beauchamp Ligny families I organised and hosted a meeting in Sheffield to discuss the way forward, and more than 100 people attended.

"I invited representatives from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission along to explain the burial details, and the DNA specialist and genealogist to go over how they went about identifying the remains.

"I also brought in someone from the old regiment to tell everyone about the battle itself and that was followed by an open forum for people to ask questions.

"The whole process is a huge challenge," she says, "but it is really important to the relatives, and to our war dead, that we do it properly."

With the remains of 15-20 Servicemen on average being discovered every year, it is clear this honourable responsibility will endure for some time to come. ■

WITH HONOUR AT LAST

■ IN 2013 Sue and her team worked with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to arrange military burial ceremonies for 15 First World War soldiers – 13 unidentified from various regiments along with Lt John Pritchard and Pte Christopher Elphick of the Honourable Artillery Company.

This year they will organise similar ceremonies for a total of 43 British soldiers killed in the Great War.

Unlike today, where the MoD repatriates the bodies of those who die while serving overseas, the ceremony takes place in the country where the death occurred due to the official policy up to 1963.

Personnel are usually re-buried with full military honours in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery nearest to where they died.

A bearer party from the regiment, bugler, padre, senior military officer and family members are all invited to the funeral, with up to two immediate relatives (spouse, children or siblings) being funded by the public purse.

The graves of unknown soldiers are marked by a headstone bearing any known information, regimental details and the inscription "Known unto God", and the soldier is afforded the same ceremony as a named Serviceman or woman.



HORRIBLE HISTORY?



“

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it

”

George Santayana, philosopher

Report: Joe Clapson
Pictures: Bdr Murray Kerr, RA

PAYING our respects to the fallen soldiers of the Great War is one thing.

Trying to understand the decisions they took on the battlefield is quite another.

But with centenary events now in full swing across the country, the British Army has embarked on a mission to educate personnel about the whys and wherefores of the 1914-18 conflict.

More than simply dwelling on the scale of loss, the Service wants troops to learn from the experiences of their forefathers and then apply that knowledge in their own careers.

And while it will be no surprise to know that senior officers and military historians have already been swotting up on facts and figures at the iconic battlefield sites of the Somme and Ypres, the mission is expected to capture the imagination of all ranks over the next four years.

“If we don’t know where we have come from, we don’t know where we are going,” explained Lt Col David Luck (RA), the officer responsible for overseeing Army

commemoration activities.

“There are so many resources from the First World War, diaries of soldiers from privates right up to field marshals, and they give fantastic insights into what happened.

“We all know that soldiers are the greatest in the world at finding ways of doing things better so by looking at the past we can draw lessons from it.

“No one has a monopoly on good ideas and actions taken ages ago may well be timeless and apply today.”

One recent foray into the past came in the form of a four-day staff ride in France (*Soldier*, October), where more than 60 troops made some fascinating discoveries about the battlefields of the Great War.

Standing on patches of ground that saw the slaughter of tens of thousands of soldiers, British personnel joined their counterparts from France, Germany and Commonwealth nations to discuss the conflict.

“This is a re-examination of war rather than a commemoration,” said Maj Laurence Roche (AGC (ETS)), spokesman for HQ 3rd (UK) Division, during the visit.

How understanding the First World War could make you a better soldier

"There will be lots of ceremonies and memorials over the coming four years but to mark the First World War appropriately the Army wants to study what actually happened."

Although the weaponry of 1914 was very different to today's sophisticated equipment, the nature of military encounters was surprisingly similar.

"Nothing happens unless the logistics are right and while that is often forgotten it is completely crucial," explained Lt Gen Alistair Irwin, who served as adjutant general from 2003-05.

"The Somme could be compared to Helmand province in that initially there was no water and little support network, and large amounts of ammunition were required."

With weather conditions and use of terrain also being key to the success of combat missions both now and then, the comparisons are clear to see.

"The idea of heavy loss for no purpose is one to be wary of because there is lots to take from the conflict," historian Gary Sheffield told the

massed troops during the visit.

"The British Army fundamentally changed from a colonial war fighter to a large force capable of engaging in a large conflict.

"How do you re-grow formations? And how do you deploy Reserves?"

"These were questions of the time.

"The Territorial Army was also under-recruited – a story that might sound familiar today.

"There are examples of poor communication back to HQ and what you saw was the classic botch of men going forward without suitable artillery support."

By visiting the sites where these encounters took place, the Army also hopes to bring home to personnel the unpredictable nature of warfare.

"Everybody knows that the British Expeditionary Force suffered huge losses but seeing the fields where the men fell is something else," said Lt Col Christoph Gue, from the historical service of France's ministry of defence.

"You can see better the actual problems they had."

Capt Alex Clarke (R Welsh), a UK officer who also attended the staff ride, was clear about what he had learnt by studying the past.

"I think the main thing to take



Learning from the past: Soldiers retrace the steps of British troops in Artois, France (left) and examine the remains of a D51 tank from the 1917 Battle of Cambrai (above)

from looking back at the conflict in 1914 is that it's dangerous to be too prescriptive about how the next war will be.

"Nobody could predict what the First World War would be like and nobody could guess what would happen next."

A month after British troops were deployed to West Africa to deal with the deadly Ebola outbreak, and at a time when it is not known where the next major combat operation could be, this is perhaps the single most important lesson to be gleaned from history – be prepared. ■

KNOW YOUR STUFF

● FOR more details on Op Reflect – including a guide on organising battlefield studies, a list of key dates and various study guides – visit the Army Knowledge Exchange on the defence intranet



PTE George Ellison came heartbreakingly close to surviving the brutality of the First World War.

A member of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, the 40-year-old fought throughout the conflict only to be shot by a sniper just 90 minutes before the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Four years earlier, Pte John Parr's war had ended almost before it began. Aged just 17, he was reportedly shot by a German cavalry patrol while on a bicycle reconnaissance mission on August 21, 1914.

He had lied about his age in order to enlist in the Middlesex Regiment and would never witness the horror of the trenches.

Ellison meanwhile, a seasoned Regular at the outbreak of hostilities, endured the whole Western Front campaign, including major clashes such as the Marne, Ypres and possibly the Somme before his death.

Though they were not to know it, history would come to recognise these two Servicemen as the first and last British soldiers to fall.

And in an eerie twist of fate, they are buried just yards from each other in St Symphorien cemetery, near the Belgian town of Mons, where the British Army fought its opening and closing engagements.

This August national leaders gathered there to mark the centenary of the conflict.

But while Ellison's fate is not disputed, the circumstances of Parr's death have been cast into doubt.

Research into troop movements in late August 1914 suggests that the young Serviceman could not have been shot by an enemy patrol.

"On the afternoon of August 21, 4th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment was still 11 miles south of the Mons-Conde canal line where the British Army first engaged the Germans on the 23rd," said author and broadcaster Jon Cooksey, who studied original documents in an attempt to get to the bottom of the mystery.

"German records placed them north of that line, so no German could have killed him.

"If he did die on the 21st it could have been friendly fire from French or British forces – what we would now call a blue on blue – or a frightened Belgian.

"But it's much more likely he fell during the Battle of Mons on the 23rd.

"Other members of the regiment also remembered the first deaths on that day."

In fact, Parr's gravestone was originally marked with August 23 but this was changed in 1982 after a surviving comrade, who had also been on the bicycle patrol on the 21st, recalled having glimpsed some German Uhlans close to where the youngster was last seen.

"It's all very vague but the evidence just doesn't stack up," continued Cooksey.

"We'll probably never really know. Like so much about the Great War, it has become shrouded in myth."

Ultimately, who was the first or the last to fall in battle is immaterial.

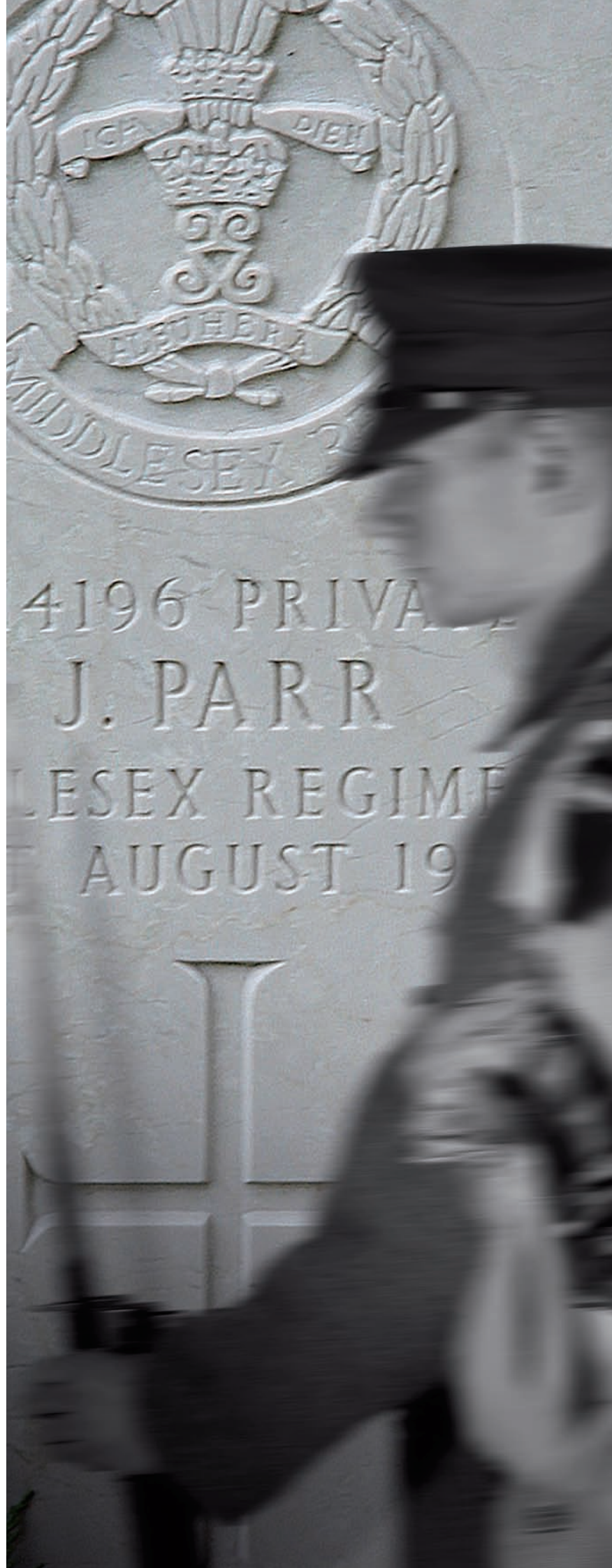
Parr, like Ellison and millions of others, died doing his duty in difficult circumstances.

But their headstones, only feet apart in the Belgian soil, have become symbolic bookends to the awful tragedy of the conflict.

"The war starts in one position, at Mons, grinds its way around Europe and the rest of the world and yet it comes back full circle to the very same spot after the loss of so many lives," commented Cooksey.

"Parr and Ellison are buried eight paces apart.

"In that short journey you have the terrible catastrophe of nine million dead and four years that changed the history of the world forever." ■



BEST
WE
FORGET

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A TALE OF TWO SOLDIERS

The strange twist of fate linking the first and last British Servicemen to fall in the Great War



● Jon Cooksey's new book, *The Retreat from Mons 1914: South*, published by Pen & Sword, is out now



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MEDICS INJECT VITAL EXPERTISE

Report: Steven Muncey

Pictures: SSgt Tom Robinson, RLC

If there was ever an example of the need for British Army personnel to be prepared for action at all times, it is the recent deployment of various cap badges to Sierra Leone.

But who could have guessed that this operation would bring them face to face with an enemy arguably more obscure than the deadly IED threat.

The Ebola virus is a serious, potentially fatal, disease spread via blood and bodily fluids or organs, and for which there are no licensed treatments or vaccine yet.

Sufferers typically develop a fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, a sore throat, and intense muscle weakness.

The symptoms can begin at any time between two and 21 days after becoming infected, and it's then that the virus can be transmitted to others.

As a result, those Servicemen and women responsible for establishing the first Ebola training academy have a crucial job.

The facility has been set up by troops from 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, supported by soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Members of 5 Armoured Medical Regiment have contributed the bulk of personnel for training the country's medics, who will eventually operate six major Ebola treatment units, including the Kerry Town centre already established by 22 Field Hospital (page 7).

Each of these contain around 100 beds, and more than 300 British military engineers and planners have been constructing the facilities since early September.

The plan is to eventually supplement these with around 1,000 ten-bed units that will be located throughout towns and villages.

It is estimated that more than 3,000 Sierra Leonean medical staff will need to be trained in order to provide this network.

"The crisis has damaged the country's medical sector with many health workers succumbing to the disease so the academy will be vital in preventing more of them from becoming infected as well as training more people," 5 Armd Med Regt's 2iC, Maj Mike

Taylor, told *Soldier*.

The academy's first training surge will focus on showing local medics how to protect themselves while at work.

"As we've seen recently with the case of a nurse being infected at a Texas hospital, the importance of being able to remove protective clothing correctly and observing the correct protocols is crucial," explained Maj Taylor.

Other teams are improving the African health care workers' skills in maintaining hygiene and treating patients with barrier and isolation nursing.

Another section is training them in logistics, instructing them how to store supplies and cadavers properly, while another troop is delivering lessons for trainers – showing them how to pass on skills to their compatriots once the British teams have departed.

Organised by the Department for International Development (DfID) and supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Medecins Sans Frontieres and Save the Children, the mission to create the academy is due to be completed by the end of this month, although details of the scale and duration of the operation were still being scoped as *Soldier* went to press.

What is clear, however, is that for as long as they are required, UK troops will tackle this threat with the same dedication as any other they have taken on. ■

SOLDIERS BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR EBOLA CRISIS





AT ARM'S LENGTH

DONNING personal protective equipment (PPE) is absolutely vital for doctors and nurses when dealing with victims of the Ebola virus, which spreads by contact with bodily fluids.

As a result, this will form the crux of initial teaching efforts at the new Ebola training academy in Sierra Leone.

"Training how to put PPE on sounds simple but it isn't," commented LCpl Richard Blagg, a combat medical technician with 5 Armd Med Regt.

"Taking it off is very difficult because you have two layers of most garments you can see and you must never touch an inner layer with an outer layer.

"That's the key, as is washing your hands thoroughly in between each removal stage – and there are 13 of them.

"We'll be teaching the locals how to achieve this through the right procedures and using the buddy system, where someone watches over you to prevent slip-ups."



» Justine Greening, International Development Secretary:

THE Ebola training academy will be absolutely critical in providing the right level of health care to deal with Ebola patients – I'd like to say a massive thank you to all the Army personnel involved in that.

We are massively impressed with the pace the MoD has responded to work alongside DfID on this project, in fact it's been an amazing effort right across the whole of the UK's Armed Forces.

I can't remember a time when we've worked together quite so closely so quickly.

» LCpl Richard Blagg, combat medical technician, 5 Armd Med Regt:

MOST of the training we will be delivering is second nature to us – it's a World Health Organisation package.

However, it's been a quick preparation. We had 12 days after being told to go, which sounds like a long time but you have to do your personal admin, see your family as much as you can, prepare your kit and do specific training – it soon dwindles down.

