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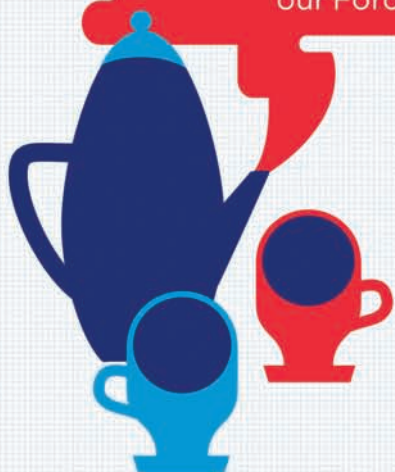
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All enquiries: Tel: 01252 787107 / 94222 7107

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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Embracing adventure

As the nation goes to the polls this month, many Service personnel are likely to be wondering what the result will mean for their own working conditions as well as defence spending in general.

Our *Talkback* letters section, which regularly fields questions in these areas, is missing from this month's issue because of strict rules on government communications in the pre-election period.

However, rest assured it will make a comeback in our June edition, when we will catch up with all the topics getting you talking.

In the meantime, this magazine contains a lively mix of news, reviews, sport and adventure – not least the remarkable 100-day voyage around Ellesmere Island that two Gurkha Servicemen have embarked on (pages 30-32).

Soldier wishes them – and all other personnel pushing hard to meet exciting new challenges (page 90) – the very best of luck.

Also, from page 35, we mark the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Seventy years after the end of the Second World War, how do those who witnessed this extraordinary moment in history view the conflict? And what can we learn from them?

The interviews on pages 35-39 and 43-45 are not to be missed and left me wondering how today's missions might be judged by future generations. Time will tell, I suppose. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe ● Editor

ELITE ACTION

>> Catch our extended 12-page *SoldierSport* section inside >>



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"It is something
we can prepare
for and face
without fear"

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Picture: NASA/Michael Studinger



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'A LOT OF HARD WORK HAS BEEN DONE'

Airborne forces find common ground

23



Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

"The German guards were as tired as we were so we ran"

Former prisoner of war recalls break for freedom p43

"The lethality of our backs was simply amazing"

Engineers prove too strong in rugby's corps final p86

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Pictures: Sgt Paul Morrison, RLC



Being a better leader

New code to give lower ranks more of a voice

JUNIOR soldiers will find it easier to speak up to their superiors under a new project being rolled out this summer.

The Army leadership code (see panel opposite) sets out seven different qualities that all military leaders – from section commanders right up to the head of the Army – should show, such as encouraging those of lower rank to think for themselves and setting an example.

It has been put together using lessons learnt on recent operations and is being introduced after the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, said the military must improve the way it puts values and standards – including respect for other people – into practice.

"Everyone who's a leader in the Army needs to abide by this code, no matter what their rank," said Maj Chris Head (RRF, pictured), the officer charged with rolling out the initiative.

Last month he organised a briefing day at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to explain the idea to more than 300 regimental sergeant majors, who it is hoped will spread the word within their units.

"This isn't another annual test, it's just something that needs to be the way we do business," the officer continued. "And it is just as relevant to Reservists."

"Initially the champions of the leadership code will be RSMs because of their unique position."

"They sit on the boundary between soldiers and officers; they have influence

over junior troops but the ear of senior personnel too."

One unit that has already put the code's principles into action is 3rd Battalion, The Rifles.

For several months RSM WO1 Darren Redgwell has been running leadership sessions for junior NCOs, which he says have paid dividends.

"This isn't about leaders being 'nicer', it's about optimising performance," he told *Soldier*.

"The last time I was formally taught anything like this was probably 20 years ago so I decided that for an hour a week I would give lessons."

"It is all about unlocking the potential of personnel by encouraging them to have an opinion on things."

"Sometimes a commander can't see what's in front of him because of the pressures of leadership, but another soldier might spot something and feel able to speak up."

"The lessons went down really well and the junior NCOs love it because they feel empowered; the riflemen love it because it gives them a voice."

He continued: "You see the difference this has made around the battalion; how happy people are. Performance is growing and everyone feels comfortable."

"What I never hear now is 'I'm leaving the Army because I don't like how I'm treated' and that's great."

A further conference is planned for July to explain the code to COs, brigade and divisional commanders.



The right direction: From section commanders up to the most senior officer, the new code sets out how every Army leader should behave

'I work harder because of it'

How the Army leadership code has helped one Serviceman become a better soldier...



"PREVIOUSLY we'd get hammered for nothing but now we get treated with more respect," Rfn Eamonn Welsh (pictured) explained to *Soldier*.

His unit, 3rd Battalion, The Rifles, has introduced classroom leadership lessons for junior NCOs and the Serviceman says the impact has been felt right down the chain.

"Every day in units you used to hear 'I'm signing off, I'm signing off' but I don't hear that any more," the soldier continued.

"Now we have a voice to speak up to commanders and I work harder because of it."

"For example, during a section attack you might suggest to the commander that you do something in a particular way."

"He might say 'yes I like that' or 'no we're not doing that', but either way it gives you a better feeling knowing that your view is being listened to."

“ You see the difference this has made around the battalion ”

THE ARMY LEADERSHIP CODE



WHAT IS IT? The code sets out seven behaviours that all good leaders should show. They must...

Lead by example

Encourage thinking

Apply reward and discipline

Demand high performance

Encourage confidence in the team

Recognise individual strengths and weaknesses

Strive for team goals

IN NUMBERS:

5,000

The predicted number of calories that Capt Jon Armstrong and Cpl Arjun Limbu (both RGR) will consume each day on Exercise Arctic Gurkha – pages 30-32



1 UK

DARTMOOR DRIVE

JUNIOR commanders were pushed to the limit on an annual tasking designed to test their performance under physical and mental stress.

The 36-hour Exercise Lytle Trophy, organised by 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps, was a section-level competition made up of 12 checkpoints over 45km.

Teams were scored on their ability to perform command and military tasks including advance-to-contact, counter-IED drills and the rigging of underslung loads for helicopters.

This year's overall winners were members of 2 Regt, AAC with a finishing time of 24hr 17min.

2 UK

'SOLDIERS FIRST'

RESERVISTS from 39 Signal Regiment have been honing their ability to operate in a built-up environment on Copehill Down.

Exercise Wessex Trot saw 50 troops from 43 Signal Squadron practise urban combat tactics.

"This was a tough, back-to-basics package designed to drop them firmly into the mindset that they are soldiers first, communicators second," said operations officer Capt Martin Crilly (R Signals). "It's a return to tabbing, section commanding and quick battle orders – no more air-conditioned control centres and brigade headquarters."

The Falkland Islands



Germany



Cyprus



Gibraltar



Sierra Leone



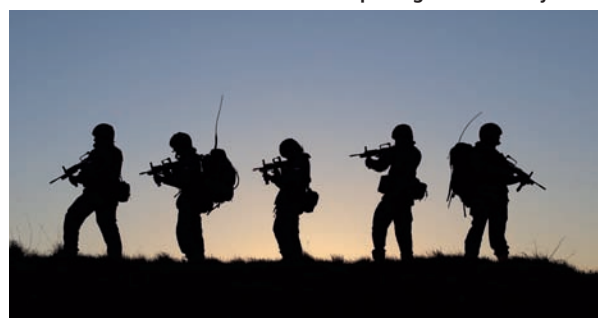
British Army Training Unit Kenya



IN NUMBERS:

50

Troops who took part in the package on Salisbury Plain



Picture: Mike Williams



BEST TRAVELLED TROOPS IN THE ARMY?

IT'S a bold claim, but could members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland be among the best travelled in the Army?

Having deployed to Jordan, Malawi (both pictured), Kenya and Cyprus already this year, the unit believes so.

In 2014 the Royal Scots Borderers were among the first troops to deploy to Sierra Leone to help fight Ebola.

Can your unit give them a run for their money? Email us at news@soldiermagazine.co.uk to set the record straight.

FLOOD ALERT

How water became the deadliest weapon in China conflict
– pages 50-51

Afghanistan

4

5

6

Brunei



3 CYPRUS

TOSCA TASKING

TROOPS from the Black Watch battlegroup have been deployed on Operation Tosca as part of the ongoing United Nations mission.

Around 250 soldiers from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 18 other units have replaced 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment as the UK's contribution to the Cyprus-based peacekeeping force.

The six-month stint will include patrols by foot, bike, vehicle and air to improve community relations.

"The battlegroup's role is to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to maintain a stable environment in the buffer zone that separates the south and north," said Capt Iain Walker, a spokesman for 3 Scots.

● Exercise Lion's Sun – page 13

“The role is to prevent fighting”

GUNNERS GO FOR GLOBE

ROYAL Artillery personnel are launching a worldwide series of events to mark their tercentenary.

Known as Ubique 300 after their motto, the year-long programme will see more than 1,000 Regulars and Reservists circumnavigate the globe, taking part in expeditions, battlefield tours, adventurous training and sporting fixtures across 20 countries.

As each of the 70 legs is completed, personnel will meet to pass on an Olympic-style baton to the next group.

Kicking off the journey this month will be The Kings Troop, who will ride to Bexleyheath and pass the baton to 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery for their tab to Dover.

The trip will reach Australia and New Zealand by March next year, with the final leg back from the US.



4 AFGHANISTAN

SUN'S MEMORIAL CALL

A NEW memorial to the 679 British personnel who died in the Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts is to be unveiled in London.

The theme of the monument is "duty and service" and it is being partially funded by Libor fines, with *The Sun on Sunday* leading a campaign to raise the rest of the £1 million needed.

To donate £3 text "DUTY" to 70080. Troops can also contribute by calling 0330 123 2070.

An estimated 300,000 personnel fought on the three missions.



5 NEPAL

TALL AMBITION

A LARGE-SCALE adventurous training expedition is underway in Nepal, with troops not expected to conclude the mission until early August.

Exercise Tiger Thulo Traverse, organised by the Royal School of Military Engineering, will see 100 soldiers from various cap badges, including Reservists, crossing the country from east to west along the Great Himalaya Trail.

The high altitude route will cover some 1,600 kilometres and 19 mountain passes that are more than 5,000 metres high.

6 MALAYSIA

'COVERT' MISSION

UNDERCOVER gunners from 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery, Royal Artillery are set to enhance their skills in the Malaysian jungle this month.

The three-week package, Exercise Lateo Scout, takes place in Kongkoi, east of Kuala Lumpur, and involves 50 personnel, including 15 Reservists from the Honourable Artillery Company.

As well as jungle patrolling drills and static covert surveillance tasks, the troops will conduct interoperability training with Malaysian forces.

Check out future editions of *Soldier* for a full report on the package.



Picture: Steve Dock

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"I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY THIS RECORD CAME OUT SO ANGRY"

- THE PRODIGY RETURN, PAGES 68-69



Picture: Cpl Mark Webster, RLC



Honouring the past: Servicemen play their part in the ceremony at Prowse Point Military Cemetery



MONARCH LAID TO REST

■ SOLDIERS from units with historic links to King Richard III have helped to carry his body to its final resting place during a reburial service watched by an audience of thousands.

Members of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment acted as the bearer party during the ceremony to re-inter the monarch's remains in Leicester Cathedral in late March.



Picture: IWM

GURKHAS IN GALLIPOLI

■ ONE hundred years after the start of the Battle of Gallipoli, serving personnel are preparing to travel to modern-day Turkey to learn about the ill-fated Allied offensive against the Ottoman Empire.

Some 30 soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles are embarking on a battlefield tour of the region at the end of this month, with further units scheduled to visit throughout the year.

Army pays its respects

Personnel honour fallen forebears in Belgium

THE bodies of six unknown First World War soldiers have been re-interred more than 100 years after they were killed in action.

The Servicemen were buried with full military honours at the Prowse Point Military Cemetery near Ypres – or Ieper – in Belgium.

Researchers had attempted to identify the fallen personnel using DNA from the remains but their efforts were fruitless.

However, through cap badges found in the mud, it is understood that two of the soldiers were from The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment while another two served with The Lancashire Fusiliers.

The regiments of the rest of the

troops are not known but it is thought that all six men were recruited from the North West of England.

To mark the poignant event members of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers conducted a full military ceremony with drum major Sgt Paul Ingleton (1 Lincs) playing the bugle.

In an address at the ceremony padre Rev Mike Goodison (1 Lincs) said: "We don't know their names but we want to do right by them."

Speaking afterwards, WO1 (RSM) Mike Grimes (1 Lincs) added: "It was a really positive thing to do and something the soldiers have taken a keen interest in."

“It was a really positive thing to do”

Nation urged to support VE Day commemorations

A THREE-DAY programme of events will be held this month to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The Cenotaph will host a service of remembrance on Friday, May 8 that will include a national two-minute silence at 1500 to mark the moment Winston Churchill broadcast his historic speech to formally announce the end of the war.

In the evening a chain of more than 100 beacons will be lit across the country and cathedrals from Durham to Canterbury will be ringing their bells in celebration at 1100 the next day.

A star-studded 1940s themed concert, to be broadcast on BBC One, will be held on Horse Guards Parade on Saturday night before Westminster Abbey takes centre stage on Sunday, May 10.

Service veterans and their loved ones will be joined by members of the Royal Family and representatives from Allied and Commonwealth countries for a

service of thanksgiving, which will be followed by a parade of current and former personnel and a Royal Air Force fly-past.

Eric Goldrein, who served with the Royal Artillery in Italy during the Second World War, is one of the veterans joining in.

"We celebrated in a field," the 94-year-old recalled. "The

signallers set up speakers playing music and the locals came out and joined in too, happy that the war was finally over.

"I heard about the street parties back home and I'm looking forward to being part of these celebrations."

The Royal British Legion has been heavily involved in organising the festivities and is encouraging people to stage their own street parties.

For more information on the events visit www.gov.uk/veday70

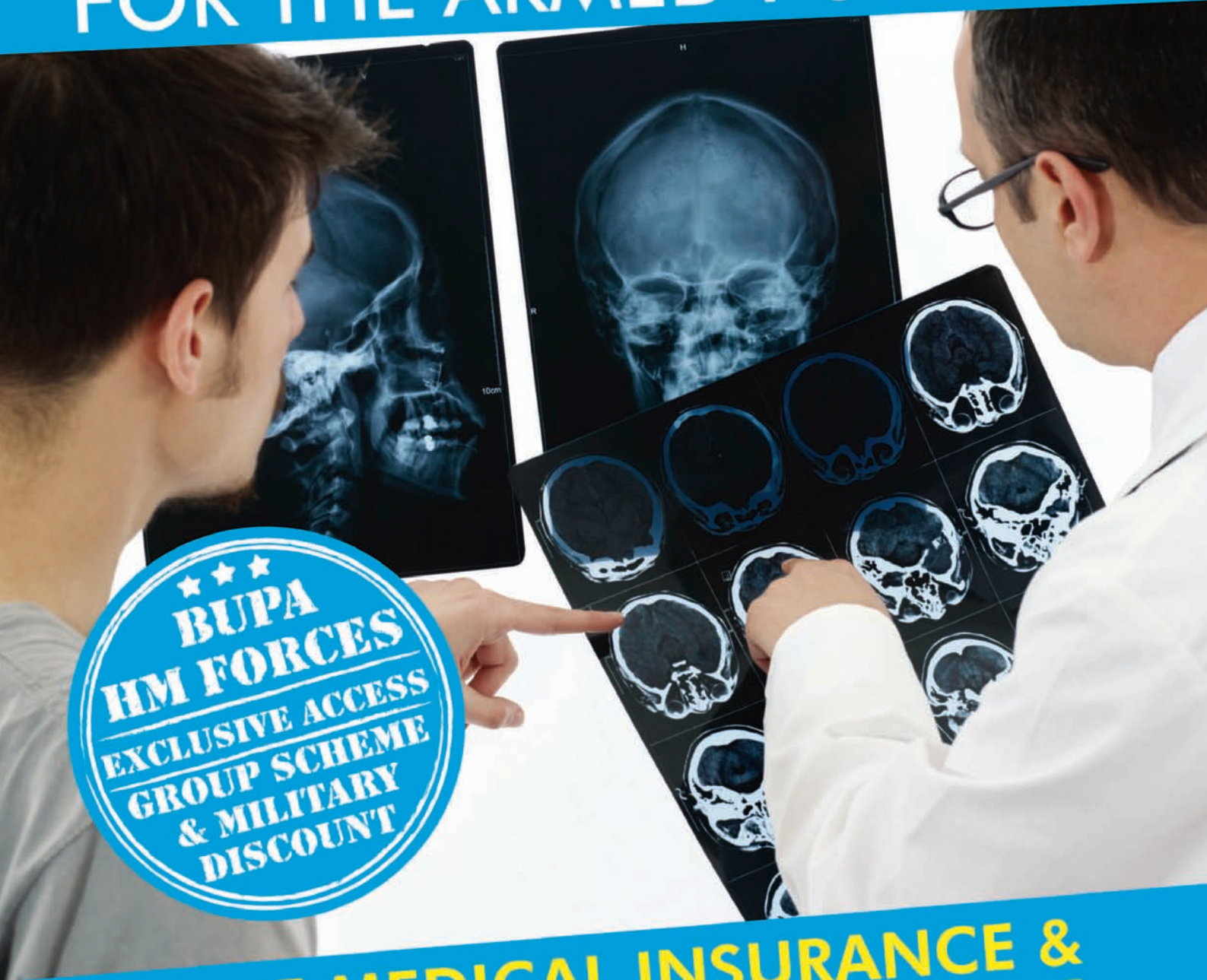


Celebration: The VE Day spirit is to be recreated Picture: IWM

● 'We Were There' – RBL members reflect, pages 35-39

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"WE ALL HAD DYSENTERY BADLY, WHICH WAS MURDER" - SURVIVAL STORIES, PAGES 43-45



Pictures: Cpl Mark Webster, RLC



■ PERSONNEL from 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland have completed a five-week infantry skills package in Cyprus. Exercise Lion Sun's scenarios ranged from basic weapon handling challenges to full attacks against dug-in enemies. The hot, arid environment added to the difficulty. Maj Jonathon Kelmanson, officer commanding B Company, admitted the scenario had seen the unit take more "casualties" than expected. "This is a learning experience and I'd rather learn here than in real life," he commented. The package also saw the soldiers enjoy a stint of adventurous training in the form of rock climbing, kayaking, sailing and go-karting.

Time to get voting

Soldiers urged to make voice heard on May 7

BRITISH soldiers are being reminded to have their say along with the rest of the nation by voting in this month's general election.

April 20 was the last chance for personnel to register in order to take part in the ballot on May 7.

This year a new online system

made the process easier than ever.

"If they don't vote troops lose an important chance to have their voices heard by politicians," Pte Matt Dean (Mercian) told *Soldier* back in February.

For more information on taking part in the voting process log on to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



Battalion left shocked after holiday death

TRIBUTES have been paid to a soldier who died while on leave.

Pte Shaun Cole of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland had been at a music festival in the US. According to Miami Police the 22-year-old Serviceman was found lying in a street.

Lt Co Matt Munro, CO of 1 Scots, said the battalion was shocked by the loss of Pte Cole and that his

comrades would "miss him terribly".

"Only recently back from helping to battle Ebola and a veteran of the conflict in Afghanistan, Shaun achieved an extraordinary amount in a military career that was full of promise but was tragically cut short," added the officer.

"Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with his family at this desperately difficult time."



“
I'd rather
learn
here
than in
real life
”

JOBSEEKER TO RESERVE

■ A PROGRAMME that helps unemployed people with an interest in the military get into work is being rolled out by the MoD and Job Centre Plus.

The Armed Forces employability pathway allows jobseekers to take part in a one-week military awareness course, followed by occupation-related training and work experience with a civilian company.

It was launched after nine successful trial schemes across north England and Scotland.

Many of those who have already taken part have gone on to pursue careers in both the Regular and Reserve Forces.

CALLING COMPOSERS

■ A SERVICE charity is challenging musical troops and civilians to compose their own military quick march.

Soldier On! is looking to unearth new musical talent while raising the profile of its work helping injured personnel move to civilian careers.

Entries must be original scores of between three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half minutes.

The winner will receive £800 and the chance to see their music performed by military bands.

The deadline is May 29 and for details visit www.soldieron.org.uk

IN NUMBERS

£150,000

Amount raised for military causes by ex-soldier Andy Reid. The veteran, a triple amputee and ambassador for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, was among those to be praised for their inspiring actions at the annual Soldiering On Awards in London last month.



“WE ONLY DID OUR DUTY. TO CALL US CRIMINALS NOW IS A BETRAYAL”
– GERMAN VETERAN RECALLS VE DAY, PAGE 39

Picture: Garron Hilton / F12 Images



Signaller bids for stardom

A SINGING soldier is urging the Service community to get behind him in his bid to win a £100,000 recording contract and the chance at a top ten Christmas single.

Cpl Dan Edmunds (R Signals) is one of 100 musicians selected for Negart Records' Brand New Artist 2015 competition.

To vote for the 26-year old, who has been writing and performing for six years and also hopes to raise money for the Brain Tumour Charity with his music, email vote@negart-records-bna.com with "Vote" in the subject line and "62" in the body of the message.

For further details visit www.brand-new-artist.com/dan-edmunds

WARRIOR IN ACTION

■ THE next generation of the Warrior armoured vehicle has been demonstrating its impressive fighting capability during trials in Scotland.

The tracked asset's updated turret and cannon were put to the test against targets while on the move at the MoD's ranges in Kirkcudbright.

It was part of the so-called Warrior capability sustainment programme to upgrade the Army's fleet of 380.

Modifications to the infantry fighting vehicle also include a state-of-the-art CT40 weapon, new environmental control system to improve crew comfort, updated all-round awareness cameras and night vision.

"These successful trials show both the accuracy and lethality of the new generation Warrior," said Alan Lines of manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

"We remain on track for the critical design review later this year."



“
These trials show the lethality of the new Warrior
 ”



Picture: Kate Rutherford

Pioneers prove their worth

ASSAULT pioneers from 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment have lent their expertise to a project to renovate the First World War training trenches at RAF Halton.

The initiative was instigated by Sgt Bryan Chadbourne, who visited the site last year and was keen to return with members of his platoon to carry out the work.

A team of 16 soldiers from the unit, along with personnel from the Royal Air Force's Recruit Training Squadron, were tasked with rendering the sap, communication trench and front-line trench structurally safe.

The renovations were carried out so the Lister Lines trenches could be opened to the public and the first tour was due to happen last month.

"We used more than 2,000

sandbags and there were just two left over at the end," Sgt Chadbourne said.

"It was a good week and we hope to return next year to work on another trench."



Picture: Luka Waycott

Lightweight stretchers to ease soldier burden

New medical equipment designed by ex-Serviceman

AN Army medic-turned-entrepreneur has created a super-lightweight stretcher that will be carried by one in four British soldiers by 2016.

Colin Smart (pictured), who served in the first Gulf War with the Royal Army Medical Corps, realised that a more compact piece of kit would be useful to Service personnel and 24 years later his patented Xtract 2 stretcher is being rolled out by the Service.



