

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

70 YEARS' Service

Troops salute the selfless commitment of our Queen



SPINELINE COMPETITION

DAINTON, DODD,
PURSGLOVE, STOTT

06 >
9 770038 100003
JUNE 2022
£3.50

Could you pass the Falklands test? ♀ Paras pack a punch ♀ Exercises look east



WE ARE EXCELLENT. WE ARE QE.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has found Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate to be 'Excellent' across all schools, praising our pupils' outstanding academic achievements and personal development.

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2020/21 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2021/22 Forces families will pay just £1,050 per term, per child.

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on:

Tel: 01423 33 33 30 Email: admissions@qe.org

ARMY TRAVEL

Let's **STOP** Wasting Money

WHAT ARE TRAVEL BAD BEHAVIOURS?

- Unnecessary travel
...can you use IT to attend remotely?
- Booking at the last minute
...always costs more
- Not cancelling bookings
...we can claim some of the cost back
- Not refuelling hire cars ...its at £50 fine
- Refuelling at motorway services
...you wouldn't do it with your own car
- Unnecessary travel during peak times
- Calling Global Business Travel to book travel...they charge a booking fee
- Book all your travel through the Army Travel Tool, accessible through MODNET and personal devices



You can access the Army Travel Tool from your mobile device using this QR code.

Access the [Army Travel DefNet](#) site for more travel info and email ArmyRes-ArmyTravelTeam-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk for help.



CONTENTS



Cover picture: Sgt Adrian Harten, RLC

COVER STORY

FEATURES

- 28 Jumping in harmony**
Brits join allies on Europe's eastern edge
- 34 Platinum Jubilee**
Troops salute commander-in-chief
- 41 'We took it in quietly'**
Veterans recall end of Falklands War

REGULARS

- 7 The Informer**
Top stories from across the Service
- 20 Need to Know**
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 49 Talkback**
Ruminations from the ranks
- 52 Bullet Points**
Troops' intelligence asset
- 57 Reviews**
Games, music, books and movies
- 74 Final Word**
RSMs tell it like it is

SOLDIERSPORT

- 64 Rugby union**
Roberts continues search for new blood
- 66 Rugby union**
A day to remember at Twickenham
- 68 Football**
Loggies edge cup final thriller
- 70 Triathlon**
Matthews shines on world stage
- 71 Cricket**
Spinners lead the way in T20 showpiece
- 73 Boxing**
3 Para crowned inter-unit kings





SOLDIER presents a little-known colour photograph taken in 1945 of the future Queen Elizabeth II, then serving as second-subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Never, perhaps, was an heiress to the Throne so unceremoniously posed. Yet this is a picture the British Army will value as much as those other pictures of the Queen in scarlet and gold; for it shows a girl who was happy to put on the Army's own workday uniform and get down to the Task of the Day. Photograph by courtesy of Imperial War Museum.

The Queen's Message To Her Armies

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. I wish, on succeeding to the Throne, to address a message to all ranks of my Armies, thanking them for the notable services which they rendered to my Beloved Father during his reign and assuring them of my confidence in their loyalty and efficiency.

My own service in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and my personal association with individual regiments of United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Forces have given me some experience of the varied and onerous tasks which they are called upon to discharge. Devotion to duty, a good-humoured acceptance of hardship when necessary, and an undefeatable endurance in adversity are characteristics of the military which have brought us victory in war and security in peace," the Queen told *Soldier* readers, demonstrating a depth of understanding that has been a constant over the decades.

ELIZABETH II

34



Devotion, humour, endurance



WHEN our Queen succeeded to the throne 70 years ago this month, making her Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, she penned a special message to soldiers which was carried in the pages of this magazine.

In it – shown left – she acknowledged the “varied and onerous” tasks that British Service personnel are expected to carry out.

A quick glance through this issue tells us that although the world has changed immeasurably during her reign (dawn of the space age, the civil rights movement and birth of the internet, to name just three examples), the nature of service – and the sacrifice that entails – has not.

“Devotion to duty, a good-humoured acceptance of hardship when necessary, and an undefeatable endurance in adversity are characteristics of the military which have brought us victory in war and security in peace,” the Queen told *Soldier* readers, demonstrating a depth of understanding that has been a constant over the decades.

Her own service – which outruns the career length of any British soldier or officer by a very long way – appears to have been guided by much the same philosophy, too.

And the promise she made back then to take “a close personal interest” in all that concerns her troops’ welfare has been faithfully kept.

Queen Elizabeth II is the ultimate living example of the values and standards this organisation holds at its core – and a monarch whose own personal resilience and outlook has inspired those she reigns over as much as her authority.

This issue celebrates that fact.

Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

NOW YOU CAN

BUY DIAMONDS & BESPOKE JEWELLERY

AT WHOLESALE PRICES

DIRECT FROM THE
MANUFACTURERS



Based in the heart of the diamond centre, Hatton Garden London, we supply retail shops with a vast range of exquisite diamond engagement rings, wedding bands and jewellery.

We are delighted to offer the same trade prices of **50% off retail prices** to **The Armed Forces Family**.

Enter discount code **BETHEBEST50** on our website and receive discounted prices across our entire range.

CONTACT US

for a private or video appointment
t 020 7242 5831 | e: sales@alanbick.co.uk
www.alanbick.co.uk

PROUD SPONSORS & PARTNERS OF

DEFENCE
Discount Service
The only official MoD discount service



**HELP for
HEROES**
Support For Our Wounded



Showrooms
in London &
Manchester



1% of all orders donated directly to **HELP for HEROES**

MANCHESTER
Kings Street
Manchester M2
t: 0161 823 5688
e: info@alanbick.co.uk

Est.1968

ALAN BICK

LONDON | MANCHESTER

*Serving the Police & Military
for over 30 years*

www.alanbick.co.uk

LONDON
Audrey House
16-20 Ely Place
(off Hatton Garden)
London EC1N 6SN
t: 020 7242 5831
e: sales@alanbick.co.uk

alanbickjewellery



COST OF LIVING BITES

...and there are fears that soldiering could suffer

CONCERN is mounting that soldiers' ability to do their jobs well could be affected by spiralling living costs in the UK.

The situation is forcing some to take second jobs to raise much-needed extra cash, while dependants are turning to food banks to make ends meet.

Now commanders have urged anyone hit financially to come forward and ask for support.

And they have called for closer links with charities as the crisis deepens.

The fears were voiced at the recent Regimental Sergeant Majors' Convention (page 19), where a delegate revealed that a member of his unit had resorted to taking shifts in McDonald's to bolster their pay.

Army Sergeant Major WO1 Paul Carney, who organised the event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, said he was concerned.

He told *Soldier*: "I am particularly worried about the impact this crisis could have on the health of both our troops and their families.

"If people are worried about finances at home, an individual's readiness as well as their ability to give 100 per cent could be compromised.

"I know some troops take on extra work to save for purchases such as a car, but there is a huge difference between want and need."

WO1 Carney said he was looking at issues raised at the two-day convention and considering the next move.

Better advice on budgeting and closer work with charities could help, he added.

But he emphasised: "Anyone who is suffering should not be afraid to ask for help – and to do so through their chain of command."

Meanwhile, military welfare groups and charities confirmed they had been supporting soldiers and veterans feeling the financial squeeze.

SSAFA told this magazine it had taken calls from families of serving personnel using food banks.

Bill Grant, manager of the charity's

» **Continued on page 15**

■ MORE must be done to help homeless ex-Service personnel as the cost of living crisis continues to escalate, charity bosses have said. As this issue went to press, a group of 12 good causes, including Help for Heroes and Haig Housing, revealed they had received an increasing number of contacts asking for help from the cohort and were expecting more in the months ahead. Under the banner of the No Homeless Veterans campaign, they have called on local councils and other agencies to work more closely together to identify members of the ex-Forces community in need.

SOLDIER

Editor Sarah Goldthorpe
sgoldthorpe@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor/Sports Editor Richard Long
rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor Becky Clark
rclark@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor Cliff Caswell
ccaswell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Art Editor Tudor Morgan
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Designer Martin Gannon
mgannon@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Photographer Graeme Main
01252 787103 (94222 7103)
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Advertising Heather Sheklys
01252 787106 (94222 7106)
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions/Enquiries
01252 787107 (94222 7107)
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Managing Editor Steve Muncey
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk



SOLDIER – Magazine of the British Army
Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Walstead (Roche) Ltd.
Print contract managed by CDS.
© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2022

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence. We take every care to ensure details are correct. Soldier magazine takes no responsibility for errors or omissions. Prices or dates quoted are correct at the time of publication and are subject to change. We do not endorse products or services appearing in the directory, classified, editorial or display advertising featured in the publication. We take no responsibility for the content or security of third party websites mentioned in this publication.



Facebook: facebook.com/soldiermagazine
Twitter: @soldiermagazine
Instagram: @soldier_magazine

GLOBAL SITREP

1. ALASKA

ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

AN Army trek up the highest and coldest mountain in North America has been successful after the pandemic derailed its original departure slot.

A 24-strong team from the Scots Guards were set to return from Alaska's Mount Denali as this issue went to press, having had their initial plans thwarted by the 2020 lockdown.

Exercise Tartan Glacier saw them summit the 6,190m peak, where temperatures can sink as low as -60 degrees Celsius.



2. PERU

EXPED TESTS RESOLVE

PERSONNEL from Headquarters 3 (UK) Division successfully completed their eight-day expedition to Machu Picchu (*Soldier*, April) despite anti-government strikes across Peru causing travel chaos.

"It really tested our resolve as roads were blocked at certain places and we were prevented from trekking to Rainbow Mountain as preparation," expedition leader WO2 Sachin Thapa (R Signals) said.

"So we ended up changing our plans and tackling Polcayo Mountain instead."

The team of 14 – of mixed ranks and cap badges – subsequently walked a five-day route to the Inca citadel 8,000 feet up in the Andes.

"The trekking was remote and challenging at times and some team members had altitude sickness," added the warrant officer.

"But the two days of hill training conducted at Polcayo really helped and all of the team were medically fit to deploy, so there weren't any major issues."



3. FALKLAND ISLANDS

3. FALKLAND ISLANDS

RESERVISTS TAKE UP POST

VOLUNTEERS are taking on a key Army contribution to defending the UK's South Atlantic interests – ahead of commemorations marking the 1982 war with Argentina.

A demanding tour lies ahead for 4th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, which has now formed the first Reserve-led Roulement Infantry Company.

The mix of part- and full-time troops will be involved in a full programme of activities – including patrolling the islands' demanding terrain.

They replaced colleagues from The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, who have now returned to the UK.

Meanwhile, the annual Liberation Day commemoration in Stanley on June 14 promises to be particularly poignant on this year's 40th anniversary of the conflict.

See www.sama82.org for a full programme of events.



INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?



Picture: David Galler



4. NIGERIA HAIRCUTS HELP GOOD CAUSE

AN enterprising sapper put his barber skills to good use to raise money for orphans during a short-term training team mission to West Africa.

LCpl Min Thapa (QGE) provided haircuts for colleagues from 32 and 36 Engineer Regiments in return for donations, collecting a total of 70,000 Naira (around £140) to support disadvantaged children in Benue State, Nigeria.

The soldiers then visited Tivid Orphanage in Makurdi to see the charity's work with youngsters, including those who have lost parents to insurgent attacks.

Part of Operation Turus, the nine-week training team tasking saw them develop their Nigerian counterparts' capabilities in areas such as field fortifications and counter-mobility.

5. SWITZERLAND ALPINE ASSAULT

UK TROOPS were among more than 4,500 athletes to take on one of the world's toughest endurance events in the Alps.

Staged by the Swiss Army, the Patrouille des Glaciers ski mountaineering race tests competitors with courses of 30 or 58 kilometres between the towns of Zermatt and Verbier.

A 16-strong group from several British Army cap badges and the Royal Navy tackled the two routes alongside some 1,512 other squads from a total of 35 countries.

Lt Col Tom Blankenstein (RAMC) said lack of snow had posed additional challenges.

"Unfortunately, this meant that three out of our five teams were timed out at intermediate checkpoints," he explained.

"However, the mantra of 'fail, learn, win' comes to mind. We will be back in 2024 – better prepared, stronger, faster and more determined to complete the course."

6. FINLAND AIMING STRAIGHT

Picture: Sgt Ben Maher, RLC



A CHALLENGER 2 main battle tank from The Queen's Royal Hussars moves at speed across the rugged terrain of Pohjankangas training area, Finland, during Exercise Arrow.

The package was one of several involving some 8,000 UK troops throughout Eastern Europe – part of a major uplift in Nato activity in the region. Turn to page 28 for a full round-up.

Brief the team now:



Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/soldiermagazine
Twitter: [@soldiermagazine](https://twitter.com/soldiermagazine)
Instagram: [@soldier_magazine](https://instagram.com/soldier_magazine)

7. UK

FITTING SEND-OFF FOR ARNHEM HERO

THE ashes of a renowned Second World War leader have been laid to rest after being lost for nearly 40 years.

Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks – who commanded XXX Corps at Arnhem – died in 1985, but his ashes were never collected from the funeral home in Chichester.

They were finally interred with full military honours at a ceremony at St Paul's Church in Mill Hill, attended by his descendants and troops from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Gen Horrocks received a Military Cross in the First World War and was taken prisoner twice.

At the 1924 Paris Olympics he competed in modern pentathlon.

Seriously wounded in North Africa in 1943, he recovered to lead the ground element of Operation Market Garden, a role immortalised by actor Edward Fox in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. In 1949 he was appointed Black Rod.



TO THE RESCUE...

■ AN officer's selfless actions helping to save the lives of two swimmers earned her a **Queen's Commendation for Bravery**. Capt Lucy Russell (RLC) was enjoying an off-duty trip to a Southampton beach when she saw a couple being swept away by strong currents. She shouted instructions to the man to keep him safe while dragging the distressed woman back to the shore.



MALI EXCELLENCE

■ LIGHT Dragoons commanding officer Lt Col Thomas Robinson received the **OBE** for leading the first long-range reconnaissance group on Op Newcombe in Mali. The senior officer's citation recalls how he oversaw the most dangerous of the 13 UK missions in the African state, while mentoring junior officers.

ROLL CALL

OPERATIONAL honours and awards for Army personnel this time around...

Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Lt Col David Middleton (Para); Lt Col Thomas Robinson (LD)

Member of the Order of the British Empire

WO2 Daniel Bryceland (RE); Maj Stephen White (Para); WO2 Thomas Whitehead (Int Corps)

Mention in Dispatches

Pte Ahmad Fahim (Para); Cpl Daniel Hoyland (Para)

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Pte Lewis O'Connor (Para); Capt Lucy Russell (RLC)

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service

Cpl Jamie Found (Para); Lt Col William Hunt (Para); Lt Col Chloe O'Brien (RLC); SSgt Andrea Pearson (RLC); Capt James Robson (Para); Capt Helene Gleizes (Int Corps); Maj Hugo Henderson (RAMC)

“
I'm proud to have been part of an immense team effort
”

Picture: IPhot Ben Shread, RN



Honours for the

THE courage and tenacity of British troops who led last year's evacuation in Kabul are among an array of actions to have received royal recognition.

More than 20 personnel from all three Armed Forces are saluted in the latest **operational honours and awards list** for domestic as well as overseas service.

But it is the Operation Pitting mission – during which personnel from Colchester-based 16 Air Assault Brigade deployed to assist Nato's rapid withdrawal from the Afghan capital in August – that accounts for many of the accolades.

The work of these soldiers, both at the front line and behind the scenes in briefing rooms, ultimately saw 15,000 UK citizens and eligible Afghans flown out to safety...



Courage among chaos: The bomb that struck Kabul airport (above) last year saw paras Pte Ahmad Fahim (above left), Cpl Dan Hoyland and Pte Lewis O'Connor run towards the danger

Perfect planning pays off

■ TROOPS who worked tirelessly to ensure that Op Pitting was delivered – and that those at the front had the support that they needed – have been recognised.

Movement controller SSgt Andrea Pearson (RLC, shown below) received the **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service**. The senior NCO was recognised for helping to ensure kit, equipment and freight was hauled to the right locations.

Fellow logistician Lt Col Chloe O'Brien received the same award for her part in preparing the 1,000-strong task force and ensuring it was backed up. She worked in tough conditions and had to constantly adapt to a changing situation but said that she was "proud to have been part of an immense team effort".



Grace under pressure

■ SOLDIERS deploying at the front of Op Pitting found themselves confronted by harrowing scenes of desperate and seriously hurt civilians attempting to flee the Taliban.

With many killed in surging crowds, it fell to troops to control and help the masses.

Cpl Jamie Found (below) of 2 Para had his years of soldiering experience tested – commanding his troops from behind a shield wall outside the airport.

His infantrymen had to deal with a number of civilian casualties, while holding their nerve and being watchful for the ever-present threat of terrorist attack.

The NCO was awarded the **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service**.

"It was an operation we'd not seen before," the Serviceman said. "We'd done public order training but I don't think you can train for the humanitarian side."

Fellow para Maj Stephen White also found himself tested.

Seeing civilians breach the airport perimeter, he and his troops had to restore security. He was awarded the **MBE** for his work on the op, including preventing the evacuee handling centre from being overrun.



“
That is the
thing I will
remember
forever
”



LEADERSHIP LESSONS

■ THE COs from both Parachute battalions on Op Pitting were recognised for their leadership during one of the most complex ops of modern times.

Lt Col David Middleton (top right) of 2 Para was made an **OBE** for being a driving force behind the Kabul deployment and "critical" to the mission's overall success.



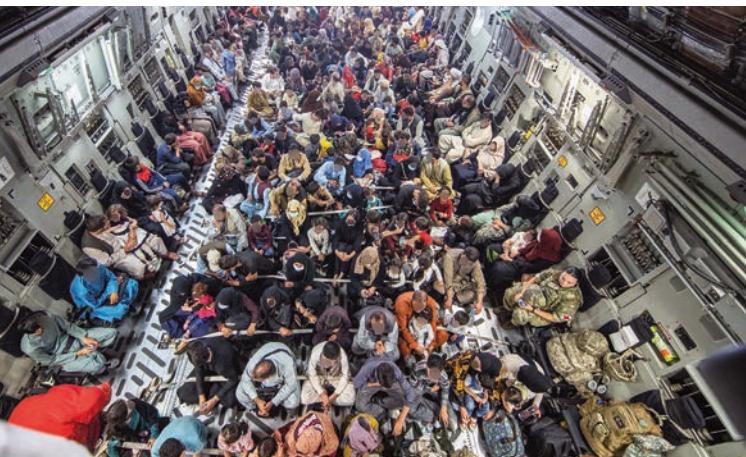
"He was responsible for the delivery of the most testing tactical actions centred around the UK's evacuee handling centre," his citation highlighted.

Lt Col Will Hunt (below) – his counterpart in 3 Para – received the **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service** for his command on the op.



The deployment of his infantrymen represented "a tipping point" in achieving stability among UK forces in theatre, the senior officer's citation emphasised.

Meanwhile, 2 Para ops officer Capt James Robson received the same award. His citation singles him out as a "lynchpin" of the Pitting action, ensuring that the force arrived in theatre both "at pace and in good order".



heroes of Kabul



Blast bravery recognised

■ A COURAGEOUS soldier cohort who disregarded their own safety and acted fast to help others following a horrific suicide attack have been honoured.

The troops ran towards the Hamid Karzai Airport blast, which had killed dozens of civilians and 13 US personnel. Administering rapid first aid to the injured, they saved many lives.