We were in Afghanistan this time last year and we've done exercises similar to this such as Askari Serpent in Kenya so there's a lot of experience within the regiment.



» Lt Col Phil Carter, commanding officer, 5 Armd Med Regt:

WE are all really excited about the mission to train health care workers in Sierra Leone.

Our regiment was formed in 1914 – its first action was at Mons that year – and here we are 100 years later going out on operations again.

The key for our current mission is that we train as many Sierra Leoneans as possible, as quickly as we can.

We've been given an initial target of training 500 over several weeks.

It's been short notice but from a regimental perspective since the Vanguard (pages 46-47) has come in we've been really focusing on being ready so that we can go out on ops at a moment's notice.



» Capt Harriet Sloss, clinical training officer, 5 Armd Med Regt:

DURING the last ten years we've focused on Herrick and we were used to a 12-month lead up to operations, so this is very different, but the guys have really dug in and done lots of late nights doing training and getting kit and equipment ready to get to where we are now.



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BEAR ESSENTIALS

HOW ARMY ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN HELPING TO SAVE THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIVING LAND CARNIVORE

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe
Pictures: Steve Dock

W HILE there are few careers as diverse as soldiering, the zoo is probably the last place you would expect to see on-duty personnel.

Nonetheless, that is where members of 71 Engineer Regiment found themselves during a recent training mission.

In a tasking quite different from their civilian jobs as truck drivers and supermarket workers, the Reserves spent ten days at the Highland Wildlife Park in Scotland building a new enclosure for a female polar bear.

The animal – part of a threatened species – is due to arrive at the site in spring, when it is hoped she will breed with one of the centre's male bears, Walker and Arktos.

For that reason, it was important this project was done properly.

"The last time polar bear cubs were born and reared in this country was in 1992," said Douglas Richardson, the park's animals collection manager.

"Creating an environment that will allow such an event to happen is incredibly positive."

Using the best of their planning and construction skills, the soldiers did not let the wildlife workers down.

In less than two weeks they successfully erected a one-hectare enclosure, including a pond for the new animal to play in.

The feature includes a 300-metre walkway for park visitors and a small holding enclosure where it is hoped the bears will mate.

The undertaking saw the troops get through

some 615 tonnes of stone and timber and dig in more than 200 posts by hand.

"This sort of work develops individual trade skills," commanding officer Lt Col Nick Mifsud (RE) commented.

"It provides vital training for the regiment's role on future operations, inspires the soldiers and generates interest from those who seek to add a new dimension to their lives as a Royal Engineer Reservist."

Spr Liam Hall told *Soldier* it had been rewarding to use engineer skills to assist with a valuable conservation initiative.

"It was a bit strange to be driving along past bison and other animals as we worked," the Serviceman explained.

"It was really good experience for us to use some important skills, though – the park was helping us as much as we were helping it."

The project was part of a two-week package, which saw the regiment deploy on several tasks across Scotland including military accommodation upgrades and route repairs.

Working alongside 43 visiting engineers from the South Dakota National Guard, UK personnel have once again proved that they can turn their hand to any task required – no matter how unusual that is.



● For more information on joining 71 Engineer Regiment call 01334 857632



REALITY BITES

8 WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COLD INJURY

MAKE SURE YOUR KIT'S UP TO THE JOB

JSP 768 contains advice on suitable climatic clothing. In damp conditions troops should ensure that they are wearing one of the in-service combat cold wet weather boots (either Karimoor SF or Haix Alaska) and, where necessary, extreme cold weather mittens.



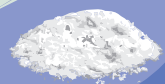
WEAR CLEAN AND DRY SOCKS

If you get wet feet ensure you change your socks as often as you can.



USE FOOT POWDER

This can help to keep your feet dry and fresh.



ENSURE YOUR BOOTS FIT AND DON'T LACE THEM TOO TIGHT

Footwear that is too tight can restrict blood circulation.



Report: Sarah Goldthorpe

YOU'RE on exercise, your hands are soaked, but you don't have any gloves and there is little choice but to power on through to the end of the serial.

It might not sound like the start of a disaster story but non-freezing cold injury is the most common health problem experienced on land operations, plaguing hundreds of soldiers each year and leading to a significant number of medical discharges.

Here are eight tips to reduce your risk of suffering in the field this winter.



5 TRY TO KEEP YOUR HANDS DRY

Use gloves wherever possible and if your hands do get wet, dry them off as soon as you can.



6 EAT FOOD AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE

Digestion produces heat, which can help to protect against cold injury.



7 DON'T BECOME DEHYDRATED

This adversely affects the body's resistance to cold injury.



8 DON'T SMOKE

Cigarettes reduce the blood flow to the extremities, which can lead to more cold injuries.

SIGNS OF COLD INJURY



NUMBNESS THAT WON'T GO AWAY



PINS AND NEEDLES IN YOUR HANDS AND FEET

WHAT TO DO



DRY YOUR HANDS OR FEET AS SOON AS YOU CAN AND CHANGE INTO DRY SOCKS



WRIGGLE YOUR TOES AND FINGERS TO KEEP THEM WARM



TRY TEN MINUTES OF STEP-UPS OR MARCHING ON THE SPOT TO GET THE CIRCULATION GOING



IF EXERCISE ISN'T POSSIBLE TAKE OFF YOUR WET BOOTS AND SOCKS, PLACE YOUR FEET INTO A DRY SLEEPING BAG AND MASSAGE THEM GENTLY



REPORT THE INJURY TO YOUR COMMANDER



DON'T USE ANY ARTIFICIAL HEAT SOURCE SUCH AS HOT WATER OR STOVES – THIS MAKES THE INJURY WORSE

● For more information on non-freezing cold injury read *An Individual's Guide to Climatic Injury* or *A Commander's Guide to Climatic Injury*, both of which can be downloaded from the defence intranet.

READY TO GO?



Brig Tim Robinson, head of the Directorate for Operations and Contingencies, takes our questions...

***Soldier* finds out what lies in store for British personnel under the new Army Readiness Order**

**Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock**

WHILE it is still uncertain when and where in the world UK troops may be deployed after Afghanistan, work is well underway to ensure that the Service is primed to go if called upon to act. Key to the process is something called the Army Readiness Order – a new directive that sets out how units and their troops will take turns to lead the country's response to crises at home or abroad.

By creating a new range of forces known as the Vanguard, the plan will see more than 60 per cent of Service personnel put at different levels of readiness at any one time, as their regiments or battalions rotate through the cycle.

The Vanguard will comprise various formations including the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Group, HQs 3rd and 1st (UK) Division, two standby battalions, an armoured infantry brigade, an air assault task force from 16 Air Assault Brigade and supporting elements including an aviation force, an enabling group, a field hospital and security assistance groups.

Almost every soldier will serve in this new force at some time and, to that end, the instruction places a series of personal responsibilities on individuals to make sure they are prepared if given the order to move – the so-called "active edge".

A senior officer overseeing the change explained more...

Why is this Army Readiness Order so important?

Because it marks the creation of the Vanguard, a group of forces at various stages of collective readiness, and a professional obligation on soldiers to be individually ready. Everyone will be part of this at some point and all troops need to ask themselves how ready they would be if suddenly called upon to deploy. Are they as fit as they should be? Have they done all their military annual training tests? Are their documents in check?

PREPARING FOR ACTION

Two soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh – part of the Vanguard – tell us what the Army Readiness Order means for them

Being on short notice to move isn't new – what is different about this?

During recent operations we've had some forces at high readiness – for example, the Theatre Reserve Battalion and the Air Assault Task Force. We've also had individuals like bomb disposal experts on short notice. But this is about taking readiness out of the specialisms and making it a whole-Army business. There will be more than 20 different groupings, from very small technical teams all the way up to divisions.

How long will troops spend at the highest level of readiness?

Some in certain posts – for example, the commander of 16 Air Assault Brigade – would spend all of their two-year tour at high readiness. Others might do six months on, 18 months off or 12 months on, 12 months off. Within units there will be mechanisms for rotating people – otherwise how would you ever have a life if you were constantly at two days' notice to move? It's called graduated readiness and is a bit like a queue. So you'll have the most forward bit of the formation headquarters, the commander and his recce group, ready to go quickly but the rest might follow in say 30 days.

Recent surveys have highlighted concerns about working hours. Isn't this going to result in more time spent on training exercises?

We're not really imposing anything more on troops by issuing this order; we're tidying up and organising what we're already doing to be a bit more coherent. One thing that is new is that we will have deployment tests to see if units are as ready as they say they are.

But won't this result in more nights out of bed?

Not if we get it right. The deployment tests are new but should be quite short and sweet. Everyone should be cutting the peripheral stuff to focus on the main effort. It doesn't take long for personnel to get bored and we think the Army Readiness Order will be an antidote to that because it will be a good use of soldiers' time, which we know is their most precious resource. This is about concentrating on the Army's core purposes.

How easy do you think it will be for personnel to adjust?

I don't think soldiers will have too much trouble. Some who joined the Army specifically to go on deployments might be wondering whether there is an operational life for them after Afghanistan. If your formation is rotating through the Vanguard that should feel quite exciting. You'll get the resources you need, relevant training, you might even get activated and deployed, and for those months the adrenalin will be running around the unit.

How will this work for Reservists?

The standard readiness for a Reservist is one year because it takes a while to mobilise people legally. We won't be able to hold as many Reservists as we do Regulars at high readiness all the time but we can write particular contracts to put groups of them on standby for longer. We can also deploy them using some of their working days to maintain their integrated relationship with a Regular unit. I think Reservists, through their natural enthusiasm and the fact they've made a choice to do this in addition to their day jobs, will demonstrate good practice in terms of the active edge.

“IT'S come down from brigade-level that we need to have our kit ready to go at a moment's notice as you could be sent off for any reason. So that's exactly what we've been planning around.

You need to have your Bergen packed and ready to go as usual but on top of that you must have your finances sorted and everything else in the background.

If you're married you need to make sure any welfare issues are squared away before you go as well.



Ssgt Adam Culliford, REME

“PEOPLE are becoming increasingly familiar with the active edge.

The older generation who remember the Germany days will be familiar with 'readiness' but the younger ones are more used to the constant cycle of Afghanistan and Iraq so they are learning.

Are they on top of it yet? No. But they will be – like many things in life, it becomes normal very quickly and if there's one enduring truth it's the ability of the British soldier to adapt.



Maj Owen Pritchard, OC A Coy

ARMY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2014 WINNERS

01 BEST OVERALL IMAGE (AS VOTED FOR BY THE PUBLIC)

Cpl Jamie Peters, RLC

02 MULTIMEDIA

Winner: Cpl Luisa Scott, RLC
Runner-up: Cpl Dan Wiepen, RLC

03 PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT

Winner: Sgt Russ Nolan, RLC
Runner-up: Cpl Simon Longworth, RLC

04 PROFESSIONAL SPORT / ADVENTURE TRAINING

Winner: Graeme Main, *Soldier*
Runner-up: Sgt Russ Nolan, RLC

05 PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERING IMAGE

Winner: A/Sgt Mark Webster, RLC
Runner-up: Sgt Paul Morrison, RLC

06 PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER PORTFOLIO

Winner: Sgt Paul Morrison, RLC
Runner-up: A/Sgt Mark Webster, RLC

07 PROFESSIONAL VIDEO

Winner: Sgt Gary Kendall, RLC
Runner-up: Sgt Russ Nolan, RLC

08 AMATEUR PORTRAIT

Winner: LCpl Ian Chapman, RE
Runner-up: LCpl Alan Fergusson, 3 Para

09 AMATEUR SPORT / ADVENTURE TRAINING

Winner: Cpl James McAllister, R Signals
Runner-up: Cpl Peter Brown, PWRR

10 AMATEUR SOLDIERING IMAGE

Winner: Cpl Dean Docwra, QRH
Runner-up: CoH Dan Short, HCR

11 AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER PORTFOLIO

Winner: Cpl Dean Docwra, QRH
Runner-up: Bdr Murray Kerr, RA



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AS A MILITARY CAMERAMAN VISIT:
<http://britisharmy.wordpress.com/tag/photographer>

SUPREME SNAPS

WINNERS OF ARMY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION REVEALED



FROM the suspense of this year's Commonwealth Games to the exhaustion of being on exercise, Service photographers have been on hand to capture the buzz of military life in 2014.

And once again their creative efforts have been applauded alongside the work of amateur hopefuls at the Army Photographic Competition awards.

This year judges sifted through more than 500 entries before deciding on the winners and runners-up.

Speaking ahead of a prize-giving ceremony at Army Headquarters in Andover, command master photographer WO1 Will Craig (RLC) said: "The standard of images was once again very high.

"We had more amateur submissions than ever, which is great as we're always looking for troops who would like a career as a professional Army photographer." ■



Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Graeme Main

THESE days it would be inconceivable for the Service to deploy on any operations without intelligence support, but 100 years ago the capability was very much in its infancy.

In August 1914, 55 individuals – a mixture of Army and Metropolitan Police officers and civilians with specialist skills – received a telegram informing them that they had been selected for a new kind of assignment on the front.

Throughout the First World War these founding members of what would become the Intelligence Corps served with distinction in all theatres, pioneering the techniques still used today.

"The conflict marked the first stepping stone in recognising the vital role of intelligence," explained Sgt Jonathan Berrick, from the Land Intelligence Fusion Centre.

"It had always been there in some guise – individuals tasked to go and gain information on the enemy, for example – but it wasn't formalised until then."

The 34-year-old was speaking at a ceremony to mark the corps' centenary at Bois-Guillaume cemetery in France, where two of its original members are buried.

"The capability developed greatly during the war," he continued.

"Aircraft gave us the ability to see enemy positions in a way we couldn't before and there were the beginnings of rudimentary electronic warfare and listening in on radio intercepts. A lot of our key trades date back to then."

Despite having proved its value, the corps was disbanded after the conflict, only to be reformed again in 1939 when the Second World War broke out.

Again, it played a pivotal role in Britain's victory but it was still composed of outside specialists or personnel on temporary postings from other parts of the Service and it wasn't until 1957, when the first cadre of Regular officers passed out, that it was established as a permanent formation in its own right.

Since then, intelligence personnel have deployed on all of the British Army's major operations, as well as the Cold War, with each campaign leading to further advancements in the field.

Today, the corps is one of the few formations to grow significantly in size under Army 2020, with two further Reserve battalions being created to boost its specialist capabilities.

"Intelligence is crucial to everything we do now," added Sgt Berrick.

"The corps operates from right down at company-level, where the guys are out on patrol with the Infantry, giving them tactical support, all the way up to the top at the MoD in London.

"We simply would not go anywhere without it." ■



"INTELLIGENCE
IS CRUCIAL TO
EVERYTHING
WE DO NOW"



Clockwise from top, Through the ages: Members of the Intelligence Corps parade to mark the centenary at Bois-Guillaume, France

An Intelligence Corps sergeant questions a French civilian in the town of Bethune, May 1918

An officer attached to 16 Air Assault Brigade plans an exercise mission with a counterpart from the Italian Folgore Parachute Brigade

Intelligence Corps officers question Turkish prisoners during the Battle of Kithia 1917

An Intelligence Corps officer examines captured German correspondence in 1917

Picture: Imperial War Museum

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

As the Intelligence Corps marks its 100th anniversary, past and present personnel tell *Soldier* about their vital role in the British Army





Picture: Imperial War Museum



1957 OFFICER 001

IN 1957 John Landolt became the very first officer to sign up as a Regular member of the Intelligence Corps, beginning a career that lasted more than 30 years.