"When it comes to operations there is a lot that you have to carry," said the ex-corporal, who now runs casualty equipment company TSG Associates.

"It isn't feasible to take a regular stretcher on patrol.

"But if you do end up in a situation where you take a casualty, you need to be able to move quickly and safely."

The innovative piece of kit weighs in at just 1.3kg but can carry a load of 330kg – three times the weight of the



average soldier.

It does not require carrying poles and is made entirely from Cordura, which means it can be packed alongside infantry equipment.

The fabric has a special coating which gives it abrasion resistance and strength.

A spokesman for the company said the MoD had placed orders for 700 stretchers per month until at least December.

**“NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THEY’VE
ACHIEVED SOMETHING LIKE THAT”
– ARMY AMBITIONS REVEALED, PAGE 90**



Rigby memorial unveiled

Mother praises ‘lovely’ tribute to murdered soldier

A MEMORIAL to murdered soldier, Fus Lee Rigby, has been unveiled in his hometown in Greater Manchester.

The bronze drum and plaque were dedicated during a private ceremony in Middleton, attended by the Serviceman’s family.

Fus Rigby’s mother, Lyn, said the statuette would be “a lovely tribute to Lee who put his life on the line every day to serve his country.”

The 25-year-old was killed by Islamist extremists outside Woolwich Barracks in London on May 22, 2013.

Greenwich Council has announced that a memorial honouring all

personnel from the borough who sacrificed their lives for their country would be completed this summer in St George’s Chapel opposite the base.



Picture: Peter Byrne/PA Wire

IN GAMES...



“Great graphics and longevity make this a keeper”

★★★★★

PAGES 66-67



WHEELIE GOOD CAUSE

■ THE organisers of an annual motorcycle event are looking for riders to raise money for military charities.

This year’s Wheels for Troops outing will take place in Surrey on July 4 and costs £15 to enter.

For full details email w4t@live.co.uk or visit www.wheelsfortroops.org

BOOZING BRIEFS

■ SOLDIERS drinking to excess could be in line for a quiet word from their doctors, under a new plan.

Alcohol brief interventions – or short conversations about the dangers of bingeing – are to be rolled out after their success in the civilian world in Wales.

Lt Col Brian Dupree (RAPTC), the Army health team officer overseeing the initiative, said they were about promoting moderation.

“Saying to a soldier ‘don’t drink’ would be ridiculous,” he added.

The Serviceman and his team at Army HQ have been working with Public Health Wales, where he said a similar scheme has seen a drop in crime over the last six years.

A pilot is due to begin in November, with a “one drink, one click” app being developed to help troops monitor their consumption.



FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



Fundraising target:
£1,500
For:
Help for Heroes

RIDING SOLO

FORMER sapper Eddy Houghton (pictured left) cycled more than 60 miles around his adopted home of Malaga in aid of wounded soldiers. The 43-year-old based the route on an endurance race held annually in the region by the Spanish Army. Visit www.justgiving.com/eddy-houghton to help the veteran reach his target.

COASTAL COURAGE

A TEAM from the Veterans in Action charity will embark on a 4,000-mile walk around the UK’s coastline this month. Over the past four years more than 300 veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder have covered 8,600 miles on foot in various challenges. Their latest attempt is due to end on August 31. Donate to their cause by logging on to www.veteransinaction.org.uk



TEN IN TEN

DISTANCE runner Sgt Ricky Lafford (Int Corps, pictured top) will tackle ten marathons in ten days this month. He starts the challenge on May 2 and to sponsor him visit www.justgiving.com/licky-rafford



GOT AN EVENT?

news@soldiermagazine.co.uk
@soldiermagazine

RIDGEWAY RUNNERS

FIVE soldiers from the Military Provost Guard Service are set to run the 87-mile Ridgeway route in southern England. The team aim to tackle the trail in under 20 hours, taking on the challenge in six-mile legs.

To sponsor visit:
www.justgiving.com/lee-underwood4
For:
Blue Cross



NEW DIGS FOR DRIVERS

■ PERSONNEL at the Defence School of Transport have moved into new single living accommodation that can house up to 768 individuals.

Four modern blocks have been built to replace older housing at Normandy Barracks in Leconfield – the world’s largest residential driving school.

Each of the four-storey buildings provides 192 bed spaces equipped with desks, Wi-Fi and phone and TV sockets. Communal facilities include TV rooms with Freeview and kitchenettes.



“THESE EXERCISES HELP TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS MODERN LIFE CAN INFLICT” - HAVE YOU TRIED THE BIG FIVE? PAGES 28-29

NEW LEGION IN SOUTH

■ TROOPS in Bovington have set up a new branch of The Royal British Legion to create a hub for past and present members of the Royal Armoured Corps.

Led by a committee of warrant officers, the centre has been established to increase links between garrison personnel and veterans in the area.

“We plan to organise dinner nights and other activities that will allow serving and ex-soldiers to socialise with people they may not have seen for years,” said branch chairman, WO2 Terry Dove (LD).

“I think troops and veterans often forget what the RBL can do for them – no other single charity has done more for the Forces.”

To get involved call 01929 404297, email chairman@bovingtonrbl.co.uk or search “Royal British Legion Bovington Branch” on Facebook.



HIGH-FLYING ATTIRE

■ CUFFLINKS and lapel pins made from the bodywork of a Spitfire aircraft have gone on sale to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day and the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.



The unique clothing accessories were designed by the company TMB Art Metal, which obtained the original material after it was removed from the Spitfire P7350 (pictured above) during restoration work.

Only 35 Spitfires remain in use around the world today.

The cufflinks cost £99.99 and the lapel pins £49.99. Proceeds from their sale will go to The Royal British Legion and to buy them visit www.poppysshop.org.uk

● VE Day remembered – pages 35-48

JOSH JOINS VC HALL OF FAME

■ VICTORIA Cross recipient LCpl Joshua Leakey has been presented with his medal by the Queen at an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle.

The 27-year-old of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was awarded the decoration for his actions in Afghanistan in August 2013, when he repeatedly ran through machine-gun fire to repel an insurgent attack.

Speaking after the presentation, the paratrooper said it had been “massively humbling”.

“My family are very proud and happy but the lads in the battalion know this isn’t something you seek out,” he added. “You just do what you deem necessary at the time; any one of them could be standing where I am today.”



Picture: Sgt Rupert Freer, RLC

Call to arms over VC graves

THE father of a Victoria Cross winner and a soldier whose relative received the same medal say the nation must continue to care for the graves of those awarded the decoration.

Duane Ashworth, whose son LCpl James Ashworth (Gren Gds) was killed in Afghanistan in 2012, and Bdr Gary Prout (RA), whose great uncle was decorated in the First World War, have been helping the Victoria Cross Trust to renovate 11 headstones at Brookwood cemetery in Surrey.

The graves are among more than 600 burial sites of VC winners in the UK that are not maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission because the recipients did not die during the world wars.

“I started imagining what it would feel like if I went to see my great uncle’s grave and it hadn’t been cared for,” the junior NCO said. “We have to look after them.”

The Brookwood stones were washed using a high-pressure steam cleaner, with delicate areas restored by hand.

“I was shocked that someone isn’t maintaining them,” Mr Ashworth told *Soldier*. “When James’ mum and I and his siblings have gone, who will look after his grave?”

To support the project log on to www.victoriacrosstrust.org



IN MUSIC...



“This underlines the band’s status as the world’s top dance act”
★ ★ ★ ★

PAGES 68-69

BRINGING THE CASH IN



MEMBERS of the Military Provost Guard Service working with the Royal Air Force Police have been recognised for their efforts to raise £22,000 for good causes. Number 7 RAF Police Squadron, a joint Army and RAF unit, organised a series of events around the country, as well as a 102-mile run along the Cotswold Way. The proceeds were split between ABF The Soldiers’ Charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund, which named them the volunteer fundraising team of the year.

GOOD
DRILLS

THE care given to Army recruits undergoing initial training has been praised in an official report. An audit of welfare provision at nine MoD training establishments by the education watchdog Ofsted gave each facility a rating of either outstanding or good. Among the sites to receive top marks was 14 Regiment, Royal Artillery in Larkhill.



TOP MARKS FOR TRAINING

"I NEED TO PLAY IT SMART AND GET OUT OF THE WAY"

- BOXER CHASES TITLE, PAGE 77



'Good conduct' criteria relaxed

New Long Service Medal to discount older offences

A NEW medal is in the pipeline for Regular troops who have served for 15 years.

The MoD wants to replace the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which is currently awarded to other ranks, with a new Long Service Medal that is available to officers as well.

The "good conduct" element of the honour has sometimes prevented soldiers from being decorated because of offences committed very early on in their career.

But this rule will be scrapped under the new system, with Servicemen and women only needing to have shown exemplary behaviour during the last five years of the qualifying period.

An MoD spokesman said the old rule had been "deemed to no longer reflect a modern force".

However, the highest standards will still be expected from Army personnel.

The proposed changes follow a review into military campaign medals led by Sir John Holmes, a former ambassador who was appointed to the role by the prime minister.

Subject to agreement from the Queen, the department will commission a fresh design for the new decoration with the first presentations taking place next year.

"We ask a great deal of our Armed Forces and part of our commitment to these personnel is to recognise their efforts," Defence Secretary Michael Fallon commented.

"It is right we have a medal that rewards that, regardless of rank."

The Long Service Medal will not be offered retrospectively.



■ **MEANWHILE**, Reservists are being rewarded for their commitment to the Armed Forces with a new entitlement to put letters after their name.

After ten years of service members of the voluntary Reserve are now allowed to use the post-nominal initials VR.

"This will allow experienced Reservists to highlight their role and enable employers, colleagues and wider society to recognise their unique abilities and commitment," Mr Fallon said.

The letters can be used by part-time voluntary Reservists, regardless of rank or service, and will be backdated to 1999.



GOT A VIEW TO SHARE?

Tell the *Soldier* team what you think of our articles by emailing mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

We are part of the MoD so you don't need permission to get in touch with us.

Escaping the past: Offences committed early on in a soldier's career will not stop them being eligible for the new Long Service Medal, under MoD proposals

“We ask a great deal of our Armed Forces”

A £40 ultra-lightweight shelter

WIN



LAST month's spine line clues were all names connected with the latest operational honours and awards list.



(SSgt Lee) Allen, (Maj Duane) Fletcher, (Capt Duncan) Knox and (Maj Declan) Lynn all received an MBE.

This month, courtesy of British outdoor kit manufacturer Snugpak (www.snugpak.com), we have five new-to-the-market ultra-lightweight Stasha shelters worth £40 each to give away.

To be in with a chance of winning this handy bit of kit – which can be folded to make an improvised bivvi in just two snaps – tell us what links the words on the spine of this month's magazine.

Answers to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by May 29.

SERVICEWOMEN OR SEX OBJECTS?

KAZAKHSTAN'S military has taken an unusual approach to recruitment by introducing a "Miss Army" competition in a bid to get more men signing up for duty. The country's ministry of defence posted



photographs of 123 female troops online, with viewers voting for their favourites.

Red card: A bad month for women

THE MoD is investigating claims that British troops shouted sexist abuse at female players during a football match between England and Australia. According to reports, a group of ten soldiers verbally assaulted the international footballers throughout the match in Cyprus. "We can engage in banter, but this wasn't banter – it was constant, gender-specific abuse," England supporter Sophie Downey explained. An MoD spokesman said such behaviour was not tolerated and that "appropriate action" would be taken against anyone found to have acted inappropriately.



LETTING THE SIDE DOWN

BAD DRILLS



“WE KNEW WE HAD THE PLAYERS WHO COULD PUT THE BALL IN THE NET”

– SAPPERS STRIKE IN CORPS FINAL, PAGE 89

Picture: Rosie Kay Dance Company/Tim Cross



Dancers' military moves...

■ IT might not be the most likely medium through which to reflect life in the British Army but a new dance production has won the backing of the military community.

5 Soldiers: The Body is a Front Line tells the story of the physical impact of combat and is being staged at theatres, drill halls and officers' messes across the UK until June 13.

To prepare for their role the stars of the hour-long production were invited to go on exercise on Salisbury Plain with members of 4th Battalion, The Rifles.

Professional ballet dancer Duncan Anderson (pictured far left) said the experience had been “quite an eye-opener” for the performers.

“There are some similarities between life as a dancer and a soldier, the discipline and physicality I suppose, but other than that it's a big contrast,” said the 19-year-old.

“The production is based on modern combat operations so it was invaluable to learn how soldiers operate; some of them were quite surprised that we were there.”

For show dates and ticket details visit www.5soldiers.co.uk

'UNFAIR' DELAYS

■ THE procedure for handling grievances from Armed Forces personnel is still poor, according to the Service complaints commissioner.

The 2014 report from Nicola Williams said: “The system is still neither efficient, effective nor fair, with delay being the major concern and unnecessarily elaborate processes and procedures at the heart of this.”

“There are still too many people who have been the subject of bullying, harassment or other improper behaviour, and it is clear that not all of these individuals feel able to voice their concerns.”

Earlier this year the Armed Forces Act 2015 was passed to create an ombudsman with increased powers to investigate whether the military has handled complaints properly and to overturn certain decisions.

Proud and powerful: Members of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment jump from a Hercules aircraft during the training package



Pictures: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

IN NUMBERS

100

Service leavers who have found employment after receiving career coaching from the Hire a Hero charity (www.hireaherouk.org). Among those to benefit from the organisation's work is Hagen Francis (ex-RLC), who got a job as a driver and loader after eight months of struggling with interviews. “I wasn't getting call backs so I needed some one-on-one advice,” he said.

“But now I have gained direction, confidence, connections and a guide to help me through civilian life”.



“Realistic training for our Armed Forces”

Joint Warrior gets real

Package ramped up to showcase Nato strength

ONE of the UK's best-known military training packages has become part of Nato's official exercise programme.

Last month Joint Warrior saw some 13,000 personnel from more than a dozen nations descend on west and east Scotland, meaning it is now one of the largest sea, land and air training events in Europe.

The boost comes after greater collaboration with the alliance was announced in order to tackle new overseas threats.

Last month's serials, which involved around 3,500 British Army personnel, prepared the troops for Nato's next major exercise – Trident Juncture – which will take place in the Iberian Peninsula between September and November.

“Exercise Joint Warrior provides realistic training platforms for our Armed Forces, testing the vast capabilities of the three Services while working very closely alongside our allies,” said Defence Secretary Michael Fallon.

“Making it part of the Nato programme acts as a timely reminder to the world of just how proud and powerful the alliance is.”



How does the new 2015 Armed Forces Pension Scheme affect you and your family?

The Forces Pension Society can tell you and will help you get the most from your pension.



FIGHTING FOR THE FORCES
AND THEIR FAMILIES



HOW WE CAN HELP

Armed Forces Pensions are complex and we can help ensure you **get the most from your pension** by advising **when to leave** (and when not to), commutation, how to deal with **pension troughs**, the implications of **redundancy, divorce**, how you might be able to top up your pension, the **impact of AFPS2015** and if you are a reservist, what the new pension rules mean for you. Help is available from our acknowledged **Pension Advisory Service** experts.

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THE BIG PICTURE

> MAY 7, 1945, GERMANY

VICTORY CHEER

BRITISH troops on a US Army M45 Quadmount, nicknamed the "Krautmower" for its high rate of fire, leave their action stations to celebrate after the announcement of Germany's surrender in the Second World War. Picture: *Soldier*, May 1945



ARMY

Army Servicewomen's Network

Inaugural conference

Wednesday 10th June 2015

Tidworth Garrison Conference Centre
1000-1600hrs

Further details are available on the ASN MOSS page and will be published through the Chain of Command in due course. In the meantime any queries should be directed to the ASN Mailbox on DII:

Army-Servicewomen-0Mailbox@mod.uk

The ASN is a professional network, open to all ranks. It aims to inspire the personal development and aspirations of serving female personnel and improve representation and retention of women of all ranks.

ENGAGE



INSPIRE



EMPOWER



LEAGUES AND BOUNDS

British troops join forces with American counterparts to create impressive fighting capability

Report: Gareth Palmer

THE stillness of a warm North Carolina evening is broken by the distant rumble of engines.

Soon after, a stream of lumbering transport aircraft becomes visible over the tops of the towering pine trees of Fort Bragg's training area.

In two waves, more than 2,000 British and American paratroopers descend from 23 C17 and C130 platforms to capture a rough airstrip.

Ahead of these personnel, 21 heavy drop loads of engineer plant equipment, artillery and vehicles have been parachuted in to give the soldiers the kit they need for the mission ahead: to deal with a fictional insurgency by carrying out an evacuation of non-combatants as well as offensive and defensive operations.

This is the Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise; the culmination of eight weeks of stateside training for the 950-strong battlegroup of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which is working closely with the US Army's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

The numbers are impressive and by bringing together the rapid reaction forces of both countries the training has blended two units into a single one with formidable means.

From the British and American soldiers jumping off each other's aircraft using one another's parachutes to the Royal Logistic Corps chefs cooking alongside their US counterparts in the sprawling base's dining facilities, the two nations are learning how to combine efforts across the full range of capabilities.

"I see our units as similar to American football and rugby union," says Lt Col Mike Shervington, 3 Para's CO. ➔



➔ "They are different sports, but both are about moving the ball through and across the opposition's line to score points, and we are merging the two together.

"What the US brings is sheer mass and resources, particularly in air transport, while we offer the quality of our soldiers and a range of niche capabilities.

"We are moving steadily towards full interoperability and a lot of hard work has been done to overcome the challenges and understand and merge our different ways of doing things.

"Parachuting, the specialist skill we offer to get into the fight, is an obvious example and there are two reasons behind earning each other's jump wings.

"The first is to signify the strong historical links between us, dating back to 1942 when our battalion jumped into North Africa from American aircraft. That was strengthened through our shared service in Afghanistan.

"The second and practical reason is that for us to be truly interoperable we have to be able to mount and jump under each others' chutes."

Back on the airfield, sappers are clearing obstacles and filling craters to bring the runway back into use so more troops and equipment can be brought into action.

A British Caterpillar 257B skid steer plant is dropped in alongside a US light airfield repair package of five vehicles and stores weighing in at a total of 90 tonnes.

This kit will be instrumental in helping the engineers do their job.

But with the retirement of the RAF's C130K transport aircraft in 2013, heavy drop is a skill the British military no longer possesses.

Instead, lessons are being learnt from deploying America's heavy drop platforms, and assets are being fed into redeveloping the capability with the Atlas A400M coming into service to replace the disbanded fleet.

WO2 Jim Panniers (RE) was involved the last time British airborne engineering kit was sent into action in this way; a roller-and-dump truck during Exercise Eagle Strike in 2005.

"By dropping the skid steer we're getting back into the game and relearning the lessons of how to do it," the member of 51 Parachute Squadron explains.

"I was a young patrol commander in the recce troop when we last did this and now, after a decade of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, those junior ranks don't have the same experience.

"To see the size of plant that the Americans can drop is impressive and gives their engineers so much more task-worthiness when they are on the ground.

"Across three days of digging together we've got all our operators qualified to use their equipment and vice versa.

"A drop zone is a confusing place and it can be hard to link up teams of soldiers with the gear they need to do their job.

"But now UK and US engineers can work together using each other's equipment to get the tasks done as quickly and efficiently as possible."

The sappers' counterparts in 37th Brigade Engineer Battalion have a narrow specialism in clearing and repairing runways but lack the breadth of expertise of their British equivalents, who are trade-trained as well as possessing combat engineer skills.

"If an airfield's lighting system is down we can do a 'hillbilly job' to get it back working quickly, but the British have fully trained electricians who can fix it properly and safely," says Capt Dave Dawes, officer commanding the American unit's Alpha Company.

"Working together has been a really positive experience.

"As units we have the same mission and have proved our ability to operate together almost seamlessly – we have found that we can deliver so much more effect in this way."

Another important difference that has emerged in the airborne infantry units' approaches is British troops ➔





**WHAT THE US
BRINGS IS SHEER
MASS AND
RESOURCES, WHILE
WE OFFER THE
QUALITY OF OUR
SOLDIERS AND
NICHE CAPABILITIES**



Dropping like it's hot: Members of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division learnt to work with each other through a wide range of tasks during the Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise at Fort Bragg in North Carolina

Pictures: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

→ jumping with mortars carried on the man – meaning they can set up quickly on the drop zone to provide supporting fire.

American personnel drop theirs as door bundles, with the crew having to find weapons on the ground before they can bring them into action.

"We were talking to the US mortar teams and asked if they jumped with their barrels, and they said of course they did," LCpl Gary Smith (Para) explains.

"We turned up to the jump school with the 81mm mortar and they were in absolute disbelief because they thought we were talking about the 60mm.

"We spent a day working out how to rig the 81mm onto their parachute system before we could jump.

"We were getting all sorts of looks on the aircraft, which made it quite nerve-wracking, but we had a brilliant jump.

"Afterwards everyone was asking how the exit and landing went and how the kit held up, and now the Americans are testing jumping with mortars attached themselves.

"It's all part of the process; using each others' ideas to come up with a greater outcome for all." ★



“We were getting all sorts of looks on the aircraft, which made it quite nerve-wracking”



AMERICAN ALLIANCE

Joint mission presses on...

THE Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise is a significant milestone on a journey that began in March 2013 with a formal agreement between the heads of the British and US Armies, which prioritised contingency operations and enabling:

- a UK brigade to work inside a US division;
- a UK division to work inside a US corps;
- a US brigade combat team to work inside a UK division and
- a US division to work inside the UK-led Nato Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

The 3 Para Battlegroup's work with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is therefore an important step towards 16 Air Assault Brigade operating within the US 82nd Airborne Division. It is the largest joint exercise to date under this agreement and will be followed with various other combined packages, which will grow in scale over the coming months and years.

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Initial Payment	£379.02
34 Monthly Payments	£379.02
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Model featured is a new Discovery Sport. Official fuel consumption figures for the new Discovery Sport in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.2 (18.3) – 40.4 (8.5), Extra urban 49.6 (9.7) – 50.4 (7.0), Combined 44.8 (12.8) – 46.3 (7.5). Combined CO₂ emissions g/km: 166 - 162.

The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. *Finance is subject to status and only available to serving members of HM Forces only, aged 18 and over resident in Mainland UK and N.Ireland. Indemnities may be required. This finance offer is available from Black Horse Limited trading as Land Rover Financial Services, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. This offer is available on new Land Rover models at Marshall Military Sales only. Promotions are not available on used cars. Prices correct at time of going to press.

FIT IN

5

WANT TO BE MORE RESILIENT?
OR REDUCE YOUR RISK OF INJURY?
THROW THE ARMY'S 'BIG FIVE'
EXERCISES INTO YOUR PHYSICAL
TRAINING PROGRAMME...

3 SQUAT

1 PLANK

2 REVERSE LUNGE

This can be done on outstretched arms or elbows, with feet together or apart depending on ability. The closer your feet are the harder the movement. Controlled planks of ten to 20 seconds each, with a 30 second rest, is a good starting point. Try three to five sets.