Those at the scene of the explosion near the evacuee handling centre on August 26 included Cpl Daniel Hoyland (below right) and interpreter Pte Ahmad Fahim (far left) of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Both received a **Mention in Dispatches**.

Left with a burst eardrum from the detonation just 60 metres away, rifle section commander Cpl Hoyland recalled a scene of carnage.

"There were a lot of casualties and I was dealing with the crowd while trying to save as many as possible," he recalled. "That is the thing I will remember forever."

Pte Fahim also made a lifesaving difference. In the gruesome aftermath of the attack he rushed to help a baby

girl left seriously injured.

The soldier, whose liaison and translation work throughout Op Pitting was also praised in his citation as "utterly critical to the mission's success", recalled how he had run towards a doctor with the infant.

"I did not stop until I reached the medics – later I was told that she had survived and that was just the greatest news for me that day," Pte Fahim continued.

Parachute Regiment colleague Pte Lewis O'Connor (above right), from 2nd Battalion was also at the scene of the attack. His courageous actions earned him a **Queen's Commendation for Bravery**.

Having seen a critically injured civilian lying close to a nearby canal the soldier, who had only recently emerged from training, waded through the water and lifted him onto a wall to get him medical help.

His citation said that Pte O'Connor had been "fully aware" that a second explosion was possible but had acted selflessly to assist the wounded.



SIGNALS SET THE PACE

■ SUPER-FIT troops have been battling for supremacy in the Royal Signals' Race for the Sun competition.

The annual event in York saw mixed teams from across the corps compete in a series of punishing events including mountain biking, cross-country running and a warrior fitness challenge.



A squad from 14 Signal Regiment scooped the overall prize with a composite outfit from 39 and 71 Regiments taking second spot, while 3 Division Signal Regiment were third.

PARAS ON PARADE

■ PARATROOPERS past and present will converge on Aldershot on June 18 to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War.

Some 50 serving members of 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment will be joined by troops from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment and 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps – as well as veterans of the conflict – for a ceremony at the military cemetery followed by a parade through the town.

The Hampshire garrison was a hub for the airborne forces for 50 years before their move to Colchester.



KINGS OF THE RING

3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment triumph in the Army Inter-Unit Boxing final – page 73



Picture: Steve Dock

New look for nav training

Adviser course set to boost instruction packages at unit level

THE Army has revamped the way it delivers navigation training to help counter the impact of modern technology on troops' map reading skills.

A new defence land navigation adviser course has been launched, aimed at warrant officers to majors, who will then go on to teach instructor packages at unit level.

The programme replaces the previous land navigation subject matter experts course for corporals and above, and was introduced after a review by the Land Warfare Centre found that over-reliance on GPS devices had negatively affected map reading ability across the Service.

WO1 Ollie Teasdale (RE), sergeant major instructor at the Royal School of Military Survey in Hermitage, where the package takes place, said the rebooted format would ultimately result in more personnel being trained.

"Instead of having one or two SMEs at corporal level in a regiment, now you will have a proven map reader

who is at a rank where they can influence the commanding officer on all aspects of navigation," he said.

"And by having instructor courses delivered in units, you will have more junior NCOs able to teach others – tying into the new Individual Training Requirement – and that knowledge will cascade through and improve standards overall."

Piloted last month, the three-week course will run 11 times per year, with 14 slots available on each one to personnel from any cap badge and all three Services.

As in the past, participants must master maths, theory and practical tests in order to pass.

WO1 Teasdale (pictured left) said that those classed as instructors under the old system would still be recognised as such, while personnel holding SME qualifications would need to attend a one-day upskilling package to be certified as advisers.

For course dates and application details read 2022DIN07-033. ■



APPLICATIONS WELCOME

■ THE Naafi Fund, which distributes money to projects that improve the quality of life for Forces personnel and their families, is open to applications for 2022/23.

Now in its third round, the scheme sees payments of up to £25,000 distributed – with opportunities for "exceptional" projects to exceed this cap. Visit covenantfund.org.uk/naafi-fund-microsite/



VETERAN RETURNS TO SKIES ABOVE ARNHEM

■ A FORMER soldier who took part in the glider assault on Arnhem during the Second World War soared over his former battlefields in more peaceful times as he took a seat in a modern sailplane. Ray Whitwell – who recently turned 103 – was on a visit to Holland organised by the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans when he was offered a flight at the Gelderse club with pilot Arjan Vrieze. The ex-Royal Army Service Corps soldier, who landed in the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden, said of the experience: "It was wonderful – but I was glad it was 2022 down there and not 1944."



The Forces Pension Society exists to help you make better pension choices.

Join us. Job done.

Making choices affecting your pension income is unavoidable. But making the choices that work best for you and your family can involve complex pension calculations.

For example, even choosing the best time to leave can have a significant influence on the value of your pension. Deciding whether to buy pension top-ups, opting for commutation, tax planning considerations, all are among the many decisions to be made. In addition, there are significant career decision points – resettlement grants, early departure payments, medical discharge – all involving choices.

And now even greater complexity has been added as a consequence of the McCloud Remedy. This affects all those serving on or before 31st March 2012 and on or after 1st April 2015 (including service leavers). You will have to choose between the entitlements of your legacy scheme and AFPS 15 for the Remedy period. This decision will need to be made from October 2023 onwards.

So it's reassuring to know when faced with pension choices, that our Forces Pensions Consultants will be there to provide individual guidance to our Members. Job done.

Independent, not-for-profit

Independence is vital to our work, calling governments to account whenever we spot unfairness or injustice in the system. We also give you a voice where it counts, on the representative bodies for Armed Forces and Public Services Pensions.

We are funded by our Members' subscriptions. Any surplus helps fund our outreach programmes of Roadshows, Webinars and our attendance at CTP Employment Fairs.

Visit: forcespensionsociety.org/join-now/

Annual membership for you and your spouse/partner is just £42. You will have exclusive access to our Forces Pensions Consultants, our informative Members' Webinars and you'll receive our bi-annual e-newsletters and magazine, Pennant.

You'll also have access to our wide range of membership benefits from discounts on new cars and white goods, to insurances, including our latest range of Covid-protected travel policies, plus a great deal more.



Scan to join

IT PAYS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PENSION

Forces Pension Society

68, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL

Tel: 020 7820 9988 E: memsec@forpen.co.uk www.forcespensionsociety.org



WIN

a £200 shooting
lesson for two!



LAST month's spine line clues may have been a giveaway to anyone with an interest in, or experience of, British Forces Cyprus.

(Maj Gen Richard) Cripwell, (Maj Gen James) Illingworth, (Maj Gen Rob) Thomson and (Air Vice Marshal Michael) Wigston were the last four senior officers to head up the tri-Service command.

This month, we have teamed up with Barbury Shooting School (barburyshootingschool.com) – located in the Marlborough Downs, near Swindon – to offer one lucky reader a one-hour shooting lesson for two adults (including 50 clays and cartridges each) – worth more than £200!

Located just minutes from junction 15 of the M4, the centre is open seven days a week for practice sessions, tuition, parties and corporate events.

As well as clay shooting, it also offers other activities including archery, air rifles and simulated game days.

Newcomers to clay pigeon shooting will find this place the ideal venue to make a successful start in the sport.

In particular, its staff ensure everyone receives a full and thorough grounding in all aspects of gun safety and shooting etiquette as well as coaching that is geared to their individual pace of learning.

To be in with a chance of winning this superb prize tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Answers, including phone number, to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by June 30. Good luck!

SPINE LINE COMPETITION

barburyshooting
SCHOOL

AT centre opens its doors



A GROUP of officer cadets from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst were the first troops in the Army to sample a new state-of-the-art adventurous training centre.

The 24-strong cohort descended on Halton in Lancaster – new home of the Army AT Group's Joint Service Mountain Training Wing – which has now opened its doors.

And the students were suitably impressed by the facility as they split into groups of six to gain formal qualifications in mountaineering, climbing, kayaking and caving.

The Halton centre boasts some up-to-date creature comforts for those heading into the field. With nearly 50 bed spaces, troops are well placed to explore northern England's countryside and the activities it has to offer.

The site also features a climbing wall, caving simulator and a high-ropes area to help students build up their confidence before venturing out.

And there is plenty of space to store kit and equipment in the £9 million facility (shown right), which was built in a collaboration between the Army and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Adventurous training at the wing was previously carried out in Ripon – but senior staff said the new site would bring several advantages and opportunities for soldiers.



Pictures: Matt Allen

Army AT Group Commander Col Neil Wilson said: "The brand new, purpose-built wing will give us a superb base from which to exploit all the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District have to offer the outdoor enthusiast, especially cavers."

"It will cut our travelling times to training areas by half, and enable us to benefit from being colocated with the recruit-training Soldier Development Wing." ■

“
It will cut
travelling
times
”

MEMBERS of 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team on Exercise Swift Response (page 28) took time to remember the formation's first ever deployment to North Macedonia – and a fallen colleague.

In 2001 troops were sent to the state to disarm ethnic Albanian insurgents as the new nation emerged from the wreckage of the former Yugoslavia.

Known as Operation Bessemer, the brigade HQ and 2 Para Battlegroup acted as the spearhead for Nato operations. But tragedy struck when Spr Ian Collins (RE, shown) was killed by a lump

of concrete thrown through his Land Rover windscreen.

Their recent return to the Balkans provided a fitting moment for the Brits to pay their respects to the fallen member of 9 Parachute Squadron.

"Op Bessemer is a significant part of the squadron's history, and it is important to teach our sappers about it and remember the tragic loss," OC Maj Rob Sharrock said. "To be able to come back 20 years later to train in a place that is part of Nato shows the evolution that we helped create the conditions for, and something we are immensely proud of."



North Macedonia memories

Picture: Cpl Alex Morris, RLC

Cost of living CRISIS

> continued from page 7

Picture: Royal Star and Garter



'Mindboggling' support from vets

Care home worker left humbled by strength of those he helps to look after

A UKRAINIAN nurse caring for British veterans has spoken of being humbled by their support amid the war raging in his homeland.

Yuriy Bukovych, who works at the Royal Star and Garter Home in Solihull, was left devastated by scenes of the Russian invasion.

But the ex-Ukrainian army medic said he had drawn huge strength from the former soldiers and his colleagues, who had all rallied around to offer assistance.

In addition to emotional support, they held a cake sale and raffle that raised over £900 for the British Red Cross appeal.

Father-of-two Yuriy – whose own parents still live in Ukraine – said he had been left shocked by the invasion.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing – I would never have imagined that this is possible in the modern world," he said.

"A lot of my friends are on the front line – one of them is highly ranked in the army – and my parents live in Khust to the west of the country.

"They have to go to bomb shelters several times a day – I worry a lot about whether they will continue to receive their pension and if the city can cope with thousands of refugees.

"But the support I have had from the very first hours of the war from Royal Star and Garter has been mindboggling – it is proof that everyone cares and I'm so grateful."

Yuriy, who has worked in the health sector since moving to the UK 20 years ago and has been with Royal Star and Garter for more than a decade,

believes he now has a new bond with the home's residents, some of whom fought against Nazi Germany.

"They have been watching all of this unfold on television and saying how horrified they are," he continued. "It has brought back a lot of memories for people and made me aware of what they had to go through during the Second World War."

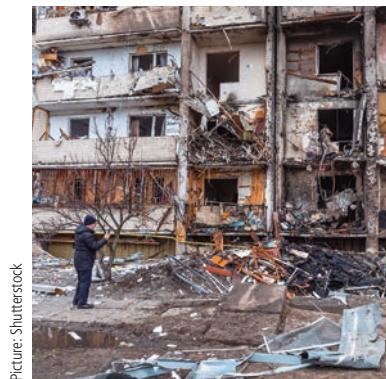
And one moment in particular proved especially moving.

"I had a 100-year-old holding my hand and asking if I was okay – it makes me realise how special this place is," he added.

Royal Star and Garter staff have praised their colleague.

Solihull home boss Jamie Stubbs said: "It is hard to imagine all that Yuriy has been going through but he has continued to deliver care with courage.

"Staff and residents pride themselves on being part of the Royal Star and Garter family – I'm delighted we are able to support him and raise money for the relief effort." ■



Picture: Shutterstock

Yuriy Bukovych and Royal Star and Garter residents. The Ukrainian says he has a new bond with those who fought Nazism



“A lot of my friends are on the front line”

free and confidential Forcesline, said April had seen more than 50 contacts from current and ex-personnel needing help with food and utility bills.

Price hikes were hitting those who already had debt issues particularly hard, he added.

And while he stressed that only a small number of enquiries came from enlisted troops, Grant continued: "The fact there are calls at all means the issue is starting to hit, and may continue to do so for some time.

"We are seeing quite a few partners concerned about making ends meet – it's not a daily thing, but it does seem to be increasing."

Meanwhile, the Army Families Federation said it is watching the issue carefully – and is particularly worried about the price of oil needed for home heating in some areas.

Chief Executive Colette Musgrave said a threefold rise in the fuel costs was compounded by troops having less choice than civilians over where they live and work.

"We have seen quite a significant increase in calls around money and allowances," she explained. "We have recently recruited an additional member of staff to assist with these enquiries, which can be quite complex in nature.

"I would urge anyone facing difficulties to get in touch."

To find out more about the financial support available to Army personnel, visit discovermybenefits.mod.gov.uk

Free and impartial money advice can also be found on the government website moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Readers can turn to page 22 of the April issue to find out more about applying for universal credit – which some Service personnel are entitled to – or affordable loans. ■



Concerned:
AFF chief
Colette
Musgrave

You Are Cordially Invited...

Thinking of getting hitched Forces-style? Try these impressive licensed venues...



The Royal Hospital

If you fancy being joined in matrimony among the resident scarlet-clad veterans, what about this beautiful historic South London venue?



Imperial War Museum, London

With all the accoutrements of conflicts past and present, this showcase is ideal for history enthusiasts. Those with an aviation preference could opt for the organisation's Duxford venue.



Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

While there are restrictions on who can marry here, this unique location – steeped in centuries of military history – could make for a memorable day among the next gen of Army officers.



First comes love, then come tanks

Bride marries her knight in – and among – shining armour

AN ARMY-BARMY couple made tracks for the Tank Museum after deciding a wedding among armour was the only way to mark their special day.

Former soldier Steve Ellis, 58, and 53-year-old partner Wanda Armstrong-Bridges elected to tie the knot in the famous Bovington venue having moved from London to Dorset just to be near the attraction.

Staff even helped by filling out the paperwork for a licence to hold the special day because nobody had ever been married at the museum before.

The pair married among the exhibits in the Tank Story Hall followed by afternoon tea and snacks.

Wanda recalled how she had hit off instantly with ex-Royal Dragoon Guards NCO Steve when

she discovered that they both loved military history.

She later decided to pop the question Army-style.

"I gave Steve some dog tags that matched his real ones and on one of them I'd had engraved 'will you marry me?'" she said.

"When I first met him I realised we had a lot in common.

"We wanted to live near the Tank Museum because we loved it so much and then ended up in Yeovil."

Steve – who served on Chieftan tanks during his 13-year Army career – said the occasion had been memorable, with 60 guests attending.

He added: "We had a perfect wedding at a place we love and visit all the time – we will keep returning as a married couple." ■

“We will keep returning as a married couple”



Faith (back) on show

■ THE extraordinary stories and objects highlighting the role that faith plays in military life are back on display in a new tri-Service showcase. The Royal Army Chaplains' Museum at Shrivenham, which was recently officially opened by the Countess of Wessex, tells the story of Service padres and the contribution they make to all branches of the Armed Forces. The opening of the new site follows the relocation of the Army's old museum from Amport House, Andover.



Slow progress

Another year, another damning report on Service complaints...

Pictures: Graeme Main and Freepik



THE military might have spent a lot of time and effort trying to cut backlogs of complaints, but the system is still not operating in a way that is efficient, effective or fair.

That is the finding of the Service Complaints Ombudsman, Mariette Hughes, in her 2021 annual report.

For the sixth year running the process has been found to be letting troops down, with the lengthy time taken to resolve grievances still a big problem.

Hughes said she was disappointed by the findings.

"Trust and confidence remains low, and personnel are not yet comfortable in engaging with the system," she said.

Her study found that women are twice as likely to raise a complaint.

And although the average time taken to close a case had improved on previous years, the target of resolving 90 per cent within 24 weeks was way off. This year's Army figure was 44 per cent.

Maj Sue Drysdale (RE) from the Army Service Complaints Secretariat said the findings would be disheartening for soldiers but further improvements were on the way.

Since last September, for example, an outsourced investigation service has been dealing with all files involving bullying and harassment.

And from later this month complaints will be sent directly to the secretariat rather than through the chain of command first.

But the officer said certain elements of Army life – operations, leave or illness – would always make a 24-week turnaround tough.

"There are a lot of practical reasons why cases progress slowly," she told *Soldier*. "Some delays there are no excuse for, but with some things it's totally out of our control."



Army Sergeant Major WO1 Paul Carney (shown below) said it was important for troops to know about other channels for resolving problems.

"I would urge soldiers to see if they can have their concerns addressed more locally in the first instance – our diversity and inclusion advisers are a good place to talk through the options," the senior soldier explained.

"In many cases, people causing harm do not know the impact that their behaviour is having – very few actually wake up in the morning with the intent to cause hurt or damage. Using methods such as mediation can get people together and resolve an issue without the need to make a formal complaint."

Troops with queries over Army policy can also contact *Soldier's* Talkback section (page 49).



Armed Forces complaints: what are they about?

- Career management (34%)
- Bullying, harassment or discrimination (31%)
- Pay, pensions and allowances (11%)
- Other (24%)



My story

It took six months for a Service complaint resolution for Pte Darren James (AGC (MPGS))

After joining the Military Provost Guard Service in 2019, Pte James had reason to submit a Service complaint. Starting pay was upped for new recruits, but that left the soldier on a salary that was two bands lower than the branch's newest joiners...

There are a lot of reasons why cases progress slowly

“

"I complained to my guard commander, but got **told just to suck it up**. So I went to see the site commander. His response was to sign off and join up again. But I would have lost the seniority I'd gained – I was eligible for promotion. So **I had a fight on**. I knew a bit about the process as I had been an assisting officer in my previous career as a Royal Marines drum major. I had even received a complaint for being too strict in that role. So I knew what to do. **I just stated the facts** on the form. The most important thing is to think about what a fair outcome is for you; what do you want? I wasn't complaining about a person, which is more difficult I think, it was about a policy. I wrote everything down then came back and changed it because it seemed stroppy. **You have to focus and try to be non-emotional**.

Then an investigation board was set up. Six months later I got a call to say it had gone my way and the reason I hadn't heard from them in a while was they were identifying all the other soldiers affected. Three months later I got the biggest pay packet of my life. And the **policy changed**. I was shocked, to be honest. But why be one of those people who just sits in the corner saying 'FFS'? **I felt very disappointed** in the MPGS chain of command for not trying hard enough in the first place – and **amazed that a private could take on Army policy and win**."

IN NUMBERS: Army complaints



24%

fewer cases open at the close of 2021 compared with the start

38%

fewer overdue cases outstanding

Pte James's top tips for submitting a Service complaint:

- ➲ Be factual
- ➲ Be non-emotional
- ➲ Have moral courage: stick to your beliefs, even if that means telling a superior they are wrong



Ground view

Army Sergeant Major, WO1 Paul Carney, offers his take on Service life...

IT IS an unhappy story that we are seeing in newspapers and on television almost every day – the cost of living crisis is causing misery for millions.