From taking part in the formation's early missions in the Borneo confrontation in the 1960s to overseeing Service intelligence in Hong Kong in 1987, the now 77-year-old saw the organisation develop beyond all recognition.

The role appealed as it struck me that you couldn't win wars without good intel and because it seemed a better way of beating the opposition than sitting in a trench and shooting at them.

But in the beginning the attitude towards the Intelligence Corps, even among senior ranks, was that they didn't want it.

It was some time before they accepted that to disband it and reform it every time you had another problem wasn't the best approach.

So the corps struggled to get its foot in the door but it scored in the Borneo confrontation when they set up a number of jobs for field intelligence officers.

It was seen as a bit of a dead-end career path by most officers in the wider Army so they had to put junior NCOs in the posts and these guys ate the work up because they actually wanted to be there.

Suddenly the

corps was useful and the same positions were set up in Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

I spent most of my time in development roles, which was important because things needed to be regularised.

One of my jobs was in initial selection. You used to get James Bond types who wanted to join and you had to make it clear to them that that wasn't the kind of thing they would be doing. People like that could be dangerous.

I retired as a lieutenant colonel after serving as the head of Service intelligence in Hong Kong, which was very valuable, so by then they were putting senior ranks into important posts.

Having joined at the beginning I experienced the difficult days when it was struggling to make a name for itself but it obviously has now.

I had two medals – Borneo and Malaya – but you look at these young guys serving today and they have a chest full, which stresses the important role intelligence continues to play whenever there is a war.

Each time they cut the Army, the Int Corps either holds its own or increases in size because if you reduce the teeth arms you need to have more intelligence support to ensure that the teeth bite in exactly the right place.

Above: John Landolt with a penguin (tribal leader) in Borneo, 1966 and at the ceremony to mark the corps' centenary Left: The Serviceman in 1961



Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC



Picture: Imperial War Museum



1974

COLD WAR WARRIOR

CAPT Nick Rowles enlisted in 1974 and left the Regular Army last year as a lieutenant colonel before transferring to the Reserves.

Now a career manager for London-based part-time personnel, the 56-year-old served in a variety of postings, from Northern Ireland to Djibouti and Afghanistan but his skills as a German and Russian interpreter saw him spend much of his military working life in Germany.

“Out of all my 40 years in uniform, my posting as a sergeant to the British Military Liaison Mission in Berlin from 1984-89 was probably the most interesting job I’ve done.

At the time West Berlin was split into the American, French and British zones and our staff would provide intelligence and security support to the brigade headquarters and to the British Military Government, which was a hangover from the war.

We’d have up to 30 liaison officers operating across East Germany at any one time, watching the Soviets and ensuring they weren’t preparing for another world war.

The Russians were doing exactly the same in West Germany – observing our state of readiness and looking at our training to see whether it was run of the mill or out of the ordinary.

We’d go out on the ground in three-man vehicles. You would carry out a planned route but there were no comms with HQ.

It was the only source of research – there was no internet in those days. Media was state-run too so the only way of gathering intel was to talk to the locals – Germans or Soviets – and ask them what they were up to.

A lot of the Russian soldiers were conscripts and weren’t necessarily aware of the politics so quite often they would engage in conversation.

Another role was providing interpreter support to Spandau prison, where Rudolf Hess was the last inmate.

We were only allowed to refer to him as Prisoner Number 7, never by name.

He died in 1987 so I was the last British interpreter to serve there.

I left in 1989 just before the wall came down. It was an interesting time.”

Right, Dangerous liaisons: Nick Rowles on tour in East Germany in 1985-86



2014

THE NEXT GENERATION

TWENTY-three-year-old LCpl Dan Allum deployed to Afghanistan in November 2013 as part of a company intelligence support team, a role that sees junior members of the corps embedded with forward units to give specialist tactical advice. He currently serves with 4th Military Intelligence Battalion in Bulford.

“I finished my trade training in January last year and went straight into pre-deployment training for Herrick 18/19.

I was at Patrol Base Lashkar Gah Durai attached to A Company, 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, an armoured infantry unit.

My job was to make sure they knew what was happening out on the ground and what the threats were, as well as looking at where we could go to help understand and influence the Afghans.

It was a demanding role. On a typical day you’d wake up early, read the morning reports, then go and brief the company.

You’d get sent a thousand bits of information but perhaps only two key points might apply to our location so I had to filter out a lot of the rest.

You had to think on your feet and ask yourself, ‘what does this mean for a 30-tonne Warrior driving around Afghanistan?’

There’s quite a weight on your shoulders really but I enjoy the additional responsibility.

As a lance jack you could be briefing anyone from a private soldier right up to the brigade commander, telling him ‘the people in Bastion have told you what they think the situation is but it’s on my doorstep and in my opinion, this is how things are here’.

It can be daunting so you have to have enough confidence to give a brigadier or colonel your opinion even though their majors and senior NCOs might not agree with you.

There’s a fine line between confidence and cockiness but if you were a bit of an outcast at school – maybe you got into trouble for gobbing off or questioning why things were done a certain way, but you still got good grades – then maybe the Int Corps is for you.

I’m glad I joined. I’m off to Poland soon and in January I’m going to Belize. The opportunities are coming in thick and fast for us.”

“MY JOB WAS TO MAKE SURE THEY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUT ON THE GROUND”



Picture: Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC

IS INTELLIGENCE FOR YOU?

Under Army 2020 the Reserve element of the Intelligence Corps is set to almost double in size to 1,300 personnel, with four battalions spread out around the country.

Recruiters are also looking for people to enlist as Regulars and for any serving officers and soldiers who are interested in transferring to the corps.

For more information visit www.army.mod.uk/intelligence or email intcorpshq-recruitment-mailbox@mod.uk

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At this time of Remembrance, please consider leaving a gift in your Will to The Royal Star & Garter Homes. It will ensure that we can continue to support the nation's military family for generations to come.

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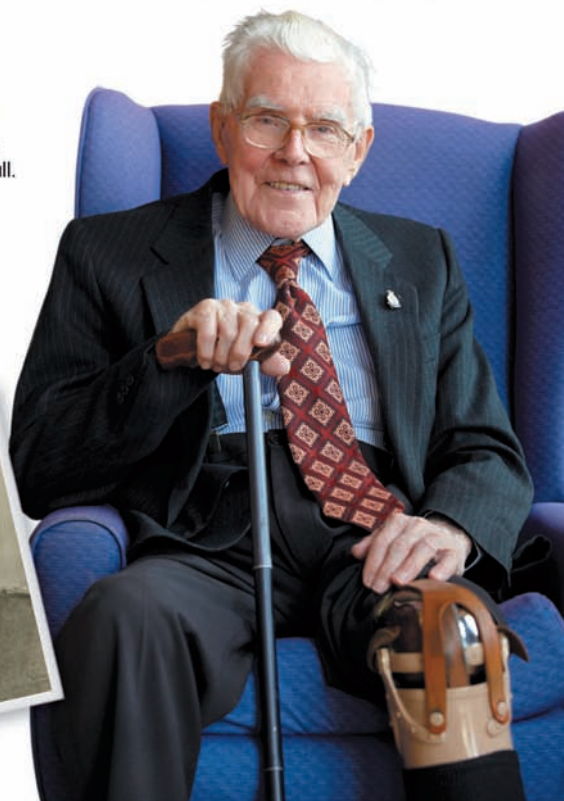
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TALKBACK

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas... but please be brief. Emails (mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk) must include your name and location (although we won't publish them if you ask us not to). We reserve the right to accept or reject letters, and to edit for length, clarity or style. Before you write to us with a problem, you should first have tried to get an answer via your own chain of command.

'This test is driving me crazy'

I CANNOT SEE THE POINT OF ALL THIS UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRATIC NONSENSE

CONTINUE to be puzzled by the Army's need for some Germany-based soldiers to complete a European Highway Code matrix test before driving hire vehicles in the UK.

Having recently passed this myself I can see little difference between it and the theory test set by the DVLA for the standard driving licence.

What makes the situation even more ridiculous is that soldiers can hire a vehicle at an airport without ever being asked to prove they've passed this second examination.

Other than creating yet more piles of paperwork I really cannot see the point of all this unnecessary bureaucratic nonsense.

The only two arguments I can detect any logic in are that soldiers may have become used to driving on German roads or may have passed their test there but those who stay in the country for longer periods are not marooned, never returning to the UK.

And those who passed their test in Germany are likely to be young, single soldiers who regularly return to the UK on annual leave. – **Name and address supplied.**

WO1 Andy Butterworth, Army's Command Master Driver, responds: The matrix test has nothing to do with the ability to drive a hire car – explaining vehicle controls is the hire car company's responsibility. The test is designed to ensure all

personnel are aware of the rules of the road in the country they are to drive in.

The only time an individual needs to take this test is if he or she has spent more than 12 months out of that country.

As you say, personnel are not marooned in Germany and if they travel to the UK at least once a year they will not need to take it.

Defence road transport regulations also state that troops who have passed a Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency driving theory test within the last 12 months may use this as suitable evidence in order to avoid taking the European assessment.



Reserves on hand to help

AS an established Reserve soldier I can see huge benefits in ex-Regulars joining us but I don't believe they all fully appreciate what we part-timers can do for them.

This is particularly true of how much former full-time soldiers who've just left the Service can learn from us about jobs in the civilian sector.

On civvy street I'm employed as a senior manager for a major hotel refurbishment project and I have more than 30 years' experience in the building trade.

I can explain all the pros and cons of being employed in the industry and could provide ex-Regular personnel with some valuable leads regarding finding work, training or even running their own businesses.

In my regiment we have guys and girls from all walks of life and they are, effectively, a massive pool of knowledge for any ex-Regular who wants to know more about local jobs and settling into a particular career.

We can certainly offer a very supportive atmosphere to help with the often difficult transition from military to civilian life. – **WO2 Darren Hill, R WxY.**

DISCOUNTS CARDS DERAILED?

YOU HAVE TO PAY BUT THEY DON'T SAVE YOU ANYTHING

● I WAS considering purchasing Forces railcards for my children but I found out that if I travel with them it's only my ticket that is discounted.

If they travel on their own they receive nothing off at all, despite carrying these discount cards.

In short, you have to pay for children's Forces railcards but they don't save you anything – and I've researched this online against various train

lines, routes and dates. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: This scheme is governed by a contract between the train operating companies and the MoD, which states that the provision is a concession and not a condition of service.

This is why there is a charge for each railcard – the MoD has to manage reimbursing the train operating companies.

Also, you are wrong about cards not saving anything for children of Service personnel.

Youngsters aged five to 15 years can travel in first or standard class at significantly discounted rates when accompanying an adult Forces railcard holder.

The only proviso is that their tickets must be purchased with the adult's Forces railcard discounted fare.

It is also worth remembering that children under the age of 16 are entitled to a 50 per cent discount on most tickets when travelling unaccompanied.

More details can be found in **2014 DIN 01-133.**





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ski equipment
& servicing."

"With the assistance of a great team, I organised the tour for almost 300 soldiers over a three-week period in 2014. It all began the previous September when I was introduced to Mike Kew, the Director of Snowcrazy Ltd at a meeting where he was invited to explain how his hotel (Hotel La Roz) in La Rosiere 1850, high in the French Alps could meet our winter-sports adventure training requirements. Mike offered substantial resources that satisfied all of our needs with precision. Our trip was a huge success."

"In a nutshell, the resort is a big snow-sure, high altitude ski area and offers something for SF1 through to SF3."

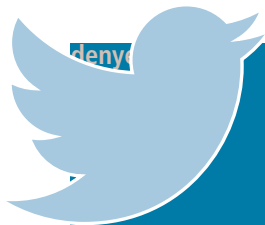


**No one who has served
our country should battle
blindness alone.**

**Support ex-Service men
and women with sight loss.**

www.blindveterans.org.uk





DIGITAL DOSSIER

This month's elite tweets

#FIRST WORLD WAR

@IWM_Centenary

Let's not forget the sacrifice of the Indian Army in #WW1 remembered on Lutyens' India Gate in #Delhi

#REMEMBRANCE DAY

@fasterbonniekat

War movies remind me that people who use Remembrance Day as a hangover day are jerks. Go pay your respects at the local cenotaph

#EBOLA

@justine_greening

Visit nearly completed @BritishArmy @DFID_UK Kerry Town #Ebola treatment centre. Thanks to all working so hard

@MarinaFiorato

Massive respect to the British Army medics heading out to West Africa to tackle Ebola. What a brave bunch of men and women #Ebola

#AFF

@Anna_SoubryMP

Thanks @The_AFF for #bigdebate great to meet everyone and take some tough questions!

@lucydenyer

Level of black mould "unacceptable" in service family accommodation says @Anna_SoubryMP #aff #bigdebate

#RUGBY ACE

@benjaminryan

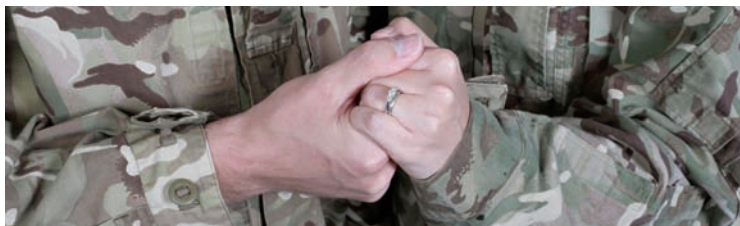
Well done Semesa Rokoduguni - selected for EPS England squad. Tried to sign him up to the Eng 7s squad before I left - great player

GOT A GRIPE?

news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

@soldiermagazine

TALKBACK



Picture: Graeme Main

Unmarried and out of pocket

“
I'M NOT
ENTITLED
BECAUSE
I'M NOT
MARRIED
”

I'M rapidly approaching 37 years of age and was looking forward to taking advantage of the offer of free accommodation as part of the Army's over-37 provision.

However, on closer inspection of JSP 752 I learnt that even though I have my own home in which my partner lives, which is more than 50 miles from my place of work, I'm not entitled to it because I'm not married or in a recognised civil partnership.

This criteria seems a little unfair, especially as my living costs are just as high as a married soldier's in the same circumstances.

And on another note, why should an individual joining the Army late receive this allowance earlier in their service?

Surely it should be only applicable to personnel in the last three years of their engagement, not based on their age. — Name and address supplied.

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies: The MoD uses the "personal status category" system to determine eligibility for benefits and to ensure that expenses, allowances, charges and housing regulations are properly applied.

It recognises those who are legally married and living with their spouse, or would be but for the demands of service, or are registered in a standard civil partnership — and you are correct that it does not recognise other types of relationship.

Secondly, the Army's over-37 package is designed to support the domestic stability of those personnel who choose to serve unaccompanied in the latter part of their careers.