DO IT RIGHT

1. Brace the shoulders and ensure there is a straight line between them and the ankles. If this is unachievable for around 20 seconds then move onto your elbows or widen your feet. If this is still too difficult drop onto your knees instead.
2. Ensure you drop the hips and brace the glutes. There shouldn't be a pronounced curve in your lower spine.
3. Brace your ribcage down, tilt your hips backwards to utilise the muscles in your abdomen and hold.

Carry out three lots of ten reps alternately on each leg with a 90-second rest between each set. Build up to five or six sets as you improve. A good speed is two seconds down, one second pause and then one second to return to the start.

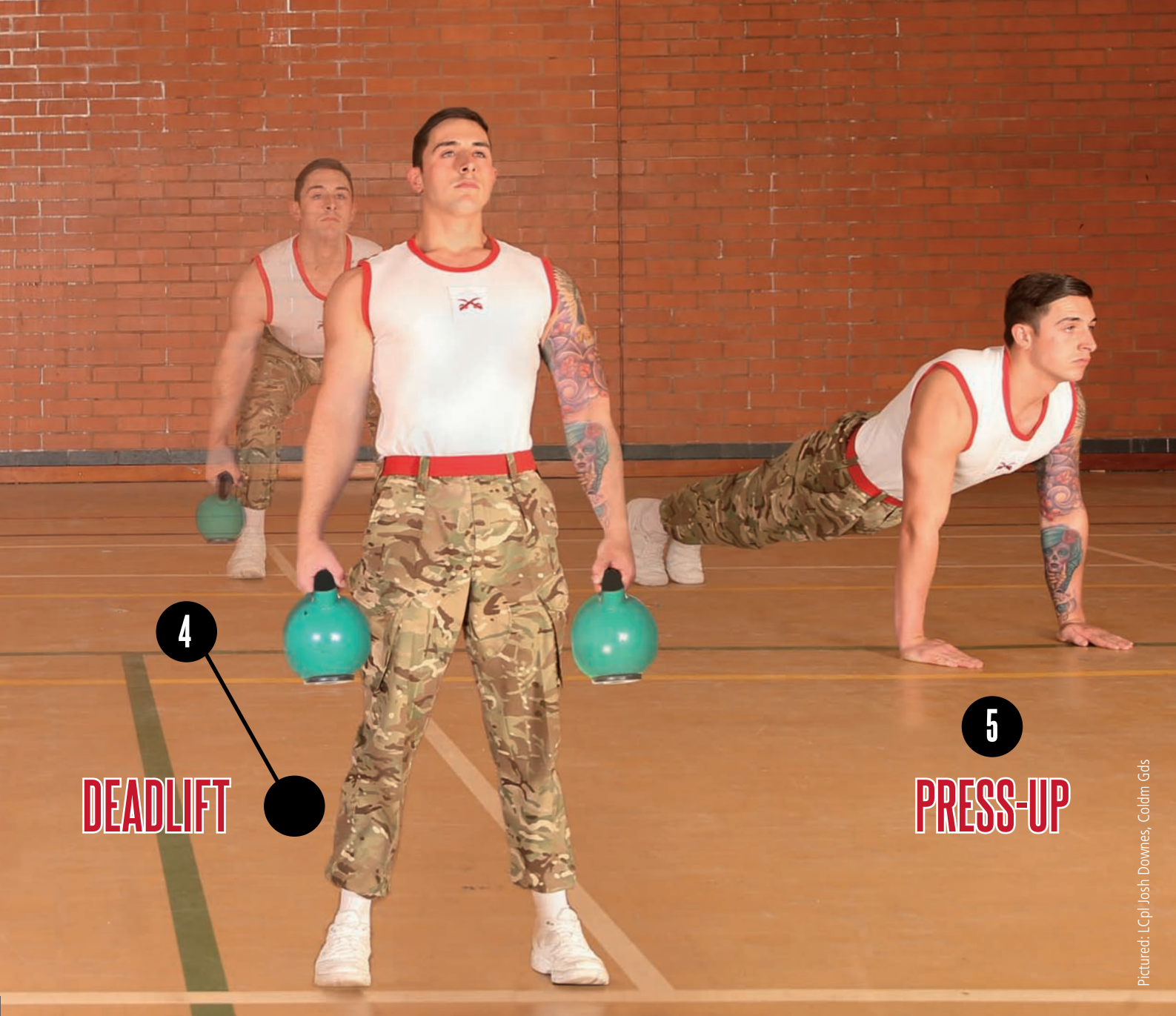
DO IT RIGHT

1. Take a step to the rear, reaching your leg back, landing on the front of the foot and dropping the knee towards the floor. Your weight should be transmitted through the front heel.
2. After a short pause at the bottom return to the start position by thrusting the hips forward with shoulders, glutes and abs braced.
3. If you are struggling to balance or keep the upper body straight use a handrail to assist.

Start with three lots of ten reps followed by a 90-second rest between each set. Breathe in at the start and exhale when you return. You could also try adding a Powerbag or kettlebell to ensure that your weight stays on your heels and to help you maintain a neutral posture.

DO IT RIGHT

1. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart and toes pointing out. Draw your ribcage down and move your hands to shoulder height, pulling the shoulder blades together, back and down.
2. By bending the hip and knees at the same time, drive down through your heels. Keep your knees over your toes and stay on the outside of the feet.
3. Drive up to return to the start position, staying on your heels and the outside of the feet.



Pictured: LCpl Josh Downes, Coldm Gds

With a sensible weight for your ability, do three lots of ten reps with a 90-second rest between each set.

DO IT RIGHT

1. Start with shoulders pulled together and down, head forward and hips set higher than the knees. Feet should be waist-width apart with toes pointed slightly out. The back should be straight.
2. Bring the weight up just behind the knees, with force put through your heels and strength in the hips. Knees should remain aligned with the big toe and shoulders must be back and down.
3. Return to the floor by moving the hips backward, bending at the waist and keeping the back straight. The knees should bend as the weight comes past them.

Start off with ten controlled reps followed by a 90-second rest. Do three lots of these.

DO IT RIGHT

1. At the top the shoulder blades should be squeezed back, down and together. There will be slight tension through the abdominals and glutes and a straight line from shoulders to the ankle.
2. Midway the upper arms should be parallel with the floor. Ensure you look down or slightly in front of you.
3. The return should be done in one rigid movement. If the lower body is lagging behind then do the press-up on your knees or with the thighs on a Powerbag.

EXPERT INSIGHT

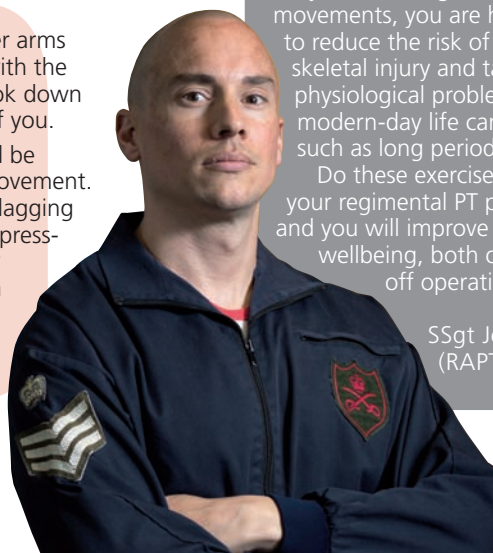
“ These ‘big five’ exercises, as they are affectionately known, form the basis of our everyday movements.

Each time you sit on a chair you’re squatting; when you pick something up you’re deadlifting.

By undertaking these movements, you are helping to reduce the risk of muscular skeletal injury and tackling the physiological problems that modern-day life can inflict on us, such as long periods of sitting.

Do these exercises alongside your regimental PT programme and you will improve your wellbeing, both on and off operations.”

SSgt Jon Siracusano (RAPTC)





CHALLENGE OF A LIFETIME

Gurkhas embark on sub-zero exped
to celebrate 200 years of service

“HOWEVER HARD WE TRAIN, MOTHER NATURE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF OUR DESTINY”



Interview: Joe Clapson

TREACHEROUS crevasses and icebergs are just a few of the obstacles that a pair of intrepid Gurkhas will face this month as they attempt to circumnavigate the planet's most northerly inhabited island in record time.

Capt Jon Armstrong and Cpl Arjun Limbu of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles aim to ski, climb and kayak 1,500 miles around Canada's Ellesmere Island in 100 days – four days fewer than the current record.

The bold Servicemen have taken on the precarious challenge to mark 200 years of Nepalese service to the British crown while also raising crucial funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. *Soldier* spoke to the adventurers ahead of their audacious bid to find out more...



Follow the progress of the Arctic Gurkha challenge this month at www.arcticgurkha.com

What is the purpose of the Arctic Gurkha expedition?

Armstrong: The main aim is to beat the current record, raise funds for charity and highlight the physical ability and determination of Gurkhas.

Limbu: It's really important to succeed with this. Some people in Nepal still don't have clean water and have to walk for hours everyday to get to school, so we want to help them.

Why this particular mission?

Limbu: We wanted to do something really challenging – something that few people had done. This is outside the comfort zone for us and will show the world what Gurkhas are about.

Armstrong: The fact that only two people have ever successfully undertaken this voyage – a pair of American explorers in 2011 – appeals to us. They completed the journey in 104 days and we are determined to break that record.

What methods will you be using to get round Ellesmere Island?

Armstrong: We'll be skiing and kayaking but in the northern region it will be too difficult to ski across the land so we will need to move on to trekking crampons.

Limbu: Wherever possible we'll use the kayaks.

What sort of kit will you need to wear?

Limbu: We'll have thermal layers for underneath our kayak gear and drysuit trousers will be used for when the ice melts and we have to walk through pools of water.

How fast will you be travelling in the icy water?

Armstrong: We'll be moving at speeds of up to six miles per hour but we don't really know – it all depends on the weather conditions. In the past some people have got stuck for weeks in compacted ice.

What have you been doing to prepare?

Limbu: We've been rough-water kayak

training off the coast of Anglesey, Arctic survival training in Norway and Nordic skiing in the Alps.

Armstrong: We've also been dragging heavily weighted plates and tyres around a rugby pitch to get used to shifting the kayak when it is loaded with supplies.

What will your diet be like?

Armstrong: We are taking a mixture of dried snacks and food from British Army ration packs. We can't take wet rations into the Arctic, though, because they are hydrated and will just freeze. It's vital that we fuel our bodies properly for the challenge so each day we'll be taking on about 5,000 calories. However, we have to be clever because the more we take the heavier the pack will be. We'll be using an expedition stove and white gas, which is clean and readily available in the Arctic, so there will be hot meals.

A word on your partner...

Armstrong: Cpl Limbu is a much better kayaker than me so hopefully he will be able to pull me along. I've probably got more experience skiing so we'll be learning from each other.

Limbu: He is my boss in the platoon but on the expedition we will just be friends. We'll be spending every minute and hour together for 100 days so it's important we get on!

How certain are you of succeeding?

Limbu: We are more than confident but it depends a lot on the weather – however hard we train, Mother Nature will be in control of our destiny. My forebears have fought in countless wars and I have been in Afghanistan and Iraq, so while the Arctic is challenging, it is something we can prepare for and face without fear.

Armstrong: We'll be tackling some serious conditions out there but we have trained hard and are well prepared. The biggest challenges will be to remain alert, motivated and well-nourished over the 100 days.

Read last month's issue of *Soldier* for more details on the work of the Gurkha Welfare Trust





SUITED AND BOOTED

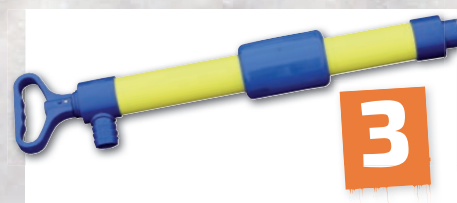
A close-up look at the Arctic Gurkha kit bag



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

ARCTIC AMBLE

The route the soldiers will take



After travelling from London to Toronto the pair will be flown by the Canadian military to its Resolute base before taking another plane to Grise Fjord.



Once they find a suitable weather window in what is the Arctic summer, the Servicemen will travel some 400 miles in 21-25 days to the Eureka weather station. Here they will resupply their food and fuel stocks.

From Eureka the trekkers will ski onward for 500 miles to CFS Alert – the Canadian forces' signals intelligence intercept facility.

500 MILES

The final leg of the challenge will see the duo kayak another 600 miles to get back to Grise Fjord. The strait between Ellesmere Island and Greenland is as narrow as 12 miles at some points.

600 MILES

400 MILES

1 Touring back-country skis

A cross between sport skis and hill skis which allow quick movement over the ground while being wide enough to prevent falls through thick snow

2 One-man expedition tent x 2

These can be assembled in 20 minutes. If one perishes both men can fit inside the other tent

3 Kayak water pump

Clears the vessel in the event that it capsizes

4 Ice axe

If the adventurers get stuck between icebergs they will need to drag themselves out

5 Waterproof bag

Sits on top of the kayak to hold essential communication and navigation equipment

6 Harness with solid back plate

Allows the Servicemen to pull their kayak, kit and six weeks'-worth of food and fuel, weighing 100-120kg, over the ground

7 Down sleeping bag

To provide warmth in temperatures of minus 15 degrees Celsius or lower

8 Snow shovel

For digging their tents into the snow

● The Arctic Gurkha mission is the latest in a long line of brave feats achieved by Gurkha soldiers. Turn to page 75 to win a copy of *The Gurkhas: 200 Years of Service to the Crown*, a glossy history of how the Nepalese units earned their reputation for courage and honour.

WIN

Image: Kaikoura PFD, Palm Equipment

THE BICENTENARY OF

The Battle of Waterloo

18th June 1815

Commemorative Lapel Pin Set

We would like to offer three lapel pins to celebrate the Bicentenary and honour those who fought and fell on the field of Waterloo. (A)

actual size



1



2



3

The Waterloo Rosette

In nickel and gilt with a diameter of 18mm this pin with its "V" can either be for "Victory" or "Veterans". (1)



The 1815 Bar Pin

The design colours are taken from the ribbon of the Waterloo Medal awarded after the battle. (2)



The 1815 Tie Pin

A traditional design which would have been worn at the time of the battle. It can be worn either as a tie pin or as a small lapel pin. (3)



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Soldier Magazine

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The Waterloo Rosette (1)	£5.00		
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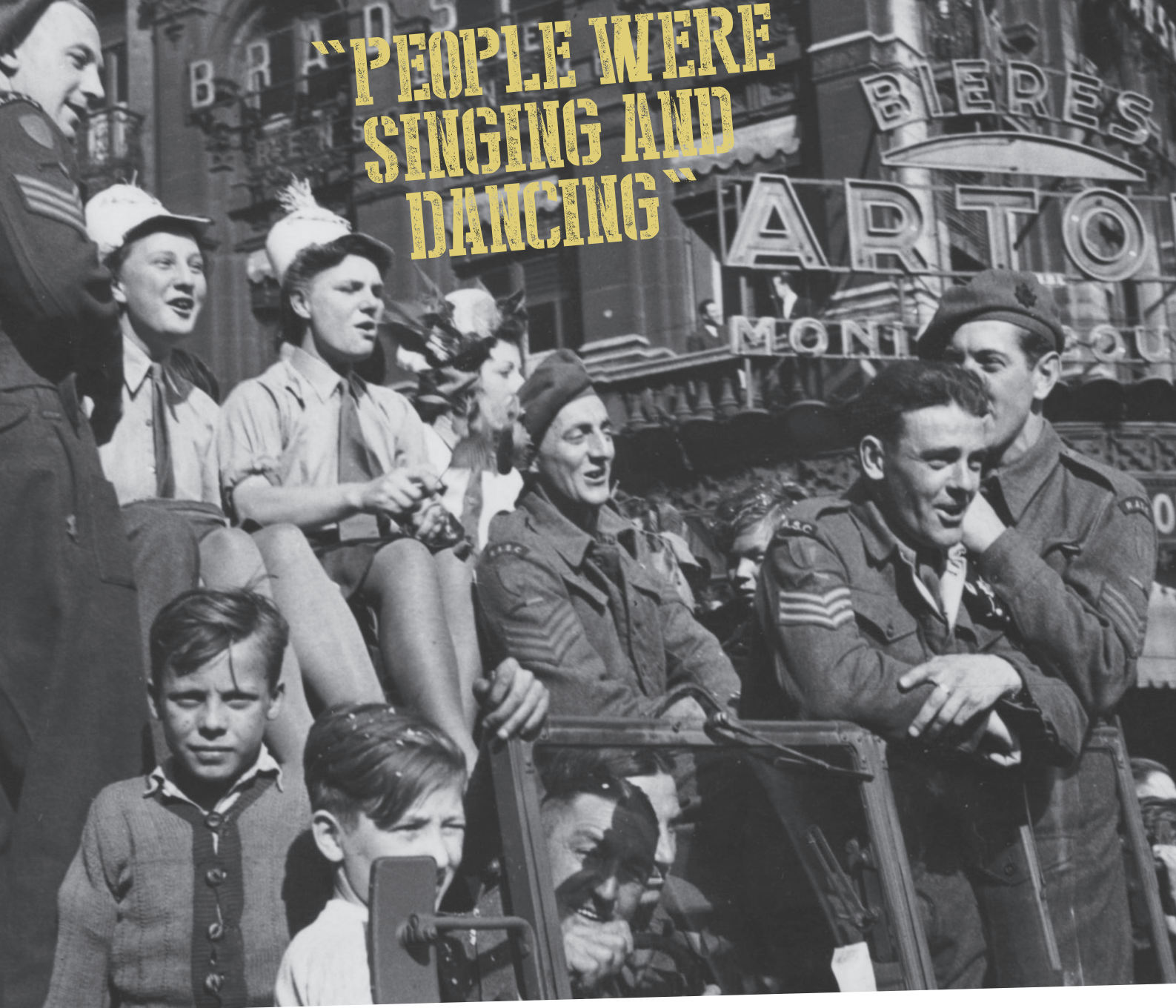
Victory: Cover illustration for *Soldier's* VE Day souvenir special by Harold Forster

'WE WERE THERE'

SECOND WORLD WAR GENERATION RECOUNT MEMORIES OF VE DAY

Interviews: Richard Long and Becky Clark

SEVENTY years ago this month – on May 8, 1945 – crowds gathered in streets across Britain to celebrate the end of the Second World War. Announcing victory in Europe, Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives as well as those who had lived through their combat experiences. Fireworks, cheering civilians and effigies of Hitler thrown onto bonfires were just some of the sights to be found across the country. But as the following interviews reveal, Victory in Europe Day invoked a range of complex feelings on both sides of the conflict...



"PEOPLE WERE SINGING AND DANCING"

● **LIVERPOOL** native Joe McGorry (pictured below) was a young boy when victory in Europe was declared.

With his family living near the docks, the 79-year-old witnessed the devastation of the Luftwaffe's aerial campaign as their home was one of many in the city to be bombed.

"As kids it didn't really bother us, it was like a big adventure," he recalled. "All the houses had cellars and there were doors inside so the people next door could join you.

"We would stay up late watching the searchlights; it was fascinating. We were never scared and in the morning we'd be straight out looking for shrapnel."

Mr McGorry said there was a huge street party on VE Day and he remembers being astonished by the array of food on offer.

"It was amazing and I was wondering where it all came from," he

said. "There was lots of cake for the children and it was as if everything arrived out of the blue.

"At the end of the day we had a huge bonfire and burnt the beds in the air raid shelters. There was a massive sense of relief for everyone and people were made up."

And the youngster was given further cause to celebrate when his father – also named Joe – returned home after serving overseas in the Royal Air Force.

"I was at school and remember my cousin telling me that dad was home," Mr McGorry told *Soldier*. "I was given permission to leave early and that was the end of the war.

"It was the first time I had seen him for a long time. I had grown a great deal by then and he was keen to know how I was doing at school. Everything just fell into place after that."

It's all over: British troops celebrate VE Day with locals in Brussels after the surrender was announced

Picture: Soldier archive

● **MEMORIES** of a street party are also recalled by Joyce Hughes (pictured below), who was a youngster growing up in the suburbs of Liverpool on VE Day.

Having been sent to bed with her siblings she remembers hearing singing and looking outside to see a bonfire.

"We were not allowed to come down once we had been sent to bed," she said.

"People were singing and dancing and someone had dragged a piano out into the street.

"I don't know where they got the food from as everything had been rationed but everyone was having a great time."

Mrs Hughes – whose husband William later served in The Royal Welch Fusiliers – also described how Liverpool suffered



in bombing raids during the war. "It was bombed quite badly," she said. "I remember being in a shelter and when we came out mum went to put the key in the door but it had been blown out. "The next street had been demolished but we did not venture far as we were so young."

● **AS a member of the Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery, Richard Carter (pictured below) spent the majority of the war years on home soil.**

He was charged with shooting down Nazi planes and flying bombs but as the campaign drew to a close he found himself on the ground in Germany. However, 24 hours later he and his comrades were celebrating VE Day.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," the 100-year-old, who is the UK's oldest Poppy Appeal organiser, told *Soldier*.

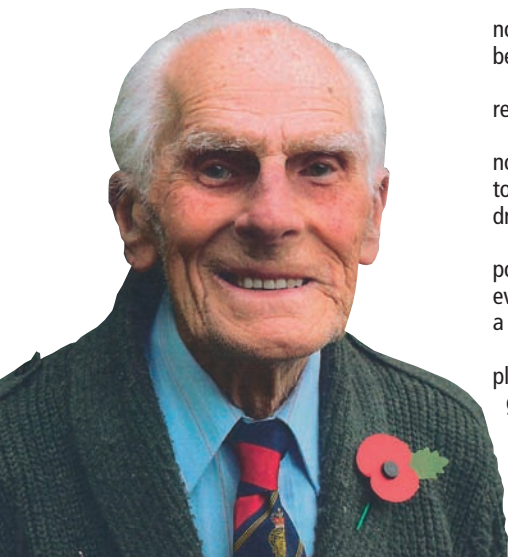
"I went to Europe on the last day before the war finished. We were out on patrol and word came through that it was all over. I asked 'when are we going home?' but the sergeant said we were off to Japan.

"We could hear music coming from somewhere and carried on with the patrol until we came across a German bandstand.

"There was a band playing beautiful Viennese waltzes, the girls came out and the next minute we were dancing with them. We had been fighting these people for years and here we were, back to normal. We had so much in common with them really."

Fortunately, his posting to Japan failed to materialise and he remained in Germany until January the following year.

"I was in the Army for five years and nine months and I enjoyed it very much," he added. "I was in no hurry to join up but I would not miss those days for the world."



"THERE WERE EXTRA DRINKS ALL ROUND"



● **AS a member of bomber command Anthony Bartlett (pictured above) flew 30 missions over targets in Germany, Italy and France.**

The 93-year-old, who was a co-pilot in the Short Stirling heavy bomber, was stationed at RAF Halfpenny Green in Wolverhampton when news of the victory filtered through and he was keen to celebrate.