With rising food and fuel prices, many have been finding it difficult to make ends meet. It is an awful state of affairs, which is affecting the whole of society. The Army is no exception – all of us are feeling the pinch.

It should be no surprise, then, that the issue was high on the agenda during the recent Regimental Sergeant Majors' Convention at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

We heard troubling stories from our senior soldiers – including that some troops have been working shifts in places such as fast-food outlets in an effort to make some extra cash.

Although everyone – soldier and civilian alike – is having to pay more for basic necessities, the effects of this situation on the military could potentially be serious.

If individuals are worried about loved ones struggling to pay the bills or they're constantly tired because of clocking on at nights in McDonald's, then it could impact their readiness and ability to give 100 per cent.

We cannot afford to take our eye off the ball, particularly in the current unpredictable world and at a time when commitments are increasing.

Unfortunately, there are no simple solutions or quick fixes for a large organisation such as the Army, which has more than 100,000 people on its books.

Our pay is determined annually – which means it is always based on the situation of the previous year. It simply cannot be done any other way.

But I am clearly very concerned and will be closely examining the points raised at the convention to collate the issues and consider our response.

My initial thoughts are that we could provide extra guidance on managing money and budgeting, as well as working more closely with our charities.

There are some good organisations – such as Forces Mutual – which provide solid advice without the commitment of having to buy a product.

It is also important that we remove any stigma from financial problems, so do not be afraid to speak to your chain of command if you are suffering.

We will all face – and weather – this crisis together.

Pictures: Freepic and Graeme Main

“
We heard troubling stories from our senior soldiers
”

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Q Will you be going to the cinema this summer?

A Yes – *Top Gun: Maverick* is top of the list



Potential NCOs are showing impressive levels of commitment

The truth about youth

THE media have used some unkind terms to talk about young people today – “snowflake generation” is a phrase that springs to mind.

But from all I am seeing, our current crop of soldiers are completely undeserving of such derogatory labels and are consistently delivering on all fronts.

A recent potential NCO cadre in Scotland with 3rd Battalion, The Rifles provided a case in point.

Junior soldiers hungry to take leadership roles were being put through

their paces on the eight-week course for promotion to the rank of lance corporal.

It is demanding, both physically and mentally, but the troops were seizing the opportunity to gain a foothold on the leadership ladder.

It has often been said the first stripe is the hardest to attain, but these young infantrymen were clearly undeterred as they put themselves to the test.

Many will be commanding future Army operations.

Falklands remembered...

■ THE Falkland Islands were liberated exactly 40 years ago this month – and it is important that we pause to reflect on the sacrifices of times past.

I have a personal interest in the era as my dad was one of the Royal Engineers who helped build the Mount Pleasant complex after the conflict.

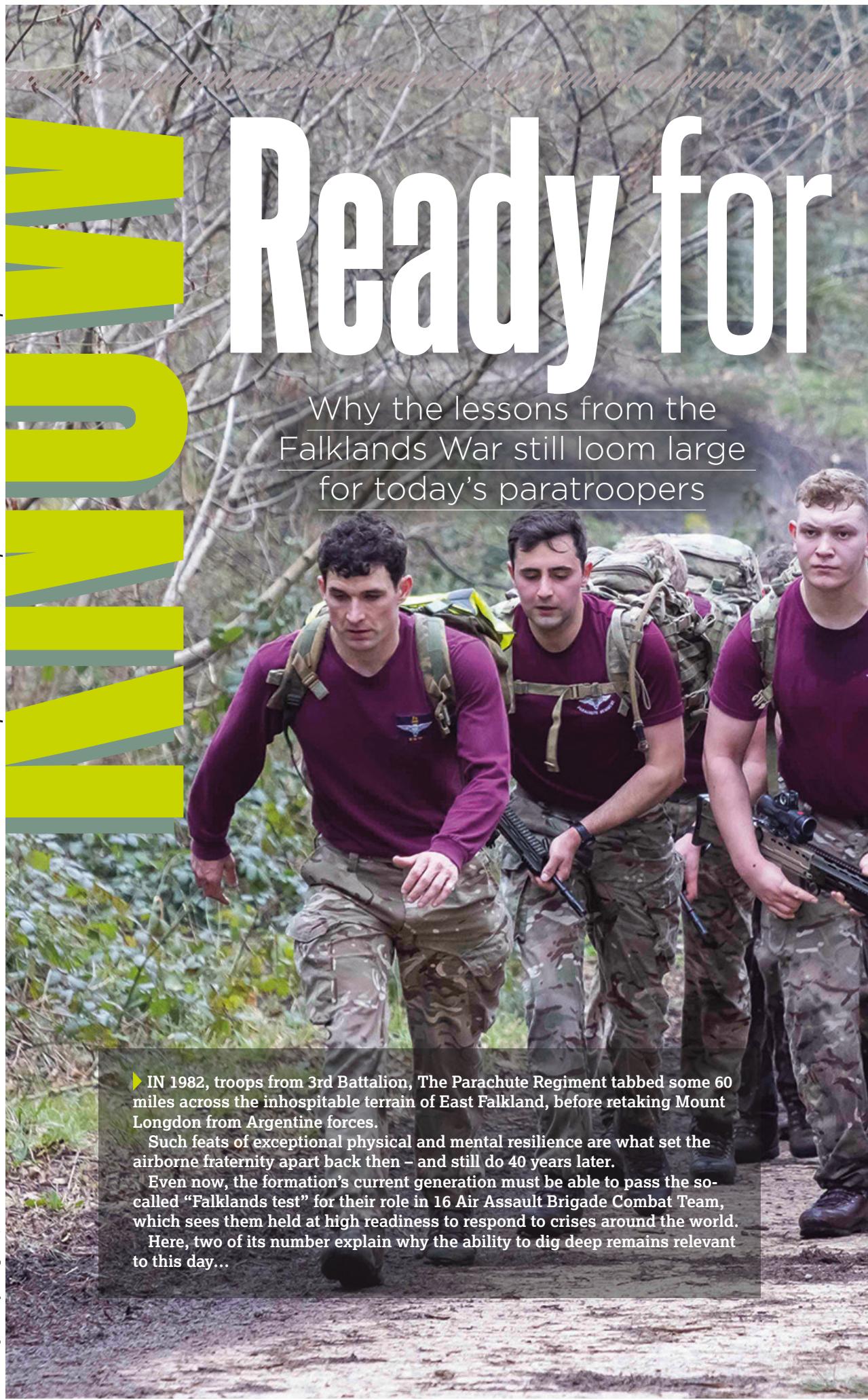
Stories from the war influenced my decision to join the Army, so I am proud to be attending a Royal British Legion remembrance event marking the events of 1982 at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The generation that fought in the South Atlantic achieved so much but a number paid with their lives. We will remember them.

WEED TO WEDDING

Picture: Cpl Danny Houghton, RLC

REGS / RULES & DRILLS / SKILLS & DRILLS / EXPERIENCE / FITNESS



► IN 1982, troops from 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment tabbed some 60 miles across the inhospitable terrain of East Falkland, before retaking Mount Longdon from Argentine forces.

Such feats of exceptional physical and mental resilience are what set the airborne fraternity apart back then – and still do 40 years later.

Even now, the formation's current generation must be able to pass the so-called "Falklands test" for their role in 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, which sees them held at high readiness to respond to crises around the world.

Here, two of its number explain why the ability to dig deep remains relevant to this day...

anything



WO1 Mike Firth

Role: Regimental sergeant major

Age: 40

Years served: Joined in 2000; deployed on operational tours to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan

“ You can quite easily draw comparisons between Op Corporate and what the battalion did last year in Afghanistan on Op Pitting.

In 1982 they were called up and nine days later were sailing to the South Atlantic, half of them not even knowing where the Falklands were.

The deployment to Kabul was a great example of how physical robustness allows our soldiers to deploy at short notice, with limited pre-deployment training and get the task done.

We constantly teach and remind our personnel about our history from the Second World War to today, so they are very aware of it.

Occasionally we will also do a 50-miler and if we do a tour of the Falklands as the Roulement Infantry Company, we will replicate the tab across the island.

It's a great test of mental resilience and helps the guys to understand they can keep going over a longer distance, even if their feet are covered in blisters.

By the end they're in pretty bad shape – even those who are insanely fit can struggle.

I think the older members perhaps cope a bit better, having done more overseas training exercises and arduous promotional courses.

I'm good at blocking things out and just getting on with it. You just tick the miles off as you go, putting one foot in front of the other. ”



In numbers

1hr 50mins

time in which paratroopers must be able to complete a ten-mile march during P Company, carrying 35lbs, plus weapon and water

18mins

time in which they must cover two miles, with the same weight

80th

anniversary The Parachute Regiment will celebrate later this year



FITNESS

Capt Jack Maughan

Role: Adjutant

Age: 31

Years served: Joined in 2015; deployed on Operation Pitting

“ The ‘Falklands test’ generally consists of a long insertion march followed by an offensive action, just as 3 Para did in 1982.

It provides the assurance that we can deploy anywhere in the world in the most arduous conditions, in keeping with our regimental motto, ‘Utrinque Paratus’ - ‘ready for anything’.

At very short notice we could go out the door, so our soldiers have to have that high level of mental and physical robustness, which they first develop on P Company and then maintain at battalion through regular functional training.

In a normal week they’ll do a long run, maybe a strength and conditioning circuit like hill reps or intervals, and probably take it easy one day by having a game of football or going for a swim – then go hard on a Friday with a loaded march of up to ten miles, carrying 44lbs, including weapons and a litre of water.

There is no other way to become used to moving at speed with weight than to do it once in a while.

We don’t have as many musculoskeletal injuries as we used to because we have learned to maintain soldiers’ longevity and we have some top-end PTIs who do a good mix of non-impact cardiovascular and strength sessions.

In fact, our rehab platoon is named after Mount Longdon and ensures anyone who does get injured comes back fully fit, if not stronger than before.

We ringfence our time to make sure we can all train together – the fitness culture of the brigade is something we are all really grateful for. ”



► THIS time 70 years ago, Britain was still reeling from the loss of its King.

George VI – our Queen’s father – had died and after travelling back from an overseas trip, a 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth was about to embark on her journey to becoming the longest ever serving monarch.

As the nation prepared for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations this month, ex-Grenadier Guardsman John Walmsley relived his part in that historic moment.

A sergeant in the King’s Company, he was in charge of the escort detachment for the coffin. Seventy years on – at the age of 95 – the details of that experience remain firmly in his mind...

GMANY elements of that day remain vivid in my memory. Back then there were two railway stations in Windsor, and the train carrying the King came into the top one, near the castle.

When it arrived, I was there as part of an escort which also included the Royal Navy.

We accompanied the coffin, walking on either side of the gun carriage, all the way from the station into Windsor Castle itself and towards St George’s Chapel, ready for its burial.

I had 15 men on one side, 15 on the other and that was my little detachment.

The steps to St George’s are very steep, and the coffin was lead-lined so the lads carrying it had to practise in advance with weights inside to make sure they were prepared.

The coffin was walked up by four men on either side. They were strong and strapping, but the coffin was very heavy and as they walked up the steep steps it sloped a lot, and the boys were struggling.

So the warrant officer behind had to push the back up with them.

We also had to adjust our march to the shuffle of the men who were carrying it. Once the coffin went into the chapel, that was the end of the responsibility for us.

Being involved in events like that is a strange feeling, especially with the public all around you and being that it is a moment of history.

But when you’re serving, you’re on duty and everything is focused on planning and timing. ■



'It was a strange feeling'

Former sergeant recalls ceremonial role at King's funeral



John Walmsley also took part in Her Majesty's Coronation ceremony the following year on June 2, 1953. Today he is a resident at the Royal Star and Garter home, of which the Queen is patron, in High Wycombe

Tosca toi

How peacekeeping tours sharpen soldiers' skills

► IT might be the Army's longest running UN mission, having begun in 1974, but that doesn't mean life on the Cyprus buffer zone is predictable.

Here, Spr Zamar Sealy (RE) outlines the skills he and his colleagues in 21 Engineer Regiment are honing during a six-month stint on the island.

SKILL 1 PATROLLING

“When you patrol out here you need to pay attention to every tiny detail. It's about making sure everything is as it should be and that there are no incidents like migrant crossings. Everything we see is recorded and reported. And we are trained to recognise the absence of normal. Memory is an important part of that.”

SKILL 2 COMMS

“This is central to combat engineering – and something we are doing every day on foot patrols out here. It means you become more solid at it quickly. Good listening skills and voice procedure are vital – this includes being clear and knowing what you are going to say before you say it.”

SKILL 4 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

“For us this means taking care of the 4x4s and making sure we check tyres and oil levels every Monday. We have a REME detachment, but certain things are our job. Some troops don't do this sort of thing at home, and not everyone can drive, so we were given lessons. I'd never changed a tyre in my life until I got out here!”

SKILL 3 CASUALTY CARE

“I have recently done my team medic course, but we have had further validation exercises out here to make sure we don't forget the skills needed to keep someone alive. It means we can deal with things like catastrophic bleeds and broken limbs – and it's important because the buffer zone is out of reach of camp.”

SKILL 5 NEGOTIATION

“We interact with the public a lot out here, from farmers to Greek and Turkish Cypriots. So we need to have patience. Parking in front of the buffer zone gates is a repeated issue – people know they are not supposed to do it but do so anyway. You just have to take a deep breath and assert yourself but not come across as rude.

For me this is a challenge. And it's not necessarily a skill you will have used on previous deployments. Life out here is more liaison and negotiation than aggression – two different sides to the same profession.”



Data defence

Planning a post-pandemic trip abroad? Make sure you follow this cyber security advice

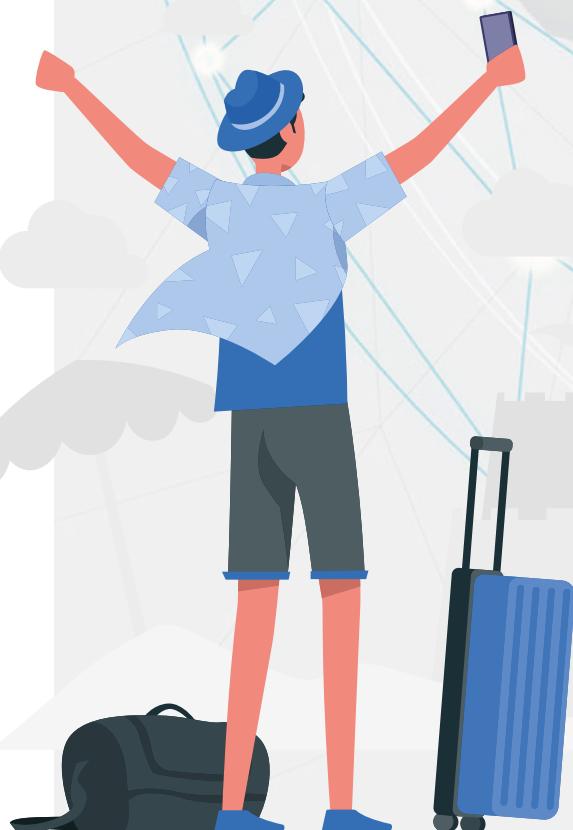


▶ AS worldwide travel restrictions continue to ease, many are venturing further afield.

But while the latest generation of mobile devices and apps can provide exceptional comms and connectivity, they also present a golden opportunity for criminals.

With unfamiliar networks that potentially have less robust protection, unsuspecting travellers can find themselves in the sights of hackers.

For military personnel, there is added responsibility to keep data secure on the move – whether on- or off-duty. And with this in mind, *Soldier* spoke to Army security culture boss Michelle Sparrow (pictured) for her top tips on staying e-safe while over the water.



Know your limits

There are restrictions on travel to some states, for leisure as well as work purposes, which apply to all MoD personnel including Regulars, Reservists and civilians. These are classed as Tier One and Two countries and it is important that you check the list while also staying apprised of wider advice on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office website. The restrictions also apply to stopovers in the listed countries as well as using their national carriers – regardless of destination. See **JSP 440** to find out more.



Prepare with purpose

Consider the kit you need to take and make provisions accordingly. Make sure your devices are backed up, delete any unnecessary or unused apps and ensure your bank has up-to-date details in case you need to verify transactions. Remember – **MoD issued phones, laptops and tablets** need a carriage certificate to be taken abroad.

Stay tight lipped

As the old Second World War saying goes, loose lips sink ships. **Avoid posting details of your trip on social media platforms** such as Twitter and Facebook. Set your accounts to private and don't disclose details such as locations, dates and times. Keep your email out-of-office response generic and do not discuss details of your job with strangers while travelling.

Maintain your defences

Strong passwords are key to keeping out unwanted guests – don't underestimate their importance. **Using two-factor authentication** on all devices and sensitive apps is an excellent start, and selecting three random words for your key – with a few numbers, symbols and capitals thrown in – will make you a tougher target. Keep your email platforms secure as a priority as they can open the way to all other accounts.



Power is knowledge

Don't plug your mobile devices into public USB charging ports – most cables you'll be using enable data transfer and criminals or state-based actors can tamper with sockets to plant malware on your machine. Use a power pack or a plug to charge instead – and beware of scanning QR codes too as these can also be used to sneak malicious software onto your device.

Stay out of sight

Public Wi-Fi can be less secure so avoid it if possible – **tapping into your personal data is a far better option** although it is worth checking your provider's roaming policy as there might be a cost. You could consider installing a VPN as an alternative. And only turn on bluetooth and location settings on your device when you need them.



Further information

getsafeonline.org
JSP 440, part 2, leaflet 2C

Labour of love

How a hotel refurb project gave a bereaved couple new purpose and breathed life into a military institution

► TEN years ago this month, Duane Ashworth (ex-Gren Gds) and his wife Caroline received the news all parents dread – his son, James, had been killed on operations.

A year later, their grief still raw, they learnt the talented lance corporal had been posthumously awarded Britain's highest military honour – the Victoria Cross – for putting himself in the line of fire while storming an enemy position in Nahr-e Saraj, Afghanistan.

While the decade since has been a painful journey, the couple are now channelling their sorrow – and their experience in the hospitality industry – into restoring a 103-year-old hotel for the military community.

The Kitchener's Memorial Holiday Centre in Lowestoft has offered serving troops and veterans a place to rest and recuperate since 1919, but a century of almost continuous use had left it looking worn.

When the couple heard that trustees were seeking new managers two years ago, they stepped in and set about bringing the institution into the modern era.

With a top-to-bottom refurb now well under way, *Soldier* dropped in to hear about their determination to maintain the venue as a long-term hub for soldiers past and present – with James's memory very much at the heart of the project. Duane begins:

GI WAS quite blasé about James being in Afghanistan because, like me, he was a Grenadier Guard – I knew he'd been trained by the best and never thought he would be killed.

When we then found out almost a year to the day later that he had got the VC it was like him dying all over again.

It was leaked to the press and the inquest was also coming up, so there was lots of media intrusion. This all went on for weeks and the regiment had to put us in hiding.

At the same time, of course, I was proud of James because I knew what the medal meant.

With his death, we became like one big family with his friends, brothers and sisters – it's how I coped with it.

And that's what we're doing now – helping others cope. It's as much for my mental health as anyone else's.



My analogy is that we all have a pint glass – over time it gets fuller and fuller until it spills over, and that's when we get the suicides and people not dealing with things.

But coming here empties the pint glass a little bit. As well as the hotel, we run breakfast clubs, coffee mornings, regimental dinners and reunions. Civilians will never understand the banter that goes on and how it helps.