The original rationale for the provision was to relieve the financial pressure on those who wanted to settle their families when approaching retirement after 22 years of service.

Many purchase property well away from their final assignment

locations and, consequently, choose to settle their family and undertake a weekly commute to work instead.

Waiving single living accommodation (SLA) charges supports this course of action and helps these individuals take on the financial commitment of a mortgage.

Given the 22-year full engagement length, 37 years of age broadly aligns to the average age an individual enters their last assignment.

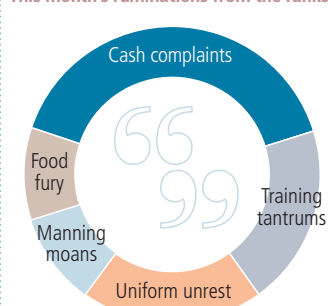
These regulations have been clearly defined within JSP 752 for many years so this should not have come as a surprise.

However, this particular policy is currently under review within the context of the new employment model (NEM) and a revision of the Army living strategy.

This is because the Service acknowledges that engagement lengths have changed, the NEM programme encourages home ownership earlier in a Service person's career, lifestyle choices are very different to the time when the SLA waiver was first introduced and, of course, Army 2020 and its associated rebasing strategy are aiming to increase stability for personnel.

SLICE OF SERVICE LIFE

This month's ruminations from the ranks...





QUALIFICATIONS THAT MAKE YOU SHINE

Throughout your Army career we will provide opportunities for you to gain civilian qualifications whilst doing your Army training; and we'll pay for them!

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and apply for The Army Skills Offer
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ARMY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.army.mod.uk/qualifications
REGULAR & RESERVE

Battle of the bulge

It seems to me that the recent redundancies have forced many fit individuals to leave while a large number of soldiers graded as high risk because of their body mass index have been left alone.

Now, before the bodybuilders among you erupt in fury, I am referring to the larger framed characters that every unit seems to have who are often excused from their normal working hours (making their colleagues work harder or for longer) to attend specialised training.

We are told this is to help them lose weight and raise their fitness to a level where they can pass their military training tests.

In my opinion, they should pull their finger out and do PT in their own time.

I'm not talking about those with injuries sustained through work.

The Service's rehabilitation specialists do an amazing job in returning injured soldiers to duty.

However, there are many cases where larger individuals can do more – swimming, for example, is a low impact form of training that improves cardiovascular fitness.

Yet many of them don't seem to do any exercise at all other than bicep curls in their local pub – and then walk home via a kebab shop.

As the Army transforms into a lean, deployable Reaction Force is the chain of command in a position to medically discharge these personnel?

Surely, this is the opportune time to do so. – **Name and address supplied.**

Maj Trigger Buxton, SO2 Employment Plans, Directorate of Manning (Army), responds: The Army regards fitness and health very seriously to ensure it maintains the general wellbeing of all its personnel.

Remaining physically fit is vital and is dependent on both the soldier and chain of command playing their parts.

PAP 10 is the Army's policy for entry, retention and discharge.

It also dictates the processes to apply when soldiers become injured and the recovery time.

Each downgraded person requires a bespoke recovery pathway which may require physical and non-physical activities and aims to maximise their ability to return to duty.

But if they receive a permanent downgrading below the minimum medical retention standard the discharge policy applies.

The requirement does not reflect a Service person's size or weight but their ability to pass a selection of objective tests.

Weight management is a very complex issue and not just related to physical fitness and activity.

Consequently, an obesity working group has been created to look at improving soldiers' fitness, raising deployability and enhancing the wider health and wellbeing of the Army through improving awareness, education and support measures.

MORE HELP TO BUY REQUIRED

● AS the Army is developing the new employment model and encouraging home ownership, when will it review the associated allowances?

I ask this because after 16 years of service, six of them in married quarters, my husband and I are looking to buy our first home in Aldershot, where I'm currently based.

However, in freeing up Service accommodation we are financially penalised because I will receive no disturbance allowance, will have to pay for removals myself and get just one day's relocation leave to move the whole family.

If we had chosen not to settle down and I had moved to another location in Service quarters, the Army would have provided

me with a roof over my head and paid me at least £1,000 in disturbance allowance. It would also have funded up to three nights in a hotel for the four of us, paid a hefty bill for removals and given me a week's leave.

Having missed out on the Forces Help to Buy scheme I'm not sure the Army is making moving out of Service housing an attractive proposition. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: Under current allowance regulations you are only eligible to claim disturbance expense (DE) and movement and storage of personal effects (MSPE) for a move into a private family home at a new duty station – that is, not Aldershot.

This policy is, in part, designed as a safeguard of public expense for Service families' accommodation moves within the same garrison.

You are right about the new employment model seeking to encourage home ownership.

That programme, along with Army 2020, rebasing and the revision to the Service's living strategy, is aiming to increase long-term stability for personnel.

As such, we are actively looking at a mechanism to further support the upfront financial burden of property purchases by providing far greater regulation, flexibility and entitlement to both DE and MSPE, be it for a residence at work address or a selected place of residence.

The Forces Help to Buy scheme is also proving very popular to date. You don't state why you missed that opportunity but what is on offer is an interest-free loan of up to 50 per cent of your salary, capped at £25,000, specifically intended to help personnel get on the housing ladder.





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BULLETPOINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW



CAREERS

Pilot selection. September's *Soldier* featured an article about the Army Air Corps' hunt for new talent. Anyone interested in becoming a pilot can do so by completing annex J to AGAI 43 and sending it to their career manager in Glasgow. More information is also available from pilot selection clerk Heather Knight on 94329 4307 or aachq-pilot-selection-clk@mod.uk

Media Force Wales is a social enterprise set up to help ex-Service personnel find a career in the print and media industry. Training is offered in web design, video and photography, exhibition design and film production. For details visit www.sewced.co.uk



COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: WO2 Frank Langford, Brawdy, Pembrokeshire; Tom Carr, Bromley, London; Lt Col Andrew Gladen, RMA, Camberley; Capt Sarah Watson, RAF Northolt, Middlesex.

Commando: On the Front Line DVD: Capt Christopher Lucas, Rusholme, Manchester; LCpl Steven Wood, McMullen Barracks, Marchwood; Cpl Ross Mackenzie, Aldershot, Hampshire; Jordan Dickinson, Churchill Barracks, Leeds; Mike Booth, Arnold, Nottingham.

Hunter Killer: Maj Keith Fisher, Rochdale Barracks, BFPO 39; SSgt William Harwood, Aldergrove, BFPO 808; David Harris, Canterbury, Kent.

Battle Bag: Sgt A Duncan, BFPO 47; 2nd Lt Daniel Cognolato, Cranfield, Bedfordshire.



DIARY

Until November 10: Army Arts Society exhibition at St Margaret's Church, Westminster SW1A 0AA. Supporting Westminster Abbey's "going to war" autumn theme, it showcases work from the front line in Afghanistan to the reflections of those at home. See page 21 for more details.

November 3-10: *Do We Do the Right Thing?* performed by the Be Frank theatre company. The play explores society's relationship with the Armed Forces, father-son relationships, rites of passage and wars that have shaped lives over generations. Showing in London, Salisbury and Exeter. For dates and times visit www.justbefrank.eu

November 8-December 13: *Traces of Memory* art exhibition at Stockport Art Gallery and War Memorial. A collection of mixed media paintings by Henry Quick, incorporating objects found on the battlefields of Europe. Visit www.stockportartgalleryproject.com for more information.

November 9: National service of remembrance at The Cenotaph, Whitehall. For information visit www.britishlegion.org.uk

November 9: The Royal British Legion remembrance service in Sage, Germany. For further information contact 0049 541 683874.

November 11: Armistice Day ceremony, The Cenotaph, Whitehall.

November 18: The Afghan Appeal Fund is hosting an evening discussion and dinner on the theme "Afghanistan – Unfinished Business?". The event starts at 1800 at London's Royal College of Defence Studies and tickets are £10 for the talk and a glass of wine or £20 for talk, wine and a curry supper. To book a place log on to www.afghanistanunfinished.eventbrite.co.uk

November 21: An evening of entertainment and fundraising on behalf of the Brave Mart Fund. Saunders Hall, off Park Road, Bedworth CV12 8RJ. Tickets cost £10. For more information contact Trudi on 07868 746973 trudilou72@googlemail.com

November 29-30: The Birmingham International Tattoo, NIA, Birmingham. Military bands, exciting displays and a spectacular grand finale. November 29 at 1800 and November 30 at 1400. For further details visit www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

Until December 21: *The Trench Coat Exhibition – From Field to Fashion* at Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester

SO23 8SB. Tracing the history of the trench coat from its invention in 1879 through to the present day. For details visit www.hants.gov.uk

Until December 27: *The Artists Rifles: From Pre-Raphaelites to Passchendaele* at Gosport Discovery Centre, Walpole Road, Gosport. For details visit www.hants.gov.uk



DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity:
0845 241 4820

Armed Forces Buddhist Society: Chaplain
020 7414 3411; www.afbs-uk.org

Armed Forces Christian Union:
01252 311221; www.afcu.org.uk

Armed Forces Humanist Association:
www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk

Armed Forces Muslim Association:
Chaplain 0207 414 3252;
www.afma.org.uk

Army Families Federation:
01264 382324; mail.94391.2324@aff.org.uk

Army LGBT Forum:
www.armylgbt.org.uk;
chair@armylgbt.org.uk

Army Libraries:
01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society:
www.armybirding.org.uk

Army Welfare Service:
01980 615975;
www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx

Blind Veterans UK: (formerly St Dunstan's)
0207 7235021;
www.blindveterans.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:
0208 590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership:
0207 4696 661

Children's Education Advisory Service:
01980 618244;
enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk

Erskine:
0141 814 4569; www.erskine.org.uk

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:

01372 841600;
www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service:
0207 463 9249

Forcesline:
UK – 0800 731 4880; Germany – 0800 1827 395; Cyprus – 080 91065; Falklands – #6111; from operational theatres – Paradigm Services *201; from anywhere in the world (CSL operator will call back) – 0044 1980 630854

Forces Pension Society:
0207 820 9988

Help for Heroes:
0845 673 1760 or 01980 846 459;
www.helpforheroes.org.uk

Heroes Welcome:
www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office:
01722 436575

Medal Office:
94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group):
www.mutualsupport.org.uk

National Ex-Services Association:
www.nesa.org.uk

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office:
24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853;
www.ngvfa.org.uk

Poppyscotland:
0131 557 2782;
www.poppyscotland.org.uk

Regular Forces' Employment Association:
0121 236 0058; www.rfea.org.uk

Remount:
01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion:
0808 802 8080;
www.britishlegion.org.uk

Royal British Legion Scotland:
0131 550 1583;
www.legionscotland.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:
01622 795900; www.rbli.co.uk

Scottish Veterans' Residences:
0131 556 0091; www.svronline.org

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

DIRECTORY CONTINUED

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:

0808 1914 218 (from the UK);
0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

SSAFA:

0845 1300 975; www.ssafa.org.uk

Stoll: (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation)

0207 385 2110; info@stoll.org.uk;
www.stoll.org.uk

The Not Forgotten Association:

020 7730 2400;
www.nfassociation.org

The Poppy Factory:

020 8940 3305;
www.poppyfactory.org

The Royal Star & Garter Homes:

020 8481 7676;
www.starandgarter.org

The Veterans Charity:

01753 653772;
info@veteranscharity.org.uk

uk4u Thanks!:

01798 812081; www.uk4u.org



INTELLIGENCE

The following Army Briefing Notes, Defence Internal Briefs and Defence Information Notices can be found online at www.armynet.mod.uk

ABN 141/14: Regimental Career Management Officer of the Year Competition

ABN 140/14: Military medals review

ABN 139/14: Armed Forces pension scheme 15 launch countdown

ABN 138/14: Extending commissions to align with Armed Forces pension scheme 15

ABN 137/14: Your Say survey 2014

ABN 136/14: Exercise Telemark Titan 2015

ABN 134/14: Civilian performance management 2014/15

ABN 133/14: AFPS 2015 ill health and dependants

ABN 130/14: UK support to Nato partners in Eastern Europe

ABN 129/14: Equality and diversity autumn newsletter 2014

ABN 128/14: Army occupational wellbeing survey 2014

ABN 127/14: Clearances required for training in Germany

ABN 126/14: Transfer of USEOS to CESO(A)

ABN 125/14: Early Service leavers direction and policy

ABN 124/14: Army Health promotion – cold injury

ABN 123/14: Army transition assessment board policy

ABN 122/14: AFPS 15 video

DIN 2014DIN01-199: Special leave – antenatal appointments

DIN 2014DIN01-198: First Defence Whitley Council Joint ITU & NITU (N/ITU) meeting May 14, 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-196: Amendment to full-time Reserve service (home commitment) commitment terms and NRA

DIN 2014DIN01-195: Recording of mentorship competency on JPA

DIN 2014DIN01-194: MoD associate specialist (2008) pay award 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-193: MoD NHS agenda for change grades pay award 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-192: MoD civilian consultants pay award 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-191: Ministry of Defence Police: annual pay award

DIN 2014DIN01-190: Revised financial recruitment scheme for Defence nursing services

DIN 2014DIN01-189: JSP 764 *Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005* Amdt 6

DIN 2014DIN01-188: Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre – request for casualty exercise participation

DIN 2014DIN01-187: Publication of revised JSP 831 *Redress of individual grievances: Service complaints*

DIN 2014DIN01-186: Pensions tax relief – lifetime allowance – individual protection 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-185: Remembrance Day 2014 and The Royal British Legion poppy appeal

DIN 2014DIN01-181: Employment of foreign and Commonwealth Reserve Service personnel

DIN 2014DIN01-180: British Airways managed path scheme

DIN 2014DIN02-016: Support to defence intelligence debriefing operations

DIN 2014DIN03-025: Defence

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Trials and Information Section

DIN 2014DIN04-196: GQ360 – Deletion of items no longer used has passed out of service date

DIN 2014DIN04-195: Distress signalling sets for vessels and craft

DIN 2014DIN04-194: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (VIBE concrete double beam)

DIN 2014DIN04-193: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (trailer for excavator towed ultra light)

DIN 2014DIN04-192: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (Bomag BW6 roller towed)

DIN 2014DIN04-191: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (HYD rock breaker JCB 4CX)

DIN 2014DIN04-190: 1.1 Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (L A Roche LR955B bending machine)

DIN 2014DIN04-189: 1.1 Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (bucket ditch cleaning for JCB 4CX)

DIN 2014DIN04-188: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (48mm wacker)

DIN 2014DIN04-187: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (pad foot drum for BW6 roller)

DIN 2014DIN04-186: 1.1 Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (loader wheeled)

DIN 2014DIN04-185: 1.1 Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (excavator towed ultra light JCB 801.4)

DIN 2014DIN04-184: 1.1 Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (dumper ultra light 3t 4x4 Benford 3000)

DIN 2014DIN04-183: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment (concrete pump unit)

DIN 2014DIN04-182: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment

DIN 2014DIN04-181: Removal from service of rocket hand-fired smoke screening 600m L26A1 and rocket hand-fired parachute illuminating 1,000m L27A1