"I caught a bus to Stourbridge where my wife lived with her mother, father and sister," he explained. "There was a lot of excitement in the air.

"I went to The New Inn pub for a drink as we all knew that Churchill's address to the nation was coming.

"The radio was turned up for the speech and, although it was expected, one felt a glow of pride and that meant extra drinks all round.

"Everyone shook hands at the news and we sang *Auld Lang Syne* with gusto, together with the national anthem."

Mr Bartlett remembered drinking Mackeson stout and even danced on a table as the evening wore on.

Victory in Europe marked the end of a quiet spell in the war for the Serviceman, but that had not always been the case.

"It was dragging on at the end," he explained. "We were not really required anymore and were just filling time. I had become adjutant of the servicing wing.

"But there was a period when we were flying a lot. I remember a mission to drop mines on a river at dawn.

"We did not think anything was awake as it was so quiet, nothing was stirring. I got down into the nose of the aircraft to give directions just above the water and as we prepared to drop the mines all hell broke loose.

"Our tail was in tatters and I managed to clamber back into position. The engines were just about clawing at the air and we eventually made it to an airfield, where we were able to make a belly landing.

"We sat there listening to the ticking noise wondering if the plane was going to blow up then all of us rushed like mad to get off."

● **WHILE VE Day marked mass celebration across the UK it went virtually unnoticed for ex-soldier John Clarke.**

The 91-year-old, a former sergeant in The Black Watch, pictured below, was stationed in Greece during the Greek Civil War when the news was announced and had previously fought in the Army's Italian campaign.

"Eleven days before VE Day we got word that the Germans had surrendered in Italy," the veteran recalled.

"But what could we celebrate with? I was a non-drinker and the local people were not that friendly. We also had duties to carry out round-the-clock."

With his battalion due to be stood down Mr Clarke was set to join the fight against the Japanese but when the atom bomb dropped he was sent to Palestine.

The veteran finally returned to the UK in June 1947.

"When we were told we were going back home it was wonderful," he recalled.

"We arrived in the harbour at Liverpool but could not dock as there was a strike on. Some of the lads were jumping into the water to swim to shore.

"A sergeant started singing *Last Mile Home* and that brought tears to my eyes."

The ex-soldier has been actively involved in military projects since the war. He helped create Heroes Return, an initiative that sees veterans revisit the places they served, and is now campaigning for a facility similar to the Royal Hospital Chelsea to be built in Manchester.

And he has also been quick to highlight the significance of the Army's efforts in Italy.

"When Allied troops landed in Normandy people were saying it was the start of the liberation of Europe," he said. "But we were in Italy nine months earlier.

"We were fighting the cream of the German Army – including paratroopers and the Alpine divisions – so when I hear that it always upsets me."





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● **PARATROOPER** Jock Hutton dropped into Normandy on D-Day as a 19-year-old.

Weeks later he was wounded but recovered in time to rejoin his unit, 13th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, for the winter campaign in the Ardennes and the Rhine crossings.

The last days of the war found him and his comrades on their way to Norway, where they were tasked with overseeing the German surrender.

"We knew something was afoot but we also knew that such was the deviousness of the German command, they'd have something up their sleeves to stop it," the veteran told *Soldier*.

"So we never dwelt on when and if the war was going to finish."

Although the Serviceman and his comrades didn't want to get their hopes up, eventually it became obvious the war on the ground was at an end.

"We heard on the radio that it was all over," he recalled.

"There were huge celebrations in London, people marching through the streets but we weren't involved in any of that as we had to go to Oslo as a freedom force and after that we were slated to join the fight in the Far East, although we didn't in the end.

"I didn't feel like the war had changed me. I think youth surmounted all that type of thing.

"Strangely enough, I don't think about the war that much now. And I don't regard myself as a brave person.

"You were there to do your job, to do what you had to and carry on. I'm just Jock and I'll be Jock until the day I die."



● **FOR** German veteran Günter Halm (pictured below) the VE Day anniversary conjures memories of disappointment.

As a 19-year-old anti-tank gunner at the Battle of El Alamein, he became the youngest recipient of the Knight's Cross – the country's highest bravery award.

Presented with his medal by Fd Marshal Erwin Rommel – shown above – he quickly rose up the ranks and saw further action in Greece and Normandy, where he was captured by the Allies and shipped to America on RMS *Mauretania*.

He spent the rest of the war there, returning to his homeland in 1946.

Speaking in German he told *Soldier*: "I was in a prisoner of war camp in Dermott, Arkansas when the conflict ended.

"There was no official announcement but word spread around the camp.

"We were deeply disappointed; we had hoped until the end that the tide would turn or at least that it could have ended in an agreement between the two sides to ceasefire.

"I was among the first to be transported back to Germany.

"When we got back we found it in ruins. We hadn't expected that level of destruction.

"The cities were bombed into the ground and Hildesheim, where I grew up, was just ashes. It was

very depressing."

The ex-soldier continued: "I have led a long life. The first chapter was the Third Reich, the Hitler Youth that we grew up with, the comradeship and so on.

"The second was the war – those five years that turned us all into old men. You were confronted with death on a daily basis.

"The third era was the rebuilding during the post-war years, which was just as bad. Germany's economic recovery was a great success but the psychological impact was disastrous."

So how does the veteran view his role in the conflict 70 years on?

"Today, German troops can march again with their heads held high but to us they say, 'you old soldiers were criminals'," he remarked.

"But we only did our duty for the country.

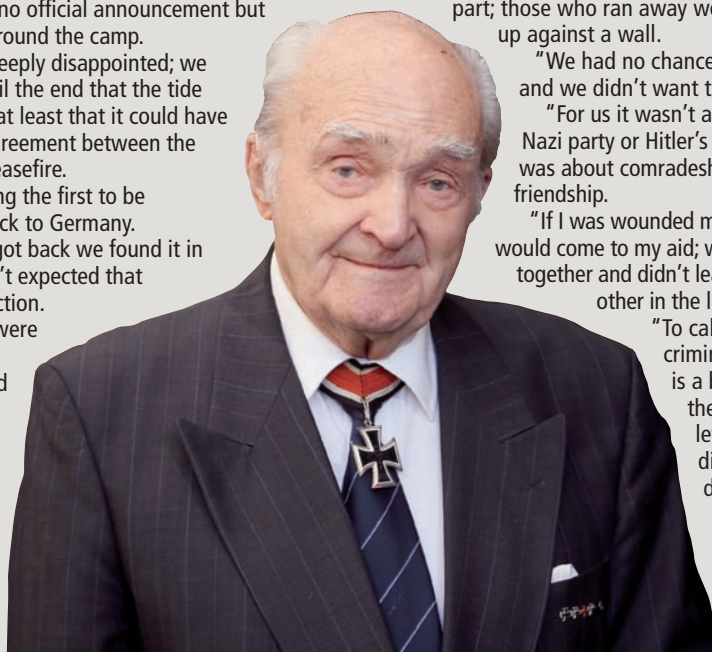
"We were called up and had to play our part; those who ran away were stood up against a wall.

"We had no chance of escape and we didn't want to be there.

"For us it wasn't about the Nazi party or Hitler's ideas, it was about comradeship and friendship.

"If I was wounded my comrade would come to my aid; we stayed together and didn't leave each other in the lurch.

"To call us criminals now is a betrayal of the few of us left who did our duty."





NORTH SEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BATTLEFIELD EUROPE

**THE MAJOR CAMPAIGNS THAT LED
TO VICTORY OVER NAZI GERMANY**

BALTIC SEA

1 JAN 1944

The Allied attack on Italy kicked off with landings at **Anzio** in January. The Germans counter-attacked in February and subsequent fighting saw the destruction of the medieval monastery at Monte Cassino after Allied bombing. Rome was eventually liberated in June.

2 JUN 1944

On **D-Day** more than 160,000 Allied troops and 30,000 vehicles landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily defended French coastline.

3 JUL 1944

The Allies took control of the strategically vital French city of **Cherbourg**. American troops isolated and captured the fortified port after a hard-fought, month-long campaign. Meanwhile, the Germans were also forced out of **Caen**, a valuable transport hub.

4 AUG 1944

Following the **Battle of the Falaise Pocket** in late August 1944, a decisive Allied victory which ended the Battle of Normandy, the American and British forces advanced on **Paris**. After four years of German occupation, the Allies liberated the French capital on August 25 with the help of French resistance troops. Brussels was also liberated by Allied forces, including British, Canadian, and American troops.

5 SEP 1944

Operation Market Garden, an ambitious attempt to bypass the Siegfried Line, a series of fortifications defending Germany's western borders, was attempted. The British 1st Airborne Division was dropped into **Arnhem**, Holland and encountered far stronger resistance than anticipated. After ground forces failed to relieve them, they were overrun by the Germans on September 21. The failure stalled the momentum of the Allied advance.

6 SEP-NOV 1944

One of the Allies' top priorities was to clear both banks of the **Scheldt estuary** of Germans in order to open the Belgian port of Antwerp to feed the supply lines of its advancing armed forces.

Canadian, Polish and British troops conducted amphibious assaults, air raids and mass attacks across open ground to defeat the formidable enemy defences on Walcheren Island.



7 OCT 1944

The heavily defended city of **Aachen** had to be captured before the Allies could advance to the Siegfried Line. The first German town to be assaulted by ground forces, Hitler personally ordered the garrison to be reinforced. Brutal street fighting ensued and caused around 10,000 casualties before the Allies captured it on October 21.

8 DEC 1944

The **Battle of the Bulge** begins. A quarter of a million German troops advanced across an 85-mile stretch of the Allied front in the densely forested Ardennes region. The primary goal was to recapture the harbour city of Antwerp, split the American and British formations and force a negotiated peace treaty. German divisions pushed some 50 miles into the Allied lines, creating the deadly "bulge". The Allies fought back and by the end of January regained the territory they had held in early December. Germany was unable to replace many of the armoured assets lost in the battle.

9 JAN 1945

The Germans had been largely in retreat on the Eastern Front since failing to win the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942. Soviet forces now reached **Warsaw** and initiated the final push towards German soil, moving 30 to 40 kilometres a day. They captured the Baltic states, Danzig, East Prussia and Poznan in a matter of days.

10 MAR 1945

The Allies crossed the **Rhine** into Germany in four main areas: Remagen, the site of the last remaining intact bridge, Mannheim, Mainz and Wesel – which witnessed the largest airborne landing in history involving 18,000 American, British and Canadian troops who rapidly advanced into Germany's heartland.

11 APR 1945

The race to be the first into **Berlin** was won by the Russians who reached the capital on April 21. As Soviet forces pushed into the city, Hitler sheltered in his bomb-proof bunker. There, he married his mistress, Eva Braun, before poisoning her and shooting himself – two days after the Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini had been killed by partisans.

12 MAY 1945

On May 7, Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies' supreme commander, Gen Dwight Eisenhower (pictured left), at **Reims**, France. But German forces did not officially sign their surrender with the Russians until the next morning in Berlin, on **May 8**, so this has become known as VE (Victory in Europe) Day.



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FREE AT LAST

Seventy years after their liberation, former prisoners of war tell their survival stories

Interviews: Becky Clark
Pictures: Graeme Main

AS German resistance crumbled in the final weeks of the Second World War, the thousands of Allied troops languishing in Hitler's prisoner of war camps dared to hope that their nightmare would soon be over.

On April 16, 1945 personnel from The 8th Hussars liberated 22,000 detainees from Stalag XIB and 357 near the town of Fallingbomel.

Shortly after their arrival, an Army photographer captured this scene of jubilant British soldiers at the gates to the imposing complex.

In the centre of the image was Percy Lewis (circled) who, 70 years later, remembers the moment as if it was yesterday.

"The photographer said 'come on lads, let's take a picture', so we all gathered round and I stuck my hand through the wire and gave the victory sign," he recalled.





“We were dead keen to get home.”

Small wonder. Lack of food and medical care combined with endemic dysentery had taken a heavy toll on the prisoners, leaving them little more than skin and bone.

In the six months since Mr Lewis was captured by the Germans in the Reichswald Forest in October 1944 his weight had plummeted from 10st 4lb to 6st 2lb.

“There was nothing to eat because the Russians and Allies were advancing and thousands of people were coming into the camp,” he said.

“We had one Red Cross parcel between four men to last a fortnight.

“In the packages there were cigarettes. We would save up until we had 20 and then barter with Jerry for bread.

“But there was no bullying or ill treatment – the three old boys who were looking after us must have been around 40 or 50 years old.

“One had lost an arm, one had had half his face blown off and one had lost his ear. They’d all been fighting in Russia. They didn’t give us any trouble.”

With the Eastern and Western fronts converging rapidly during the final months of the war, the Nazis moved prisoners further into Germany in a series of forced marches, adding to the already overcrowded conditions in Stalag XIB.

“Normally there were about 40 to a hut, four each to a bunk, but as all the other blokes came in off this march they had to sleep wherever they could on the floor,” continued Mr Lewis.

“There was no space.

“We all had dysentery badly as well, which was murder. Our bones were showing. But we made it through.”

Now 92 years old, Mr Lewis is one of the few remaining survivors of the prison camps.

Last month he made the journey back to Germany to take part in a ceremony organised by Fallingbostal-based 2 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, to mark the 70th anniversary of his liberation.

Joining him was fellow ex-prisoner Chas Mayhead, for whom the memories of his time in captivity are still raw.

Captured in North Africa in 1942, the Royal Army Service Corps soldier spent a total of three years in prison camps in Libya, Italy and Germany.

When the Italians surrendered in 1943 he managed to escape and was literally just a few metres from the border with neutral Switzerland when he was recaptured by the Germans and transported to Stalag XIB.

“They treated us terribly,” he said.

“When I was taken prisoner in the desert we were marched to a camp and when we got there, there was Rommel himself.

“He came over and spoke to us and said we’d be well looked after – he had been round the camps and inspected them and said they were marvellous places. Rubbish!

“It was a very bad time indeed. When I got to Germany I only had shorts and a shirt, no shoes or socks. We were given a room and it



Victory: Percy Lewis with the photo taken 70 years ago. **Below:** his dog tag

had the basics of a bed frame, but nothing else, no blankets.

“That prison was the pits – there was no such thing as humanity there.”

A self-confessed troublemaker, the Londoner railed against the powerlessness of his situation, at one point badly beating a German civilian worker who had hit him.

In April 1945, shortly before the camp’s liberation, the Germans marched several thousand men away towards the north east, among them Mr Mayhead.

Unwilling to wait and see what fate had in store for them, he and a group of comrades made another break for it.

“We were walking and I said to my mate, Tom, ‘if we get the chance, I’m going’.

“He said ‘I’m with you’.

“I looked at the German guards and they were as tired as we were so we ran like mad into the forest where we could hide among the trees.

“And this is a moment in my life I’ll never forget. We were in the woods in the early hours of the morning and suddenly I heard American music.

“So I went forward and there on the road was a tank. And I thought ‘that’s not German, it’s a Yankee tank’.

“We ran down shouting and a soldier popped his head out and said ‘hey man’. We’d got away with it.”

After a few days the US forces moved them by truck to an aerodrome, where they awaited their flights back to Britain.

Describing the emotional moment he saw his homeland again, Mr Mayhead continued: “We got on the aircraft and eventually I looked down out of the window and I saw a red bus below. I knew I was back in England and that’s when I broke down.

“If you can imagine – I hadn’t seen it for five years. And we came down at Hitchin, the doors opened and there were two lines of RAF staff and they clapped.

“I couldn’t believe it.”

Struggling to compose himself at the memory, he added: “I’m a tough guy really. Well, I was. We were wrecked. That’s why I cry.”

Such was the emaciated condition of the freed soldiers that their bodies needed time to adjust to a normal diet.

But after medical treatment and delousing they were allowed to return to their families.

When he finally got home to Camberwell, Mr Mayhead’s mother was busy hanging curtains.

“I’d actually forgotten where I lived – a small child kindly showed me to my front door,” he explained.



"And when I went in she was in the front room with her back to me.
 "She couldn't look at me, she was trying not to break down.
 "So she carried on putting curtains up. I don't know what was going through her mind.
 "Finally she turned around and said 'I thought you were taller.' And all I could do was laugh."
 Mr Lewis meanwhile, laden with cologne and razors he had acquired from the German stores, arrived home in Slough to an equally poignant reunion.
 The letter he had been allowed to write from prison to tell his parents he was still alive had never arrived.
 "My dad opened the door and shouted 'Lil, Lil, come quick'," he recalled.
 "They'd had no news other than a telegram to say I was missing in action in 1944.
 "I think mum nearly collapsed, being as that I was their only child."

With British personnel moving back to Scotland from Fallingbistel this summer, the 70th anniversary ceremony was the last formal event of its kind.

But Mr Lewis was philosophical about the commemorations coming to the end.

"When we started there were quite a few of us and now there are just three so it's about time it finished really," the veteran remarked.

"I don't look back with any bitterness.

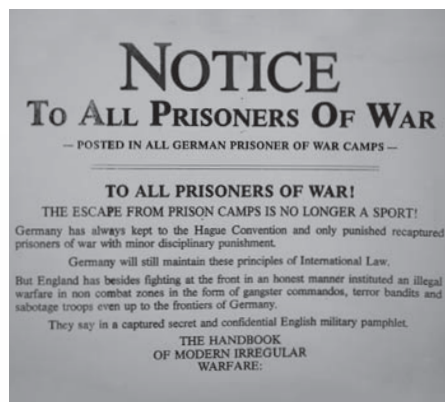
"Look at the thousands of our blokes and the thousands of Germans who died – and what for?

"Nobody wins in war."

This month, as the nation remembers the sacrifice of millions, this old soldier's message surely bears repeating. ■

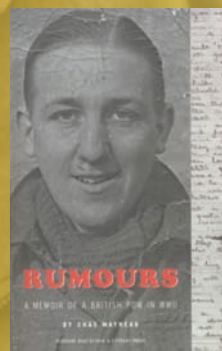


Dark days: The Stalag XIB and 357 memorial in Fallingbistel and the main entrance to the camp photographed 70 years ago. **Below:** Chas Mayhead



“
**I SAW A RED
 BUS AND I
 KNEW I WAS
 IN ENGLAND.
 THAT’S WHEN I
 BROKE DOWN**
 ”

The full account of Chas Mayhead's wartime experiences are published in his book, *Rumours: The Memoir of a British PoW in WWII*



MONTY'S BURNING DESIRE

FIELD MARSHAL MONTGOMERY KNEW HE
HAD TO MODERNISE THE BRITISH ARMY IF HE WAS
TO ACHIEVE VICTORY IN EUROPE

Report: Peter Caddick-Adams

By the time the Second World War ended the British Army had changed out of all recognition compared with the force that had entered the conflict six years previously. It may have looked similar at a glance, with its "Tommies" still wearing the familiar rimmed steel helmets and clutching their trusty Lee Enfield rifles, but it was better led, better equipped and much better organised than even a year earlier.

This was largely because of one man – Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

He had taken his 3rd Infantry Division to France back in 1939, where he was astonished at its inadequate training and distinct lack of personal kit and modern equipment.

His soldiers were also in poor physical shape. Despite loud protests, Monty initiated daily runs – unheard of previously.

Vehicles initially lacked camouflage paint because they had been borrowed from transport companies in England and his formation possessed little in the way of anti-air or anti-armour defence and had no cross-country manoeuvrability.

All this had changed by the time of the landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944 but this momentous day heralded an even greater period of change for the Service – and many of the innovations introduced in the last stage of the war in Europe can still be seen in the British Army of today.

For example, by the time of the Rhine crossings in March 1945 the value of amphibious vehicles had been realised and UK troops were able to negotiate that river in Buffaloes, a variant of a US Marine Corps platform that had been used in the Pacific theatre.

DUKWs, affectionately known as Ducks, had also been introduced – the famous six-wheeled amphibious truck that would be used by the Army into the 1970s.

Another major development at this stage of the conflict was in engineering solutions for moving large forces ashore or across water.

Rhino ferries, which were simply pontoons bolted together and fitted with outboard engines, were used to bring vehicles and equipment to land in Normandy and on the Rhine. They are the ancestors of today's very similar Mexeflote crafts.

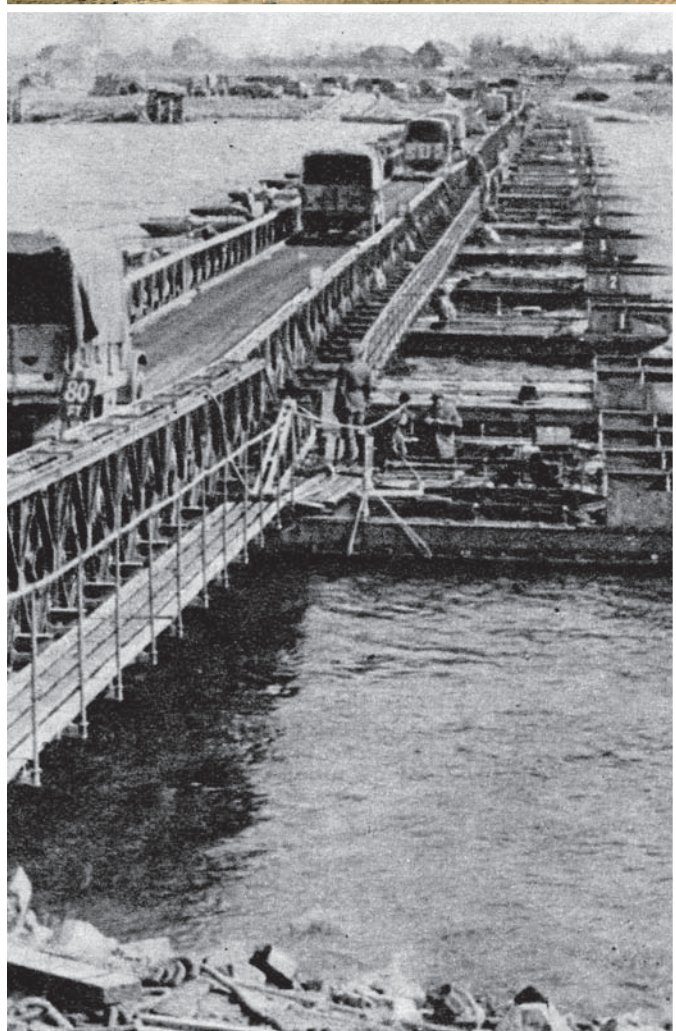
Huge quantities of Bailey bridging also spanned the Rhine in 1945 – an engineering asset conceived by Sir Donald Bailey in 1942, whereby every component could be carried by a maximum of six men and assembled in a Meccano-like way.

His invention was so valuable the US Army borrowed it whenever they could, and it is still manufactured today.

By the end of the war, the Allies had built more than 3,000 Bailey bridges (around 55 miles of crossings) in Italy, and a similar number spanned the rivers and canals of north-west Europe – several of which still bear road traffic.