We also live on site and there's always someone knocking on the door wanting to come in for a brew.

But we don't mind – if we can draw on our experience to support just one person then that's enough.

It's an honour – we don't look at it like a job. We are the custodians while we are here and if it can be open for another hundred years, brilliant, because it was on the verge of closing two years ago and that would have been scandalous.

When I was a young guardsman I couldn't afford to take my family on holiday and the Grenadiers had a fund to allow those who struggled financially to get away.

It was only a caravan in Camber Sands, but it was a break. And that's what we would like to do eventually – let the regiments know we're here and that they can send people to us.

The anniversary of James's death is always hard but this year we've been really busy with preparations for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Armed Forces Day.

We also have a tandem skydive organised and have about 50 of his friends and family committed, all of whom are aiming to raise £500 each for the charity.

That will enable us to carry on upgrading the hotel and hopefully help secure its legacy in years to come.

J

Caroline continues:

GWHEN we took the hotel over it was a bit like an old peoples' home – it needed a lot of TLC.

But Rome wasn't built in a day and luckily for us we don't mind hard graft and enjoy working together.

It was built in the 1800s and has a lot of character. I think you can feel that the minute you step through the doors and find out what it's about.

It's open to the local community, too, not just people coming on holiday. That's important to us because there are a lot of older veterans nearby who need somewhere to come for coffee.

Things were obviously quiet during Covid, but they're starting to come back now and that's so nice because a lot of them have found themselves really isolated and lonely.

As well as a chat we invite experts to come over and talk to them about issues such as finances and pensions, if they need that.

We never turn anyone away because we might be someone's last port of call. The suicides among men in general, and veterans in particular, are really worrying.

That's why we're so passionate about what Kitchener's offers – because we've had that traumatic experience.



When James died we really struggled. The press would come to Duane's place of work and he would go Awol.

I remember one time in particular I was looking for him and as I drove home I had this really strong feeling I would find him hanging in the garage. I stood outside for ages not wanting to go in.

We were grieving massively and trying to find a way to live a new life without James in it.

His friends are so good – they still message us on Facebook once or twice a year to ask how we are.

We've watched them grow up, get married and have kids and sometimes you think, 'James would be doing that now,' but it's always so nice to see them and they say we're like a second mum and dad.

These days, rather than sitting in a pub on his anniversary and crying into a pint we have learnt to deal with it in other ways – and having this place to focus on is a big part of that. ■

J

● For more information and to book a room visit kitchenerslowestoft.co.uk

To donate to the tandem skydive fundraiser go to localgiving.org/appeal/jamesashworthvcjump



JUMPING IN



HARMONY

Nato troops
descend on
alliance's
newest
member »

» **I**T COULD be said that combined arms ops are a bit like making music with a band.

The infantry are vocals, engineers lead guitar and artillery drums. On their own they mean little, but together they become a striking harmony – and with some fine tuning, a force to be reckoned with.

Exercise Swift Response, held in North Macedonia last month, certainly had its own distinct sound.

As the stillness of a Balkan spring morning was broken by the scream of A-10s and growl of Apaches, troops from the UK's 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team (BCT) snapped into action in their role as the Global Response Force.

The distant drone of C-130s was in the air as Italian paratroopers dropped across the horizon, having flown direct from their base on the other side of the Adriatic.

Joining the chorus was the distinctive "wokka-wokka" of Chinooks and Blackhawks dropping off British and French paratroopers and Montenegrin infantry.

They were accompanied by the rattle of the Pathfinders' machine guns, opening up to provide covering fire from where they had been covertly watching the landing zone.

For anyone listening, there could be no doubt as to the nature of this music. Its message was loud and clear – Nato is unified, trained and ready to respond together to global crises.

From the Albanian military police to American helicopter crews, some 3,000 troops from across eight nations took part in the manoeuvres.

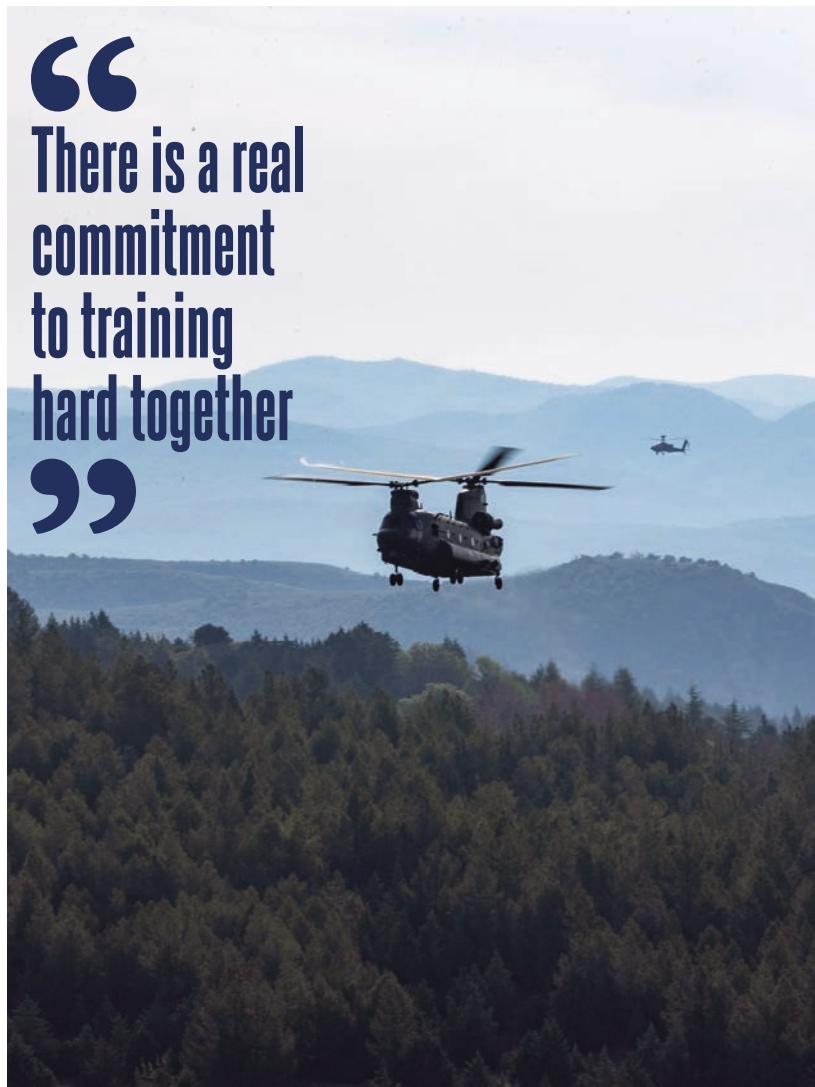
The 2,000-strong British contingent centred on 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Battlegroup plus Aviation Task Force 1 with their 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps Apaches and Royal Air Force Chinook support helicopters.

The journey out to south-eastern Europe added other distinct sounds into the mix too.

The rumble of tyres as a 220-strong convoy made the 2,000km drive from Colchester to North Macedonia; the clunk of train couplings as 75 vehicles were moved across European rail tracks; the distinctive horn blasts of MV Eddystone ferrying in a raft of equipment to Thessaloniki, Greece and the roar of RAF Voyagers flying in troops.

The common purpose of this journey to the rugged Krivolak ranges was as clear to those at the bottom of the rank structure as it was the top.

"Seeing all the different elements coordinated together and everyone doing their best to help us, gives a lot of confidence for us to go on and achieve our objective," said 26-year-old



“
There is a real commitment to training hard together
”





» paratrooper Pte James Neal.

"The combined arms live-fire exercise was tough, but that's what we thrive on.

"The key element to doing it well is communication and everyone executing their individual skills and drills to the top of their ability.

"If each person delivers, then the company delivers."

The mortars of 2 Para, 105mm light guns of 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery and 30mm Apache cannon certainly did this – so much so that for Pte Fin Doherty the demanding terrain was almost inconsequential.

"For me, being ready to fight like this is what being a paratrooper is all about," he said.

"The exercise went well for my section – we've built a strong team, know what we're all supposed to do and get on with it.

"Physically, it was hard work on loose, rocky ground with all the enemy positions on top of hills. But I find these attacks just as exhausting if they're on the level because I give all I've got to win the fight."

Brig Nick Cowley, commander of 16 Air Assault BCT, said he had been "deeply impressed" by the sense of unity during the various serials.



NATO IN NUMBERS

15,000

NATO TROOPS INVOLVED IN EXERCISE HEDGEHOG ON THE ESTONIA-LATVIA BORDER

3,339

PERSONNEL FROM TEN NATIONS TAKING PART IN EXERCISE IRON WOLF IN LITHUANIA

14

CHALLENGER 2s FROM THE QRH TAKING PART IN EXERCISE ARROW IN FINLAND

1 Ex Arrow

CHALLENGER 2s – 14 in total – have been showcasing their full capability in an opposing forces role on the Pohjankangas training area.

As well as Finnish Defence Forces, the exercise involved other partner nations, including the US, Estonia and Latvia. The objective over two weeks was to develop the

host nation's ground combat capabilities and ability to operate joint fires alongside international allies. And it was the first time Challenger 2s had been involved in the biannual package.

Tank commander Sgt Kieran Jardine (QRH) said the training opportunity had been invaluable.

"We've loved testing ourselves," he added. "Our main job is shock action – always to get at the enemy hard, fast and aggressive, and destroy what's in front of us for the rest of the Army to roll in behind."

"Being here is one of the few occasions where we get to do force-on-force.

"We've been opposing a free-thinking, free-moving foe so it has made us think about our role much harder."



Elsewhere in Eastern Europe...

2 Ex Hedgehog

ESOLUTE troops put on a show of strength as they joined Nato colleagues from nine other nations for a huge training package in Estonia.

The largest series of manoeuvres in the Baltic state's history, it saw Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior armoured fighting vehicles rumble

into action alongside a range of assets from the host nation's 2nd Infantry Brigade.

An annual shakedown to test the security of Nato's eastern flank, this year's training serials took place amid heightened concerns following Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

Some 1,500 Brits from the Royal Tank Regiment and Royal Welsh battlegroups deployed in-country took part



"There is a real commitment to training hard together to be ready for the most difficult of operations – war fighting against a peer enemy," he said.

"There are challenges around communications and intelligence sharing, but we can work around these issues and use the differing strengths of our allies to make us a much better fighting force."

One such example came in the shape of Pte Cameron Dawson (pictured left), who speaks fluent French having grown up in Marseille and was embedded with French paratroopers.

"The common language of Nato is English and all of the French officers and many of the soldiers speak it to some degree," he explained.

"But my job was to use my French to link between battlegroup headquarters and the French OC to deepen the understanding, so that we're all on the same wavelength."

"I've really got on with them because they're airborne as well, with a similar mindset, training and role as us."

Fine tuning their mindsets, as well as their instruments, towards joint working will be vital if this band of soldiers are to succeed on global missions of the future. ■



8,000

TOTAL NUMBER OF BRITISH
SOLDIERS TRAINING ACROSS
EASTERN EUROPE

120

BRITISH WARRIOR ARMOURED FIGHTING
VEHICLES DEPLOYED TO COUNTRIES
FROM FINLAND TO NORTH MACEDONIA

12

ROYAL ARTILLERY AS90 GUNS
ON MANOEUVRES ACROSS
THE CONTINENT



alongside a 15,000-strong Nato contingent.

Speaking during the manoeuvres in the south of the state, RTR commanding officer Lt Col Simon Worth told reporters that the presence of UK troops offered

"an increase in combat power" to the Estonians.

"Normally they are a light brigade – but we are bringing something much heavier that has increased their lethality significantly," the senior officer added.



3 Ex Iron Wolf

WILDCAT operators from 659 Squadron, 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps honed their skills in establishing a forward arming and refuelling point.

Part of the 1st Aviation Brigade Combat Team, the personnel are deployed at the Siauliai Air Base as part of Nato's Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup.

Elsewhere, Reservists from 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment integrated with the Lithuanian Hussars to train the formation. They practised fighting in forests and built-up areas, with the infantry providing manoeuvre capability, protection and specialist weapon support

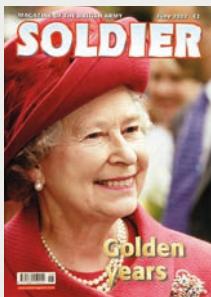
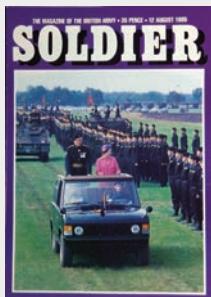
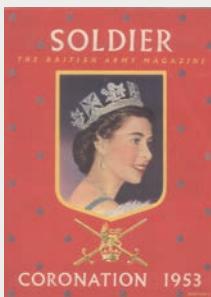
at the Rukla training area, where densely forested areas with isolated villages would otherwise restrict the movement of armoured units.

Supporting personnel from 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, the REME and medical teams were also present, while other UK troops included members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh.

The British contingent completed serials with both Javelin and NLAW, while German and Lithuanian forces operated Boxer, allowing troops to witness the capability of a platform that will soon enter service back on home soil.



Below: Soldier covers over the Queen's reign



Report: Cliff Caswell and Steve Muncey Pictures: Cpl Danny Houghton; Cpl Rob Kane, both RLC

A PLATINUM Performance

Troops parade par excellence to salute Her Majesty's landmark anniversary

PROUD British troops provided a textbook ceremonial showcase – leading from the front as the nation marked 70 years of the Queen's reign.

The Army's finest had the eyes of the world on them as their vital contribution made the monarch's Platinum Jubilee the most special of occasions.

And the Queen seemed delighted with their immaculate turnout – again displaying the huge affection in which she has held generations of personnel – during the four-day spectacle that captured the public imagination.

Commemorations saw guns fired at locations including Edinburgh Castle and the Tower of London while some 1,400 soldiers from the Household Division and The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery paraded at a spectacular Trooping the Colour.

Representing the monarch, the Prince of Wales took the salute at the event in the capital, during which 1st Battalion, Irish Guards assumed the lead.

A 400-strong contingent from the massed bands provided musical accompaniment to the occasion on June 2, marking the Queen's 96th birthday.

Army pipers and buglers also set the tone later in the evening, when the nation continued the celebrations with the lighting of beacons across the United Kingdom.

And following a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on June 3 where troops stood guard, later events included a colourful pageant down The Mall (far right) and a concert outside Buckingham Palace. All the while there were local celebrations, street parties and community activities across the country.

It was a professional high point for the soldiers involved as many months of intense preparation and hard work paid off with a military masterclass.

Maj Russell Bond (LG), who was in charge of all mounted troops taking part in the Queen's birthday parade, said it had been a "huge privilege" to be involved in the spectacle.

"I have a strong connection to the royal family having been equerry to the Princess Royal from 2017 to 2019 and wanted to give my best," he added.

"Overall, I was pleased with all we produced although on occasions such as these there are always unexpected factors that crop up – we were »



The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland heads through Admiralty Arch



More than 1,400 soldiers and 250 horses from the Household Division took part in Trooping the Colour





The Red Arrows impressed the royal family and London spectators over the weekend





The Household Cavalry's Life Guards march past the Houses of Parliament during the pageant



» all surprised by the sheer number of people who came out to watch.”

Capt Neil Skipper (RCam, shown below), director of music at the Band of the Irish Guards, said his troops had been elated to play a key role in Trooping the Colour.

The officer penned the piece that accompanied the inspection on the parade, entitled *The Mists of the Shannon*, as well as selecting the event's other musical repertoire.

“I worked jointly with Irish and Platinum Jubilee themes for the event, which allowed us to have elements of the celebrated composers from the Queen's era such as Edward Elgar and William Walton,” he explained.

“The process of choosing the music started around a year ago – soon after the last Trooping the Colour – as we must ultimately have the approval of Her Majesty.”

Capt Skipper, who has served as an Army musician for more than 30 years, said there had been an air of elation as troops returned from the parade.

“Quite a few had never performed at Trooping the Colour before – this was their first major event,” he added. “I'm also personally very proud to have taken part – particularly as my late father was also an Army musician.”

Maj Stewart Halliday (RCam), director of music with the Band of the Coldstream Guards, echoed his fellow officer's comments, highlighting that the Platinum Jubilee celebrations would be unique in history.

The same military musicians that helped lift spirits during the Covid lockdowns had set the »



Jubilee jubilation

OME 70 soldiers and officers were given a special start to the Jubilee celebrations when their achievements were endorsed with royal recognition. Those saluted in the Queen's birthday honours – announced shortly before the Trooping the Colour – included Capt Harpreet Chandi (RAMC), who completed a record-breaking solo trek across Antarctica at the start of the year. Nicknamed Polar Preet by pals, the physiotherapist and adventurer (shown) received the MBE after becoming the first woman of colour to finish the punishing challenge – as well as the fastest female to cross the continent. Elsewhere, WO2 Barry Appleton (RDG), unit welfare warrant officer at Army Foundation College Harrogate, received the same award for his work with students. And former Army Sergeant Major and *Soldier* columnist Maj Gav Paton (Rifles) was made an OBE for his achievements.



Queen's Birthday Honours 2022

Knight Commander

Lt Gen Ralph Wooddisse

As Companions

Maj Gen Andrew Roe;
Maj Gen Alexander Taylor

CBE

Brig Nigel Allison; Brig Jonathan Chestnutt; Brig Angus Fair; Col (now A/Brig) Karl Harris; Brig John Stephenson; Col Nigel Tai

OBE

Lt Col Niall Aye Maung (RAMC); Brig Matthew Bazeley; Col Robert Burley; Lt Col Jonathan Buxton (RA); Lt Col Rachel Emmerson (RLC); Col Paul Gibly; Col Damian Griffin; Lt Col James Hadfield (Rifles); Lt Col Nicola Macleod (RAMC); Col Sandra Nicholson (ACF); Capt (now Maj) Gavin Paton (Rifles)

MBE

WO2 Barry Appleton (RDG); Lt Col (now A/Col) Sally Arthurton (R Signals); 2Lt (now Lt) Joshua Bell (Int Corps); Lt Col (now Col) Darren Bishop (RA); Maj Thomas Blair (Scots); Capt Harpreet Chandi (RAMC); WO1 James Cooper (REME); Maj Daniel Cornwall (RLC); Cpl (now Sgt) Ross Daniels (REME); Cpl Aristotle Djin (RE); Capt Lorraine Dotchin (RE); Maj Simon Farmer (RE); Lt Col Nigel Francis (Int Corps); Lt Col Maximilian Garretty (RWxY); Lt Col Matthew Goodchild (Para); Capt Robert Goodman (RA);

Capt Kevin Haley (RAPTC); Cpl Christopher Hammond (AAC); Maj Joshua Head (RA); Capt Daniel Herbert (REME); Capt Philip High (RLC); WO1 Jamie Hutch (RLC); Maj Matthew Johns (R Signals); Maj Matthew Keogh (REME); Maj (now A/Lt Col) Edward Lyons (Yorks); WO1 James Macrae; Maj (now A/Lt Col) Matthew Mallett (R Signals); Acting Maj (now Maj) Jack Millar (RGR); Ssgt (now WO2) Richard Moody (RAPTC); Lt Liam Morrissey (GSC); Capt Imogen Mould (Int Corps); Lt Col Karl Parfitt (RE); WO2 Anthony Parker (AGC (SPS)); Maj Frederick Pitt (RG); WO2 Christopher Renshaw (R Signals); WO1 Alan Robertson (AGC (RMP)); Maj Nicholas Rogerson (Para); Maj Gordon Rowan (Scots); Maj James Spelling (RA); Maj (now Lt Col) Michael Stewart (RE); Maj Nathan Tyler (RA); Maj (now Lt Col) Elaine Walker (RAMC); Sgt (now Ssgt) Felicia Watkinson (AGC (SPS)); Maj Christine Woods (REME)

Royal Red Cross

Ordinary Member, First Class

Lt Col Lynn Adam (QARANC); Lt Col Margaret Durrant (QARANC)

QVRM

Lt Col Kathleen Higgins (QARANC); Lt Col Simon Hunt (R Signals); Maj Lee Patchell (RA); WO2 Paul Stevens (Para)





» tone for a royal celebration.