DIN 2014DIN04-180: Weapon equipment – declaration of obsolete/obsolescent status

DIN 2014DIN04-179: Declaration of obsolete – Project Kestrel

DIN 2014DIN04-178: Demand process for aviation fuel additives

(AL-41 & AL-48)

DIN 2014DIN04-177: Planned changes to support contract and disposal of various obsolete aircraft component

DIN 2014DIN04-176: Equipment incompatible with BCIP 5.5 baseline

DIN 2014DIN04-175: DMC SMG3K – deletion of items no longer used

DIN 2014DIN04-174: L115 sniper rifle – deletion of items no longer used

DIN 2014DIN04-173: Declaration of obsolete – special tool sets for air conditioning maintenance equipment table scale 06207F

DIN 2014DIN04-172: Black electrical insulation tape (green line) 5970 00 9559976

DIN 2014DIN04-171: LH40C, declaration of out of service, DMC LH40C, NSN 1240999020491

DIN 2014DIN04-170: Physical training equipment lease hire process 2014

DIN 2014DIN04-169: Renaming of the Hercules TriStar Project Team to the C-130J Project Team

DIN 2014DIN04-168: L118 sniper rifle – deletion of items no longer used

DIN 2014DIN04-167: Declaration of obsolescence of trailer spray chemical de-icing 1740-99-761-3177 and trailer mounted spray chemical runway de-icer 1740-99-908-6541

DIN 2014DIN05-033: MoD export policy

DIN 2014DIN05-032: Rebrigading the DE&S combat mobility programmes portfolio in land equipment

DIN 2014DIN05-031: Establishing the Defence Strategic Fuels Authority

DIN 2014DIN05-029: Medical Information Systems helpdesk – phase three

DIN 2014DIN05-028: Changes to the MoD ordering process for IORA geo-replicator

DIN 2014DIN05-027: Acquisition system reform: updated acquisition system guidance

DIN 2014DIN06-016: Revision of JSP 454 *Land Systems Safety and Environmental Protection*, version 6.1

DIN 2014DIN06-015: Guidance on bringing a common law claim for compensation against MoD

DIN 2014DIN07-155: 2014/15 Defence cyber security education and training

DIN 2014DIN07-154: All-arms stores drop zone non-commissioned officers' course

DIN 2014DIN07-153: Air Warfare School courses 2015/16

DIN 2014DIN07-152: Mountaineering in Canada: Army Mountaineering Association Bugaboo Expedition 2015

DIN 2014DIN07-151: Team medic (Army) courses

DIN 2014DIN07-150: Qualified helicopter tactics instructor course

DIN 2014DIN07-149: Joint Service sub-aqua diving conference, HMS Raleigh, March 18, 2015

DIN 2014DIN07-148: Temporary landing zone safety officer course dates 2015

DIN 2014DIN07-146: Biathlon rifle training

DIN 2014DIN07-145: The Ulysses Trust

DIN 2014DIN07-144: Mountaineering in Bolivia: Army Mountaineering Association sponsored AT Exercise Altiplano Tiger

DIN 2014DIN08-011: Insurance

brokerage advice and assistance

DIN 2014DIN08-010: The financial skills certificate mandated policy

DIN 2014DIN09-017: Royal garden parties 2015 – civilian staff

DIN 2014DIN09-016: Vice chief of defence staff commendations

DIN 2014DIN09-015: The Ruth Carter Prize for nurses and the Eliza Mackenzie Prize for student nurses

DIN 2014DIN10-059: Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall – Twickenham rugby event vehicle parking

DIN 2014DIN10-058: Tri-Services Boulder League 2014/15

DIN 2014DIN10-056: Inter-Service judo championships November 14, 2014

DIN 2014DIN10-055: Army Sports Lottery

DIN 2014DIN10-054: Army overseas sports visit

DIB54/14: Six months to go until launch of Armed Forces pension scheme 2015

DIB53/14: 2014 MoD Your Say survey now open

DIB52/14: Letter from the chief of the defence staff and MoD permanent secretary

DIB51/14: The 2014 pay award and 2013/14 reporting year performance awards for MoD civilian staff below senior civil service



REUNION

Standard Military Course 36 (May-December 1984) 30th year reunion at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December 10. Meet at 1000 in the Indian Army Memorial Room for coffee. View commandant's parade rehearsal, followed by lunch arranged in platoon tables. Further details at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reunion-smc-36-registration-11986657415

Martinique Battery reunion on April 18, 2015 at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley. For details email k.brooksusher@hotmail.co.uk

The final School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering RFC annual dinner and President's XV on May 8, 2015 at Arborfield. All serving and former members involved in the club are invited to attend. Please register your interest by contacting SSgt Kennedy via mark.kennedy@seae.mod.uk or Lesley Lallament on 01189 763663.



SEARCHLINE

38 Signal Regiment RHQ and Support Squadron are to close in the summer of 2015. Personnel who have made presentations to the regiment and squadron are asked to reclaim items by contacting WO1 (RSM) Vinny Walsh at 38 (Strat Comms) Signal Regiment, Army Reserve Centre, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN or 38sr-rhq-rsm@mod.uk. Items that have not been claimed by December 1 may be sold or auctioned off, with the proceeds supporting the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

Dave Dwine is looking for **Michael Allen, who served with him in the 1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment Corps of Drums in Colchester between 1983 and 1984**. Anyone with information can contact him on 07753 352385.

Claire Dwyer is looking to return a photograph to the family of a **Royal Artillery major from the Second World War taken in Cairo circa 1942-45**. It was discovered behind a framed picture of Cadgwith Cove, Cornwall dated September 1949. For more information visit <https://t.co/bRjecdUnVX> Anyone able to assist is asked to email claire.shortt@hotmail.com

NO. 876

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN
£100

TEN details have been changed in this picture of HRH Prince Phillip being shown the ropes on an Apache attack helicopter during a visit to Wattisham Flying Station.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 876, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,

Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by November 28, 2014.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results

will be announced in the January issue. Usual rules apply.

September's winner: Glyn Coney, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Runners up: Steve Smith, MoD Corsham, Wiltshire and Sue Presland, Provost Barracks, Aldershot.





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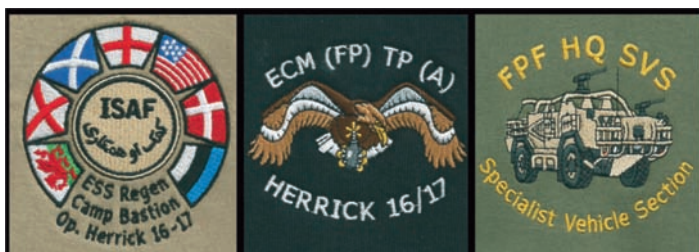
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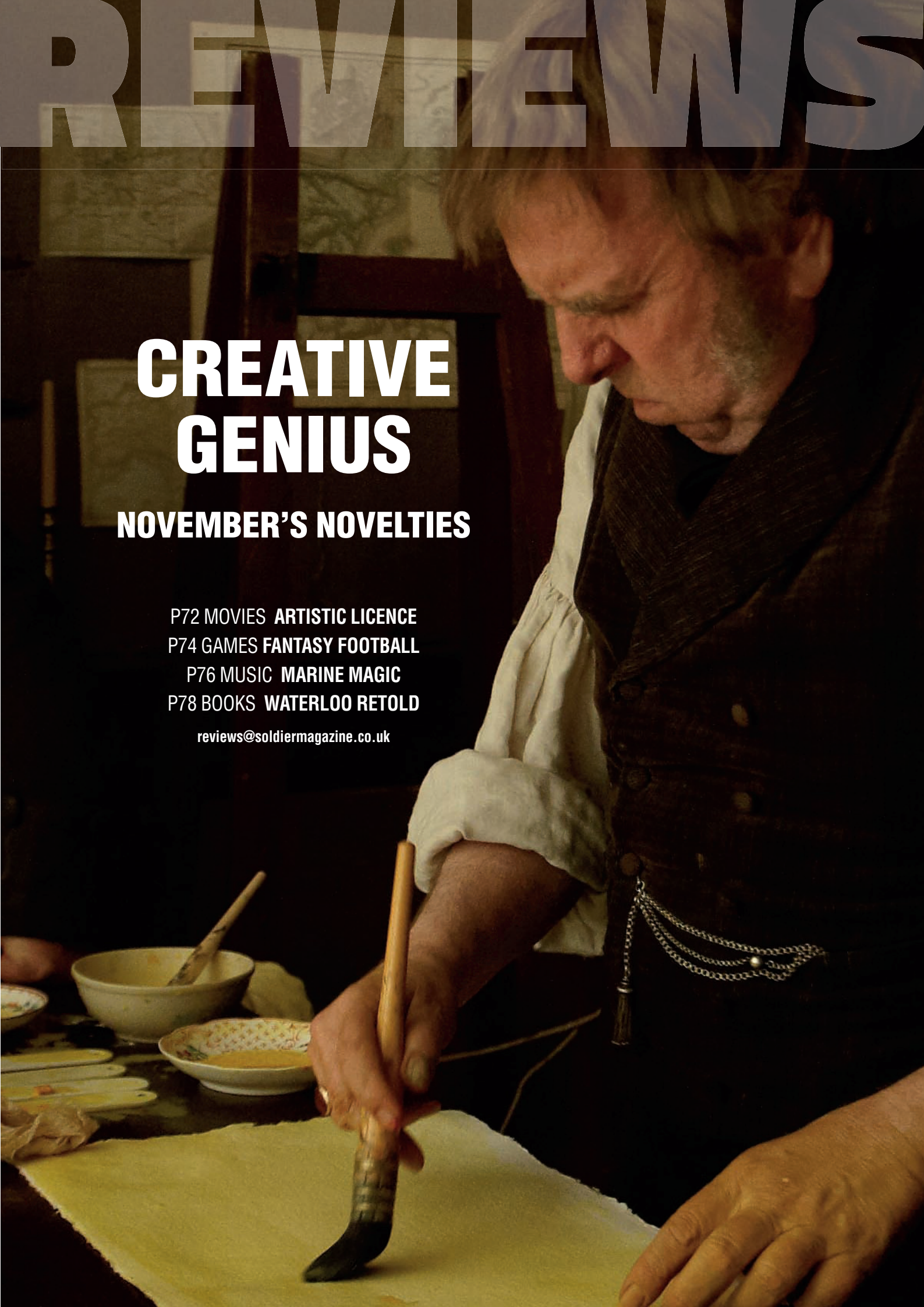
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MOVIES

A man with a serious expression, dressed in 19th-century attire including a white shirt, a dark cravat, and a patterned vest, holds a paint palette and a brush. He is positioned in front of a large, textured painting of a harbor scene with ships and buildings.

PICK OF THE MONTH:
MR TURNER

PICTURE PERFECT

SPALL TRIUMPHS AS ARTIST OF
CONTRADICTIONS

Review: Joe Clapson

A MAGNIFICENT portrayal of the eccentric painter JMW Turner will splash across cinema screens this month.

And thanks to an outstanding leading performance by British actor Timothy Spall, *Mr Turner* is not one to be missed.

Directed by Mike Leigh, the movie charts the final 25 years of the 19th century watercolourist's complex life.

A shambling nonconformist, Turner's on-screen story begins in the seaside town of Margate, where he finds himself becoming infatuated with a landlady called Mrs Booth (Marion Bailey).

In his role as the grunting and groaning English landscape artist, Spall (*Harry Potter*, *The King's Speech*) is absorbing and entirely worthy of the Best Actor award that he scooped for the biopic at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

One particularly memorable aspect of the release – a real touch of class from cinematographer Dick Pope – sees Turner's best-known paintings such as *The Fighting Temeraire* brought to life as moving scenes.

"Making people laugh, hard as it is, is one thing," the director commented of his subject.

"Moving them to experience the profound, the sublime, the spiritual, the epic beauty and the terrifying drama of what it means to be alive on our planet – well, that's altogether something else.

"Turner achieved all of it, of course. He was a giant among artists."

With such admiration for the protagonist, it is perhaps not surprising that the result is a captivating 150 minutes of cinema.

But even more impressive than the visual element is how Leigh succeeds in depicting someone who, despite all his idiosyncracies, is just an "everyday" man.

And Spall proves to be the perfect actor through which to channel this vision.

Through him we learn that the artist lived as a bachelor, took sexual advantage of his housekeeper (Dorothy Atkinson) and paid little attention to his children and their mother.

Both comical and shambolic, Turner emerges as a figure who was desperately lonely and emotionally vulnerable when at the hands of public criticism.

Only the company of the opposite sex seemed to console him.

"Turner the man was eccentric, anarchic, vulnerable, imperfect, erratic and sometimes uncouth," concluded Leigh.

"He could be selfish and disingenuous, mean yet generous, and he was capable of great passion and poetry."

The story of Turner and all his contradictions would be interesting enough in itself but Leigh, who also collaborated with Spall on the 1999 film *Topsy-Turvy*, has elevated it to a different level.

His attentive touch makes every detail of this release – from Turner's tics, sniffs and tears to the monstrous and marvellous seascapes spanning the screen – extraordinary.

This title not only brings to life a famous Romantic artist but is a piece of art in itself

Out in cinemas from this month, it is likely to please film and watercolour fans alike. ■

VERDICT: Timothy Spall is superb in capturing the eccentricities of an artistic genius ★★★★★



GODZILLA out now

GODZILLA is a reboot of the classic franchise and explains the origins of the monster as an uncontrollable force. Gigantic radiation-consuming beasts known as Mutos rampage through Japan, Hawaii and Las Vegas and wake the ancient alpha predator. The film is a breathtaking spectacle throughout and is worth watching solely for the HALO drop into where the monsters are fighting.

Cpl Adam Jackson, Para

VERDICT: The action movie of the year – classic and unmissable ★★★★★



WOLF CREEK 2 out now

THIS low-budget sequel could be described as the *Jaws 2* of the horror genre in that it fails to follow up on the original film's genuine menace. **John Jarrett** returns as Aussie serial killer Mick Taylor but manages to be comical instead of sinister, while hammy acting from the supporting cast, an obvious plot and predictable ending add insult to injury. If you still feel compelled to watch it, wait for the title to air on television.

SSgt Mike Owens, RE

VERDICT: *Crocodile Dundee* meets Freddy Krueger – enough said ★★★★★



3 DAYS TO KILL out now

THIS is one of screenwriter **Luc Besson's** strongest efforts. **Kevin Costner** stars as CIA agent Ethan Renner in an action-packed drama where he must juggle troubled family life with his demanding job. He struggles to maintain a relationship with his estranged wife and daughter while trying to track down an arms dealer. The resulting action makes for one of the best films I have seen in quite a while.

Cfn Jack Watkinson, REME

VERDICT: A witty action flick that will keep you enticed ★★★★★



THE HYPNOTIST out now

A CRIME thriller that is very dramatic despite its subtitles. The acting and storyline are captivating and the movie is full of suspense and energy. The unexpected twists really make it and while the film is confusing to begin with, things do get resolved. You have to remain focused because you cannot afford to miss the dialogue. It isn't a relaxing watch but it is worth sitting through, especially for fans of foreign releases.