These types of obstructions could provide enormous headaches for military movement and most of today's procedures stem from the obstacle-crossing doctrine devised and perfected during the latter stages of the conflict in Europe.

Other engineering innovations introduced at this time included





Clockwise from top, Inspired innovations: Flamethrowing Churchill tanks; the DUKW amphibious vehicle; Monty and his militarised caravans; the first Bailey Bridge across the Rhine; the Titan AVLR and its groundbreaking Second World War forerunner



"DEVELOPMENT OF AIR SUPPORT WAS CRUCIAL"



>> tank platforms equipped with small, hinged assault bridges which were used to span ditches and gullies. Their direct descendant is the Titan armoured vehicle launch bridge, based on the Challenger 2 hull.

Flamethrowing Crocodiles, adapted from Churchill tanks, and Wasps, based on the little armoured Bren gun carrier, were brought into service and supported Monty's infantry during attacks.

Another important innovation at this stage of the war, and one that is crucial to today's Army, was the development of air support.

Back in 1940 the Royal Air Force operated Army Cooperation squadrons with Lysanders, small reconnaissance planes, but Montgomery's men had no means of speaking to their pilots and the aircraft were few in number.

After developing a close relationship with AM Arthur Tedder in North Africa in 1943, Monty ensured that tactical air support over the battlefields in northern Europe, supplied by rocket and cannon-firing Hawker Typhoons, was harnessed to the timetable of the land forces.

Previously, the RAF had required the Army to conform to its timetable.

Yet Normandy had showed up the lack of forward air controllers, who were housed in vulnerable soft-skinned vehicles like Jeeps.

By 1945 there were many more and they worked from armoured vehicles at brigade level. They could call in air support within minutes and talk directly to the pilots.

The parallels with recent operations in Afghanistan are obvious, where the highest level of tactical air coordination was achieved between the Army and RAF.

Another Montgomery innovation that is still with us is his system of deployable headquarters.

In 1940 higher headquarters were fairly static affairs, requiring expansive facilities like schools, hotels or chateaux.

None were available in the North African campaign, where staff were housed in a combination of tents, armoured command vehicles and towed mobile offices.

Preferring to sleep in his famous militarised caravans, Monty imported this concept into Normandy.

The Army chief liked his privacy and the company of a chosen few around him whom he trusted, and so he instigated the concept of a three-tier headquarters.

A small tactical base – a tented affair that was capable of being packed away and moved in about two hours – was supplemented by the main and rear sections.

In dividing them, and ensuring that at least one could be quickly mobile, Monty developed a highly practical and robust method of command on operations that was eventually imitated around the world.

So much for equipment and command, but what about doctrine and organisation?

In France and North Africa in 1940, British infantry and armour fought their separate wars, coming together only rarely.

Out of the blue:
Monty's forces advancing into 1945 Germany were pioneers of the coordinated ground-air offensive that has become part of modern Army tactics

By D-Day, the British Army splashed ashore as infantry divisions escorted by tanks.

Each armoured regiment normally accompanied troops from three battalions; thus an armoured squadron often developed a very close relationship with the formation it supported.

However, there was no formal pairing of these units and both often worked on their own.

But by VE Day the Canadian and Polish forces under Monty's command had started to organise battalion-sized battlegroups, where tanks and soldiers on the ground with artillery and engineer support worked permanently together.

As the Wehrmacht retreated this battlegrouping became more frequent and necessary because of the greater distances that needed to be covered.

But pairing these units gave rise to another significant challenge, that of varying mobility.

This meant that infantry, riding in lorries or at best half-tracks, rarely had the same speed or cross-country manoeuvrability as Allied tanks, mostly Shermans.

The solution was hit upon by removing the Sherman's 25-pounder gun so that ten to 12 infantrymen could be carried into battle alongside tanks, with the benefit of some formidable armour protection.

The resultant converted assets, known as Kangaroos, became some of the world's first armoured personnel carriers and are direct ancestors of the US M-113, the British FV-432 series of vehicles and more recently the Warrior, which served so admirably in Afghanistan.

Another innovation that links this part of military history to the present is the series of battlefield tours and staff rides that Montgomery instigated immediately after the war.

Monty was determined to ensure that the Army would never again be so ill-prepared for conflict as it had been in 1939.

The Service had studied old campaigns before, but after 1946 the commander placed greater emphasis on battlefield studies.

He wanted personnel to learn about leadership and gallantry, how to manage logistics in adversity, overcome the challenges of communication, manage intelligence effectively, incorporate Reservists and specialists – all while walking the actual battle terrain.

Montgomery knew that these studies were important to the development of the Army.

They not only look back, taking in heritage and heroism, but look forward to prepare today's warriors for tomorrow's challenges. ■



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FIGHTING

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FLOODS

WHEN WATER BECOMES A FRONT-LINE ASSET...



THEY are usually thought of as natural disasters, but a trip through the history books reveals that floods have also been used strategically during times of war.

Here, John Withington, author of *Flood: Nature and Culture*, lists five battlefield encounters where water has turned weapon... with catastrophic results

1. AZTEC AGGRESSION



WHEN Cortés the Conquistador, an explorer who conquered the Aztec Empire (pictured), took the ancient city of Iztapalapa in what is now Mexico, his soldiers massacred the inhabitants, burned down their homes and looted everything they could carry. So they were blithely unaware of the activities of enemy troops who were opening a breach in the dyke that protected the city from being flooded by Lake Texcoco. As the water rose, most of Cortés' Spanish soldiers managed to escape – although they had to abandon their booty. But many of his Indian allies, unable to swim, were drowned.

2. DUTCH DISASTER

DURING the Netherlands' struggle to shake off Spanish rule in the 16th century, the 18,000 inhabitants of Leiden found themselves under siege. As people began to die of starvation and plague the Dutch commander, William of Orange, sent a message by carrier pigeon asking civilians to hold out for another three months, promising that he would open the dykes to flood the land around the city and save them. Fearing the damage it would cause, many local people tried to stop him. But on August 3, 1574 the dykes were breached. As the sea rushed in the rebel fleet sailed to the rescue and the Spaniards lifted the siege. By that time, however, up to a third of the citizens were dead.



3. FRIENDLY FIRE



FOR centuries it was standard practice for Chinese warlords to deliberately breach dykes to damage the lands of their rivals. In 1642, the city of Kaifeng had been under siege for six months by a rebel army led by a robber-turned-general named Li Zicheng. Realising the city could not hold out much longer, the governor ordered the dykes to be opened to flood the rebel camp. Instead, the waters engulfed Kaifeng itself – drowning an estimated 280,000 people.

4. RIVER REBELLION

IN 1938 Japanese forces invaded China and in desperation the country's nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek, ordered the Yellow River dykes at Huayuankou to be blown up to hamper the invaders. The commander on the ground may have played for time, perhaps dreading the possible consequences, but on May 11 Japanese soldiers broke through into the area earmarked for flooding so he had the charges detonated. They ripped a 200-yard gap in the dyke. Japanese personnel were drowned, tanks and guns were mired in mud and the invasion was held up for as much as three months. However, up to 800,000 people perished and millions more were driven from their homes in what is thought to be the deadliest ever use of flood as a weapon of war.



5. WORLD WAR WEAPON



THIS time it was the attackers who unleashed a flood, not the defenders. In 1944 occupying German forces had heavily fortified the strategically important Dutch island of Walcheren, much of which lies below sea level. On October 3, the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command dispatched more than 250 aircraft to punch holes in the sea wall and dykes. The North Sea poured in, severely restricting the movement of the German defenders. However, 180 local people were also killed by the bombs. With large parts of Walcheren flooded, the Allies mounted an amphibious landing and captured the island on November 9.

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Who comes where in the independent schools league tables?

All independent schools want to portray themselves as academically successful. So how do parents make a sensible comparison of the different claims made? The answer is to use the internationally recognised independent school league tables produced by the Sunday Times each year. It contains virtually all UK Independent Schools. Where does the school you might be thinking about come?

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UK's Top 10 Boarding Schools 2014 Sunday Times % A* / A A-Levels

1	Wycombe Abbey School
2	Winchester College
3	St Paul's School, London
4	Eton College
5	Westminster School
6	Sevenoaks School
7	Queen Ethelburga's College
8	Concord College
9	Faculty Queen Ethelburga's
10	Brighton College



Alphabetical Ranking

All UK Independent Schools with boarding - 2014 Sunday Times % A*/A A-Levels

Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School
21st	66%	Abingdon School	77th	49%	Dean Close School	60th	53%	Merchiston Castle Sch	172nd	31%	St Felix School
155th	34%	Ackworth School	138th	38%	Denstone College	100th	45%	Mill Hill School	107th	44%	St Francis, Letchworth
120th	41%	Adcote School Girls	182nd	29%	Dover College	192nd	25%	Millfield School	161st	33%	St George's, Ascot
94th	47%	Ampleforth College	16th	70%	D'Overbroeck's College	109th	44%	Monmouth School	178th	29%	St James Senior Boys
90th	47%	Ardingly College	15th	73%	Downe House	95th	47%	Moreton Hall	72nd	50%	St John's, Leatherhead
70th	52%	Ashford School	112th	43%	Downside School	108th	44%	Mount Kelly	167th	32%	St John's, Southsea
137th	38%	Ashville College	27th	63%	Dulwich College	58th	53%	Mount School, York	92nd	47%	St Leonards School
23rd	66%	Badminton School	140th	37%	Durham School	88th	47%	New Hall School	31st	61%	St Leonards-Mayfield
171st	31%	Barnard Castle School	76th	49%	Eastbourne College	127th	40%	Oakham School	128th	40%	St Margaret's, Bushey
143rd	36%	Battle Abbey School	36th	58%	Eton College	49th	55%	Ockbrook School	97th	46%	St Mary's, Cambridge
87th	48%	Bedales School	4th	85%	Eton College	144th	36%	Oratory School, Reading	13th	75%	St Mary's, Ascot
154th	34%	Bede's Senior School	9th	78%	Faculty Queen Ethelburga's	179th	29%	Oswestry School	83rd	48%	St Mary's Shaftesbury
93rd	47%	Bedford School	190th	26%	Farlington School	34th	59%	Oundle school	3rd	86%	St Paul's Sch, London
159th	33%	Bedstone College	163rd	33%	Felstead School	191st	26%	Padworth College	51st	54%	St Peter's, York
82nd	48%	Bellerbys Coll Brighton	55th	53%	Fettes College	146th	36%	Plymouth College	14th	75%	St Swithun's School
98th	46%	Bellerbys Coll Cambridge	193rd	24%	Framlington College	168th	32%	Pocklington School	91st	47%	St Teresa's, Effingham
44th	56%	Bellerbys Coll London	NR	20%	Giggleswick School	177th	29%	Princess Helena College	123rd	41%	Stamford High Sch
28th	62%	Benenden School	149th	36%	Glenalmond College	63rd	52%	Prior Park College	135th	39%	Stamford School
71st	50%	Berkhamsted School	89th	47%	Godolphin School	162nd	33%	Queen Anne's, Cavsham	174th	30%	Stonyhurst College
187th	27%	Bethany School	121st	41%	Gresham's School	7th	82%	Queen Ethelburga's College	116th	42%	Strathallan
37th	58%	Bishop's Stortford Coll	53rd	54%	Haberdashers' Mon Girls	20th	66%	Queen Margaret's, York	150th	35%	Sutton Valance Sch
85th	48%	Blundell's School	118th	42%	Haileybury	110th	43%	Queen's College, Taunton	111th	43%	Talbot Heath School
69th	52%	Bootham School	158th	34%	Hampshire Collegiate	46th	56%	Queenswood	157th	34%	Taunton School
156th	34%	Box Hill School	119th	41%	Harrogate Ladies College	26th	64%	Radley College	194th	24%	Tettenhall College
132nd	40%	Bradfield College	25th	65%	Headington School	147th	36%	Ratcliffe College	74th	50%	The Leys School
103rd	45%	Brentwood School	183rd	28%	Heathfield, Ascot	99th	45%	Reed's School	170th	31%	The Purcell School
10th	76%	Brighton College	114th	42%	Ipswich School	195th	24%	Rendcomb College	11th	76%	Tonbridge Schol
52nd	54%	Bromsgrove School	80th	48%	Kent College, Canterbury	42nd	56%	Repton School	141st	37%	Trent College
96th	46%	Bruton School Girls	32nd	60%	Kent College, Pembury	79th	49%	Roedean School	180th	29%	Tring Park Perf Arts
78th	49%	Bryanston School	125th	41%	Kimbolton School	48th	55%	Royal High Sch, Bath	115th	42%	Truro High School Girls
73rd	50%	Burgess Hill Sch Girls	105th	44%	King William's, Castletown	26th	48%	Royal Masonic Sch Girls	81st	48%	Truro School
38th	57%	Canford School	189th	26%	King's Bruton	147th	41%	Royal Russell School	133rd	40%	Tudor Hall
22nd	66%	Caterham School	164th	33%	King's College, Taunton	99th	57%	Royal School, Haslemere	47th	56%	Uppingham School
181st	29%	CATS College London	113th	43%	King's Ely	195th	54%	Rugby School	169th	31%	Warminster School
185th	27%	CCSS Centre 6th Form	35th	59%	King's School, Canterbury	42nd	69%	Ruthin School	33rd	60%	Warwick School
176th	30%	Chase Grammar School	129th	40%	King's St Michael's Coll	142nd	37%	Rydal Penrhos Senior	19th	67%	Wellington College
86th	48%	Cheltenham College	184th	28%	King's, Rochester	67th	53%	Rydal School U Chine	134th	40%	Wellington School
12th	76%	Cheltenham Ladies' Coll	43rd	56%	Kingswood School, Bath	188th	26%	Rye St Antony School	75th	49%	Wells Cathedral School
117th	42%	Chetham's School Music	126th	41%	Kirkham Grammar School	186th	27%	Sedburgh School	101st	45%	West Buckland School
50th	55%	Chigwell School	61st	52%	Lancing College	6th	82%	Sevenoaks School	5th	85%	Westminster School
66th	53%	Christ College	148th	36%	Langley School	59th	53%	Sherborne Girls	29th	62%	Whitgift School
56th	53%	Christ's Hospital	166th	32%	Leighton Park School	104th	45%	Sherborne School	2nd	89%	Winchester College
18th	67%	City London Freeman's	68th	52%	Leweston School	39th	57%	Shrewsbury School	106th	44%	Windermer School
65th	53%	Clifton College	131st	40%	Lincoln Minster School	124th	41%	Sidcot	45th	56%	Woldingham School
130th	40%	Cobham Hall	102nd	45%	Lord Wandsworth College	173rd	30%	St Bees School	151st	35%	Woodbridge School
8th	81%	Concord College	136th	39%	Loretto School	24th	65%	St Catherine's Sch, Bramley	160th	33%	Woodhouse Grove
57th	53%	Cranleigh School	40th	57%	Loughborough Grammar	165th	32%	St Edmund's College	152nd	35%	Workshop College
175th	30%	Culford School	139th	37%	Luckley House School	145th	36%	St Edmund's Canterbury	153rd	35%	Wrekin College
64th	53%	Dauntsey's School	30th	62%	Marlborough College	62nd	52%	St Edward's Sch, Oxford	1st	91%	Wycombe Abbey Sch

State Schools not ranked however if Duke of York's Royal Military School were, with 29% A*/A A-Level, it would come around 178th. Welbeck would come around 178th also with 29% A*/A A-Level

BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW

APPOINTMENTS

Brig William Bramble, Member Royal College of Defence Studies, to be appointed **Deputy Adviser Ministry of Interior, Headquarters Resolute Support** in the rank of major general in succession to Maj Gen Benjamin Bathurst in June 2015.

CAREERS

Employment website TipTopJob has created **www.exmilitaryjob.com** to help former Service personnel find work in the civilian sector. Visit the website for more details.

HighGround is a charity providing land-based skills to serving and former Army personnel, helping them move into civilian life. For details visit **www.highground-uk.org**

The Enterprise Network Swindon and Wiltshire is running a series of workshops entitled "Be Your Own Boss" for military partners, offering advice on running a business. To book a free place visit **www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk/civvystreet**

COMPETITIONS

Spine line winner: Capt John Dargavel, Bridgtown, Cannock; Jayne Hawkes, Credenhill, Hereford; Lt Col Mike Keating, Army HQ, Andover; Mark Sullivan, York.

United We Fall DVD: Peter Fisher, Harestock, Winchester; CSgt Adrian Dixon, Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster; Lynda Cross, Lyneham, Chippenham; Jennifer Blackburn, Chicksands, Bedfordshire; Maj Euan Mathieson, Army HQ, Andover.

DIARY

May 9: Stoke-on-Trent Military Tattoo, King's Hall, Kingsway, Stoke-on-Trent, in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity. For more visit **www.soldierscharity.org**

May 10: Classic FM presents VE Day at 70 at the Royal Albert Hall, an evening of music from the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Tickets available at **www.royalalberthall.com**

May 23-24: VE Day Anniversary Air Show at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

Visit **www.iwm.org.uk/duxford** for tickets. Second World War personnel and Home Front civilian veterans receive free entry.

May 30: Imjin Proms 2015. HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is hosting an open-air picnic concert near Innsworth. Gates open 1600-2200. Adults £20 and under 14s free. To book tickets visit **www.imjinproms.co.uk**

June 3-4: Army Inter-Unit Orienteering Championships at Sutton Park, Birmingham. Visit **www.baoc.info**

June 11: Eve of Waterloo at Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Featuring more than 300 performers, including the bands of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. For details visit **www.usherhall.co.uk**

June 27: Armed Forces Day 2015. Visit **www.armedforcesday.org.uk**

July 17-19: Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Visit **www.airtattoo.com**

July 25-26: Trailwalker Challenge. Take on the Gurkhas in this epic 100km trek across the South Downs National Park. Walk or run in teams of four in support of Oxfam and The Gurkha Welfare Trust. For details visit **www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker**

August 15-16: Combined Ops Show at Headcorn Aerodrome, Shenley Road, Headcorn TN27 9HX. Arena events, history re-enactments and an air display featuring the Battle of Britain memorial flight and the world's only flying Vulcan bomber. Tickets at **www.combinedops.co.uk**

Until September 30: Waterloo bicentenary exhibition at the Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester. Featuring artefacts, medals, paintings and a model of the battlefield. For details visit **www.rgjmuseum.co.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 020 7414 3252;

www.afma.org.uk

Army Families Federation:
01264 382324; mil 94391 2324;
www.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

Big White Wall:
www.bigwhitewall.com

Blind Veterans UK:
(formerly St Dunstan's)
020 7723 5021;
www.blindveterans.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:
020 8590 1124; **www.blesma.org**

Career Transition Partnership:
020 7469 6661

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

Erskine:
0141 814 4569; **www.erskin.org.uk**

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:
01372 841600;
www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service:
020 7463 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:
020 7820 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.svonline.org**

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:
0808 1914 218 (from the UK);
0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

SSAFA:
0845 1300 975; **www.ssafo.org.uk**

Stoll (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation):
020 7385 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 042/15: Commercial lease of Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre – update

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

DIRECTORY CONTINUED

ABN 041/15: Use of social media during the general election campaign

ABN 040/15: Reduction of lifetime allowance for pension tax relief

ABN 039/15: Security incident reporting process

ABN 038/15: Update on the application of manning levers

ABN 037/15: Equality and diversity advisers conference – June 2, 2015

ABN 036/15: Common military syllabus Reserves course documentation and joining instructions

ABN 035/15: Formation of the Defence Safety Authority

ABN 034/15: Administrative action taken following a police caution

ABN 033/15: Funded higher education opportunities

ABN 032/15: Enhancements to the overseas allowance package

ABN 031/15: Building an Army language capability

ABN 030/15: Lead First – Army Reservist officer scheme

ABN 029/15: Armed Forces pay review body 2015 pay award

ABN 028/15: Civilian performance management – moderation panel numbering

DIN 2015DIN01-084: Reduction in lifetime allowance – budget 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-083: Pensions tax – scheme pays for in-year leavers

DIN 2015DIN01-082: Pension tax – lifetime allowance, annual allowance and pensions earning cap

DIN 2015DIN01-081: Special bonus and minor awards scheme – policy update

DIN 2015DIN01-080: Changes to pension benefits for Gurkhas who transferred to the Armed Forces pension scheme 1975

DIN 2015DIN01-079: Defence representation at LGBT Pride in London parade 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-078: Promotion to leading engineering technician – requirement for special SJAR reports

DIN 2015DIN01-077: The statutory powers of entry and search authorised and exercised by the commanding officers in accordance with sections 87, 88 and 91 of the Armed Forces Act 2006

DIN 2015DIN01-075: Process for purchasing added pension contracts (formerly known as additional voluntary contributions) under Armed Forces pension scheme 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-074: Changes to the Armed Forces pension scheme 1975

DIN 2015DIN01-073: The award of acting higher rank of lieutenant colonel to officers attending the French language course at the Defence Academy immediately prior to attendance at the Ecole de Guerre (the French staff college)

DIN 2015DIN01-071: Regular nursing officer entry eligibility

DIN 2015DIN01-070: Performance management – civilian medical practitioners

DIN 2015DIN01-069: Performance management and pay reform – civilian dental practitioners

DIN 2015DIN01-068: Civil service pensions: purchasing added pension

DIN 2015DIN01-067: Changes to pension schemes for civil servants, teachers and NHS from April 1, 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-066: Recruitment for the department's corporate development scheme "means of identifying and developing internal talent" at C2 launches on March 16

DIN 2015DIN01-061: Additional duties commitment – use for Reservists on approved and funded individual training and educational courses or training events between 16 and 180 days

DIN 2015DIN01-060: Service police codes of practice

DIN 2015DIN01-059: Reserve service and the UK benefits system

DIN 2015DIN01-058: Army policy on tattoos and piercings

DIN 2015DIN01-057: The Professional Engineering Institution Churchill Medal Award 2014/15

DIN 2015DIN01-056: Late-entry commission in the Royal Corps of Signals

DIN 2015DIN01-055: Clarification of sanctions available to full-time Reserve service resulting from major administrative action

DIN 2015DIN01-054: JSP 342 *Education of Service Children and Young People. Interim Policy on Preserved Rights for Overseas Schooling Fees*

DIN 2015DIN02-002: Volunteers for specialist human intelligence duties – Op Samson

DIN 2015DIN03-007: Diplomatic clearance requirements for foreign state aircraft in the USA

DIN 2015DIN03-006: Management of MoD nuclear targeting capability

DIN 2015DIN03-005: Policy and procedures for the use, prioritisation and tasking of command support air transport

DIN 2015DIN04-069: The withdrawal from service of ADAC 11405-01 (cartridge shotgun 12 bore 00 buckshot LE127 00) and 11406-02 (cartridge shotgun 12 bore

rifled slug F 127 RS)

DIN 2015DIN04-067: Provision of a multimodal UK and worldwide commercial surface movements service

DIN 2015DIN04-066: Limited extension to confirmed out-of-service date for pistol 7.65mm, L47A1, Walther

DIN 2015DIN04-065: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within DMC 5Z7 and 5Z7TI