"This is not something any of us are going to see again," the officer, shown left, added.

This is certainly true. The Queen's reign has been unique, not only in its longevity but also with the seismic changes that have taken place over those seven decades.

The Army, too, is now very different to the organisation over which Her Majesty took charge in the post-Second World War years.

But she has been a constant in an era of flux – troops throughout the generations have sworn an oath to her, and her picture has adorned mess walls from operations in Korea to more recent actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The head of Britain's Armed Forces continues to be the toast of the youngest soldier to the most elderly veteran in an extraordinary landmark year. ■



Only the best
prices for
THE BEST



Bowens LPL1-50 LED Panel

- A powerful 702-strong, 24x24cm LED panel
- Adjustable colour temperature range of 2700 - 7500K
- Dimmable light output from 1-100%
- Includes a diffusion filter for flattering light
- Powered by mains or two Sony NP-F970 lithium batteries
- Includes a useful RM-1 remote control

SKU: 1754160

Quasar Science Double Rainbow 100W Linear LED Light with Dual Row Multi-Pixel RGBX Colour System (Double Rainbow Linear LED 4')

- Ultimate control with both standard wired and wireless option
- Ultra-low profile design
- Individual pixel control
- Ossium mounting system
- 50W double rainbow option available

SKU: 3037710



Aputure MC RGBWW 4-Light Travel Kit

- Four Aputure MC RGBWW LED lights
- Charging case to charge and protect
- Fits In your hand
- Super-portable and versatile
- Compatible with Qi wireless charging

SKU: 1750152



CP&F - SSP/00223
 [Warehouse Express Limited]
 0207 380 4509 | mod@wex.co.uk

Buying for
yourself?
Visit us at:
wex.co.uk



'WE TOOK IT IN QUIETLY, THERE WAS NO JUBILATION AT ALL'

Those involved in the Falklands conflict remember the campaign's climax, 40 years on

GAINING a foothold on a remote British overseas territory occupied by a near-peer enemy had been a feat in itself for UK troops working 8,000 miles from home. As they approached the Falkland Islands, they had already endured weeks at sea as well as the threat of Argentine attacks. But as May turned to June in 1982 and a bitter Antarctic winter escalated, their sternest test still lay ahead.

The soldiers and marines of the South American occupiers – who had spent weeks fortifying their positions after invading the land they called the Malvinas – were ready for battle on the hills around the capital Port Stanley.

And despite suffering severe losses in courageous low-level attacks, fast jet crews from their nation's air force – operating from bases on the mainland – remained a potent force having already wreaked havoc on Royal Navy vessels.

The pilots returned to deal a further devastating blow on June 8 when two Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships – Sir Tristram and Sir Galahad – were bombed at Fitzroy during landing operations. Some 60 personnel were killed – the majority of them Welsh Guards – and many survivors were left with terrible burns.

Yet despite facing harsh conditions and a fluid picture that required constant improvisation, British soldiers were

showing huge resolve.

At the end of May troops from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment had taken the surrender of the Argentine garrison following a battle at the settlement of Goose Green. But the victory came at a heavy price, including the loss of Commanding Officer Lt Col "H" Jones, who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his actions as troops pushed forward.

As the UK forces tightened their grip, soldiers mounted attacks on the high ground around Stanley.

Actions of June 11-12 saw 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment strike at Mount Longdon, while Royal Marines led the fight at Mount Harriet and Two Sisters – wresting the objectives from defending infanteers.

The following night 2 Para attacked Wireless Ridge before 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards dealt a final hammer blow at Mount Tumbledown following a close-range battle against a fearsome unit of Argentine marines.

The South American forces finally surrendered on June 14, 1982 – marking the end of a war that had been brief but brutal.

Some 255 UK and 649 Argentine personnel had been killed along with three Falkland islanders.

For those who survived, the conflict was a defining moment in their personal and professional lives. These reflections on the campaign's end are in their own words... »

Interviews: Cliff Caswell and Becky Clark

ROGER FIELD
CAPTAIN
THE BLUES AND ROYALS

PHILIP THOMPSON
WARRANT OFFICER
SASC

GRAHAM BOUND
AUTHOR/JOURNALIST
PENGUIN NEWS

STEVE DUFFY
GUARDSMAN
SCOTS GUARDS

EDUARDO VILLARRAZA
LIEUTENANT
ARGENTINE MARINES

GUS HALES
LANCE CORPORAL
ROYAL ENGINEERS

ROGER FIELD

A YOUNG captain in The Blues and Royals, Field headed south aboard the QE2 as part of a second wave of British troops. While colleagues from his cap badge had deployed ahead of him with 3 Commando Brigade, his role as a watchkeeper in Headquarters 5th Infantry Brigade meant his prospects of seeing direct action were limited.

But when the commanding officer of 2 Para realised an armoured adviser would be useful on the ground, he found himself fighting alongside the infantry at the battle for Wireless Ridge.

And after the commander of a Scimitar was injured, he stepped up to take charge of the platform.

Hours later, following the Argentine surrender, he was among the first into Port Stanley, with war reporter Max Hastings hanging onto the back of his vehicle.

"This photo (above) is the actual moment the war finished – I took it a minute after the 'endex' call came through on the radio.

We were fired up after Wireless Ridge – we saw it as the warm-up before the battle for Stanley, so initially there was a feeling of, 'oh...'. And then rapidly, 'thank God'.

We might have had a bad shock – there would have been 450-500 paras and four armoured vehicles against 11,000 enemy and what we thought was a squadron of Panhardas. Not exactly the cleverest odds.

But I hadn't gone 8,000 miles just to sit behind a radio and was lucky to have found something more useful to do, even if I was a Johnny-come-lately.

I'd volunteered my service to 2 Para and David Chaundler, who had taken over as commanding officer when Lt Col 'H' Jones was killed, realised our vehicles were more than just useful taxis and created a new role for me – a bit like a forward observation officer for the artillery.

You don't need to charge a machine gun nest when you can knock it out with armour at 800m, so it was a battle-winning capability and who knows what difference it might have made had it been used at Goose Green or Tumbledown.

It turned out later, due to a miscommunication about my whereabouts, that my family had been told I was missing presumed dead.



On June 15 there was a service in the cathedral, which a cameraman was filming, and they saw me march past – that's how they found out I was alive.

I don't know if our experiences ever really sunk in with my generation. We just returned home and were expected to get on with things.

People react in various ways – I have chums who have clearly not got over it, and others who appear to have been fine.

For me personally, I think I've got a lot of it out of my system through writing about warfare and military history.

How on earth do you start to talk about it to people who weren't there? I tend to remember the bits that amuse, because if you linger on the other stuff you quickly start to go down a very deep, dark rabbit hole."

PHILIP THOMPSON

IN 1982 Thompson (ex-SASC) was one of the UK military's only subject matter experts in a then fledgling technology – thermal imaging.

A warrant officer in the surveillance section of the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, he was asked to urgently find a solution that could be used by both helicopters and ground troops to locate enemy positions.

He identified a camera being tested for the new Challenger tank and flew with the kit to Ascension.

He was among the first British troops to set foot on Falklands territory – going ashore the day before the main landings to clear San Carlos Water of Argentine forces. Thompson spent the rest of the war switching between ground patrols and dangerous air sorties, scouring the terrain with the battle-winning kit.

He was later awarded an MBE for his role and wrote a book about his experiences called *Blowing My Own Bugle*.





"With an 8,000-mile logistics chain, we needed to get things done before supplies ran out.

Fortunately, the Argentines surrendered once they had lost the high ground around Stanley, meaning street fighting wasn't necessary in the end.

The morning after the war finished, we went into the town and one of my regrets in life is that I didn't buy a sheet of British stamps franked with the 'Malvinas' – that would be worth something now.

Two days later we flew home because the Special Forces troops were needed back in the UK.

That had its pros and cons – to go from war, where awful, disgusting things happen, to be walking down the street in Warminster is a bit much for some people.

My wife said I wasn't the same when I came back, but luckily perhaps after a few days off I had to go away again on another job and when that was over I was my usual self again.

If I'm honest I hadn't expected to survive – especially the nonsense in the air, flying around in the doorway of a helicopter in low visibility, with anti-aircraft fire incoming. I'd written a letter to my family but fortunately was able to rip it up.

Even though I never really suffered too much, there probably isn't a night that goes by where I don't think of something. War never really leaves you.

I like to think I contributed something, though, and that it helps tell the story of the Small Arms School Corps, which isn't really known about.

Of course, technology has come on in leaps and bounds since then – I'd love to see the kit now."

GRAHAM BOUND

WITH family who had lived on the Falkland Islands for generations, Bound was 24 at the time of the invasion.

He had previously founded the outpost's local paper, *Penguin News*. Along with a single radio station, the two outlets formed the territory's only media – there was no television coverage.

Bound recorded the Argentine occupation and its aftermath on camera and went on to become a successful defence correspondent after settling in the UK. He is also the author of several acclaimed military books.

As the June of 1982 began – in the grip of the South Atlantic winter – he recalled that the war was almost on top of Port Stanley and its civilian population.

"With each passing week the fighting was getting ever closer and before long artillery shells and mortar bombs were upon us – some were landing in the harbour.

Stanley was under siege, with nobody leaving or arriving.

My mother, father and I had moved into the Upland Goose – a hotel in the town. The walls were much thicker than those of our home and it was obviously safer for us all.

There were Argentine military personnel staying there too and I remember one of them telling us on June 13 that he and his staff were moving out.

At some point later on I went out with my camera, which I hadn't done for a while. I walked for about a quarter of a mile and saw two dead Argentine soldiers in the street, their bodies covered with metal sheets. It was obvious to me that they had both been killed

»

British troops watch over Argentine prisoners in Stanley





» by artillery fire.

And at the end of the road there were British troops – the Paras had arrived.

It is emotional to remember these events 40 years on, particularly with all that is happening in Ukraine now.

The war there has many parallels, with a smaller country being invaded by a larger neighbour.

You think of the effect on the people – the Falklands War had a huge impact on my family. My father in particular was never the same and died two years later.”

STEVE DUFFY

SERVING with 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, Duffy had been told he was heading to the Falklands while on a pipers' course north of the border.

His unit had been put through serials on Sennybridge Training Area before setting sail on the QE2 liner to reinforce British troops as part of 5th Infantry Brigade.

Along with many of his comrades, the 21-year-old guardsman – who had already seen service on Op Banner in Northern Ireland – had expected diplomacy to prevail by the time he had made the 8,000-mile journey to the British overseas territory.

While this feeling began to disappear as he approached the islands – and faced the terrifying prospect of air attack while still at sea – he was not

UK troops arrive at San Carlos as the battle enters a critical phase



expecting the savage land battle that lay ahead for which he would receive a Mention in Dispatches.

Overnight from June 13 to 14, the battalion were tasked with wresting Tumbledown – one of the remaining heights around Stanley – from the Argentine 5th Marine Infantry Battalion.

The encounter claimed the lives of eight soldiers with more than 40 wounded.

The defenders had a fearsome reputation – normally based in Tierra del Fuego, they were hardened and were made up of a backbone of seasoned professional troops as well as conscripts.

“Even with all the training in the world, you do not know how you are going to deal with combat until it happens.

They might not talk about it, but soldiers fear not being able to do what is asked of them.

This is how it was with me – would I be a coward? The question went through my mind in the briefing.

Our job in the recce platoon was to mount a diversionary attack designed to distract the Argentine forces' attention away from the main assault.

The battle of Tumbledown took place at night. It was like an out-of-body experience; the darkness gave a feeling of being in one of those old black and white war films we had all been brought up on as kids.

I felt disbelief that it was all happening – at one point I remember being under the lip of a gun trench that had been taken out with one of the other guardsmen when the two of us started giggling uncontrollably at the situation – it was just so unreal.

We had been ready and prepared for a war involving mechanised vehicles on the plains of Europe. But here we were now, engaging a network of bunkers occupied by the marine engineers. I had never expected to be so close to an enemy – and we were at very close range indeed.

There were many of our number killed and injured in the initial contacts but we managed to regroup.

The fighting was fierce; we were making a lot of noise.

The moment I was injured still lives with me: a grenade exploded and I was lying on my back looking up at the black sky.

There wasn't any pain at this point – just a feeling of life ebbing away. As a trained medic I realised this was probably the blood rushing to my organs. Being on the edge of death





is a very lonely place; you understand all you are going to miss. My injuries were serious, with shrapnel in one of my legs and a collapsed lung. But my fellow soldiers helped me – I was stabilised at an islander's house.

I was in intensive care on the hospital ship, the SS Uganda, when I heard about the Argentine surrender.

There were quite a few of us in there, many far more seriously injured than me. A senior nurse came in and gave us the news. We all took it in quietly – there was no jubilation at all."

EDUARDO VILLARRAZA

ALIEUTENANT with 14 years of military experience under his belt, Villarrazza was officer commanding N Company, 5th Marine Infantry Battalion in 1982.

Under the ultimate stewardship of CO Cdr Carlos Hugo Robacio, the unit was among those responsible for defending an area spread across the heights overlooking Stanley – which was renamed Puerto Argentino by the South American forces. They had deployed into the countryside soon after the invasion, facing a tense wait in demanding winter conditions.

Before facing the Scots Guards during the Battle of Tumbledown, the troops had already taken thousands of artillery and naval gunfire rounds but Villarrazza remembers feeling ready to hold the line against the assaulting troops as part of a wider defensive strategy. Some 50 of the marines died in the Tumbledown battle, in which hand-to-hand combat ensued, and scores of others were wounded.



"When we deployed on the islands, we were assigned with establishing a defensive line consisting of Tumbledown and Mount William down to the sea.

This began with reconnaissance, location of the weapons and fortifications – we had about a month before we began to receive naval fire and air strikes but we did not have any casualties as a result of the bombardments.

We had about 190 men in the company and were well prepared; our base in Tierra del Fuego had a very cold climate with steppes and mountains, allowing us to train in different environments and extreme conditions. Shortly before the conflict there were a number of battalion-level exercises as well as the opportunity to work with naval fire and air support.

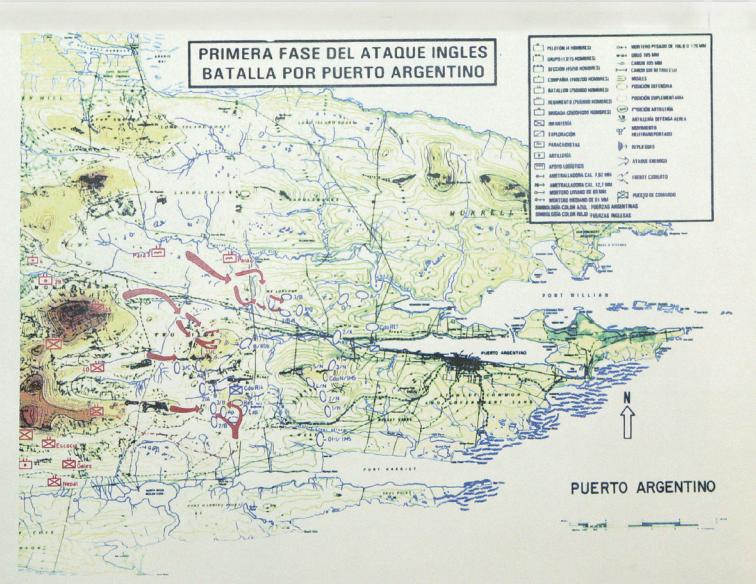
Our needs on deployment were met; we were issued with a large amount of ammunition as well as combat rations.

There were also kitchens set up for feeding troops, providing enough food for around 20 days so we had a degree of self-sufficiency while we were out in the field.

In the military environment, the battalion is still recognised for its performance in the Malvinas, although I don't know how it is perceived elsewhere.

Having joined the navy in 1968 as a midshipman marine I retired in 2004 with the rank of naval captain.

I then dedicated myself to other projects – I only have sporadic contact with my old comrades these days."



Personnel consolidate their presence on the islands as helicopters land at the newly acquired foothold



GUS HALES

SERVING with 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, Hales had landed on the Falklands in late May.

While already a veteran of the Op Banner campaign in Northern Ireland, he recalls keenly feeling his own vulnerability in a war with a near-peer enemy.

As a lance corporal he had carried out numerous taskings in the Darwin and Goose Green areas as the British established a foothold on the islands and went on to fight in the brutal battle at Mount Longdon.

He vividly remembers hearing about – and watching – the last throes of the Argentine occupation as the sun began to rise on June 14.

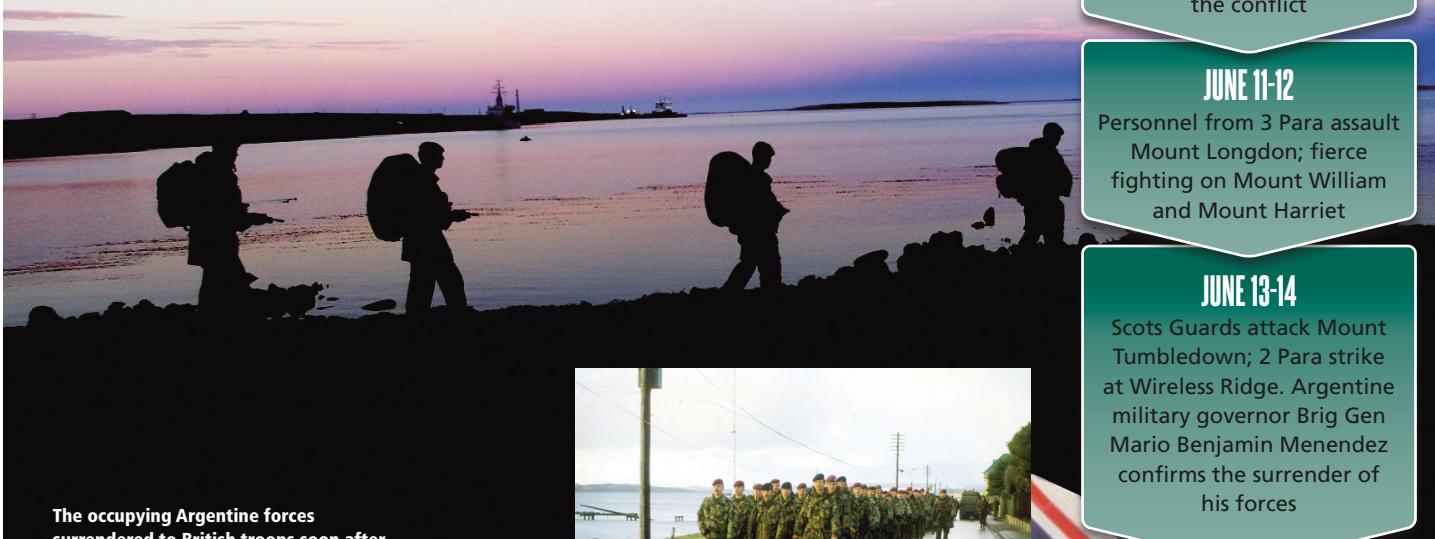
"Operation Corporate had been a demanding experience – when I reflect back now I remember falling asleep at night wondering if I was going to survive through the next day. You had to face death and keep doing your job."