Musn Victoria Carter, CAMUS

VERDICT: A hypnotising and suspenseful murder mystery ★★★★★



JIMMY'S HALL out now

THE opening of this film is promising with black and white footage of America during the depression of the 1920s and 30s. But it fails to offer a true reflection of Ireland during these hard times. The story quickly jumps from one decade to the next without explaining why the main character moves across the Atlantic. It shows one man's fight against the church, the upper class and the authorities but is difficult to understand.

Phil Tiffany, ex-RLC

VERDICT: Over-long story of a real-life local hero ★★★★★



WIN... OUR GIRL

EASTENDERS star **Lacey Turner** returned to the screen last month as Army medic Molly Dawes in a drama about life on the front line. The first series is released on DVD on November 3 and shows a young girl turning her back on clubbing to deploy to Afghanistan. *Soldier* has teamed up with RLJ Entertainment to offer copies of the DVD to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning tell us the name of Turner's Albert Square character. Send your answers to the usual postal address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: November 28



GAMES

PICK OF THE MONTH:
FIFA 15

FOOTBALL'S FINEST

DEVELOPERS CROWNED
CONSOLE CHAMPIONS

Review: Ashley Swarbrick, ex-RLC

JUST when you thought football titles had reached their full potential, EA Sports pulls out all the stops and unveils *Fifa 15*. This is simply the best console version of the beautiful game I have ever played.

The level of detail is better than ever – from the hair of David Luiz through to the kits, stadiums, roaring crowds and even the strands of grass.

One of the most notable upgrades is the way the pitch changes as you play, leaving tufts of turf and marks from sliding tackles.

And it doesn't stop there as the mud you slide through transfers to the shirts and shorts – leaving the sport's biggest stars covered in dirt and sludge.

The player movement and speed has improved significantly, allowing you to think quickly and slip through-balls behind the opposition defence and also pull off some nice one-twins.

In terms of the game modes, "Seasons" is the option that really stands out. The online offering allows you to pick any team from around the world and go head-to-head against your global rivals as you work through ten highly competitive divisions.

Each league has a points total that will guarantee safety or promotion and failure on the pitch ultimately leads to relegation.

While the online action sparkles there is still plenty to enjoy away from the internet.

Career mode allows you to manage your team as you like. You can buy or sell players, get promoted, get sacked or move into international management – the world really is your oyster.

The *Fifa Ultimate Team* option is a cross between the two. Again, there are ten divisions to work through but this time there is no choice of which league or international team to take control of.

The challenge is to build your own club from scratch.

You start with zero players and don't even have a kit, stadium or emblem.

This is very addictive and purchases from the *Fifa Ultimate Team* store allow you to acquire bronze, silver and gold packs – all of which contain varying levels of treats.

The gold option naturally features the most valuable assets and best items within.

Each pack has a random mixture of players, grounds, kits and all the other elements you need to build a club.

Inevitably you will gain things you do not necessarily like or need but, fear not, they can be sold on the transfer market, where you can also make new signings or procure the tools that could make the difference between success and failure.

All in all, *Fifa 15* is an awesome offering that has improved in a big way since last year's release.

It spectacularly showcases the capabilities of the next generation PS4 and Xbox One and comes highly recommended as an addition to any games collection. ■

VERDICT: EA Sports mounts an emphatic challenge with football's top title ★★★★★

DESTINY

for Xbox/PS3 and 4

THIS is definitely one not to miss if you own a PS4 or Xbox One. The most striking thing about *Destiny* is just how beautiful the game is. You play as a guardian of the last city on Earth who is brought back to life to combat the planet's enemies in a final battle. The title serves as a first-person shooter with elements of a role-player, while its online options offer well thought-out maps and furious combat. I bought this on its release day and was still enjoying myself weeks later.

Sgt Mike O'Neill, RLC

VERDICT: Join the next generation and start playing now ★★★★★



PAC-MAN 2

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

PAC-Man returns to the console universe in this 3D platform release that sees him defending Pacworld from the ghoulish army of Lord Betrayus. New power-ups, vehicles and the option to play as Pac, Cylinder or Spiral give this second Ghostly Adventure some fresh features to keep fans interested. However, it is sadly lacking a two-player mode that a father of two, with gaming offspring, needs. That said, my kids really enjoyed it and after a few goes myself I was surprised at how addictive this can be.

Cpl Adam Jackson, Para

VERDICT: One for the kids – both young and old ★★★★★



SHADOW OF MORDOR

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC

IT is easy to draw comparisons between this and the *Batman: Arkham* games, especially with Warner Brothers' involvement and the combat styles used. But that's a good thing and so is the Nemesis system; a unique strategic combat mode that sets out future threats and lists their strengths and weaknesses. This release is both deeply frustrating and wholly satisfying as you make your way through Sauron's army, seeking revenge for the death of your family.

David McDougall, civvy

VERDICT: A breath of fresh air in a shooter-dominated market ★★★★★



FORZA HORIZON 2

for Xbox 360 and One

FOLLOWING on from the superb original release, *Forza Horizon 2* leaves the USA behind in favour of southern Europe. But there's more to this iteration than just a change of location. There are fresh challenges to complete and a variety of new cars to collect or conquer. It also has the intricate detailing that the mainstream *Forza* games offer – such as upgrades, custom paint jobs, tuning and variable weather – so strap yourself in and enjoy the ride.

David McDougall, civvy

VERDICT: A great game that builds on the strengths of the original ★★★★★



ALIEN: ISOLATION

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC

ALIEN: Isolation is a first-person action horror game that captures the fear and tension evoked in **Ridley Scott's** classic 1979 movie. Set 15 years after the events of *Alien*, Ellen Ripley's daughter Amanda enters a desperate battle for survival. This is best played with the lights off and the surround sound turned up – the graphics are great and have a retro science fiction feel just like the original film. It's a slow starter but once you get going it's hard to put the controller down.

Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC

VERDICT: A definite winner – one for single-player fans ★★★★★



WIN... BATTLE ACADEMY 2: EASTERN FRONT

THE next instalment in the *Battle Academy* series sees the action move to the east as German and Soviet forces battle it out on the bloodied plains of Russia. The game captures the campaign from both sides as partisan, Tiger, T-34 and dozens of other units join the fold. *Soldier* has teamed up with Slitherine Games to give away ten copies of the strategy-based offering on PC. To be in with a chance of winning one tell us the name of the Russian leader during the Second World War. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or via email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: November 28



MUSIC



PICK OF THE MONTH: OCEAN WAVE

MUSICAL MARINES

MILITARY BAND STRIKES A CHORD IN ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Interview: Richard Long

WITH the Royal Marines celebrating their 350th anniversary this year it was perhaps inevitable that the institution's legion of musicians would be called upon to commemorate such an important milestone.

Not wanting to disappoint, The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines has teamed up with record giants Sony to release the new album *Ocean Wave* – an offering that champions life in all corners of the UK while boasting a host of collaborations.

Tracks such as *Danny Boy*, *Flower of Scotland* and *Rule Britannia* underline the patriotic nature of the project and music director Lt Col Nick Grace told *Soldier* it is a fitting tribute in such a special year.

"This really is the best of British and these songs do an excellent job in representing the different parts of the country," the senior officer explained.

"They are famous tunes and we are sure there will be something on the album for everyone – not just fans of military music.

"For us, this is all about marking a significant anniversary.

"When the Royal Marines started in 1664 there was a drummer in each company so music has been an important part of our history from the outset."

By teaming up with Sony the ensemble was able to tap into the label's immense talent pool and the likes of Russell Watson, saxophonist Amy Dickson and *Britain's Got Talent* star Jonathan Antoine were all keen to get involved.

The new release also showcases the vocal range of the band's very own singing sensation, Ellie Lomas.

"The recording process was quite straightforward," Grace recalled.

"We went to the studio and laid down all the music for the tracks and the vocals were added later.

"It is a great way to do things. To work alongside a big company like Sony was a fantastic experience and they invested a lot of time and effort.

"I am delighted with the outcome."

With a proud history to its name the band shows no sign of slowing down and, rather predictably, they have been as busy as ever in 2014.

A beating retreat at Horse Guards Parade and an appearance at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo were among the many highlights but Grace was quick to point out they are not just restricted to the more traditional avenues.

"We play a lot of military music but our versatility allows us to explore other areas," he said.

"All our musicians play more than one instrument. We are a marching band but we can become an orchestra, a big band or play pop music.

"That is an essential part of what we are about and because our members are of such a high quality they can easily adapt and succeed with most things." ■

● *Ocean Wave* is out now

Raise the Dead: Live by Alice Cooper

WITH the release of *Raise the Dead I* was pleased to discover that the old man of rock, **Alice Cooper**, is alive and well – but at the age of 68 and in amongst his characteristic parade of zombies on stage, you could be forgiven for any confusion. What is clear is that this album, which was recorded at the Wacken festival, is packed full of hits that, although rough in places, are augmented by the obvious fun the band is having during the live performance. Zombie or not, there's still life in the old goat.

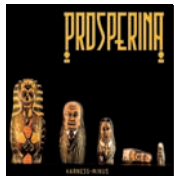


Maj Fraser Dowling, AGC (ETS)

VERDICT: "We're not worthy... we're not worthy" ★★★★★

Harness-Minus by Prosperina

SWANSEA power trio **Prosperina** are emerging as a genuine talent on the British rock scene. The guys have been busy taking their blend of heavy, groove-laden rock with a pinch of prog on tour and ooze that certain something you get from a three-piece band. The tracks on *Harness-Minus* are anthemic and well crafted, from opener *The Chase* to *Graveyard of Ambition* and the kicking rhythm of *Sleepers*. This album incites feelings ranging from sombre to furious – keep flying the flag, lads.



Matt Walpole, ex-PWRR

VERDICT: Fans of Mastodon, Kyuss and Pink Floyd will love this ★★★★★

Sirens by Gorgon City

ELECTRO duo **Gorgon City** (Kye Gibbon and Matt Robson-Scott) build on their growing reputation with the release of debut album *Sirens*. Hit single *Ready for Your Love* proved to be a hit on both the dance floor and charts and the same feel-good, summer vibe flows throughout the record. *Here for You* is the real highlight and with the likes of **Maverick Sabre** and **Katy B** offering their vocal talents there is no shortage of star power. But be warned, this comes with its fair share of fillers.



Joe Clapson, *Soldier*

VERDICT: A mixed offering that fails to hit top gear ★★★★★

Carry on the Grudge by Jamie T

AFTER an absence of three years singer-songwriter **Jamie T** returns to the spotlight with new album *Carry on the Grudge*. The London native achieved critical acclaim for the gritty, urban undertones of his previous offerings and fans will be delighted to hear that there is more of the same on this record. The upbeat *Zombie* immediately captures the attention and the star's darker and more aggressive side comes to the fore on blues number *Peter*. With plenty to enjoy elsewhere this is a definite winner.



Richard Long, *Soldier*

VERDICT: A long time coming but this album is worth the wait ★★★★★

Playland by Johnny Marr

NOT knowing that the person I was listening to was once the lead guitarist with **The Smiths** did little to dull the senses that the frenetic, acoustic guitar melodies sparked as they hit my eardrums. *Playland* is a British indie album from an ageing rocker who is preaching to the converted and it provokes an irresistible desire for more thirst-quenching post-punk hymns. **Johnny Marr** has definitely raised the bar for future artists who will need to bring their A game if they are to match the quality here.



Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

VERDICT: Beautiful indie rock at its very best ★★★★★

Volume I and II by Streets of Laredo

US band **Streets of Laredo** have released their first two EPs as one rather average folk-rock album. There are hints of **Bob Dylan**'s vocals combined with the guitars of **Arcade Fire** but it's nowhere near as good as either. Instead of staying true to their roots they've tried to mix in a horns section in what appears to be a **Metallica**-esque effort to be taken more seriously. If you're a student who enjoys sitting in a circle with friends, shaking a tambourine while someone plays an acoustic guitar this could be for you.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

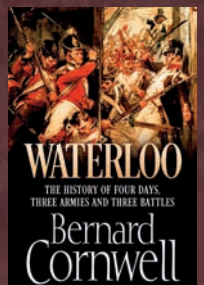
VERDICT: A bland, uninspiring and average affair ★★★★★

BOOKS

PICK OF THE MONTH: WATERLOO

WELLINGTON'S CLOSEST CALL

BEST-SELLING NOVELIST RETELLS STORY OF
EPIC CLASH IN FIRST NON-FICTION TITLE



Bernard Cornwell's
Waterloo is out now,
priced £25

Picture: RMN/Grand Palais (Château de Fontainebleau) / Gérard Blot

Interview: Becky Clark

THE bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo is still more than six months away but a slew of new books on the infamous clash has already hit the shelves.

Among them, and much anticipated, is *Waterloo* by Bernard Cornwell – the historical novelist's first foray into non-fiction.

But as the man behind swashbuckling Peninsular War hero Richard Sharpe told *Soldier*, the title will also be his last factual offering.

"It's the only one I'm ever going to write I can assure you," he said.

"It's the only one I ever wanted to write. It's such a compelling story. Above everything else it's that – a story."

Commenting on the enduring fascination with the 1815 campaign, he added: "I suppose you can say there are a handful of battles that are seminal, that stand out above the others – Agincourt is one, Trafalgar another.

"Waterloo decided the fate of Britain for the whole of the 19th century."

Despite having spent years studying the era for the *Sharpe* series, Cornwell said he had to delve into additional material for the new title.

"I thought I knew the battle pretty well before I started and it came as a bit of a shock when I came to writing and realised just how much research I still needed to do," he confessed.

"What impressed me most while reading the endless letters and diaries written by people who were there is the good relations between officers and soldiers in the British Army at the time.

"The idea that Wellington's forces were led by aristocrats and staffed by whipped men who lived in terror of their officers could not be further from the truth.

"The standard of commanders was very high, as was the affection between them and the troops.

"I think that's something the British Army can be proud of."

The importance of good leadership and discipline on the battlefields of the 1800s becomes evident throughout the book, with vivid first-hand accounts that bring the confusion and brutality of the fighting to life.

"The whole thing is completely horrific," Cornwell continued.

"It's almost impossible to imagine that by the end of the day there are 200,000 men in the space of two-and-a-half square miles all trying to kill each other.

"You can only admire them. They were extraordinarily brave."

Reports from survivors tell of bodies piled on top of each other and men blown apart by artillery.

One passage describes a loose horse trying desperately to return to its friends despite having lost its entire lower face.

"That's one of the two bits I find very hard to re-read," admitted the author.

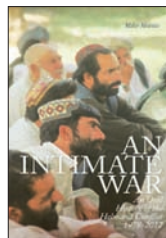
"That and the letter at the end [written by a doomed officer to his wife in case of his death].

"The voice is so modern. The sentiments are so obviously human and so tragic."

While many will already be familiar with the tale of Wellington's narrow triumph over Napoleon – or rather, how the emperor managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory – this master storyteller's take on events comes highly recommended to those new to the genre and Waterloo aficionados alike. ■

An Intimate War

by Mike Martin



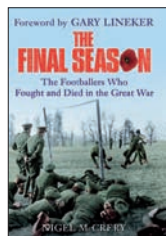
THIS is a top-notch history of the Helmand conflict based on myriad first-hand accounts. The author argues that local tribes have adjusted their allegiances and manipulated the various militaries over the years to meet their own agendas, something Western powers failed to grasp due to a lack of cultural understanding. Well written and well researched, this text makes a complex topic accessible and shows how, in any war, the human terrain must be the starting point for planners.

SSgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

VERDICT: An easy-to-understand narrative of a complicated situation ★★★★★

The Final Season

by Nigel McCrery



IT is hard to imagine today's footballing superstars walking away from the game to fight for their country on the front line but that's exactly what happened in the First World War. Nigel McCrery charts the formation of the famed sporting battalions, whose soldiers excelled on both the pitch and battlefield. The fact each story ends in inevitable tragedy only serves to underline the devastating impact of a campaign that claimed so many in their prime.

Richard Long, *Soldier*

VERDICT: A tragic account of football's lost generation ★★★★★

Churchill's Secret Warriors

by Damien Lewis



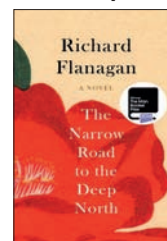
HERE is a fascinating story, not often told in books or on the television, about the formation of the Special Boat Service. Maj Anders Lassen VC MC and two bars, led his band of warriors – often described by their critics as cowboys – on a personal crusade against the Nazis. The text details every mission, from West Africa to Northern Italy, where Lassen was killed in April 1945. An enjoyable, thought-provoking read that reveals what a small group of highly motivated soldiers can achieve.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: An inspiring tale of real-life adventure ★★★★★

The Narrow Road to the Deep North

by Richard Flanagan



WINNER of the 2014 Booker Prize, this is the tale of a surgeon who saves hundreds of Australian prisoners held by the Japanese during the Second World War. Beautifully written and painstakingly constructed, the book links past and present, slowly revealing the true character of a man who is a hero to everyone but himself. The inmates' ordeal is portrayed with brutal realism, providing an oddly sympathetic insight into their captors that challenges the orthodox narrative.

Douglas Jackson, historical novelist

VERDICT: A thought-provoking and worthy prize winner ★★★★★

Exocet Falklands

by E Southby-Tailyour



THIS is a fascinating account of three SAS missions to counter the Exocet missile during the 1982 Falklands War, ranging from ill-thought out ideas to near suicidal one-way trips onto enemy soil. Thankfully, none actually went ahead but the author's main argument is that action is no substitute for thought. He pulls no punches in criticising the hierarchy and backs his points up through maps, references and a comprehensive bibliography.

Capt Damian Hern, AGC (SPS)

VERDICT: Belongs on the shelf of any military historian ★★★★★

The Brethren

by Robert Merle



A TRANSLATION of a 1977 French novel, this tells the story of a noble family caught up in religious strife between the Huguenots and Catholics in mid 16th-century France. Fighting for their Protestant faith while trying to keep the king as an ally, the protagonists struggle to survive. The tale describes life in the era beautifully and the translation is excellent. The one drawback is that this is only the first title in a 13-book series that could become compelling – and time consuming.

Andy Kay, ex-RS

VERDICT: A hard-to-put-down historical yarn – recommended ★★★★★



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SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Tough terrain: CSjt Mark Holloway (Rifles) tackles the World's Toughest Mudder in Nevada this month. Read more about the endurance athlete's extreme obstacle challenge on page 91...



Dreaming of the big time

Inter-Services Water Skiing and Wakeboarding

1 – Royal Air Force
2 – Army

THE Army's water ski and wakeboard stars have mounted a campaign to achieve recognised sporting status so they can regularly challenge the might of the Royal Air Force at Inter-Services level.

At present the pursuits are only granted an approved rating which means competitors miss out on the full revenue streams afforded to heavyweight disciplines such as football, boxing and rugby union.

The financial shortfall has created understandable difficulties for the organisation but a growing talent pool, coupled with some notable performances on the water, should strengthen their hand as the quest for further funding continues.

Sgt Dale Crossley (RE) blazed a trail for the sport this season by finishing fifth in the Wakeboard World Championship's masters'

event, while teammate Capt Charlie Hay (AAC) was third in her category at national level.

The duo, along with a strong field of fellow soldiers, underlined their class at last month's Inter-Services showdown and with another encouraging performance in the bag they are hoping for further success, and growth, in the future.

"We are really trying to push things forward," Maj Ross Haines (RA), chairman of the Army Water Skiing and Wakeboarding Association, told *SoldierSport*.

"Wakeboarding has been strong in numbers for a few years now and that has probably coincided with the growth in snowboarding.

"It has been the same with water skiing as the Alpine events have come back in but the RAF have always been very strong in this discipline and we have struggled to compete.

"For the Army competition we said each team had to have at least one water skier as we want to create some depth in the sport."

Such is the strength of the RAF set-up that they boast their own boat for squad training sessions but with the Service lacking such luxuries time on the water comes at

greater expense due to costly hire fees.

"We're now on the path to recognised status," Haines added. "We have to deliver results and also show that we have various structures in place. We want parity with the RAF.

"Having someone like Dale, who is getting success at international level, really helps our cause. He started out at the Army Championships and is now an inspiration for the younger guys coming through."

Capt Marcus Hedley (AAC) is one of the team's leading lights in water skiing and the officer tasted individual glory at the Inter-Services having missed out last year due to work commitments.

He has competed in the sport from a young age but has benefited from a flourishing corps set-up that offers as much support to its soldiers as possible.

"I had a poor competition round and finished second in my last Inter-Services two years ago, so this time I was determined to top that," Hedley said.

"But for the team it is all about progression. We have some new faces coming through and the message is definitely getting out there.



"We have some new faces coming through and the message is getting out there"

Capt Marcus Hedley (AAC)

**SOLDIERSPORT
SITREP**



Competitors at this year's Army Championships at Box End Park, Bedford



149

Members of the British Army Water Ski and Wakeboard Association group on Facebook

The top speed, in miles per hour, used by the boats that pull Army water skiers

36



The world ranking of Sgt Dale Crossley (RE), who has been competing on the masters' circuit in 2014

1



"The Army Air Corps has spent a lot of money on kit and we have to drive this forward and bring personnel along."

The sport is not just open to those with a background on the water prior to joining up and this year's Forces showdown included soldiers who have learnt their skills through the Army set-up.

One such competitor is wakeboarder Cpl Kevin Tait (RLC). Having seen colleagues in action his interest was immediately captured and he has been hooked on the pursuit ever since.

"It is something totally

different and I had never tried it before," he told *SoldierSport*. "I gave it a go, mastered two or three tricks and wanted to progress from there."

"You have to stick at it and keep practising. I've won the Army Championships a couple of times but this is my first Inter-Services. The guys who run the team are great lads and the level of support on offer is fantastic."

"As a minority sport it is harder to get funding but as we enjoy what we do we don't mind paying a little extra. I want to stay involved as much as I can. As you get older the

injuries take a little longer to recover from but I still love it."

For Crossley, the Inter-Services capped the end of a memorable year that also saw him finish second at the European Championships and earn a number one world ranking at masters level.

"I didn't think I could get that far so soon," he said.

"I knew I could do well; but not that well. I'll be looking to maintain my form next season."

"Training with the Army boys again is fantastic. Hopefully I can teach them a few things and it is a great way for us all to catch up." ■

Wave report

Date: October 9-10, 2014

Competition: Inter-Services Water Skiing and Wakeboarding

Venue: Box End Park, Bedford

Army results

Slalom Ski

1. Capt Marcus Hedley (AAC)
4. Maj Ali Mack (AAC)
5. Maj Ross Haines (AAC)
7. SSgt Bob Young (AAC)
9. Cfn Troy Landing (REME)

Cable Wakeboard

Women

1. Capt Charlie Hay (AAC)

Men

1. Sgt Dale Crossley (RE)
2. Capt Kieran Taheny (AAC)
5. Sgt James Walker (RE)

Boat Wakeboard

Women

2. Capt Charlie Hay (AAC)

Men

1. Capt Kieran Taheny (AAC)
3. Sgt Dale Crossley (RE)
6. Sgt James Walker (RE)

Combined Wakeboard

Women

1. Capt Charlie Hay (AAC)

Men

1. Capt Kieran Taheny (AAC)
3. Sgt Dale Crossley (RE)

Team Competition RAF winners



Game brief

Date: October 23, 2014

Competition: Southern Counties Cup

Venue: Army Military Stadium

Army women

Dinning	10	Ross	9
Lee	11	Wright	7
Kemp	6	Gwilliam	8
Kidd	3	Rooney	2
Connearn	5	Barnard	12
O'Donnell	1		

Coach's comment

We were unlucky to find ourselves 1-0 down in the first half as we had the better of the play but did not convert our chances.

Towards the end of the second period it got a bit scrappy, which made it difficult for us. On the whole, we need to do better with our finishing and that is something we will work on.

Rachel Gwilliam (pictured) did well in the middle of the park and Bianca Ross was a threat up front.

This was our first competitive match of the season. At this stage I'm not too concerned; our main goal is the Inter-Services and we are building towards that.

Maj Sandra Hodgson



Near miss: Sgt Helen Lee (AGC [SPS]) fails to connect with her shot on a disappointing night for the Army

Frustrating start for returning Reds

Southern Counties Cup

Army women 0
Middlesex 1

A FIRST-half penalty consigned the Army women to a 1-0 defeat to Middlesex in the opening match of their Southern Counties Cup campaign.

The Reds endured a frustrating evening in Aldershot as they struggled to find the potency in front of goal that has served them so

well in recent times.

Experienced duo SSgt Juliette Brown (RLC) and Cfn Bianca Ross (REME) were welcomed back into the fold and it was the latter who had the soldiers' best chance in the seventh minute.

The striker showed neat control in the area before firing an effort that was tipped on to the crossbar by visiting keeper Robyn Tillyer.

Ross was in the thick of the action moments later as a slick through-ball from Cfn Rachel Gwilliam (REME) saw her race clear of the defence only to be denied by Tillyer.

But the Army were dealt a

crushing blow on the half-hour mark as Sgt Helen Lee (AGC [SPS]) was punished for a foul in the box and Zemelka Clarke converted from the spot.

The second period coincided with an increase in tempo and Ross proved to be an effective outlet.

The forward was unlucky with a low drive that flashed past the far post and then saw another effort deflect into the side netting following some good link-up play.

However, further chances failed to materialise and the Reds were left to reflect on a disappointing night as the final whistle sounded. ■

Collins' cup quest



ARMY football coach Capt Joe Collins (R Signals) is plotting another attempt at Inter-Services glory after seeing his side fall short in 2014.

The Royal Air Force wrapped up a seventh successive title with a 3-2 win over the Reds in March but the soldiers are now on a mission to break their rivals' stranglehold.

Collins welcomed 30 players to the annual trials week and the side have already recorded wins against Guildford and the Prison Service, as well as a draw with Camberley.

"We left a lot of regular guys out during those trials so we could give different people an opportunity," he said.

"When it comes to the Inter-Services it is all about fine margins. We did not play well against the RAF last year but we have some new ideas this time round and different coaches will be coming in to lend a hand."

The Army began their Southern Counties Cup challenge with a tie against Middlesex as this issue went to press.

Services stand firm to secure cup win



Kentish Cup

Combined Services 1
French Armed Forces 0

THE Combined Services began their 2014 Kentish Cup campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the French Armed Forces in Portsmouth.

In a game of few clear-cut chances it was Royal Air Force defender SAC Jack Debnam who sealed the contest as he calmly converted from a one-on-one opportunity midway

through the first half.

Army stars Sig Ryan Paddock, SSgt Barry Rizza and LCpl Sam Agar (all R Signals) lined up in the spine of the home side and all three made vital contributions to the winning cause.

Debnam's goal was the one moment of real quality in the opening period as both teams battled hard but failed to produce a cutting edge.

The wing-back had the chance to double his tally but blazed over following a neat lay-off from Agar and Paddock spurned another opportunity as the French failed to clear a free kick.

A similar pattern followed in the second half and neither goalkeeper was forced into a meaningful save as an increasing foul count meant the match lacked fluidity.

The final whistle brought welcome respite for the Combined Services, who went on to lift the trophy following a 2-1 win over their Dutch rivals (pictured) as this issue went to press.

"It was hard work," Agar told *SoldierSport*. "We came up against a French team that looked to dominate possession, we had to be patient but the better side came out on top." ■

States' Simpson success

» THE UK's injured Servicemen relinquished their grip on golf's Simpson Cup as they slipped to a 10.5-7.5 defeat to their American rivals.

Playing at the Congressional Country Club in Maryland, the defending champions – captained by ex-soldier Gregg Stevenson (pictured) – were trailing after the opening day's four ball matches and then failed to make up ground in the singles.

Wins for Stevenson and teammate Winston Foster, of the Royal Air Force, gave them hope early on but with the USA claiming four of the next five contests, along with the final three ties, the outcome was never in doubt.

The tournament returns to British soil in September 2015, when the home team will be looking to reclaim their title.



SPORT SHORTS

Roko gets the call



» ARMY rugby union star LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) has been named in the England squad for this month's autumn internationals.

His selection comes on the back of some sensational form at club level, where he has scored six tries in seven matches for Bath during the 2014/15 campaign.

The wing played for England Saxons earlier this year and will be looking to make his senior debut as the national side face New Zealand, South Africa, Samoa and Australia.

Speaking about the inclusion of the Serviceman, England coach Stuart Lancaster said: "We are keen to see whether he can do what he's done at Bath in our environment.

"He has the ability to beat defenders and carry the ball forward, and he's a try scorer too."





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Game brief

Date: October 1, 2014

Competition: Lawson Cup final

Venue: Army Rugby Stadium

Royal Logistic Corps

Milburn 14	Snow 9	Morfitt 17
Allen 11		Allen 12
	Vuwai 13	
Lilo 7	Vaudrau 6	
Raloka 4	Coombs 3	
Qiolevu 5	Lauvanua 2	
	Herbert 1	

Captain's comment

We have worked hard all year. We lost to the Royal Engineers in the first game of the season so every match since has been like a cup final.

You can never underestimate them and they've shown how strong they are over the years. We knew we had to overcome their power and then play our own game.

I have to give credit to the players in our team and we have a lot of flair.

The Lawson Cup is massive in Army rugby league and everyone is fighting in every game. We were the trophy holders and we wanted to do ourselves proud.

SSgt Aaron Morfitt



Top of the league

Lawson Cup final

**Royal Logistic Corps 22
Royal Engineers 12**

THE Royal Logistic Corps maintained their grip on rugby league's Lawson Cup with a 22-12 victory over the Royal Engineers in the tournament final.

Tries from Pte Kristian Herbert and Cpl Kimmi Vaudrau along with a brace from Pte Mac Qiolevu sealed the win for the defending champions as they ended the Sappers' 2014 unbeaten run in spectacular style.

Having lost to their rivals in their opening group match the Loggies were determined to

exact revenge and they made a bright start with an early spell of possession.

However, their efforts failed to trouble the scoreboard and it was the challengers who struck the first blow when Spr Sonoma Veikune touched down in the tenth minute.