DIN 2015DIN04-064: Surveillance and target acquisition equipment that must be managed on James by serial number due to international traffic and arms regulations

DIN 2015DIN04-063: Declaration of confirmed out-of-service date for the shotgun, combat, 12 bore, L128A1 (Benelli combat shotgun)

DIN 2015DIN04-062: Required information on movements documentation

DIN 2015DIN04-061: Provisioning of fuel assurance equipment: additive kit (FSII), 6630-01-165-7133; water detection capsules, 6630-99-224-1108; water detection syringe, 6630-99-224-1107

DIN 2015DIN04-060: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within DMCs W6, W6RAF, W6RN

DIN 2015DIN04-058: The withdrawal from service of round 0.22in ball L5A1 and the introduction of the replacement ammunition nature round 0.22in LR club L1A1

DIN 2015DIN04-057: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within domestic management code W14

DIN 2015DIN04-056: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within domestic management code V6

DIN 2015DIN04-055: Backloading of all surplus and unserviceable Mk 6, Mk 6A and Mk 7 helmets

DIN 2015DIN04-054: Immediate withdrawal of monocular night vision goggles from all holding units

DIN 2015DIN04-053: Cryptographic items/services: obsolescence, funding, procurement and support process

DIN 2015DIN04-052: Return of serviceable A1/A2 Future Integrated Soldier Technology, contracting availability Thales optronics equipment and contracting availability support equipment to original equipment manufacture is to cease immediately

DIN 2015DIN04-051: Declaration of out-of-service date extended for the pistol pyrotechnic 1.5in, No 4, Mk 1/1; DMC PYRO, NSN 1095-99-960-8506

DIN 2015DIN04-050: Nato Functional Area Services software distribution

DIN 2015DIN05-013: The Defence Safety Authority initial operating

capability structure, roles and responsibilities from April 1, 2015

DIN 2015DIN05-012: The formation of the Defence People organisation

DIN 2015DIN05-010: Defence road safety week, Nov 23-27, 2015

DIN 2015DIN05-009: Announcing the publication of the MoD's policy on customer service lines

DIN 2015DIN05-008: Restriction of industry provider access via the MoD industry portal service white list to MoD network resources

DIN 2015DIN06-013: Claims and insurance provisions for the use of MoD vehicles in the UK and overseas and confirmation of motor liability cover

DIN 2015DIN06-012: Compensation scheme for radiation linked diseases

DIN 2015DIN06-011: Release of Fuel and Gas Safety Regulator notice (2015) 001 – *Oil Water Interceptor Upgrade and Maintenance*

DIN 2015DIN06-010: Asbestos in Main Building rooms B3-J-02 and 03

DIN 2015DIN06-009: JSP 403 *Handbook of Defence Land Ranges Safety Part 1 and 2*

DIN 2015DIN07-074: Adventurous training planning expeditions in 2016 to Nepal

DIN 2015DIN07-073: Joint Service Alpine meet 2015

DIN 2015DIN07-072: Introduction of the Army's sports appointment course

DIN 2015DIN07-070: Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps post-registration selection board application procedure and professional development course list

DIN 2015DIN07-069: Fitness information software system 2-O

DIN 2015DIN07-068: Army trainer capability policy and implementation

DIN 2015DIN07-067: Army trainer capability courses delivered by the Army Education Services, 2015/16

DIN 2015DIN07-066: International events available to members of the UK volunteer Reserve forces

DIN 2015DIN07-065: Defence stress and resilience training and education

DIN 2015DIN07-064: Joint counter-terrorism and advisory team – Op Verditer visitors' course

DIN 2015DIN07-063: 2014/15 Cyber operational awareness courses, annex a – application form

DIN 2015DIN07-062: UK Reserve Forces Association Scottish Military Skills Competition 2015

DIN 2015DIN07-061: Alternative aerobic assessment

DIN 2015DIN07-060: The aircrew instructors' course

DIN 2015DIN07-058: The Sandhurst

Group senior non-commissioned officer instructors' cadre 2016

DIN 2015DIN07-057: Army Education Services support to soldiers to schools

DIN 2015DIN07-056: Army higher education opportunities – Open University BA (Hons) in international studies for academic year 2015/16

DIN 2015DIN07-055: Higher education opportunities – higher defence studies programme

DIN 2015DIN07-053: The Army skills offer

DIN 2015DIN07-050: Employment training administrative instruction for military working dog handlers (Regular and Reserve)

DIN 2015DIN08-003: 2014/15 Annual report and accounts – closure of feeders

DIN 2015DIN09-004: Call for nominations – chief scientific adviser commendation scheme

DIN 2015DIN10-029: British Army motorsports event – Magnum Spirit

DIN 2015DIN10-028: British Army motorsports event – Festival of Army Motorsports

DIN 2015DIN10-027: 2015 Tri-Service Karting Championship

DIN 2015DIN10-026: Inter-Services Twenty20 cricket

DIN 2015DIN10-025: Army kitesurfing courses and events 2015

DIN 2015DIN10-024: Army Festival of Climbing 2015

DIB10/15: General election – guidance on conduct for MoD staff

DIB09/15: Updated civilian performance appraisal process for 2015/16

DIB08/15: New employment model – programme update

DIB07/15: PUS writes to staff about the corporate action plan

DIB06/15: Armed Forces Day 2015 national event programme finalised

DIB05/15: Enhancements to the overseas offer for Service personnel

DIB04/15: Armed Forces pay award 2015



REUNION

Remembrance Travel, the tour operator of The Royal British Legion, will be arranging free trips to the Normandy beaches in May, September and October for veterans, their carer and a relative, funded by the Libor bank fines. For more details on the five-day visits and to apply telephone Arena Travel on 01473 660800.

Commando sapper reunion on May 15-17. Concurrent wives' and girlfriends' social. For tickets and information contact 01271 857607.

LGBT Veterans' Ball. All those who have served since the 1940s and

identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are invited to this event at the Victoria Park Plaza Hotel in London on June 7. For details contact Alastair Smith on 07970 785913.

81st Artillery clerks' reunion and association dinner on June 10-12 at Larkhill. AGM followed by dinner on June 13. For full details contact reunion secretary, Maj Ian Constantine, on 0207 448718 or email ian.constantine758@mod.uk

Roebuck Company, Royal Rifle Volunteers/3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Op Telic 6, 2005 reunion on June 13 at F Coy, 7 Rifles, Davies Street, London. For details contact mike.scott-hyde@bt.com

The Royal Pioneer Corps Association annual reunion on July 3-5 at The Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. For details contact Norman Brown on 01869 360694 or email royalpioneercorps@gmail.com

Army Apprentices College Harrogate "intake 75C" 40-year reunion on September 12 at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. For details email ray.bray@gmail.com

Mansergh Troop 75/76, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery reunion on September 12-13. Open to all ex-Mansergh Troop 75/76 and their partners. Venue and timings to be confirmed. To attend contact Mike Cave on 07516 633675.



ROADSHOWS

The Army Engagement Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to its hi-tech roadshow. The event starts with a reception and is followed by a presentation, questions and refreshments. There will be a range of military personnel on hand to answer questions. Call 01276 412880 or email your name and address to armymediacomm-aeg-mailbox@mod.uk with the event you are interested in attending.

May: 26, Ayr; 27, Inverness; 28, Stirling.

June: 24, Luton.



SEARCHLINE

The publishers of a new book, *Afghanistan – Britain's War in Helmand*, are looking for anecdotes to include in the title. The historical account will be reviewed by the MoD before publication and is being collated by two former officers. Ex-soldiers can send their stories and images directly but if you are serving please inform the chain of command. Contact DRA Publishing, Sherwell House, 54 Staddiscombe Road, Plymouth PL9 9NB or send an email to david@dramedia.co.uk

NO. 882

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



TEN details have been changed on this picture of staff from 2 Close Support Battalion, REME on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Stalag XIB prisoner camp.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 882, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,

Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by May 29, 2015.

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 July issue. Usual rules apply.

March's winner: Colin Coull, Camberley, Surrey.

Runners up: LCpl Adelle Tudor, Fulwood Barracks, Preston and Dale Hawkins, Newent, Gloucestershire.





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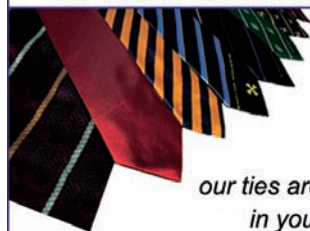
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Welsh Guards 'Trooping The Colour' in their Centenary Year

1915 saw the raising of the Welsh Guards by order of King George V. A few days after, the Battalion mounted its first King's Guard at Buckingham Palace. Later that year they found themselves in France ready to do battle. A century on and celebrating their 100 years the Welsh Guards once again have the honour of parading before the country's reigning monarch as part of the Queen's Birthday Parade and Trooping The Colour.

To mark both of these historic occasions BFPS, in partnership with the Welsh Guards, is producing a special commemorative cover to be released on the 13 June 2015. The cover carries superb past and present images of the Battalion on ceremonial and combat duties. Signed limited editions will be available to buy. A Welsh regional definitive stamp will be franked by the unique BFPS numbered special hand stamp, the centre of which shows a silhouette of a leek, the emblem of the Welsh Guards.

The covers may be purchased from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop) from the 13 June 2015 and cost just £6 for the unsigned version and £12 for the signed version (UK/BFPO p&p free). However they will be available to order on a strictly first-come-first-served basis before this date. Check with our website for further details. The covers are also available by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS, The Old Post Office, Links Place, Elie, Fife KY9 1AX.





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MOVIES



PICK OF THE MONTH:
GREYHAWK

OUTSIDER

NEW TITLE SHINES LIGHT
ON TRANSITION

Interview: Joe Clapson

THIS debut movie from director Guy Pitt about a blind man losing his guide dog makes some powerful points regarding soldiers who struggle with the adjustment to civilian life.

Greyhawk follows Mal Walker (Alec Newman), who loses his sight serving in Afghanistan but now lives on a rough London council estate.

The British veteran is just days away from leaving town to start a new life in the country with his beloved Labrador, Quince, but after an argument with a gang of youths his companion disappears.

What follows is an upsettingly bleak depiction of an outsider shambling his way around a dangerous environment and struggling to retrieve the only thing he trusts.

Speaking to *Soldier*, Newman explained why the film appealed to him.

"I used to live in the US and I was very aware of the pride and value that Americans show for troops who defend their country and I felt this was something lacking in the UK," he said.

"I'd looked into doing something on the Forces but it never happened so when this opportunity came round I had already done my homework on post-traumatic stress disorder and the story made a lot of sense to me."

In order to understand the nuances of living without vision Newman worked closely with the charity Blind Veterans UK.

"When they offered their help it was a no-brainer," the actor added.

"They bundled me into a car and put blackout goggles on me, which completely deprived me of my sight.

"It gave me an idea of what it means to be blind, what it does to your emotions and how your other senses are heightened."

Aside from Newman's outstanding performance as a sightless ex-Serviceman the strength of this film lies in its portrayal of an awkward loner who is uncomfortable in his surroundings.

In one scene, Mal hopelessly searches through the streets on his hands and knees while snapping at anyone who attempts to help him.

"He is a strong character and does not want to be defined by his blindness," explained Newman.

"The film is as much about him being an Afghanistan vet as it is about his lack of sight – this is a man who has come back from war and is smashed to bits."

The star added: "Whether they are blind or not, lots of soldiers leave the Army and don't have time for civilians or the way things are done outside the Forces – it can be a tough transition.

"Mal is very intolerant of civilians and is reluctant to interact with just about anyone – these are actions of an ex-soldier, not a blind man."

Greyhawk, which is out on DVD on May 25, is not based on a particular individual but the issues highlighted are hugely pertinent and will resonate with soldiers and civilians alike.

"I'm very proud that people can see this at the point when British troops have just left Afghanistan," Newman said.

"It speaks about things that often go unnoticed, so if it can make some small positive impact I would be very happy." ■

VERDICT: A powerful insight into life as an ex-soldier struggling on civvy street ★★★★★



INTERSTELLAR out now

WITH Earth slowly dying, **Matthew McConaughey** and his team leave their families behind and set out on a mission to find an alternative planet for humans. As they travel through a wormhole to another galaxy time quickly accelerates and at one point a two-hour trip costs them 20 years. Visually stunning, with a great cast, this film makes you ponder whether you would sacrifice everything to save humanity.

SSgt Mike Owens, RE

VERDICT: A sci-fi epic that raises some interesting questions ★★★★★



ROAD TO PALOMA out now

IT is enjoyable to watch the mean, muscly and moody Native American named Wolf in action after he is denied justice for the murder of his mother but this movie is not overly exciting. Having brutally avenged his parent's death he is a fugitive, relentlessly pursued by an FBI agent. The odd fight scene makes this depressing story bearable but the whole plot of Wolf wanting to scatter his mother's ashes is pretty tenuous.

Maj Neil Johnson, AAC

VERDICT: Mercifully short with a decent folksy-rock soundtrack ★★★★★



TESTAMENT OF YOUTH out May 25

SWEDISH actress **Alicia Vikander** is excellent as the indomitable Vera Brittain, who became the first person to document the First World War from a woman's point of view. Brittain is studying at Oxford when her male counterparts are called to the front line and she feels compelled to do her bit, so volunteers as a nurse. This adaptation of the pacifist's memoir is a revealing tale of love, death and sacrifice during wartime.

Joe Clapson, Soldier

VERDICT: Stellar acting performances in a gripping Great War tale ★★★★★



RECLAIM out now

THIS movie depicts the seedy underworld of human trafficking. An American couple believe they have adopted a girl from a well established agency but it emerges that they are victims of an elaborate scam. The plot is exciting as the pair pay for the child only to have her kidnapped, but the film's pace is rather slow. Shoddy graphics also detract from what is a decent tale of parents risking their lives to save their daughter.

Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

VERDICT: Watchable but let down by some bad CGI effects ★★★★★



THE LAST SURVIVORS out May 4

A GRIPPING film about the importance of water for survival. The movie shows how being under threat of death brings out instincts such as greed and violence as well as loyalty and commitment. The cat-and-mouse story sees the farmland people under siege from an industrial water baron. It is emotional as those living on the barren space are hunted down but also uplifting when morals and bravery win out.

Musn Victoria Carter, CAMUS

VERDICT: A great film to sit down to with some popcorn ★★★★★



WIN... WHIPLASH

THIS spellbinding drama will be released digitally this month and arrives on Blu-ray and DVD on June 1. A young drummer strives to be world class but his music teacher is a brutal perfectionist. *Soldier* has teamed up with Sony Pictures Home Entertainment to offer copies of the DVD to three lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning just tell us how many Academy Awards *Whiplash* was nominated for. Send your answers to the usual postal address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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GAMES



PICK OF THE MONTH:
BATTLEFIELD HARDLINE

COMBAT TO COPS

FRANCHISE FALLS SHORT IN PURSUIT OF
THE LAW

THE *Battlefield* franchise has moved away from the all-out war we have become used to in military titles and switched to a Hollywood-style cops and robbers shooter in its latest instalment, *Hardline*.

Although the plot has changed the destructible scenery is better than ever, the maps are still big and detailed, the gameplay and graphics are great and there is a good choice of weapon systems and vehicles.

In the single-player campaign you fill the boots of Nick Mendoza, an American detective recently transferred to the Miami drugs squad.

The game makes the most of its US law enforcement backdrop as you work with a partner on a narcotics bust.

But unlike previous *Battlefield* campaigns you have as many chances to arrest the bad guys as to shoot them.

While the trigger-happy option may appeal to those wishing to pursue a hardened approach the need to sneak around and make lawful detentions is the key to success on certain missions.

If you can get the jump on a group of three or fewer baddies you can order them to freeze by pulling out your badge and shouting.

You can then make the arrest or shoot them. The former is usually the superior option because it earns more points and that means extra weapons and kit.

While the single-player is okay it does grow tiresome after a while. The idea that you can detain a villain just a few feet from his partner in crime without them noticing is pretty unrealistic.

I ended up wishing the enemy had more balls and brains. I can only put up with so many sneak, distract and takedown combinations before I get fed up and try to blast my way to victory.

But the multiplayer experience is the real attraction. The levels are interesting and the combination of new gadgets, like the grappling hook and zip-line, give you access to vantage points and allow you to move around quickly.

It takes everything from the "Conquest" mode – large-scale combat, 66 players and variations of weapons and kit – and adds them to "Hotwire", the title's new offering.

Here you have to keep control of moving vehicles and the quicker you drive the higher your score. Changing the bases from a static location to fast cars full of thugs with assault rifles adds to the mayhem.

Although I admire Visceral Games for having the guts to apply a totally new concept they haven't really pulled it off.

They have introduced some excellent map designs for the multiplayer but the campaign is dull and the vehicles and weapons are less fun than in previous versions of *Battlefield*.

This is good if you have some mates to play with online but isn't as polished as what's gone before. ■

VERDICT: If you want real cops and robbers stick to *Grand Theft Auto* ★★★★★

DRAGON AGE INQUISITION

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC



AS I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil... oh who cares, I have elves, humans and a giant with horns on my side. At last a title to rival the *Elder Scrolls* series has arrived. This is a highly enjoyable experience as you take charge of a team of four to battle an array of enemies that stand in your way. Expansive maps offer endless exploration and an overwhelming push of graphic ability makes this even more enjoyable. Challenges lie at every corner.

Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

VERDICT: Great graphics and longevity make this a keeper ★★★★★

NEVER ALONE

for Xbox One/PS4/PC



ALTHOUGH this is quite a short game its charm, coupled with the opportunity to explore a new culture, makes it utterly captivating. By mixing platform, puzzle and documentary it creates an expressive medium that allows you to get in touch with a civilisation that has been dealing with nature's hardships for centuries and tackle some real brain-scratching problems in the process. This is a great way of telling a unique story and offering insight into a different world.

SSgt Lee Gibbs, REME

VERDICT: A fresh and enthralling approach to the realm of gaming ★★★★★

FINAL FANTASY TYPE-0

for Xbox One and PS4



IT is obvious from the outset that this is not like other *Final Fantasy* games. *Type-0* is far darker than earlier efforts and we are quickly immersed in the harshness of war as an entire city is ravaged. But Class Zero – a group of students targeted by the attacking Militesi Empire – mount a fightback and some slick combat is unleashed at the tap of a button. The action-heavy missions prove challenging and while some of the levels are restrictive they are still rewarding.

Richard Long, Soldier

VERDICT: A welcome addition to the *Final Fantasy* family ★★★★★

THE CREW

for PS4



THIS is an ambitious open-world racing experience spanning the entire length of America. While the sheer scale is impressive it comes at a cost as the single-player story lacks direction. In terms of gameplay it is definitely more arcade focused meaning the controls are loose and at times frustrating. I really wanted to like this due to its ambition but there are much better alternatives such as *Drive Club* and *Forza Horizon 2* out there to enjoy.

Ashley Swarbrick, ex-RLC

VERDICT: A crew that could have done so much more ★★★★★

SAINTS ROW IV: GAT OUT OF HELL

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC



IN the latest chapter of the *Saints Row* franchise you take the role of Johnny Gat as he is sent into hell to combat demons, the horrors of the underworld and, of course, the devil himself. This is a comedy action-adventure filled with mindless killing and if you like easy-going games you'll love what's on offer here. Various condemned characters serve up extra challenges and the cut scenes are entertaining at times but the real attraction is the armchair-mounted mini-guns.

Cpl Neil Edwards, R Signals

VERDICT: A short game with exaggerated action and ugly graphics ★★★★★

DEAD OR ALIVE 5 LAST ROUND

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC



AMAZINGLY colourful and exuberant graphics meet you as you start this next chapter in the *Dead or Alive* saga. The brilliantly crafted characters are primarily comprised of females, for which you can select outfits including overly revealing lingerie, but this does little to help what is a second-rate and simple fighting game that is overshadowed by the likes of *Mortal Combat*. The feeble storyline is another nail in the coffin.

Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

VERDICT: A bewildering offering and a rather poor show ★★★★★

MUSIC

PICK OF THE MONTH:
THE DAY IS MY ENEMY

ANGER ISSUES

DANCE PIONEERS DELIVER
FURIOUS FEEL

Review: Richard Long

IT is hard to imagine what The Prodigy have to be angry about.

In a career that now stretches across three decades the trio have served up five studio albums that have pushed the boundaries of dance music and spawned spectacular live shows the world over.

Previous offering *Invaders Must Die* hinted at the dark undertones of new release *The Day is My Enemy* – which has been almost six years in the making – and the band's driving force, Liam Howlett, admitted the "angry humanity" that exists within the modern "urban nightmare" was the starting point for the project.

"I can't tell you why this record came out so angry, I think it's just inbuilt in me," the songwriter explained.

"It's more about what I like music to do. I've always seen music as a form of attack, that's what I use it for.

"I didn't plan this album to sound violent, it's just what came out of the studio, a kind of build up over the last four years. 'Anger is an energy'; that's a lyric which always resonated with me.

"The tension is buried deep in the music right from the first drop.

"It's all about the sound having that sense of danger. That's what The Prodigy has always been about."

A scan through the track listing offers an insight into what is to come as titles such as *Nasty*, *Destroy*, *Get Your Fight On* and *Wall of Death* underline the angst that flows through the album.

The band's last record laid furious foundations on the likes of *Omen* and *Take Me to the Hospital* and that template has been built upon here.

A pounding chorus of military drums underpins the impressive self-titled opener, a tune that sets pulses racing with its energy-charged vibe.

Lead single *Nasty* provides the perfect platform for frontman Keith Flint's trademark blend of singing and screaming while *Ibiza*, featuring vocals from Sleaford Mods, delivers a no-holds-barred punkish attack on the famed party island.

Evidence of the various electro sub-genres surges through what follows, with techno cropping up on *Destroy* and drum 'n' bass forming the inspiration for *Wild Frontier* and the superb *Roadblox*.

But despite straying in different directions the album maintains its frenetic pace throughout, so if you find yourself craving a timeout mid-listen you'd better reach for the pause button.

On the whole, this is a spectacular return to form that underlines the band's status as the world's top dance act.

And having armed themselves with a battery of aggression-fuelled anthems The Prodigy will expect to continue their assault as this summer's festival season kicks off. ■

VERDICT: Nearly six years in the making but well worth the wait

★★★★★

Desolation Sounds by Gallows

TO mark their tenth anniversary, punk outfit **Gallows** have released a fourth album – *Desolation Sounds*. Lyrically and musically they

are a very different band from the one that brought us *Grey Britain* and the fact you can't imagine them making this with **Frank Carter**, who has now left the line-up, will be a deal-breaker for some. All in all it successfully rides the line between innovation and self-indulgence and will challenge listeners as much as inspire circle pits at gigs.



Cpl Nick Reader, Rifles

VERDICT: A new style and a new album as the band evolves

★★★★★

Into the Wild Life by Halestorm

MARKETED as some kind of hellraiser rock chick, **Lzzy Hale** and her band **Halestorm** release new album *Into the Wild Life*.