"I remember where I was at the end of the war very well indeed – it was a place called Goat Ridge, which is on the approach to mountains around Port Stanley."

"It's a pretty desolate place, although the landscape is impressive."

"Below – some distance away – there was the surreal sight of the Argentine forces moving in full retreat and rapidly heading back towards the capital."

"Then there was a message over the radio that the occupying forces had turned it in – it was a really strange moment for us all. The conflict was over."



The occupying Argentine forces surrendered to British troops soon after sunrise on June 14



FALKLANDS WAR JUNE 1982

JUNE 2

Further landings conducted by British 5th Infantry Brigade at San Carlos

JUNE 3

RAF Vulcan raid against Argentine anti-aircraft radar at Stanley

JUNE 6:

The Scots Guards establish a base at Bluff Cove; Landings at San Carlos are completed

JUNE 8

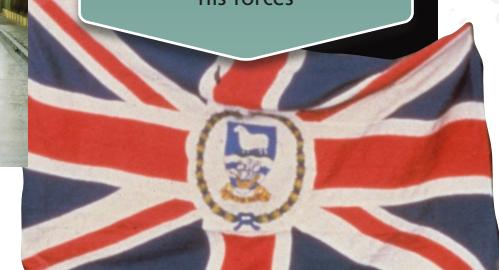
The RFA ships Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram are attacked by Argentine aircraft near Fitzroy. Some 60 personnel – mostly Welsh Guardsmen – are killed in the single worst UK loss of life in the conflict

JUNE 11-12

Personnel from 3 Para assault Mount Longdon; fierce fighting on Mount William and Mount Harriet

JUNE 13-14

Scots Guards attack Mount Tumbledown; 2 Para strike at Wireless Ridge. Argentine military governor Brig Gen Mario Benjamin Menendez confirms the surrender of his forces





In pursuit of

LASTING ADVENTURE

 cotswold
outdoor



 SNOW +
ROCK

We're coming together to bring you more adventure than ever. We don't just share passion and expertise but also a duty to protect the outdoors. Together we walk, run, camp and ski but we can also learn, change and make a difference. We're here to find you the right kit and help you make it last, for adventure, for the planet.

15% discount in-store and online for all armed forces personnel, veterans and cadets.

Code: **AF-MOD-2B**

Expires 31.12.2022. T&Cs online.

Proud to support



Make the right choice with our experts.




ARMY
SPORTS LOTTERY

**THE ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY:
SUPPORTING SPORT IN THE ARMY**

In addition to a variety of sports grant available every week members will have the opportunity to win the following prizes:

1st Prize	£10,000
2nd Prize	£5000
3rd Prize	£4000
4th Prize	£3000
5th Prize	£2000
6th Prize	£1000
2 x	£500
15 x	£200
10 x	£100

Since its creation in 1993 the Army Sports Lottery has:

- Raised £50 million in proceeds
- Given £20 million in cash prizes
- Awarded over £25 million in grants to Army personnel

The Army Sports Lottery is a non-profit making organisation that exists to support sport in the Army. For further details visit our web at: www.armysportlottery.com



CONTACT US

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY
Fox Lines, Queen's Avenue,
Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2LB
Tel: 01252 787065 / 94222 7065
Fax: 01252 787066 / 94222 7066
Email: lottery@ascb.uk.com
Web: www.armysportlottery.com

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE



Subscription Rates
United Kingdom
12 Issues£23
24 Issues£40
Overseas
12 Issues£47
British Forces Post Office
12 Issues£13.80

Email: subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Your details

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone:

Return to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU

Start my subscription with the issue

I would like to subscribe for One year Two years



**DO IT!
FOR VETERANS!**

Take on a challenge with Blind Veterans UK and transform lives

Join us for the London Marathon, Great North Run or London to Brighton Cycle. Already have a place in a challenge event? Let us know and we will help you use your place to raise vital funds to enable blind veterans to regain independence, dignity and purpose.

For more information

0300 111 2233
fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk
blindveterans.org.uk/soldier

Registered charity No. 216227 (England and Wales) and SC039411 (Scotland)

 Rebuilding lives after sight loss



16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM & COLCHESTER GARRISON SHOW • 2022

— Saturday 25th June —
 — Abbey Field | Colchester —
 — 11am - 4pm —

EVENTS INCLUDING

- | Red Devils Parachute Display Team
- | 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team Static Displays
- | British Army Band Colchester
- | Parade by Essex Veterans and Cadets
- | Battle Finale

 Find us on Facebook
[16AIRASSAULTBRIGADECOMBATTEAMANDCOLCHESTERGARRISONSHOW](https://www.facebook.com/16airassaultbrigadecombatteamandcolchestergarrisonshow)

CELEBRATE ARMED FORCES DAY 

YOU'RE GOING TO
NEED THIS IF YOU'RE
STAYING IN OLDER
ARMY ACCOMMODATION!



Housing quality condemned

THE poor quality of the Army's older accommodation has reached a point that defies excuse or justification.

Photos and videos of decaying facilities are a perennial feature of social media accounts such as *Fill Your Boots*, yet unit chains of command seem more determined to track down those responsible for the videos than tackling the root causes.

Outages of hot water were a frequent feature of my last posting at Dalton Barracks, and at the time I left the officers' mess was being heated by an emergency boiler stored in an ISO container in the garden.

In my current location, calls to contractors to examine the boiler are a near-weekly occurrence.

Nor is this restricted to our own Service. I have recently had the misfortune of spending two weeks at RAF Halton, and whatever money it gained from playing host to the filming of *Bridgerton* does not appear to have stretched to ensuring a water-secure

roof, the provision of enough showers or, indeed, Wi-Fi.

The reasoning normally given for not upgrading accommodation and base facilities is that the spending cannot be justified because these sites are due to be sold in the near future.

I cannot help but regard this as a failure of leadership within the chain of command. More than once I have struggled with the question of how I would convince a private soldier not to sign off were he or she to cite issues with housing, as I am entirely unconvinced that any action would be forthcoming to address them.

The process of reporting problems is a Byzantine network of quartermaster departments, civilian accommodation managers, and external contractors, where there appears to be little transparency or accountability.

In 2019 I was invited to the last RLC dinner night at Princess Royal Barracks at Deepcut before the mess there closed. The very day of that dinner, the mess was condemned as unfit for human habitation, and tremendous effort was required on the part of the president of the mess committee to re-house guests in hotels before the evening started.

It should not be surprising that neglect of the systems required to keep a building liveable will ultimately result in that building becoming unliveable – yet one must ask, if the prospect of embarrassment in front of numerous senior officers is not enough to spur action, what is? – **Capt Rob Abernethy, RLC**

GOT A GRIPE?

THEN WHY NOT GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST?

✉ mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

“
It's failure
within the
chain of
command
”

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

✉ mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

VETERAN PLEA

● I AM frequently asked by veterans who I work with if there is a commemorative medal they could wear on their regimental corps blazers – despite never having completed an operational tour – for the sake of their pride and self-esteem?

They are honoured to have served their country, many for more than ten years, and want to display their patriotism and ongoing emotional attachment to the British Army.

The fact they never deployed on an operational tour is usually down to circumstance rather than design.

– Name and address supplied

Col Leigh Drummond, Assistant Head, Personnel Services, Army Headquarters, responds: Official recognition of service for all Armed Forces veterans, irrespective of other awards or medals they may have been given, is the Veterans Badge.

Various unofficial medals are designed and manufactured by certain private enterprises, such as the National Defence Medal, the Veterans Star, and the so-called British Army of the Rhine Medal.

These are designed to commemorate some form of service with the Armed Forces, usually where no official MoD recognition has been given.

They have not been approved by the Queen and must not be mounted with official orders, decorations and medals.

However, veterans can wear unofficial honours mounted on a separate bar, although they carry no form of official endorsement by the MoD or Her Majesty.



“
They
are
honoured
to have
served
”



‘We must bridge the criteria gap’

I AM writing with a feeling of sadness and anger regarding the criteria for the Long Service and Good Conduct (LS&GC) medal bar.

I joined the Army as a sapper in August 1988 and served one year before my service started counting towards that honour. Some three years after I was entitled to it, I was awarded the medal.

My time as a Regular came to an end in April 2014 and I then took up a full-time Reserve service (FTRS) home commitment position. Since 2020 I have been on the full commitment contract with the same terms and conditions of service as a Regular soldier.

When I left the Regulars eight years ago I was four months short of being eligible for a ten-year bar on my LS&GC.

Being on FTRS(FC), I was under the impression that I could now apply for the bar and have my previous service taken into account. Alas, “no” was the answer when the paperwork was submitted.

I've been in green for 34 years and feel

it's a kick in the teeth that I'm required to do as a Regular soldier does but my time served on a full commitment basis isn't recognised. – SSgt John Williams, RE

Col Leigh Drummond, Assistant Head of Personnel Services, Army Headquarters, responds: Thank you for your letter and you are right, the current situation does not reflect the commitment of this cohort.

An MoD team, in conjunction with the single Services, put forward a proposal that achieved royal ascent from Her Majesty the Queen in January to address this issue.

The details are being finalised, but the revised policy will extend long service and good conduct recognition to former Regular personnel serving on FTRS commitments.

Further direction will be issued in a defence information notice that is due to be published shortly.

GAMBLING BAN IS A NUDGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

● I WELCOME the Army's decision to remove gambling and gaming machines from its estate (*Soldier*, May).

In 2016, while stationed at Swinton Barracks on Perham Down, I wrote to you expressing my concerns about such devices being so prevalent on military camps, particularly when located close to cash points.

Having recently returned there as a regimental sergeant major, I am pleased that this sensible step has been taken.

Problem gambling affects people's finances, relationships and mental health, and while this won't solve the issue of online gambling addiction, it is a move

in the right direction – especially against the backdrop of the cost of living crisis.

– WO1 Mike Owens, RE





THERE THEN, HERE NOW

In 1982, SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity helped support all those who were part of the Falklands Taskforce. Those incredible members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force and their families affected by the conflict received practical, emotional or financial support they deserved. And we still provide it today.

Whether you needed help then or do so now, reach out to Forcesline for free and confidential help that lasts - **don't keep quiet, talk to us.**

0800 260 6767

Free and confidential. Open weekdays,
09:00 to 17:30 Or get in touch online at
ssafa.org.uk/forcesline

ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

Regulars | Reserves | Veterans | Families

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760 in Scotland Number
SCO38056 and in Republic of Ireland Number 20202001. Established 1885.

40
FALKLANDS
1982 - 2022

BULLET POINTS

Bite-sized data to keep you in the know



CAREERS

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service is recruiting veterans to join its ranks through its Advance into Justice fast-track scheme. The initiative is open to those who have left in the last five years and are not in full-time employment. Full training is provided, with travel and relocation contributions available. Visit [advance-into-justice.service.justice.gov.uk](https://www.advance-into-justice.service.justice.gov.uk) for more.

The Officers' Association and **RFEA – The Forces Employment Charity** have combined to create a single charity providing career support to all Service leavers and their families throughout the UK. The new organisation is called Forces Employment Charity. Visit [rfea.org.uk](https://www.rfea.org.uk)

Forces Families Jobs is a platform designed to help partners into meaningful employment. Visit [forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk](https://www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk)

BFBS Academy is launching a new production manager course for veterans and Service leavers interested in joining the media. Fully funded by BFBS, the intensive six-month vocational programme is run by industry experts. There is a £1,500 per month living bursary available and the chance to do an industry placement. The first course runs September 2022 to March 2023 at the BFBS Academy HQ in Buckinghamshire. Visit [academy.bfps.com](https://www.academy.bfps.com)



COMPETITIONS

April 2022 HOAY winner: Paul Horne, Larkhill, Wiltshire

Spinelines winner: Rebecca Rogers, Wyton Station, Huntingdon



DIARY

June 25: Armed Forces Day.

For a full round-up of events visit [armedforcesday.org.uk](https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk)

The 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team and Colchester Garrison Show at Abbey Field, Colchester. A free event showcasing the skills and equipment of the British Army's global response force, and including refreshments, bouncy castles

and free parking. Follow the event on Facebook for more.

July 22-24: We Have Ways Fest, Blackpit Brewery, Buckingham. Hosted by Al Murray and James Holland, this Second World War festival features a programme of author and historian talks, military kit, re-enactors, food and live music. Info via [wehavewaysfest.co.uk](https://www.wehavewaysfest.co.uk)

Until October 30: An exhibition exploring how painter and camouflage pioneer Roland Penrose's work helped turn the tide of the Second World War. Farleys Gallery, Chiddingly, East Sussex. Visit [farleyhouseandgallery.co.uk](https://www.farleyhouseandgallery.co.uk)

Until November 24: Children and Military Lives – Stories of Adventure, Family and Exile. An exhibition at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock telling the story of today's Service children. Visit [sofo.org.uk](https://www.sofo.org.uk)



DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity:
020 7901 8900;
[soldierscharity.org](https://www.soldierscharity.org)

Armed Forces Buddhist Society:
Chaplain 020 7414 3411;
[afbs-uk.org](https://www.afbs-uk.org)

Armed Forces Christian Union:
01793 783123;
[afcu.org.uk](https://www.afcu.org.uk)

Armed Forces Muslim Association:
[afma.org.uk](https://www.afma.org.uk)

Armed Services Advice Project:
0808 800 1007;
[adviceasap.org.uk](https://www.adviceasap.org.uk)

Army Families Federation:
01264 382324;
mil 94391 2324;
[aff.org.uk](https://www.aff.org.uk)

Army LGBT Forum:
[armylgbt.org.uk](https://www.armylgbt.org.uk)

Army Libraries:
01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society:
[armybirding.org.uk](https://www.armybirding.org.uk)

Army Welfare Service:
01904 882053;
[army.mod.uk/welfare-support](https://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

Big White Wall, now **Togetherall:**
[togetherall.com](https://www.togetherall.com)

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:
020 8590 1124;
[blesma.org](https://www.blesma.org)

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

Care After Combat:
[careaftercombat.org](https://www.careaftercombat.org)

Career Transition Partnership:
020 7469 6661

Centre for Veterans Health, King Edward VII Hospital:
020 7467 4370;
cdunne@kingedwardvii.co.uk

Children's Education Advisory Service:
01980 618244;
dcyp-ceas-enquiries@mod.uk

Combat Stress:
0800 323 4444;
[combatstress.org.uk](https://www.combatstress.org.uk)

Defence Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination 24/7 Helpline:
0800 783 0334

Erskine:
0141 814 4569;
[erskine.org.uk](https://www.erskine.org.uk)

Family Escort Service:
020 7463 9249

Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:
07713 752901;
[felixfund.org.uk](https://www.felixfund.org.uk)

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
[forcespensionsociety.org](https://www.forcespensionsociety.org)

Help for Heroes:
0845 673 1760 or
01980 846 459;
[helpforheroes.org.uk](https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

Heroes Welcome:
[heroeswelcome.co.uk](https://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

HighGround:
[highground-uk.org.uk](https://www.highground-uk.org.uk)
07951 495 272

Humanist, Atheist and Non-religious in Defence Network:
[defencehumanists.org.uk](https://www.defencehumanists.org.uk)

Joint Service Housing Advice Office:
01252 787574

Medal Office:
94561 3600 or
0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (multiple sclerosis group):
[mutual-support.org.uk](https://www.mutual-support.org.uk)

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office:
24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853;
[ngvfa.org.uk](https://www.ngvfa.org.uk)

PoppyScotland:
0131 557 2782;
[poppyscotland.org.uk](https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

Forces Employment Charity:
0121 236 0058;
[rfea.org.uk](https://www.rfea.org.uk)

Remount:
01451 850 341;
[remount.net](https://www.remount.net)

Royal British Legion:
0808 802 8080;
[britishlegion.org.uk](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

Royal British Legion Scotland:
0131 550 1583;
[legionscotland.org.uk](https://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:
01622 795900;
[rbli.co.uk](https://www.rbli.co.uk)

Scottish Veterans' Residences:
0131 556 0091;
[svronline.org](https://www.svronline.org)

Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services:
01748 833797;
[spaces.org.uk](https://www.spaces.org.uk)

Speak Out – the Army's confidential bullying, harassment and discrimination helpline:
0306 7704656

SSAFA:
0845 1300 975;
[ssafa.org.uk](https://www.ssafa.org.uk)

Stoll: 020 7385 2110; [stoll.org.uk](https://www.stoll.org.uk)

The Not Forgotten Association:
020 7730 2400;
nfassociation.org

The Poppy Factory:
020 8940 3305;
poppyfactory.org

The Royal Star and Garter Homes:
020 8481 7676;
starandgarter.org

The Veterans Charity:
01753 653772;
info@veteranscharity.org.uk

Troop Aid:
0300 1020215 or 07306 087443;

troopaid.info

uk4u Thanks!:
01798 812081;
uk4u.org

Veterans Welfare Service:
0808 1914 218 (from the UK);
gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfare-service

WRVS: 02920 232 668



REUNIONS

**The Royal Green Jackets
Regimental Association** annual

veterans day is at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on July 9. Partners are also welcome to attend. Contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 869482 or roy.stanger60th@hotmail.co.uk

**23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance
Old Comrades Association** lunch and reunion dinner, Coventry on July 22-24. Contact Roy Hatch on 07730 977989

**Royal Hampshire Territorials
and Hampshire Companies, The
Wessex Regiment's 75th post war
reunion luncheon.** September 24, The Winchester Royal Hotel. Contact Jim

Cooper on 02392 816165, or email: rhwstxstar@yahoo.com



SEARCHLINE

David Smith has a photo of his late father (**ex-Royal Field Artillery**) alongside 22 battalion friends, taken in France circa 1915/16. The Serviceman later joined the Canadian Army. Smith is trying to find other individuals from the photo, or their relatives. For more details on his research please drop an email to oceanart@shaw.ca



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? No. 962

TEN details have been changed in this picture of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards receiving their new colours from His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle. Circle all the differences on the left image and send the panel to HOAY 962, *Soldier*, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU with your full contact details, including email address, by no later than June 30.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted. Alternatively, email a photograph of the image highlighting



**A Snugpak
Spearhead
insulated
jacket
worth £160**

the differences to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will win a superb Snugpak Spearhead midweight insulated jacket with a detachable hood.

The Spearhead has a contemporary cut with arm, internal and external chest pockets and a comfort rating of -10 degrees Celsius. It is available in olive and multicam colourways and comes with its own stuff sack.

The winner's name will appear in the August 2022 issue. All the usual competition rules apply.



0 GROUP INSTRUCTIONS: PHONE THIS NUMBER...0800 072 5334

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU NEED GET YOUR QUOTE

PLACE ORDER

REGIMENTAL CLOTHING SUPPLIER



 **shirtworks**
.....clothing that speaks for you
WWW.SHIRTWORKS.CO.UK

 **THE BESPOKE TIE COMPANY**



Specialists in Regimental Accessories

0845 257 5710

sales@bespoketies.com

Michael Jay Tailoring

Uniforms & Accessories

Civilian Suits

Tailored in Our UK Workshop

- 14 Working Day
- or
- 2 Working Day Express Service
- Interest Free Terms
- Visit Our Workshop
- Go To SuitUK.com
- Or We Can Visit You

01449 614602

info@suituk.com

SuitUK.com

Michael Jay Tailoring

5 Tomo Business Park

Stowmarket

IP14 5EP

Notice to readers

The publishers of *Soldier* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally-binding agreement.



Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd
Specialists in Orders, Decorations and Medals

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL

Suppliers to the UK MoD Medal Office



Pre-Order your miniature Platinum Jubilee Medal
from the official manufacturers
Discount on pre-orders - see website for details
Unit enquiries welcome

Medals mounted for wear and display
Miniature and full size replacement medals supplied, all
made in the UK to the highest standard.

See our web site where you can order securely on-line

www.worcmedals.com

or call 01527 835375 and our team will be pleased to help you.

The Official Licensed Supplier to HM Forces
Suppliers of high quality embroidered and
printed sports and leisurewear to the
Armed Forces

motif 8
ltd

**TOUR T-SHIRTS
SPORTSWEAR
SWEATSHIRTS
POLOSHIRTS
HOODIES
JACKETS
AND MUCH MORE**



Motif8 Will Beat Any Price - Guaranteed

tel: 01642 601501
sales@motif8.co.uk
www.motif8.co.uk

The Regimental Shop
Serving those who serve their country


sales@regimentalshop.com 0845 459 1964

Ties
Gifts &
More
ONLINE
regimentalshop.com



MICHAEL JAY TAILORING

*Your Tailored Suit
Made to Measure
Especially for you*

Made in the UK
 14 day Make or
 48hr EXPRESS
 Lowest prices
 Best Fit
 Highest quality
 Best payment terms

*Local agent to measure
in most areas*

01449 614602
www.suitUK.com

*As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable*

5 Tomo Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP



Military Marketing International

Suppliers of commemorative and presentation pieces

Let us design your Regiment and Operational plaques
(minimum quantity 25)

Plaques £13.95 each + VAT



Contact us at:
Military Marketing International
82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood
Birmingham B18 7AF
TEL/FAX: 0121 454 5393
EMAIL: mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk
WEBSITE: www.militarymarketing.co.uk

email: advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Advertise in Soldier

CHILDREN AND MILITARY LIVES

Stories of Adventure, Family and Exile

2nd June - 24th November 2022



**Official Licensed supplier
of MOD branded garments.**



30 Years

of supplying embroidered and printed clothing worldwide to HM forces

We understand the personal value and importance of these garments.
We give every single stitch and seam our absolute care and attention.

www.banana-moon-clothing.co.uk
+44(0) 1924 420 022

Trustpilot
Rated Excellent



info@tolleybadges.co.uk
01384 878550
tolleybadges.co.uk

TOLLEY Badges



**★ Embroidered, Woven, Printed and Metal Badges
Epaulettes and Sliders**

★ Woven & Printed labels

★ Metal Key rings & Medals / Coins

5★ RATING

**"As always-
excellent and helpful service and a fabulous badge produced!
Wouldn't go anywhere else!" - Gill, March 2020**

Advertise in Soldier

email: advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Classified Ads

HOLIDAYS

Holiday homes, SW France. Family friendly location. Pools surrounded by vines. Tranquillity. Unwind. www.leprielle.com

SERVICES

WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS? Let MemoirWriter take what you've written, 'polish it up' and turn it into an attractive, professionally produced book that your family can be proud of. Call Wendy on 01428 643591 or email WendyBB@compuserve.com



Confronting new strategic realities

June 28-29 2022 0900-1700

Any person with a Defence Connect log in will be able to view the conference online using the QR code

The RUSI Land Warfare Conference 2022 will bring together allies and partners to discuss how armies are ensuring mission readiness while pursuing technological transformation.

From war and deterrence in Europe, to reinforcing a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, to stabilisation operations across the globe, land forces need to adapt to complex challenges and diverse threats.

Simultaneously, they also need to transform to operate and compete in the digital age at the speed of relevance. Ensuring armies are ready to meet these missions with the appropriate capabilities, understanding, skills and posture, is critical to offering policy makers options to secure national interests.

For more information and a list of speakers scan the QR code and visit their website



HOW CAN WE MAKE THE ARMY BETTER?

Ever thought something at work could be done better? Did you want to change it but hit a roadblock?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Army Efficiency Challenge is now open on Defence Ideas.

We're looking for ways to make the Army more capable, sustainable and a better place to live and work. Here's how you can help. We can help you to trial, develop and implement your idea, or we can get subject matter experts and departments involved so they can take it further.

Oh, and we could pay you up to £10,000 if it's successful and results in efficiencies!

Sound good?
Scan the QR code to get in touch and tell us your idea.



REVIEWS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

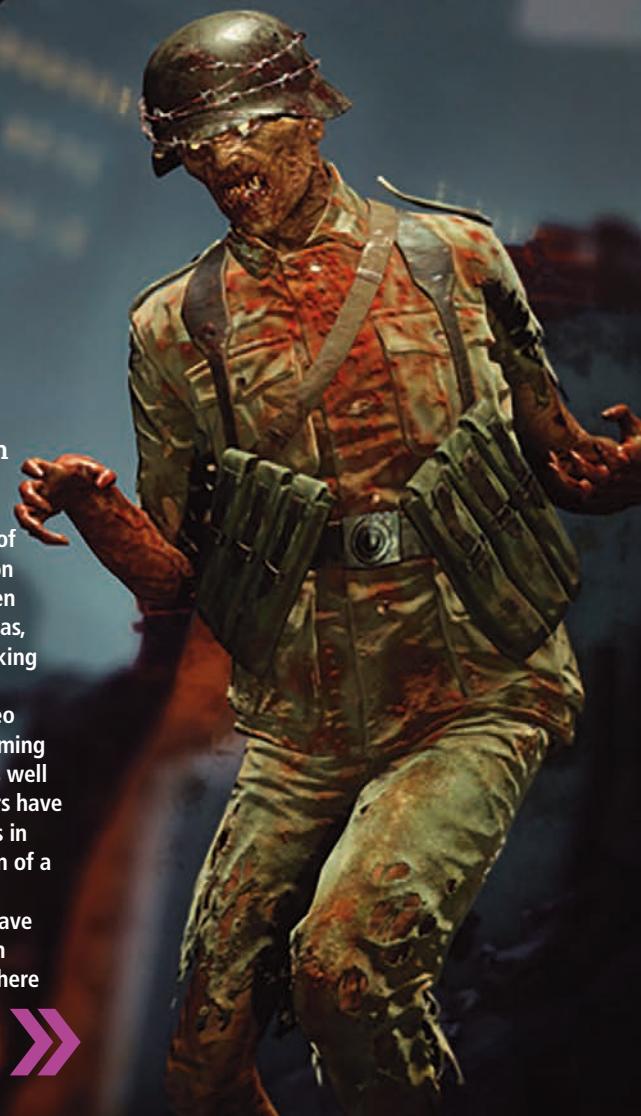
Zombie Army 4: Dead War

Flesh-eating armies threaten global stability

► THE undead seem to be the enemy of choice when it comes to science fiction these days – having zapped little green men and seen off flying saucer armadas, humanity is apparently now up for taking on legions of ghouls.

Flesh-eaters are everywhere in video games – their origins seemingly stemming from the pages of Japanese manga as well as other Asian media. The last 30 years have seen dodgy viruses reanimate corpses in *Resident Evil* and the nightmare vision of a demonic invasion care of *Doom*.

And the enemy from beyond the grave shows no sign of being vanquished on the current generation of consoles, where publisher Rebellion has been among those leading the field with its *Zombie Army* series.



P59

MUSIC

P60

BOOKS

P61

MOVIES

GAMES



» A spin-off of the *Sniper Elite* games, the third-person shooters cast players in an alternative Second World War reality where a cornered Hitler – in his last throw of the dice – has let loose an indiscriminate undead horde. It falls to those taking part in this playable B-movie to become the last echelon of resistance – either solo or via small online teams.

Having already pulled in acclaim for their efforts on full-sized consoles, the Oxford-based studio has steadily been retuning its products to the Switch. With the opening trilogy already a handheld hit, the release of the fourth instalment – entitled *Dead War* – looks set to replicate the success.

This time players step into the boots of young fighter Jen, picking up the story in Italy as the tide of the conflict is apparently turning – with the Führer vanquished and his zombie troops reduced to a much less lethal force.

It does not take long to see, however, that all is not well – life at a resistance base takes a dramatic turn immediately after tutorials are concluded with a zombie company turning up, hanging off the side of a train. The attack requires a robust response as the undead fare-dodgers move off the platform and threaten to overwhelm the living defenders.

And so the *Dead War* – the name given to the conflict against the vile creatures – flares up again as it transpires that enemy legions are on the march across Europe. As the game progresses, it becomes apparent that the opposition has evolved into more of a near-peer foe since the last outing, using the likes of support weapons, aircraft and – ironically –

squads of suicide bombers.

The result is a shooter of epic proportions – for despite the small size and limitations of the Switch, the developers have once again squeezed every inch of processing power to fashion a title as compelling as it is polished.

Animating an undead army that is both sizeable and with a variety of armaments, while keeping the action consistently slick, is an impressive feat in itself. Players constantly have to deal with relentless enemies while managing scarce resources including ammunition and medical supplies.

The dark locations of a Europe in ruins are also well created, while a pumping and beautifully rendered synth soundtrack accompanies the action.

A pack that will ensure plenty of gameplay time is the icing on the cake, with additional levels, weaponry bundles and character outfits included along with all of the season one content downloadable on previous versions.

It all adds up to a must-have title for combat fans – slick, satisfying and with a blackly comic atmosphere that would have impressed legendary horror flick director **George A Romero**. *Zombie Army 4* is one of the standout Switch games. ■

VERDICT:

Get locked and loaded – it's great



REVIEW: CLIFF CASWELL, SOLDIER

GAMES RELEASES

Taito Milestones

For Switch



THE emergence of retro gaming is perhaps a surprising development in an industry now rivalling movies for cash investment. But titles of times past continue to attract a loyal following as testified by this compilation. *Taito Milestones* features ten hits from the legendary Japanese developer – with *The Ninja Warriors*, *Halley's Comet* and *Elevator Action* among the standouts. It's a worthy selection of classics but pricey at £35 – particularly as you can pick the collection's best for under £7 each in the Nintendo online store.

Cliff Caswell, *Soldier*

The House of the Dead Remake

For Switch



SOLDIER had already played this coin-op, on-rails shooter to death before its arrival at the magazine – during a day on Clacton Pier after covering stories at Colchester Garrison. Having shed countless fifty pences blasting undead foes with a plastic pistol while a girlfriend sat outside enjoying the sun with an ice cream, we had high hopes for a return on our investment with this Nintendo Switch remix. And despite having to use thumbsticks rather than an attached firearm to do the blasting, it did not disappoint in the slightest – offering a compelling Naafi-break yomp. The option to team up with a pal for multiplayer action is a further bonus.

Cliff Caswell, *Soldier*

PICK OF THE MONTH:

C'mon You Know

Gallagher's return proves average at best

► ROCK and roll star Liam Gallagher steps on to the stage at Knebworth Park this month for two of the biggest solo performances of his career to date.

Armed with a setlist of **Oasis** classics and his more recent individual efforts, the shows are almost guaranteed to be nights to remember for his legion of adoring fans.

The platform will also allow Gallagher to showcase material from his third studio album, *C'mon You Know*. Following on from the success of debut *As You Were* and *Why Me? Why Not?*, the record features the input of regular creative collaborator **Andrew Wyatt**, while **Foo Fighters**' frontman **Dave Grohl** has a co-writing credit on lead single *Everything's Electric*.

This all points to what should be another triumphant outing for Manchester's favourite son – who also plays gigs in his hometown, Belfast and Glasgow in the coming weeks. But sadly, this latest collection falls short.

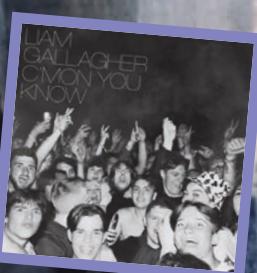
If you didn't know Gallagher liked **John Lennon**, then you will within about 12 seconds of listening to the album. However, he fails to match the gravitas of his hero, or even the middle-tier heights achieved by **Oasis** after their spectacular early highs.

This is summed up by the below-par title track, which I felt was missing the footnote 'I could do better' at the end to clarify.

The one saving grace was the aforementioned *Everything's Electric*. This is the closest resemblance to a decent Brit-pop classic of the past but, unfortunately, it is not as anthemic as Gallagher might have hoped.

That said, it is not a bad track and easily stands as the record's highlight.

In summary, this is all just a bit average, and I couldn't help but think maybe Liam should let it go and take advice from his own song, *It Was Not Meant to Be...* ■



VERDICT:

Disappointing effort ahead of the summer gigs

★★★★★

REVIEW: SCOTT ROBERTS, EX-RIFLES



BOOKS



• *A Falkland Islander's Wartime Journal* by Graham Bound is out now, published by Pen & Sword, priced £20.



PICK OF THE MONTH:

A Falkland Islander's Wartime Journal

Ex-Soldier reporter recalls weeks under Argentine occupation

► MOST Falklands War books are written by Servicemen and women who knew what they were going into, but this one – subtitled "Surviving the Siege" – tells the islanders' side of the story.

Held hostage by a regime which had a reputation for "disappearing" people who spoke out, it was a very fraught time for them. However, budding journalist Graham Bound kept a diary as events unfolded.

As the editor of the local paper, *Penguin News* – and later in his career part of the *Soldier* team – the author's writing talents come across well, capturing the feelings of helplessness and uncertainty the inhabitants experienced.

Starting in the tense weeks before the invasion, he describes how, in his view, the islanders were treated as a nuisance by the British government.

Most of their information – and morale – came not from the authorities, but the BBC World Service.

Once the Argentine troops arrived, Bound, like all good reporters, developed a solid working relationship with them.

His notes document their change in mood, from ecstasy at having taken the territory, to apprehension and fearful determination as the British Task Force approached, and finally resignation amid defeat.

The perfect foil to the many military-centric accounts, this title also reveals the aftermath of the war, when the islands became a heavily defended fortress.

Bound's notebooks would follow him around the world. He later worked for the BBC World Service and – after his time with this magazine – for the MoD communications department, a job he says, took him very close to the "dark arts" he so railed against prior to the invasion.

In summary this is a great tale, one that politicians and senior civil servants should read and learn from. ■

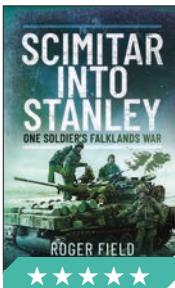
VERDICT:

An enlightening new take on a well-documented chapter



REVIEW: ANDY KAY, EX-RS

BOOK RELEASES



Scimitar into Stanley
By Roger Field

AMID the undoubted horrors of conflict, lighter moments also exist, as this engaging account of the Falklands War amply demonstrates. Originally destined to

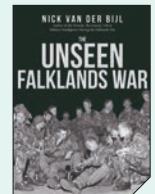
spend his time down south manning a radio, the author ended up at the sharp end of fighting by a twist of fate – a journey he tells with a mixture of thoughtfulness, humour and irreverence. His observations on mistakes made at the operational level may raise eyebrows, but illustrate how decisions made at the top – or not as the case may be – rippled down the chain of command to influence events on the ground. Field's later career in the worlds of journalism and publishing is evident throughout in the engrossing style of the narrative.

Becky Clark, *Soldier*

Liked these?

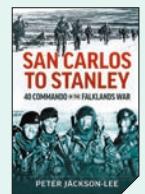
Try two more of the latest Falklands War releases...

The Unseen Falklands War
by Nick van der Bijl



LIGHT on text but heavy on pictures – many previously unpublished – this is the latest offering from Falklands veteran and prolific author, Nick van der Bijl. His role in military intelligence saw him come into the possession of as-yet-unseen Argentine photographs, here forming part of a collection charting the course of the conflict and its aftermath. One for Falklands aficionados seeking new nuggets.

San Carlos to Stanley
by Peter Jackson-Lee



BILLED as the first dedicated history of 40 Commando in the Falklands War, this title dispels the myth that their only role was to look after the beachhead during the campaign.

After ensuring the defence of San Carlos, members of A and C Companies moved forwards in place of Welsh Guardsmen lost aboard Sir Galahad to support the Scots Guards at Mount Tumbledown and 1/7 Gurkha troops at Mount William. This offers another fresh perspective for those who have exhausted the existing library.



PICK OF THE MONTH:

Hell Hath No Fury

But this Second World War actioner hath limited appeal

IF THE ever-expanding war film genre has proved anything, it's that it is hard to capture the full drama and sweep of conflict on a celluloid shoestring.

Not that a big price tag necessarily guarantees quality – think critical flop *Pearl Harbor* (\$140m) versus multi-Oscar winning epic *Platoon* (\$6m).

But bombs, bullets and CGI cost money. And brave is the filmmaker who enters the fray with limited funds.

Step forward British director **Jesse V Johnson**, whose Second World War drama *Hell Hath No Fury* was shot on a reputed budget of \$5m.

Inspired (presumably loosely) by true events, it revolves around a three-way battle for a stash of gold bullion between the French Resistance, a Nazi officer and a small band of American troops.

At the centre of it all is Marie DuJardin (**Nina Bergman**, in what is billed as her breakout performance), who knows where the loot is hidden but must play each of the groups off against each other to survive.

From the outset it's clear that cash was tight on this project, with a modest cast of relative

unknowns and small-scale sets – although Covid restrictions during filming probably didn't help matters.

That said, Johnson makes the most of his background as a stuntman to deliver some decent – and pretty gory – action sequences.

The body count quickly rises on all sides – Tarantino-esque – but since each victim is as gold-crazed and ruthless as the next it's hard to care who the last man standing is.

Even plucky DuJardin elicits little sympathy, despite having plenty to be furious about, as the title suggests.

Her parents have been killed and, after spending three years in Ravensbruck concentration camp, she comes home only to be denounced as a Nazi collaborator. But these elements are only referenced in passing and therefore fail to provide much insight.

It's not that Bergman and leading man **Daniel Bernhardt** give bad performances, it's just that their characters – and the others – are too one-dimensional to get the audience fully invested.

Some dodgy accents, inconsistent subtitles and random reappearances of one of the

VERDICT:

Not set to become a classic of the genre
★★★★★

REVIEW: BECKY CLARK, SOLDIER



Out now
on DVD and
digital

Resistance fighters as a heckling ghost make for additional, unwelcome distractions.

However, opinions may vary, as the saying goes – and it should be noted that the film held a Rotten Tomatoes rating of 92 per cent at the time of writing, so it clearly hits the spot for more than a few viewers.

Just not with this particular one. ■

DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES



Wild Men

Out now in cinemas

THIS 2021 Norwegian comedy-drama follows **Martin (Rasmus Berg)**, who decides during a midlife crisis to shun modern society, leave his family and go back to the Viking ways of his forefathers

in the wilderness. This lasts for ten days before he meets drug dealing Musa (**Zaki Youssef**), who is on the run. The film shows the odd couple trying to survive together amid their differing outlooks and run-ins. Its scenes feature some very funny moments with quite a bit of dark and uncomfortable humour, and the Norwegian mountains provide a stunning backdrop. All of this makes it well worth a watch. Definitely one to check out if you're a fan of *Fargo* or Scandinavian cinema.

Sgt Adam Jackson, Para

CLAIM A TAX REFUND & ENJOY LIFE A LITTLE MORE.