After failing with their conversion attempt the Engineers went in search of further points with another raid downfield but it was the RLC who benefitted as Qiolevu launched a blistering counter-attack and fed Herbert for a simple score under the posts.

Opposition skipper Spr Rob Bussey fired a response as he powered home when Veikune was stopped just short of the line but with the extras again being missed they could only open a two-point advantage.

And the lead did not last long as Cpl Joe Lauvanua broke past the half-way line and Qiolevu scored from the resulting phases of play.

Centre Spr Dale Bell drew the sides level just minutes after the interval when he rounded off a cross-field passing move for what proved to be the Sappers' final points of the afternoon.

Qiolevu added his second try following a searing break from LCpl Filipe Lilo and Vaudrau sealed the win when he rounded off a superb move under the pressure of a mounting tackle count.

The match-winner was sin binned for a high tackle late on but the Engineers failed to capitalise on the numerical advantage as their trophy bid slipped away. ■

Lawson Cup in numbers



9

The number of corps teams participating in the 2014 competition

The year it was first staged – Army Rugby League is celebrating its 20th anniversary and all Service players have been developed in the tournament

1961



Titles won by the Royal Engineers

13



Browning's new boys

A NEW era has begun for the Service's boxing team after a raft of fresh talent was welcomed into the ranks.

With hardened campaigners such as LCpl Martin Stead (RLC) and Cpl James Allen (REME) bidding a fond farewell over the summer the pressure was on head coach SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) to unearth the next generation of fighters.

A total of 32 athletes were selected from a successful week-long training camp and the Army individual and team championships also proved to be a happy hunting ground as a squad of 50 soldiers has now been assembled for 2014/15.

"It is all about development," Browning told *SoldierSport*. "We lost around 80 per cent of our top lads so we now have to bring new guys through."

"For us as coaches it is a massive challenge. We are trying to mould a team for the Inter-Services and that is why

we are planning a lot of shows between now and Christmas.

"We still have eight or nine to come in so we are only going to improve. In every weight category there are so many people to choose from and we have to run double sessions, while spending extra time sparring in the evenings."

But Browning is not limiting his ambitions to Inter-Services glory and he wants to see his fighters pushing for podium places with Team GB.

"Beating our Forces rivals is the short-term goal," the coach explained. "The ultimate aim is to see someone representing Great Britain; whether male or female."

"The Inter-Services is a stepping stone. Our boxers have to win there, and then at the national championships, if they are to even have a chance of a call-up."

"To achieve that we want to have an elite squad while running a development team at the same time. That is the way the sport is going." ■



Nominees named

» THE Service's Commonwealth Games stars head the list of nominees for the annual Army Sports Awards, which will be held at The Guildhall in London on November 27.

Boxer LCpl Ashley Williams (R Welsh), who won bronze in Glasgow, will compete with rugby union ace LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) and Olympic bobsleigh pilot LSgt Lamin Deen (Gren Gds) in the sportsman category, while LCpl Alanna Audley-Murphy (RLC), who also took bronze in the ring, faces the challenge of Northern Ireland netball player Cpl Nordia Masters (AGC (SPS), pictured) and rugby sensation Capt Chantelle Miller (AGC (RMP)) in the sportswoman section.

Organised in conjunction with Team Army, the ceremony features three new awards – rising star, unsung hero and lifetime achievement.

Shots on side



» ALDERSHOT Town have launched a new ticketing initiative that will see serving personnel offered free admission to key home games throughout the season.

Seats for Soldiers welcomed its first intake of troops at last month's Vanarama Conference clash with Bristol Rovers and the scheme will be repeated when the team hosts Nuneaton on Saturday, November 15.

The Shots will also be opening their doors to military fans for their game with Barnet on Boxing Day with three further fixtures due to be announced for next year.

Admission prices are being covered by a number of companies associated with the Armed Forces Covenant and tickets will be distributed to personnel, and their families, on request via the Aldershot garrison headquarters.

Picture: Ian Mossman



Elite search gathers pace

SERVICE athletes took their first steps towards potential Olympic glory at the launch of the Army's new elite sport programme.

The initiative is being run in partnership with UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport, who are keen to identify individuals from within the military sphere who could push for medals at the 2020 Games in Tokyo.

Disciplines such as boxing and shooting have already been earmarked as possible talent pools and the search for athletic excellence has been further extended via the Girls 4 Gold scheme, which held its initial round of assessments for Servicewomen last month.

Staged at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot, the sessions included sprint, power and hamstring flexibility tests as well as recording key height and weight measurements.

The data is now being

processed and successful candidates will be called back for a second round of testing in the near future.

Boxing, weightlifting, skeleton bobsleigh, tae kwon do and rowing are seen as being ideally suited for soldiers and there was no shortage of interest among the Army's female contingent.

Bdr Bethan Dainton (RA) enjoyed a strong sporting pedigree before joining the military and has since represented the Combined Services in rugby league and football, as well as playing hockey for the Army.

"I think this is great and there is bound to be some Olympic talent among us," she said. "They are looking for people to move into things like rowing and weightlifting but cycling and athletics are the events I want to try."

"But I would give anything a go if it means I can become a full-time athlete."

Fellow participant LCpl Stephanie Wroe (REME, pictured top, front) has just joined the Army boxing team and is hoping Girls 4 Gold will push her towards the upper echelons of the sport.

"As soon as I had my first fight I was gripped," she explained. "It doesn't come as naturally as other activities but I like it a lot."

"This initiative is fantastic. These sports can be quite expensive but something like this gives opportunities to all."

"Going to the Olympics would be an amazing experience and I am happy to try anything that is identified for me."

As soldiers move through the process they will work alongside Olympic coaches and sports scientists and if they continue to excel they will progress to an elite training programme. Those not called back for the later stages will be directed towards suitable Army associations. ■

SPORT SHORTS



» **ENDURANCE** athlete LCpl Julian Sandford has booked his place at next year's Ironman World Championships in Hawaii following a strong showing on home soil in 2014.

The junior NCO, who serves with the Band of the Life Guards, finished 23rd in a field of more than 2,000 competitors at Ironman Wales with a time of 10hr 26min.

Having tackled a 2.4-mile sea swim the soldier made rapid progress on the bike and was able to overtake 1,100 rivals on the 112-mile course. He then finished the day by running a marathon in 3hr 17min.



» **THE** annual Yeomanry Ride will be staged at Worcester Lodge, Badminton, on Saturday, November 29.

Supported by The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, the event features a two-and-a-half mile course over fences found on a typical hunting field.

Entry costs £50 for personnel. For more details call Capt Ben Matthews on 01929 402024.

“Going to the Olympics would be an amazing experience and I am happy to try anything that is identified for me”



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TOUGH MUDDER



WATER jumps, rope climbs and the daunting prospect of an electric shock all await CSjt Mark Holloway (Rifles) as he attempts the World's Toughest Mudder this month.

The 30-year-old will travel to the Nevada desert for the challenge, which will see competitors tackle a five-mile course featuring more than 20 punishing obstacles.

However, the winner is not the first person to finish the route but the runner who completes the most laps in a 24-hour time frame.

Holloway, an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, took part in the event in 2013 and was ranked in the top 100 having covered 60 miles. He is also a veteran of 12 races in the UK.

"I didn't train much for it last year," he told *SoldierSport*. "I thought if I can do that without really putting the effort in what can I do if I work hard?"

"I want to smash it and my target is 100 miles.

"Last year my Army background held me in good stead and that is my foundation. I've now built on that by tailoring my training for this one race with lots of running, pull ups, dips and leg conditioning exercises."

Holloway was injured on his third tour of Afghanistan in December 2011, when he was caught in an IED blast.

Fragments of the device ripped through his right forearm and severed the radial artery, causing catastrophic bleeding and damaging tendons and nerves.

During his 13-month recovery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and then Headley Court, he wanted a goal to aim for and his passion for extreme obstacle courses was born.

"I saw the Tough Mudder and thought it was something that could push me," the Serviceman explained.

"I really enjoyed it and that's what inspired me to try the World's Toughest Mudder."

Holloway has been using the events to raise money for Help for Heroes and by the end of his latest attempt he should break the £10,000 barrier.



To donate money to the cause visit www.justgiving.com/wtm or text 'MTTM99 £5' to 70070

MONTH in sport

November's key fixtures...



WHAT: Combined Services v Barbarians rugby union

WHEN: Tuesday, November 11 (1930 kick-off)

WHERE: The Recreation Ground, Bath

COMMENTS: Remembrance Day match in aid of The Royal British Legion. For tickets visit www.bathrugby.com/tickets or call 0844 4481865



WHAT: Inter-Corps Basketball

WHEN: November 9 to 14

WHERE: Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham

COMMENTS: The Infantry and Royal Logistic Corps are the men's and women's defending champions. This year's victors will be crowned on Friday, November 14



WHAT: Army women v Kent – Southern Counties Cup football

WHEN: Wednesday, November 19 (1930 kick-off)

WHERE: Army Military Stadium, Aldershot

COMMENTS: The Reds will be looking to hit top form in the build-up to next year's Inter-Services campaign

Tough Mudder fact file



Date:
24-hour obstacle race starting at 1000 on Saturday, November 15.

Format:
Five-mile circuit with 20-25 obstacles. Athletes can rest in a camp area during the event, where they may be assisted by two "pit crew". The winner is the person to complete the most laps.

Venue:
Lake Las Vegas – desert landscape with a massive freshwater lake.



SPORT
SHORTS

» INJURED personnel who competed at the Invictus Games have been honoured at this year's Pride of Britain Awards.

The star-studded bash saw them receive the special recognition prize by Paralympic champion David Weir and Olympic gold medallists Sir Chris Hoy, Nicola Adams and Sir Bradley Wiggins, who described the team members as "the true definition of heroes".



» THE Army has opened a new £1.5million inshore sailing centre in a bid to encourage more soldiers to take to the water.

Located at Baker Barracks, on Thorney Island, the facility will cater for those wishing to sample windsurfing, dinghy sailing, kite surfing and power boating.

It also boasts 38 bed spaces – including provisions for wounded and sick troops – along with reception rooms and wet and dry classrooms.

Any units or personnel wishing to use the centre should contact Maj Jed Cunningham on 01243 388315 or email sailarmy@btconnect.com

→ Team of the month

Royal Army Physical Training Corps Road Race Team



THE Royal Army Physical Training Corps celebrated a famous victory on two wheels after taking top honours at the Inter-Corps Road Race Championships.

With cyclists from the all-conquering Royal Engineers dominating the competition in recent times the odds were stacked against the challengers as they took to the saddle at Hillingdon but an inspired team performance saw them lift the trophy for the first time.

Army heavyweights Capt Ryan Perry (REME) and Spr Alex Royle (RE) battled it out for individual honours but with the RAPTC maintaining a strong presence in the peloton the collective prize was well within their grasp.

Despite some outstanding individual efforts from the Sappers the strength in depth and shrewd tactics of the champions-elect saw them

hold firm and claim the win.

"I knew we had a good team this year," Maj Ian Phillips, chairman of RAPTC Cycling, told *SoldierSport*.

"There is not a lot between our riders. Around a third of our guys are in the Army team and the others are pushing hard.

"It was a tough battle between ourselves and the Royal Engineers. They have never been beaten so we knew we had to produce a strong team effort.

"To defeat them was brilliant and the best thing about it was the fact it was so close."

Phillips took the team to Cyprus for a training camp in the build-up to the event and he believes intricate planning on the day gave his riders the edge.

"That trip was all about getting miles on the road," he explained. "We also looked at race tactics, speed work and general

strength and conditioning.

"Our admin and organisation was very good.. We had spare equipment and wheels laid out round the course and that really helped on the day.

"It is great to get a win when you have all eventualities covered."



Inter-Corps Road Race – Hillingdon, October 8

1. Royal Army Physical Training Corps – 117
2. Corps of Royal Engineers – 169
3. Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – 187

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Final word

With remembrance on the nation's mind this month, we asked soldiers what single Army experience will stay with them forever...



Pte Craig Jack (Scots)

Working as part of the Roulement Infantry Company in the Falklands in 2012. I'd just joined up and it was the first country I'd been sent to with the British Army. I'll also remember it because I just kept thinking about how much respect I had for the lads who fought there – the terrain was the worst I had ever experienced.



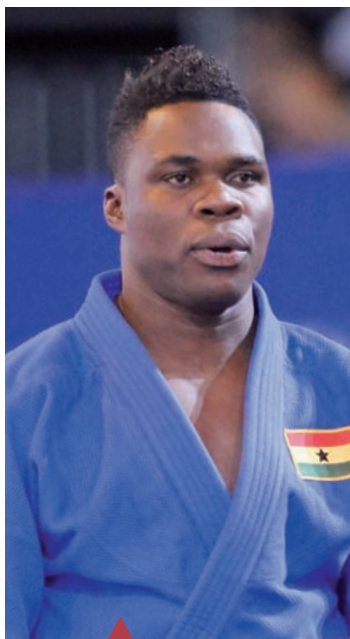
Pte Liam Salter (Scots)

On Op Herrick 10 my mate Pte Rab McLaren was killed. He was in 2 Section and I was in 3 Section and we were out in Kandahar on an air assault. It came across on the radio and that moment will definitely stay with me forever. There are many things that happen in the Army – good and bad – which remain in your mind afterwards and that is what military service is all about.



Gdsman Stephen Crane (Cldm Gds)

Standing at the top of the 40-foot Trainasium on P-Company will be a memory that stays with me because I was scared of heights at the time. You have to walk across two bars with your feet wide apart, then step across a middle beam before shuffling to the end. I knew there was no choice – I had to do it to pass.



LCpl Victor Ahiavor (RRF)

Being on operations in Iraq. As the quick reaction force we were called out on a job but my best friend was not selected to go. He was so gutted he started crying. He was one of the top guys in our section but did not get the call. I'll never forget that moment.



Pte Paul Currid (Scots)

Hopefully I am going to get on a combat tour soon and that will be where my memories are built. That's the reason I joined the British Army. I think about all the guys who have gone before and played their part and now I want to do my bit. I've completed the exercises and training but I want to remember putting it into practice when the rounds are coming in.



Cpl Matthew Martin (R Signals)

I would say going away on tour. I met some of my best mates there and we built a really strong friendship. Even though we have now been posted to different units we all stay in touch and meet up when we can. We did a lot of pre-deployment training as a group and that brought us closer together.



Pte Gagandeep Singh (Scots)

I was training in Kenya in a platoon of 29 soldiers and 16 men went down because the exercise was so tough. The last tab we did was very long and despite never having a blister in my career I certainly did that day. I managed to stay out there, though, so that is memorable as well as the experience of being in the field with wild animals.



LCpl Jack Jones (RE)

I've done two tours of Afghanistan so those memories will always stay with me but the best recollection is winning the Army Boxing Championships. One of my main goals was to make the Army team and fight at the Combined Services – hopefully I can do that this year.

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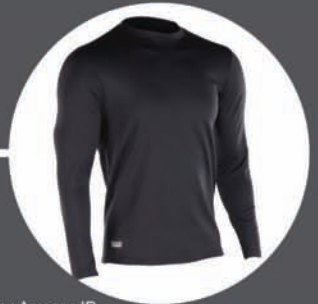
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