However, the irony of this group and its image is summed up in the title of closing track *I Like It Heavy* as there is absolutely nothing heavy about this record. This is pop-rock by numbers and at its apparent finest given the acclaim the offering has received. It is no more rocky than some of **Pink's** grittier tunes, but if that's what flicks your switch you won't be disappointed. Hale has put some fire in her vocals but in truth it's not that convincing.



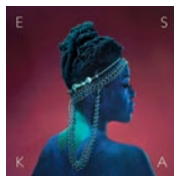
Matt Walpole, ex-PWRR

VERDICT: Pop music with a serving of leather and studs

★★★★★

Eska by Eska

POSSESSING one of the most memorable voices in the UK right now, **Eska** weaves together diverse elements – hints of folk, soul, psychedelia and electronic and pairs them with stirring vocals born from burning passion. There's no denying she has a decent pair of lungs but this is quite a slow album and you tend to get drawn into the lyrics more than the actual music, which seems as if it's getting in the way at times. While this is decent enough it feels as though something is missing.



Rodge Tapply, ex-EF

VERDICT: Excellent vocals but lacking a degree of oomph

★★★★★

The Order of Things by All That Remains

THIS album feels a lot like what has gone before and shows little evidence of a band pushing the boundaries of innovation. When

All That Remains stick to the arithmetic we're given modest groove pieces that chug along cautiously to the robotic vanilla-like vocals of **Phil Labonte**. But robots get stuck, collapse and lose steam at times. The opening "we're here" songs have more bark than bite and the ballad *For You* is so lightweight it evaporates on contact with your ear.



LCpl Lindsay Whyte, Int Corps

VERDICT: A truly, madly and deeply average affair

★★★★★

Strange Trails by Lord Huron

WHERE do I start with *Strange Trails*?

All of the songs sound exactly the same and they lack any excitement or spark needed to make this worth listening to again. At best it is background noise for a doctor's waiting room. There are no standout tracks because they simply all merge into one 90-minute dose of pure and utter boredom. The whole album is just another example of the bland folk sound that is currently plaguing an increasingly tasteless music industry. Easily the worst record I've listened to in the past 12 months.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: One to mark and avoid in true military fashion

★★★★★

Beyond the Red Mirror by Blind Guardian

YOU might be forgiven for thinking German metal band **Blind Guardian** are flogging you the same dying horse that **Judas Priest**

overloaded on in the 80s and 90s: colourful ambition set to the sort of complacent guitar riffs you hear on a video game main menu. But like Priest it is only after you're exhausted by the vocalist's theatrics that elegance finally emerges out of the thumping kitsch and you can begin to appreciate the thoroughly solid songwriting on offer.

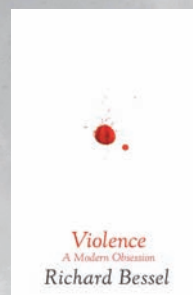
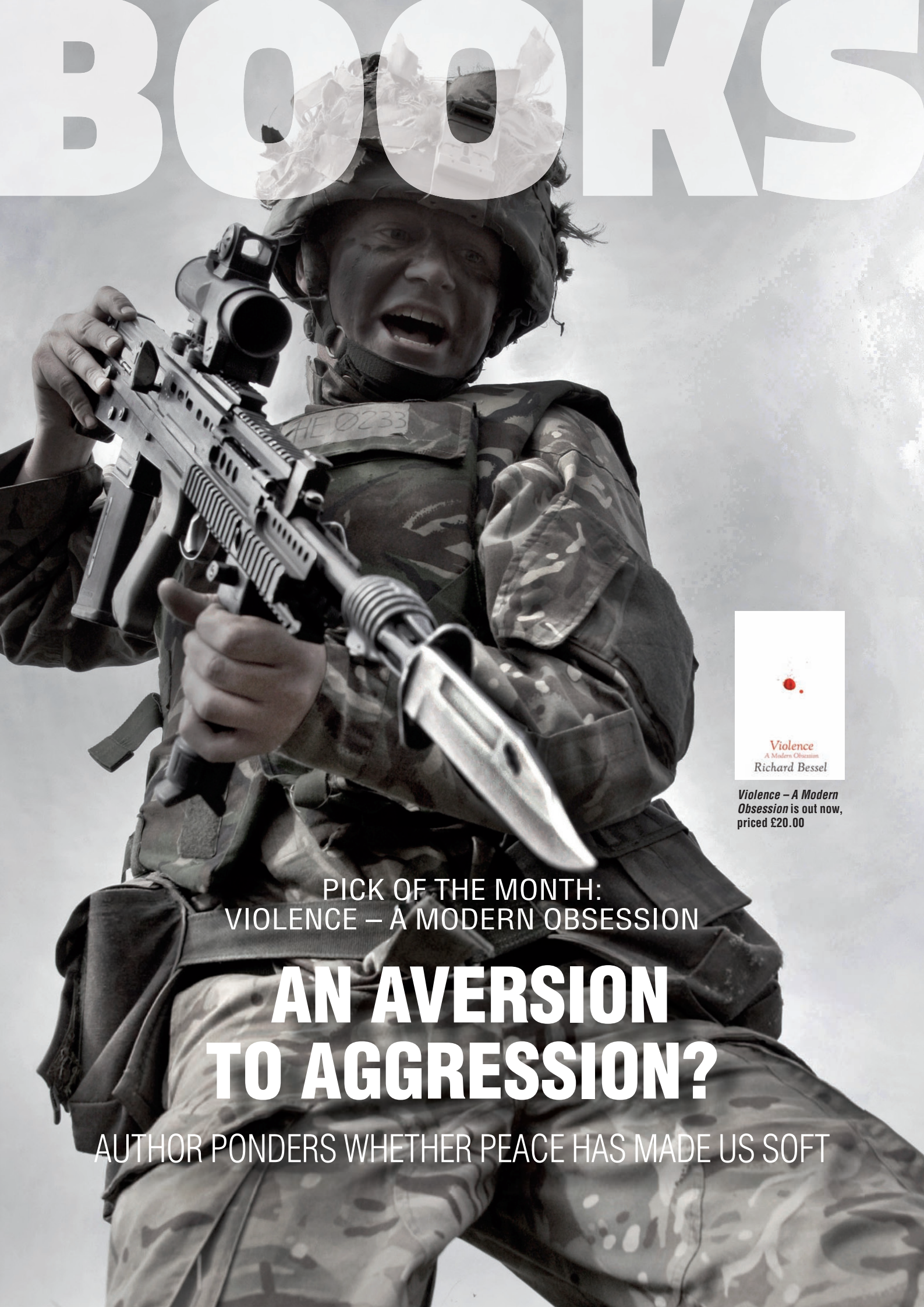


LCpl Lindsay Whyte, Int Corps

VERDICT: A sharp reflection but nothing beyond that

★★★★★

BOOKS



Violence – A Modern Obsession is out now, priced £20.00

PICK OF THE MONTH:
VIOLENCE – A MODERN OBSESSION

AN AVERSION TO AGGRESSION?

AUTHOR PONDERES WHETHER PEACE HAS MADE US SOFT

Interview: Becky Clark

EXACTLY 70 years on from the end of the Second World War, the number of military and civilian lives lost during the conflict remains difficult to fathom.

Even harder to imagine in today's comparably peaceful times, is a scenario in which Western societies would accept death and destruction on anywhere near the same scale.

Just how and why our tolerance to acts of war and aggression has shrunk so dramatically in the space of a few decades is the subject of a new book, *Violence – A Modern Obsession*, by the University of York's Prof Richard Bessel.

Explaining his interest in the field, the academic told *Soldier*: "I was doing some research for my previous title about Germany in 1945 – when the Wehrmacht lost 450,000 troops in January alone – and at the same time on the news I was hearing concerns about casualty figures in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I was struck by the difference in attitude."

The author's family history also played a role. Bessel's father was a US Serviceman who was present at the liberation of Dachau concentration camp, while his mother's parents perished in Latvia at the hands of the Nazis.

Using their stories along with many other instances of brutality, he reveals how violence – not just war-related, but also political or even domestic in nature – was much more prevalent in the first half of the 20th century.

"Since then, through a combination of factors, we see a heightened sensitivity to violence, which I believe has really become an obsession," continued Bessel.

"In the West we exist in an amazingly peaceful, prosperous society, therefore we have less to gain and much more to lose through engaging in acts of violence."

As for how this shift in thinking has manifested itself in the military sphere, the book describes how warfare has changed almost beyond recognition since 1945.

"The bombing campaigns of the Second World War, which deliberately targeted millions of civilians, are a world away from how the Armed Forces conduct themselves these days," commented Bessel.

"The slogan of the US Strategic Air Command was 'Peace is our Profession'. Ministries of War became Ministries of Defence.

"Even combat itself has changed. You now have an increasingly complex logistical chain and a much smaller percentage of troops engaged in actual fighting.

"And unlike 70 or 80 years ago, you have a relatively small proportion of the general population who have experience of the military or war compared to millions in the last century."

For most of us then, our exposure to violence in general is mercifully limited.

That the days of public lynchings, rampant domestic abuse and world wars are behind us is something we can all be thankful for – that much is obvious.

But has all this peace made us soft?

"I hesitate to use that word," mused Bessel.

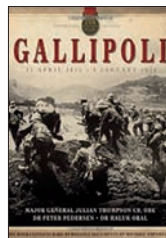
"But if it's a choice between softness and hardness, I think soft is better.

"That's not to say we might not revert back in the future, but it's difficult to imagine." ■

Gallipoli by Thompson, Pedersen and Oral

THIS offensive has generated more English language books than any other First World War battle. So you might think that we don't need yet another.

At least that was my reaction on receiving this boxed edition. I am not a great fan of coffee table histories but this one is concise, well-presented and readable. The chronology is detailed and encompasses every aspect of the struggle to control the Dardanelles. Most importantly it covers the Allied and Ottoman perspectives, not just the Anzac story.



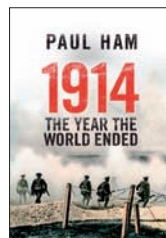
Mike Peters, ex-AAC

VERDICT: A useful addition to the literature on this disaster ★★★★★

1914 The Year the World Ended

by Paul Ham

IN this gripping title, Paul Ham brings a fresh perspective to a topic that is arguably reaching saturation point. By examining how human emotions influenced the build-up to the First World War, the historian rubbishes the idea that Europe stumbled into conflict unknowingly. Out in paperback now, this book will be relished as much by aficionados of the era as it will by those looking for their first read on the subject. I highly recommend it.



Sarah Goldthorpe, *Soldier*

VERDICT: Considered, eloquent and thought-provoking ★★★★★

The Brotherhood

by Craig W Emms

ANOTHER title in the Sgt John Smith – ex SAS, mercenary and jailbird – series. If you like shoot-'em-up type books, where reality is suspended then this is for you. In this instalment, Smith and his team of former soldiers take on Albanian criminals flooding into Britain. Police and security services are thoroughly compromised, leaving the vigilantes to take out the gang in a variety of violent ways. Definitely one for the barrack room shelf.



Andy Kay, ex-RS

VERDICT: A fantastical tale and good holiday reading ★★★★★

Dead Wake

by Erik Larson

SOMETIMES military history books can be informative while being let down by turgid prose; not so with this gripping narrative of the *Lusitania's* sinking 100 years ago this month. The author introduces a whole host of individuals involved in the disaster and covers the ship's ill-fated transatlantic voyage in absorbing detail. However, it is when dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy, along with the attendant conspiracy theories, that Larson breaks new ground. I found the title very hard to put down.



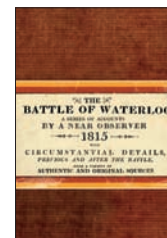
George Robey, ex-GH

VERDICT: A right riveting read which I recommend unreservedly ★★★★★

The Battle of Waterloo

edited by Simon Adams

IN his all-too-brief introduction, Simon Adams explains that this is a modern reprint of documents assembled after the Battle of Waterloo. There is nothing wrong with the collection – some of the records are interesting, others wildly inaccurate. But to be worthwhile they need an informed commentary and footnotes, which are lacking. Readers are given no guidance on the reliability of the texts and this negates the book's usefulness.



Dr Rodney Atwood, military historian

VERDICT: The absence of notes means this title is of limited value ★★★★★

WIN... A Gurkha bicentenary book

AS two gallant Gurkhas embark on a mission to circumnavigate Ellesmere Island in Canada (page 30), we have teamed up with Unicorn Press to give away two copies of *The Gurkhas – 200 Years of Service to the Crown*, a glossy history of these remarkable troops. To be in with a chance of winning one tell us the name of the infamous knives carried by Nepalese personnel. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldier magazine.co.uk. *Soldier* readers can also order the book for the special offer price of £30 (RRP £40) by emailing orders@unicornpress.org



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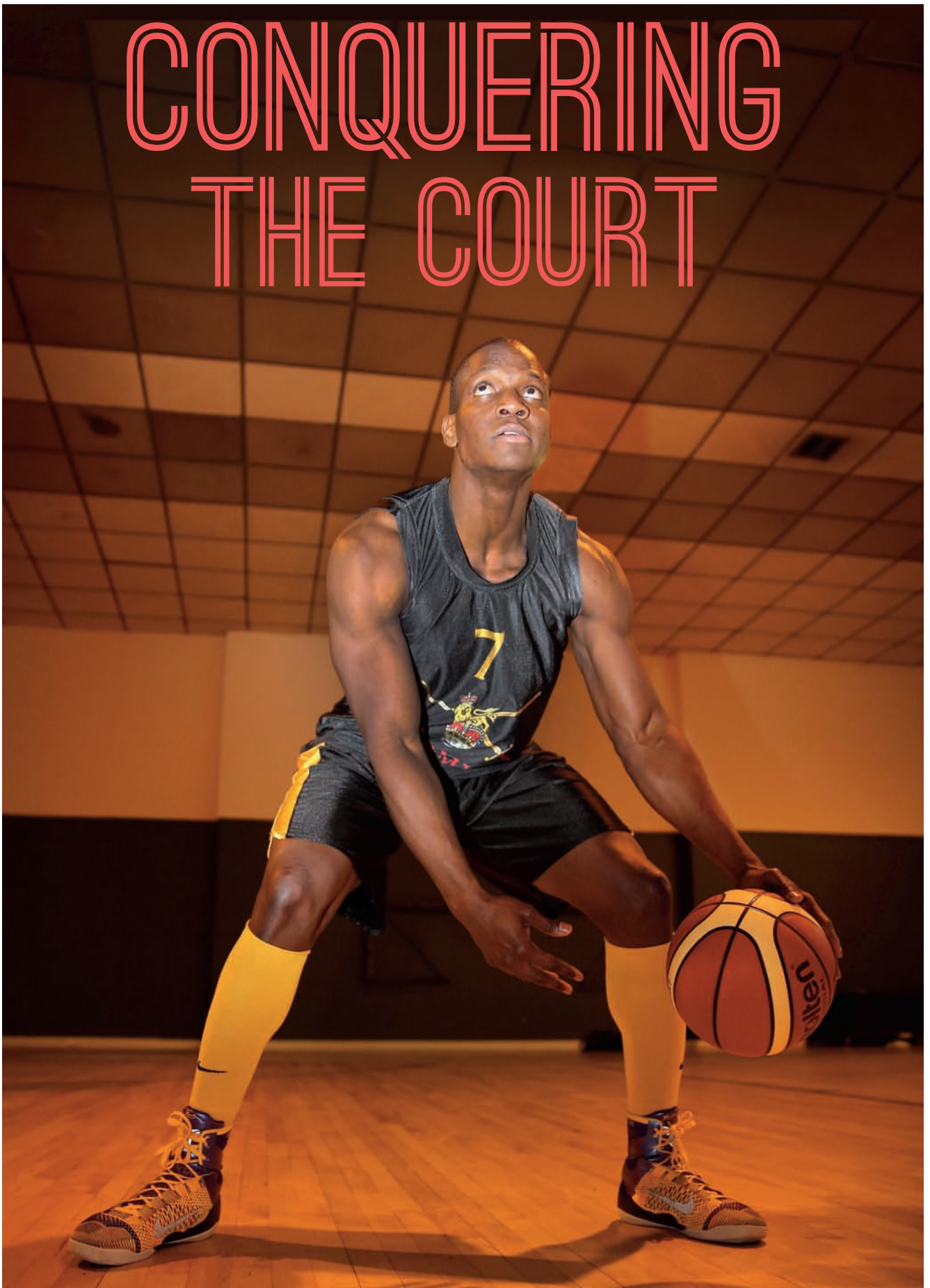
Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Final belles: The Army's boxers – including a five-strong female contingent – are in contention for national titles. Read about their hopes on page 77...



CONQUERING THE COURT



Basketball booms under Service's sporting push

A STRONG display from the men's team at last month's Inter-Services showdown underlined the current strength within the Army basketball scene.

More than 40 players attended a two-week training and selection camp in Grantham ahead of the tournament and with key personnel due to return to the fold the future is looking bright.

Head coach Cpl "Bam Bam" Daley (REME) told *SoldierSport* the discipline is thriving among the ranks, with corps and unit competitions forming the ideal proving ground for emerging talent.

"You can see that units are investing a lot of time in the sport and basketball is getting more recognition," he explained.

"The Inter-Corps contest is a vital fixture as it is a chance to spot new players. I want the best people to come forward and we are using PTIs in training regiments to identify newcomers as well."

Daley said the drawdown in Afghanistan has been another contributing factor towards the growth as more time is now available for sporting pursuits.

"Every year we'd have top players deployed on operations," he added. "I was away in 2013 along with three of the Army's main men."

"But those guys are now back and

we have a bigger pool to choose from.

"On a national level basketball has really taken off following the Olympics and it is the same in the Service."

Defeat in the women's competition saw the Army's stranglehold broken but captain WO2 Wendy Eagle (RLC) believes the set-up is the strongest it has been for a number of years.

While she acknowledged that those in mainstream sports are afforded

greater time off work she said the two-week camp was a real benefit.

"It gives us a chance to build on the skills needed to compete at corps level and progress to an Army standard," she explained.

"During the trials week you are not even guaranteed a place on the team. We have moved away from having individual coaches for each group and we now intermingle.

"It works really well. It makes us play harder and we are there to support one another."

And with victory against their Forces rivals seemingly guaranteed in recent times Eagle was quick to refute suggestions that complacency could become an issue.

"We are training harder than ever," the skipper said. "Even if it did creep in we'd soon be put back in our place by the coaching staff."

Men's captain Sgt Roshane Murray (RE, pictured far left) echoed Eagle's comments on training but said greater time on court would be a benefit.

"We would say it is not enough but I'm sure the Army thinks otherwise as people are needed at work," he added.

"However, we are looking good and the players are supporting what we are trying to do. When they come to us they want to get involved and be the best they can be." ■



Inter-Services Basketball

Senior men

Army 77
Royal Air Force 50

Army 86
Royal Navy 55

Senior women

Army 66
Royal Air Force 35

Army 35
Royal Navy 43

Under-23 men

Army 61
Royal Air Force 84

Army 53
Royal Navy 71

REDS' MIXED FORTUNES

» IT was a case of honours even at the Inter-Services Basketball Championships as all three Forces emerged with a trophy to their name.

The Army reaffirmed their status as the team to beat in the men's tournament as an 86-55 win against the Royal Navy was followed by a 77-50 defeat of the Royal Air Force.

But things didn't go to plan for the women's side, as they were beaten by the Senior Service – who were later crowned champions – in their opening match before returning to form with a 66-35 victory over the light blues.

The RAF secured the title at development level, where the soldiers suffered back-to-back losses in their matches.

"We were missing some key female players and that showed in the games," Daley said. "But we could have come away with a better result. Some of our stronger junior members were not released in time so we knew it was

going to be tough.

"The other Forces had experienced squads and that really helped them on the day.

"But it was comfortable for the men. Roshane Murray was the most valuable player and he was outstanding."



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Boxers eye national honours

ARMY coach SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) is eyeing a healthy return from the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) Championships as nine of his fighters chase national titles in the ring.

A five-strong contingent of female athletes – led by Commonwealth Games bronze medallist LCpl Alanna Murphy (RLC) – will compete at the tournament and with four Servicemen also in action the team has high hopes of success.

Browning has already guided his squad to a 32nd consecutive Combined Services title this season and Pte Kyle Morrison (RLC) added to the trophy haul when he won his final at the Welsh ABAs last month.

"It is one of those years where we have a real chance," he told *SoldierSport*. "LCpl Chez Nihell (1 PWRR) has a great opportunity at

heavyweight and Gnr Ryan Fillingham (RA) is the second seed in his division.

"LCpl Natty Ngwenya (Gren Gds) has already won the novice title at super heavyweight. He is still unbeaten so his confidence is sky high.

"The girls' competition is a bit of a lottery though. There are not many open-class fighters in the country so we have a chance. If they get to the final anything can happen.

"It's a great time for them to put their names on the map. In a couple of years they could find themselves in the England squad for the Commonwealth Games."

LCpl Alex Turbitt (R Signals) only joined the Army set-up this season and will compete in the final of the women's 75kg division.

She hails from a background in athletics and was introduced to boxing as a way of improving the

hand speed needed for her throwing events.

"I'm going straight in at the deep end but this is a great opportunity to prove I'm worthy of a place on the main stage," she said ahead of her fight at Liverpool's Echo Arena.

"I'm in the most professional set-up there is – without being an actual professional – and I have learnt so much since I've been here.

"My dad has never seen me fight so his first bout will be the final. I'm up against Natasha Gale, who has been in the Team GB set-up and is dropping down a weight.

"She is taller than me so I need to play it smart and get out of the way once I've thrown my shots."

Nihell is a two-time semi-finalist and is hoping to go all the way in his latest title bid.

He fought his first bout of the season at the Combined Services but said there will be no ring rust as he heads to Liverpool.

"Heavyweight is a strong category but it is open," he explained. "The top-ranked fighter has just retired and some of the top seeds will not be there.

"I'm going to box clever and will not underestimate anyone.

"This season has been a breath of fresh air. We are going to the finals with nine fighters and there is no reason why we can't bring home some titles." ■



"I'm going straight in at the deep end"

LCpl Alex Turbitt

Army aims for top table

THE Army's new breed of table tennis players gave an encouraging performance at the annual Inter-Services competition.

A narrow defeat for the set-up's A squad in the final of the team championship saw the Royal Air Force's top seeds triumph but the individual tournament proved to be a happier hunting ground for the Reds.

The outfit's lead duo of LCpl Patrick Guy (1 R Irish, pictured) and Spr Kiran Tamang (RE) squared off in the gold-medal match and it was the latter who celebrated a 4-2 win.

Success in the Forces showdown highlighted the growing interest in the sport, which was witnessed at the recent Army Championships – where more than 30 players were in action.

"We have lost some of our top guys so there is a new bunch now coming through," Guy told *SoldierSport*.

"Hopefully we can build on that year on year. We had an international coach at the Army competition and that really helped those who are just starting out.

"Two of our B team members had not played competitively before this week and they were holding their own, which is encouraging for the future." ■



MORRISON MAKES HIS MOVE

» **BANTAMWEIGHT** star Pte Kyle Morrison (RLC) has joined the Army's roll call of international fighters following a successful campaign in the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association Championships.

The soldier put the disappointment of a controversial defeat at the Combined Services behind him to take the title following convincing wins in the tournament's semi-finals and final.

"I fought a guy who had only been beaten once in 35 bouts," the athlete explained. "He was really tough but the tactics we worked on in the gym really paid off and I defeated him in all three rounds.

"Joshua John, who is an eight-time Welsh champion, was my opponent in the final and he was comfortably beaten in every round, he was lucky to survive the fight really.

"At the start of the season if someone had said I'd win those fights so easily I would have thought they were having a laugh."

Morrison was eyeing further success with the Welsh squad as this issue went to press. The team was fighting in a multi-national tournament in Serbia, with a similar event to follow in Spain.

The Serviceman is also due to represent his country against England and Scotland on May 21.



Game brief

Date: April 1, 2015
Competition: Mobbs Memorial Match
Venue: Goldington Road, Bedford

Army

Dowding 1	Dwyer 2	Budgen 3
	Jones 4	Ball 5
Boladua 6	Jope 8	Robinson 7
Chennell 9		Dixon 10
Wessels 12	Nacamavuto 13	
Bulumakau 11	Balekinasiga 15	Tamatawale 14

Coach's comment

It was an interesting game. The Bedford Blues' number seven created a lot of damage at the breakdown – Saracens are looking to sign him for next season and I can see why.

Because we bought into the spirit of the fixture we were going wide early and perhaps played a little too much instead of working field position in certain areas. But our scrum and lineout worked well as did the driving maul, which we didn't use enough.

We were trying to put on a spectacle but when you make mistakes against professionals they are capitalised upon.



Capt
Andy
Sanger
(RE)



Blues boss memorial battle

Mobbs Memorial

Bedford Blues 47
Army 24

THE Army warmed up for this month's Twickenham showdown against the Royal Navy with a 47-24 defeat to the Bedford Blues.

A seven-try return from the Championship outfit formed the platform for the Reds' downfall as the dynamic running and athleticism of the host's young squad proved too hot to handle.

The soldiers made a promising start but after a decent spell of pressure they found themselves trailing as Piers O'Connor surged through the lines and Matt Howling was on hand to score.

But LCpl James Dixon (RE) fired an immediate response

with a penalty from distance and the fly half then propelled the Army forward for their opening try.

His kick downfield created an attacking position and a quick tap penalty saw Cpl Tom Chennell (REME) dart inside to the line following a strong run from SSgt Darrell Ball (RE).

However, the Blues hit back when prop forward Titi Lamositele touched down and they stretched their advantage in the 28th minute as the scrum held firm to allow centre Ollie Dodge to ghost through under the posts.

Further points followed as Howling punched a hole in the Reds' defence and with quick ball flowing across the field wing Dean Adamson was gifted a simple score.

Dodge added to his tally in the 44th minute but the Army showed their strength up front to fire a response.

Dixon pinned the hosts in the corner from a penalty and from the resulting lineout hooker LSgt Matt Dwyer (WVG) crashed home.

O'Connor reasserted his side's dominance following a sustained spell of Blues pressure that saw Lt Will Jones (R Welsh) sent to the sin bin but the Servicemen remained in the fight.

Sgt Tams Tamatawale (RLC) was the first to threaten and the ball was fed infield to LCpl Peceli Nacamavuto (RE), who went in under the posts.

O'Connor completed his brace late on and with a number of changes being made on both sides the match fizzled out.

Despite suffering defeat there were positives for the Army to take, with the strong running of the superb LBdr Ifereimi Boladua (RA) a particular highlight. ■

RUGBY UNION



9

Points kicked from the boot of Army fly half LCpl James Dixon (RE)

IN NUMBERS



3

Tries for the Reds

MOBBS MATCH



Games so far this season – resulting in three wins

5

SPORT
SHORTS

Reds set for Navy

» A SELL-OUT crowd awaits the Army and Royal Navy as they return to the hallowed turf of Twickenham for their latest Inter-Services clash on May 9.

Reds' head coach Capt Andy Sanger (RE) has been keen to experiment with his line-up this season but with a number of key personnel set to return the soldiers looked well placed for another title charge.

"LBdr Ifereimi Boladua (RA, pictured) is back now and is only going to get stronger," Sanger said. "We have Pte Jack Prasad (Scots) and LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) to come in and that means LCpl James Dixon (RE) can revert to fullback.

"I've intentionally changed the team in every game so far. You have to give people an opportunity to stake a claim for the Inter-Services and the Defence World Cup."



Stormers shine in cup finale

Premiership Final

12 Regt, RA 29
1 R Welsh 17

A POWERHOUSE showing in the pack formed the bedrock for a successful title defence by 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery in the showpiece fixture of the Service rugby union season.

Forwards Bdr Ken Dowding, Sgt Alan Pugh and LBdr Ben Naiyaga all crossed for tries as the Stormers secured a 29-17 victory over 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh to claim a second successive Premiership Cup crown in Aldershot.

The gunners downed the same opposition to win the trophy for the first time in their history last year and

they opened the scoring courtesy of a well-struck penalty effort from fly half LBdr Owain Davies in the 12th minute.

But the Welsh Warriors fired an almost immediate response as they flexed their muscles up front.

Having secured possession deep in opposition territory they moved through the phases before the ball was spun infield for flanker Lt Will Jones to touch down under the posts.

However, the setback failed to deter the defending champions and they opened their try-scoring account from an attacking lineout.

With the forwards surging towards the line Army prop Dowding was on hand to bundle home for a converted score and the Stormers held a slender 10-7 lead at the half-time break.

The challengers introduced Service players CSgt Paul Llewellyn and Cpl Chris Budgen at the interval and their arrival reaped immediate dividends as the latter fed fly half Fus Amori Nailago, who danced through would-be tacklers for a try.

A successful penalty kick saw them establish a 17-10 advantage but the Stormers came roaring back when a Royal Welsh clearance was charged down.

Dowding was held up just short of the line but with Pugh in support the champions-elect drew level with a converted score.

Man-of-the-match Davies struck another superb penalty to edge his side ahead and Naiyaga sealed the contest at the death when he intercepted a pass and sprinted home from the halfway line. ■

Front-row feedback

When we focused on our scrums and lineouts we were able to put them under pressure and once our ball carriers got involved we won the game from there.

I think there was more pressure on them coming into the match. They have been champions a number of times and there was an expectancy that they would win it back. However, I thought we were ten points better than them and we just had to take our chances on the day.



Bdr Ken Dowding leads the celebrations

MONTH in sport

May's key fixtures...



WHAT: Army v Royal Navy, Inter-Services women's rugby union

WHEN: Saturday, May 9 (1030 kick-off)

WHERE: Kneller Hall

COMMENTS: With the men's match at Twickenham sold out this clash offers the perfect warm-up as the women's team chase another title



WHAT: Inter-Corps Twenty20 Cricket Final

WHEN: Thursday, May 14 (1615 start)

WHERE: Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot

COMMENTS: The Infantry will be hoping to defend their title from 2014 as the three-day tournament comes to a head



WHAT: Shinty – Scots Camanachd v Skye Camanachd

WHEN: Saturday, May 16

WHERE: Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland

COMMENTS: The match commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Festubert, in which a number of shinty players were killed



Athletes take elite pathway

SERVICE athletes have moved a step closer to realising their Olympic dreams as the latter stages of the Army's elite sports programme gathers pace.

Since its launch in October the initiative has seen more than 50 soldiers attend training days and selection camps with the Team GB shooting set-up and similar success stories have been seen in other disciplines.

A wealth of female talent was identified in the first phase of the Girls 4 Gold scheme and a number of athletes have since been invited to specific testing sessions with four national governing bodies.

British Weightlifting welcomed 35 Servicewomen to an event in Loughborough, while the sports of rowing, boxing and tae kwon do have also recruited personnel.

"The focus is on identifying podium potential," Lt Col (Retd) Alan Billings, the programme's performance manager, told *SoldierSport*. "We now have around six people with the potential to represent Great Britain in shooting.

"Around a third of those tested in the first phase of Girls 4 Gold have gone on to training and selection camps.

"We have looked at the performance data and shared it with different governing bodies so we can try to fill gaps in Olympic programmes.

"By being in the Army they are almost self selecting as the attributes of soldiers are closely linked to what these organisations are looking for."

The English Institute of Sport underlined its commitment to the cause when senior performance pathway scientist Tom Stanton visited the Army

boxing team (pictured) to discuss ways of strengthening their partnership.

"The reason we are starting this is to see if we can take a group of individuals who have been trained in the military and have certain characteristics and turn them into boxers and elite athletes," he explained.

"The sport is well developed in the Service and this is one of the best clubs in the country – that gives us a unique springboard to work from.

"We are looking at girls for the 75 kilogram and above categories, but that is just one element. We want to develop the sport as a whole." ■



For more details on future events and campaigns visit www.armysportcontrolboard.org/army_elite_sport

Scheme in numbers



Servicewomen tested in the first phase of the Girls 4 Gold initiative last year

344




5 Governing bodies working with the Army



Soldiers at the first Team GB shooting camp

52



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Picture: Jakob Ebrey Photography



SPORT SHORTS



Moretta aims big

» **ENDURANCE** athlete Dave Moretta will embark on a punishing challenge in July as he attempts to run continuously for more than 350 miles without any sleep.

The ex-soldier, who served in The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, has set a route from Inverness to Preston and will be raising money for The Royal British Legion.

For more details on his attempt and to donate money visit www.runningstrange.com

IN NUMBERS

2

The number of Forces Carp Classic events in 2015. Staged at Abbey Lakes in France they run from May 30 to June 6 and October 10 to 17. Visit www.forcescarpclassic.co.uk

Paras deliver on track debut

THE Infiniti Support Our Paras Racing team made an encouraging start on the track as they celebrated two top-20 finishes in the opening round of the British Touring Car Championships.

Success at Brands Hatch came just four days after the car completed its first test session at Mallory Park and exceeded the goals that had been set for the weekend.

Injured ex-Servicemen from The Parachute Regiment are in charge of preparing the set-up's Q50 race machines and all profits raised this season will be donated to the Support Our Paras charity.

Driver Derek Palmer overcame an early power steering problem to finish strongly in the following heats and then praised the efforts of his support crew.

He said: "No one should underestimate the fantastic achievement these guys have just delivered.

"In the space of a few months they have built a racing car capable of competing successfully in Britain's top championship.

"It's been a challenge but it's not in their nature to fail."

Team leader Darren Fuller, a former colour sergeant who lost his right arm while serving

in Afghanistan in 2008, added: "The weekend has been absolutely fantastic.

"We want to raise awareness and funds for the charity and this is the first step towards achieving that.

"It's been a massive success just to get here with one car and we'll have another on the grid next time out."

The Paras' second car was set to debut at the Donington Park stage as this issue went to press. ■



For more details on the team visit www.parasracing.com

KEMP SHOWS HER CLASS



» **A SUBLIME** long-range effort from LCpl Yvette Kemp (REME, pictured) gave the Army women a 2-1 win over the Royal Navy as the soldiers claimed a fifth successive Inter-Services title.

The Reds headed into the match on the back of a 5-3 victory against the Royal Air Force but a similar goal glut failed to materialise in a tight opening period.

The trend continued after the break but the game came alive when Cfn Rachel Gwilliam (REME) found the net with a dipping effort from distance.

L/CH Helen Kingscott levelled the contest when she converted at the near post late on but the Army fired an immediate response as Kemp converted from 25 yards.



Reds suffer sinking feeling

Inter-Services

Royal Navy 3
Army 2

THE Army squandered their chance of Inter-Services football glory as they slipped to a 3-2 defeat against the Royal Navy on an agonising night in Portsmouth.

A 4-0 thrashing of the Royal Air Force laid the foundations for a first trophy win in eight years but it was the Senior Service who secured the title as a dramatic last-gasp goal saw the Reds return empty-handed once again.

The visitors made an encouraging start but it was the hosts who opened the scoring in the 15th minute.

CPO Andrew Todd chased a long ball over the top and as the striker headed into the area he was bundled over

by Gnr Ben Crawford (RA). AB Leon Cashman rifled the resulting penalty into the bottom corner.

Having recovered from the setback the Army enjoyed a strong spell of pressure as LCpl Calum Wilkinson (RLC) and LCpl Sam Agar (R Signals) both went close.

Crawford then saw a hooked effort hit the bar before the soldiers missed their best chance of the night.

Gnr Marvin Molyneux (RA) released Agar on the left and the forward skipped past onrushing keeper LAET Roy Emmerson and squared the ball to Pte Matt Glass (RLC). But with an open goal at his mercy his shot went wide.

Todd missed a similar opportunity for the Navy following good work from AET Ben Chambers and the score remained 1-0 at the break.

The champions-elect doubled their advantage shortly after the restart when

LAET Tom Ardley drilled the ball into the bottom corner as the Reds failed to deal with a deep free kick.

Chambers then fired over as the home side pressed for a third but the Army held firm and mounted a fightback.

Molyneux was the first to threaten when he saw a low free kick smash the foot of the post before Sig Ryan Paddock (R Signals) rattled the woodwork on the rebound.

But their wait for a goal didn't last long as Gnr Tom Broadbent (RA) curled a free kick into the top corner following a trip on Glass.

A second followed when Glass was fouled by Sgt Adam Fowler as he surged into the area and Wilkinson smashed the spot kick into the corner.

As the clock ticked down the Reds were holding on for the point they needed but when they failed to clear another free kick Todd was on hand to shatter their hopes. ■

Game brief

Date: March 25, 2015

Competition: Inter-Services football

Venue: Fratton Park, Portsmouth

Army

Wilkinson	7	Glass	10
Emmerson	11	Agar	9
Molyneux	4	Williams	8
Broadbent	3	Haley	2
Paddock	5	Crawford	6
	Smyth	1	

Coach's comment

We didn't put ourselves in the best position but we got back into it. We were then hit by a sucker punch.

After our result against the RAF we were on a high. We knew that if we kept the ball and created chances we would get the result.

But you have to take those chances when they come.

The lads have worked hard. Matt Glass (pictured above) has been the find of the season, Ryan Paddock won the players' player award and Calum Wilkinson has been fantastic as well.

Capt Joe Collins (R Signals)



SPORT
SHORTS

AGC edge thriller

Inter-Corps
Women's RugbyAGC 37
REME 32

» A HAT-TRICK from Army star Cpl Jane Leonard failed to fire the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to victory in the women's corps final.

Instead, it was the Adjutant General's Corps who took the spoils as they crossed for six tries in a dramatic 37-32 win.

An early score from LCpl Eleni Smith set them on their way and a brace from Capt Chantelle Miller added to the tally.

Lt Danielle Burgess was also on target before skipper Sgt Amy Robinson crossed twice in a storming four-minute spell to seal the win.

Leonard (pictured below), one of a number of Royal Engineers' players to boost the REME ranks, starred for the challengers but her efforts were in vain.



→ Team of the month

Royal Engineers Rugby Union Team



THE Royal Engineers reaffirmed their status as rugby union's team to beat as they cruised to another Inter-Corps title.

A five-try salvo helped the sappers to a 39-18 victory over the Royal Artillery, who failed to replicate the form that saw them top the league table with an unbeaten record.

Two expertly placed penalties from LBdr Owain Davies gave the gunners an early advantage but with a raft of Army talent in their ranks the champions-elect refused to panic.

Cpl Maku Koroiyadi bundled home for a converted score to edge his side ahead and centre LCpl Peceli Nacamavuto extended the lead as he cashed in following some smart play from Spr Abo Vata and Cpl Sammy Sema.

The same duo combined for the engineers' third

score as winger Sema punched a hole in the artillery lines and Vata touched down.

LCpl James Dixon kicked his second conversion of the afternoon to open a 19-6 advantage but their rivals were handed a lifeline when Cpl Matt Curgenvin was sent to the sin bin on the stroke of half-time.

However, the setback seemed to inspire the sappers and a two-try burst within minutes of the restart settled the contest.

Spr Inosi Laqekoro was the first to cross and Spr Isikellii Railoa delivered a hammer blow when he sparked a swift break and ghosted through the defence to score.

Gunners skipper Bdr Ken Dowding reduced the arrears before Dixon edged his side further ahead with two penalty kicks.

A late try for the challengers failed to take

the gloss off a satisfying afternoon and skipper Capt Al Whittaker paid tribute to his side's efforts at full-time.

"We went behind early on but maintained our discipline and clawed our way back into the match with some fantastic rugby," he said. "We showed composure under pressure and the lethality of our backs was amazing."

Inter-Corps Rugby Union
Championship 2014/15Royal Engineers 39
Royal Artillery 18

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SPORT SHORTS



Perry finds form

» **ARMY** cyclist Capt Ryan Perry (REME) finished in 17th place at the first National Elite Road Race Series event of 2015.

The officer competed in a field of more than 180 riders, the majority of which were professional athletes including Olympic medallists and former national champions.

IN NUMBERS

16

Teams that entered this season's major units volleyball competition. The women's title was won by 27 Regt, RLC with players from 1 RGR lifting the men's trophy



Race duo deliver

» **THE** Army endurance racing team have celebrated their first trophy in the upper echelons of the sport's national series.

The duo of Sgt Richard Spencer-Fleet (REME) and WO2 Wayne Morgan (PWRR) finished second at Cadwell Park.



Midfield marvel: LCpl Alexander Wright puts the Royal Engineers on the front foot in the Woolwich Cup final

Sappers surge to cup win

Woolwich Cup final

Royal Engineers 3
Royal Logistic Corps 0

ABRACE from LCpl Alexander Wright helped the Royal Engineers to a 3-0 victory in the Woolwich Cup final.

The Army midfielder's efforts ensured the Royal Logistic Corps returned empty-handed from the fixture, which marked the end of another tough season of Inter-Corps action.

After missing out in last year's competition the sappers signalled their intent from the outset and a brilliant save from Pte Benjamin Maidens thwarted Cpl Adam

Fisher in the second minute.

Cpl Jay Hubbard then saw a header sail wide of the far post and the game descended into a midfield battle before Wright opened the scoring in fortuitous fashion as his deep free kick eluded Maidens to creep into the bottom corner.

And they doubled their advantage on the stroke of half-time as the loggies failed to clear a cross-field ball and Fisher rifled a half-volley into the roof of the net.

But the challengers rallied after the break and LCpl Kevin Rookes fired into the side netting following some good play from Pte Charlie Gale.

Sappers' keeper LCpl Luke Cairney produced a smart save from Cpl Mark Marriot's free kick before skipper SSgt Paul Douglas blazed over moments later.

The RLC's best chance came in the 68th minute as Pte Scott Wooley found space in the area but his effort was saved at point-blank range from Cairney.

With time running out the engineers looked increasingly dangerous on the break and after Hubbard and Spr Stephen Currie went close Wright sealed the contest as he ran clear and buried the ball into the far corner.

"It was always going to be tough as the RLC have had a great season," said winning skipper Cpl Gerwyn Griffiths. "We won 3-0 but the scoreline does not reflect their efforts.

"However, we knew that if we kept going we had the players who could put the ball in the back of the net and when those chances came we took them." ■

» **INJURED** Servicemen from the newly-formed Help for Heroes gig rowing team will be aiming for glory as they compete in the sport's world championships this month. The six-man crew only came together at the start of the year and will travel to the Isles of Scilly for the event, which takes place from May 1 to 3. They entered the Three Rivers Race in Cornwall in March and completed the course in 1hr 22min. "It was hard work and there are definitely parts of me I won't feel for a few days," ex-soldier Lee Adams said afterwards.



Final word

With two Gurkha soldiers embarking on a 1,500-mile Arctic adventure we asked fellow personnel what challenges they hope to complete during their Army careers...



Sgt Irvine Popplewell (REME)

Being slightly older the mind is willing but the body has to play catch-up. I've always wanted to do the Nijmegen marches since I was young. I've done other endurance marches of about 28-29 miles so I've got an idea of how hard it is. We're hoping to get a team together this year. On a personal level I'd like to drive from the very south to the very north of the Americas for charity, from Cape Horn to the Arctic Circle.



Cfn Rhys Parrish (REME)

I did a half Ironman and it made me want to do a full one, but we're going to Kenya in May and then moving back to Scotland so we won't have much time to train. I'd never done anything like it before – I just signed up and then I thought 'what have I done?' But when it came round it was good. It's all in the mind – we had a good team so there was no chance one of us wouldn't finish. There are so many opportunities to do physical things in the Army.



LCpl Alexander Wright (RE)

I want to keep representing my corps and the Service at football. Sport captures the military ethos and out on the pitch everyone is working hard together. I want to win the Inter-Services with the Army. We came so close to victory this year and we need to lift that trophy.



SSgt Sharon Smith (AGC (SPS))

I'm 40 this year so it was time to get something unusual done. I've just completed the Manchester Marathon and am about to run the North Lincolnshire Half Marathon. I will then take part in the Service's triple march event. I've always been into running and we have to be fit to be in the Army so I thought 'why not put it to use?'.



Cfn Danny Widdowson (REME)

Last year I did a half Ironman as part of a team so my big aim is to do a full event – a two-mile swim followed by 120 kilometres on a bike, then a full marathon. I had to dig deep especially on the run. My legs just gave up. It took me three months of training for that so I'm looking at six for the full Ironman. We'll probably start after the battalion moves to RAF Leuchars this summer.



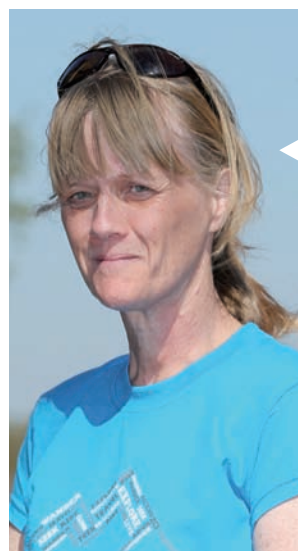
LCpl Mollie Harper (RLC)

I'd really like to take a trip to the North Pole and back just to see if I could complete it. I saw a programme on the TV recently about two guys who were doing it and I think it would be a good accomplishment. Not many people can say they've achieved something like that.



Pte Narinder Bhandal (AGC (SPS))

I want to climb Everest because my grandpa did it successfully in 1965. I'm from the Punjab, which is in the foothills of the Himalayas, and I'd like to follow in his footsteps. He told me how challenging it was – he wasn't equipped with modern kit. He made it but he lost some friends on the way. It was a team of 16 but only ten or 11 of them survived. I've done a bit of climbing and I love it.



WO2 Claire Buchanan (AGC (SPS))

I started trail running last year and my goal for 2015 is to complete a trail marathon and then a trail ultra-marathon. I know I can do that distance on the road so this is a new challenge. The mindset is the hardest thing as you have to battle the elements; it can be dangerous and some of the hills are steep.

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