The average first claim is around £2,500 and with RIFT doing all the work to get it back for you, what's not to enjoy?

★ Trustpilot



TO START YOUR CLAIM NOW
CALL: 01233 653 004
VISIT: RIFTREFUNDS.CO.UK/SOLDIER



UK 70 YEARS OF SERVICE UK



JAYJAYS®

THANK YOU MA'AM



SOLDIER SPORT



DELIVERY MAN

SUPER heavyweight LCpl Liam Lindsey proved to be the man for the occasion as he won the last bout of the night to secure a 5-4 victory for 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in the final of the Inter-Unit Boxing Championships. Read the full report on page 73...



ROBERTS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE AFTER DAY OF DRAMA

HEAD coach Capt Mal Roberts (RLC) has told *SoldierSport* that plans for the new season are already well under way after seeing his side triumph in a Twickenham thriller against the Royal Navy to secure the Inter-Services title.

An injury-time try from Pte Vililame Kotobalavu (RLC) sealed a dramatic 35-27 win for the Reds at the home of English rugby union and it is hoped the young forward, along with a host of other fresh faces, can maintain the charge as the team now moves into a new era.

As many as eight or nine senior figures – including skipper Capt Jamie Miller (AAC) and Bath ace LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) – are expected to call time on their Service rugby careers, meaning Roberts is on the lookout for new stars to join the fold.

He was a keen spectator at last month's Premiership and Inter-

Corps finals and, following a successful open trial in October, believes the talent is out there.

"All good things come to an end," he said when reflecting on the players who have decided to bow out. "Part of my job is to actively recruit by getting out to see people play rugby and determine if they are the right fit for the squad.

"If we have a team that is tight, the rugby almost looks after itself. We want players who are willing to go to depths they would not normally go.

"This season we have seen the likes of Cpl Joe Brown (RLC), Spr Jack Johnson (RE), LCpl Josh Wright (AGC (RMP)) and Kotobalavu all come through and do well.

"But it is important we make the effort to see other players as there could be some more gems out there."

Roberts explained that a calm head was vital in one of

INTER-SERVICES RUGBY UNION

ARMY

35

NAVY

27



the most exciting Army-Navy games in recent years, with the lead repeatedly changing hands before the soldiers finally celebrated victory.

A penalty from AET Jordan Gott and LPT Ben Priddey's converted try gave the Senior Service a 10-0 advantage midway through the first half, but scores from Sgt Matt Dawson (Int Corps) and Bdr Pete Austin (RA) drew the sides level at the break.

Johnson slotted a penalty to open the second-half scoring before Mne Craig Duncan rounded off some slick passing to edge the Navy ahead.

Gnr Senitiki Nayalo (RA, pictured above) powered to the line as the Army fired a swift response and a Johnson penalty moved them 23-17 in front.

But Logs Sam Matavesi's try on the back of a successful penalty attempt saw their rivals open a 27-23 lead, only for some dramatic late play to halt their

victory charge.

Firstly, Miller (pictured below) broke clear on the right and fed the ball inside for Spr Michael McDonald (RE) to touch down before fellow replacement Kotobalavu scrambled over to seal their fate at the death.

"For the impartial observer it was a great game to watch," Roberts added.

"It was end-to-end stuff and take away some basic errors from both teams, there was a lot of high-intensity and quality rugby.

"The lead changed hands so many times and it was a great advert for Services rugby.

"From a coach's perspective, being calm and collected and not letting the occasion get to me paid dividends.

"The tactical decisions we made had a big impact on the outcome with players coming off the bench to score.

"All our work had been done in the week beforehand – we couldn't do anything else. The players had to deliver; if they were good enough on the day and prepared well, we knew they could win.

"I had faith in them – it was about managing the game.

"Post-pandemic, to come back with a relatively new squad – albeit with some experienced players – and lift the trophy is very pleasing. We have built a strong team ethos and that showed on the pitch." ■



RUGBY IN NUMBERS

ARMY PLAYERS WHO CAME OFF THE BENCH TO SCORE – NAYALO, MCDONALD AND KOTOBALAVU

3

POINTS FROM THE BOOT OF SPR JACK JOHNSON TO GO WITH THE 20 RECORDED AGAINST THE RAF

12

TIMES IN WHICH THE LEAD CHANGED HANDS AS THE SIDES DELIVERED A SERVICES CLASSIC

6

WINS FROM SEVEN MATCHES FOR THE ARMY MEN DURING THEIR 2022 CAMPAIGN

4



EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AT HQ

WHILE Pte Viliane Kotobalavu (RLC) enjoyed a Twickenham debut to remember, it was a day of mixed emotions for the Army's match winner.

In the build-up to the showdown the forward received news that his family home in Fiji had been destroyed in a fire. Fortunately, his parents escaped unharmed, but they lost all personal possessions.

A fundraising campaign was launched to support the family and the donations totalled almost £10,000 in the days after the match. The soldier has since travelled home to boost the recovery effort.

"It is a massive help," Kotobalavu told *SoldierSport* on the eve of his departure. "The amount is growing all the time and when I spoke to my parents about it, they had no words – they just want to thank everyone."

News of the fire reached

Kotobalavu on the Monday before the game, and he was quick to praise the support received from his teammates.

"The squad has such a friendly environment," he said. "I wanted to talk about it but didn't want the other players feeling bad for me – my focus was on the task at hand."

"When I was with my friends everything felt normal, but back in the block I had a few sleepless nights."

"My family didn't know anything about the Army-Navy match; they knew I played rugby but didn't realise how much this meant to me. I think if they had known, they would not have told me about the fire until afterwards."

"Pulling on the red shirt is a huge honour and luckily, I managed to score the final try. At that point everything sunk in, my thoughts were with my family and I wanted to make them proud."

Visit gofundme.com and search "Viliane Kotobalavu". ■



REDS DAZZLE ON DEBUT

ARMY WOMEN HIT THE MARK AS SCINTILLATING TWICKENHAM DISPLAY SEALS SERVICES TITLE

THE ARMY women piled up the points on their Twickenham debut as they ran in ten tries on their way to a 68-0 triumph over the Royal Navy.

Success at the home of English rugby union followed on from the team's 24-10 defeat of the Royal Air Force earlier in the campaign and saw them lift the Inter-Services trophy in front of an enthusiastic crowd on what head coach Maj Gemma Stonebridge-Smith (AGC (ETS)) described as a "day to remember".

"It is really hard to sum up and is going to take some beating," she told *SoldierSport*. "This will now become an enduring fixture and it was a fantastic occasion."

"We have got to the point where women's rugby has parity with the men. That says a lot about the culture we now have in the sport, as well as the Services in general."

The game's elevation to the hallowed Twickenham turf was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic but the Reds did not disappoint when their opportunity finally arrived.

Wing Pte Courtney Pursglove (RLC, pictured right) – who was later called up to train with the England sevens team – followed her brace against the RAF with a hat-trick of tries, although Stonebridge-Smith insisted the outcome was not as comfortable as the result suggests.

"The score line is great, and was not too dissimilar to previous seasons," she said. "In the past it has been a case of kick off, one pass, run through and score."

"But this year the Navy really performed. The result does not

do them justice and we had to work hard for every single one of our points."

"We showed our abilities and skills across all areas and showcased what we have been trying to build in terms of our rugby philosophy."

The soldiers were also fuelled by a quest to avenge their tournament loss in 2019, when the RAF reigned supreme.

"We are absolutely delighted to get the trophy back," the officer continued.

"When I took over as head coach, I had to decide whether to carry on with the same group of players in the same way or tear up the rule book and reinvent Army rugby. I chose the latter."

"We didn't quite get there in 2019 but I'm glad we persevered. The style of rugby we produced at Twickenham is the same you see with international and Premiership teams, week in week out."

As with the men's set-up, the matchday squad featured a mix of youth and experience with the leadership group of SSgt Jade Mullen (AGC (SPS)) and Bdr Bethan Dainton (RA) setting the example to follow.

Sgt Sarah Batley (AGC (SPS)) also played a pivotal role in her successful conversion from prop forward to hooker.

Stonebridge-Smith said: "Every single shirt has been competed for."

"As a head coach that is great, but it is a nightmare when it comes to selection."

"We have young players coming through who have a rugby pedigree; and they are looking at the Army as an opportunity to play the game at a high level."



"The youngsters who came in did themselves proud and really bought into the ethos and values of the team."

Lt Sally Stott (RAVC) was named player of the match at Twickenham but insisted the accolade could have been presented to any one of her teammates given their performance levels on the day.

"There's not a single person in a red shirt that didn't deserve it," she said. "The coach asked us to go out and do our job for the team."

"That's the good thing about this group, we're not individuals or standout players – everyone performs their role and that gets us over the line."

"The atmosphere, getting clapped out by the men's team, the whole build-up of the week was just phenomenal."

"We have a lot of players who are used to playing in front of crowds in the Premier 15s, but we also have those who do not have that."

"It's a huge ask for them to come here and keep their composure; they showed that Army efficiency under pressure and got the job done."

A delighted Mullen added: "It was a phenomenal performance. We played as a team, which is what we emphasised all week. Our only downfall was going to be us and losing how we wanted to play."

"We didn't want to take our foot off the gas or be complacent – we wanted to showcase what women's rugby is all about." ■



HOTSHOT CUFFY MAKES HIS MARK

STRIKER Pte Terrance Cuffy proved to be the man for the big occasion as his coolly taken hat-trick fired 4 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps to glory in the Army FA Challenge Cup final.

The hotshot completed his personal milestone in the 86th minute of a hard-fought clash with 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, who twice came from behind to equalise only to see their hopes dashed at the death.

The 3-2 score line seemed an unlikely outcome in a tight first half that featured plenty of endeavour but lacked chances.

The only moment of note came in the 14th minute as Cuffy (pictured above) converted from close range following a cutback from fellow striker Pte Luke Noble.

With 1 Mercian restricted to just two speculative efforts from range – neither of which tested keeper LCpl Joseph Gorman – the loggies headed into the break in pole position, albeit with a slender lead.

But their rivals hit back with their first attempt on target in the 55th minute. Sgt Will Saunders

released Cpl Ryan Scarrott on the right and the winger's low cross picked out Capt Adam Phenix-Norman, who rifled his shot into the roof of the net.

The goal fired the champions-elect into life and they spurned a glorious chance on the hour-mark as Cuffy produced a superb save from goalkeeper Pte Aiden Orchard, with Pte Alex Kaunda failing to convert the rebound.

Noble dragged an effort wide of the far post moments later but then had a pivotal role in his side's second goal. Played in by Cpl Sean Woolley, his fierce strike rattled the post but Cuffy was on hand to bundle home under pressure from the defence.

However, the Mercians fired another reply in the 78th minute as a hopeful ball downfield caused uncertainty in the loggies' defence and Cpl Jake Podmore lifted a shot over the stranded Gorman and into the net.

With the clock ticking down Cuffy delivered the knockout blow as he again combined with Noble to tap home from three yards and seal the silverware. ■

ARMY FA CUP FINAL

4 RLC

3

1 MERC

2



HARD WORK IS KEY

AFTER lifting the trophy, victorious skipper LCpl Joseph Gorman praised the effort and dedication showed by his team in recent seasons.

"This means everything to us," the goalkeeper told *SoldierSport*. "We have trained hard and success has been a long time coming – it is great to see all that work come to fruition."

"We have a diverse squad, with players who have been involved in this competition for the first time to those who have won it three or four times."

"Today we fielded our strongest 11, which is something we haven't been able to do this season as players have been away through work or out injured."

"It is easy to look back at some of the mistakes we made, but the main thing is we won. Credit to the Mercians, they gave us a great game, but I felt we were in the driving seat and were capable of scoring more goals."

Victory also marked a personal milestone for Gorman, who has now lifted the prestigious trophy on three occasions.

"I'm a modest person and it is all about the players around me," he said. "This is the biggest competition in Army football and winning it is a great feeling."



MONTH IN SPORT

June's key fixtures...



WHAT: Ladies' festival of tennis
WHEN: June 7
WHERE: Aldershot
NEED TO KNOW: This new event is aimed at attracting new players to the game. The Inter-Unit Championships follow on June 17, and the Army Championships then start on June 18



WHAT: UK Armed Forces Ice Hockey Championships
WHEN: June 6 to 10
WHERE: Sheffield
NEED TO KNOW: Corps, station and representative teams from all three branches of the military take to the ice in pursuit of glory. The event also features the Inter-Services showdown



WHAT: Inter-Services Twenty20 Cricket Championships
WHEN: June 16
WHERE: Lord's
NEED TO KNOW: The day will adopt a new feel this season as it features a women's match for the first time. Two fixtures in the men's competition complete the line-up, with the third being staged at a different venue beforehand



SMART KICKS HELP YORKS EDGE HOME



THE accuracy of Lt Matt Smart from the tee was the difference as 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment edged a tense Premiership Cup final against 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Despite seeing his side outscored by three tries to one, the fly half slotted four penalties and a conversion to help them claim a 19-17 victory in the competition's first showpiece since 2019.

Three successful kicks in the first ten minutes saw the infantrymen open a 9-0 lead, and they looked in firm control as their rivals struggled to make an impact.

However, a yellow card in the 24th minute allowed the Stormers to generate some much-needed impetus and they capitalised on their numerical advantage moments later as Gnr Antonio Rede rounded off a flowing passing move in the corner.

But they failed to add the extras and with Smart (pictured left) firing his fourth penalty on the stroke of half-time, they trailed 12-5 at the break.

Skipper, and Army forward,

SSgt Ken Dowding reduced the arrears within minutes of the restart as he crashed over from a powerful drive but, again, the conversion attempt failed.

Flanker LCpl Pita Ratukadreu then gave 1 Yorks some breathing space as he collected an infield pass to cut through the lines and touch down under the posts, with Smart adding the extras.

The Stormers hit back in the 55th minute as second-row forward LBdr Matereti Waqanisau stretched for the line and with a successful conversion following, they were just two points adrift.

But ill-discipline proved costly in the closing stages as an off-the-ball incident resulted in a red card and, despite some late pressure, 1 Yorks held firm to seal the win.

"They were camped in our half at the end and my heart was in my mouth," said victorious skipper Capt Ryan Lech, who finally lifted the trophy at the eighth time of asking. "Having been a nearly man so many times it is nice to be on the other side – it has been a long time coming." ■



MASTERS MARCH ON

THE Army Masters downed the Royal Navy Mariners 43-22 to give the Reds a clean sweep of titles in this season's Inter-Services Rugby Union Championships.

Having already defeated the Royal Air Force, they ran in seven tries on their way to a commanding victory. However, the score did not reflect the pattern of a hard-fought match.

Two yellow cards saw the soldiers concede in the first half and further ill-discipline allowed their rivals to reduce the arrears to just four points in the second period, before the hosts crossed for three quick scores to pull clear.

Speaking afterwards, head coach WO2 Dean Lloyd-Christie (RWxY) said: "We play a high risk-reward game and try to attack everything we do, whether that's in defence or attack."

"We'd got on the wrong side of the referee and the boys were a little bit excited, but we calmed ourselves down. When we play with the ball and identify space, we're unstoppable."



Sappers surge to the top

THE Royal Engineers beat the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 23-12 in rugby union's Corps League One final.

The Infantry triumphed in League Two and the Royal Army Physical Training Corps in League Three.

MATTHEWS' PODIUM PRIDE



ENDURANCE ace Capt Katrina Matthews (RAMC) told *SoldierSport* she was "over the moon" with a second-place finish on her debut outing at the Ironman World Championships.

The officer clocked a time of 8hr 43min 49sec as she trailed Daniela Ryf by eight minutes in Utah, but believes she can do better and aims to prove so when the event returns to Kona, Hawaii later this year.

"It is everything I could have hoped for," she said, when reflecting on her podium place. "This was the first full Ironman World Championships since the pandemic, and it was nice to produce a performance that reflects the effort I have put in."

"I had Covid and a few injuries in the build-up to the race, but I still managed to perform to a certain extent. That gives me optimism for the future."

"My target is to win in Kona. I'm not naive, the climate will be challenging, and I'll be racing against people who have won there before, but I think it is realistic."

However, Matthews' immediate focus is on this month's Sub8 Project in Germany, when she aims to become the first female athlete to complete the full Ironman distance in under eight hours.

She is battling dual Olympic medallist Nicola Spirig and will be aided by a team of pacemakers and support staff that includes husband Maj Mark Matthews (RLC) and SSgt Nerys Jones (RAPTC).

"Going under eight hours is achievable," Matthews said. "The time saved by being able to draft on the bike will be beneficial and whether I succeed will come down to how well I recover from Utah." ■

**"IT GIVES
ME
OPTIMISM
FOR THE
FUTURE"**



SAINT Helens and SSgt Carrie Roberts (REME) continued their dominance of women's rugby league as they downed Leeds Rhinos to retain their Challenge Cup title. Played in front of a record crowd of 5,888 fans at Elland Road, Saints came from behind to win 18-8 in a repeat of last year's final.

SPORT SHORTS



Hockey's final flourish

THE Army hockey season drew to a close at the three-day Inter-Corps Championships in Aldershot.

All three finals proved to be tight affairs, with the Royal Signals defeating the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 2-1 in the men's showpiece. The Adjutant General's Corps beat the Royal Logistic Corps 2-0 (pictured) to secure the women's title, while the REME beat the AGC 1-0 to lift the masters' trophy.

Elsewhere, Army Headquarters claimed a 3-0 victory over 27 Regiment, RLC in the major units final.



Fighters fall short

ARMY fighters Sig Lucy Kisielewska (R Signals, pictured) and LCpl Keeley Austerfield (RLC) fell just short in their pursuit of glory in the finals of the England Boxing National Amateur Championships.

The former, who was also a beaten finalist in 2021, lost to Braunstone's Dione Burman via a unanimous verdict in the 66kg ranks. And it was a similar story for Austerfield, who was defeated by second seed Elise Glynn at 57kg.

Elsewhere, there was disappointment for Scottish fighter LCpl Megan Reid (RLC) as she lost in the preliminary rounds of the Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul.

CRICKET IN NUMBERS

THE RLC'S WINNING MARGIN, IN WICKETS, OVER THE AGC

7

INTER-CORPS TWENTY20 FINAL DEFEATS FOR THE AGC IN TWO SEASONS

2

RUNS SCORED BY LCPL TADE CARMICHAEL AS THE LOGGIES CHASED DOWN 179 TO BEAT THE ROYAL ENGINEERS IN THE SEMI-FINAL

73

WICKETS IN FOUR GAMES FOR SPINNER SSGT VAVA PLUMMER

11



SPINNERS CAST THEIR SPELL

LOW bowlers took centre stage for the Royal Logistic Corps as they claimed a convincing win in the final of the Inter-Corps Twenty20 Cricket Championships.

The loggies' spinners claimed nine of the ten wickets to fall as the Adjutant General's Corps were dismissed for a below-par 82 as they batted first in the showpiece fixture.

Army star WO2 Urie Hill set the tone as he claimed wickets in three successive overs to finish with figures of 3-18, before left-arm SSgt Vava Plummer ripped through the lower order on his way to claiming 4-13.

With wickets falling at regular intervals the AGC were never in a position to post an imposing total. SSgt Regan McClean showed intent at the top of the order, but after hitting two boundaries he was caught in the deep for 11.

Cpl MD Latafat top scored with a patient knock of 22 and

tailender Pte Sam Charles was the only other player to reach double figures in what proved to be a disappointing effort with the bat.

The RLC made the perfect start to the run chase as Capt Alex Tuck pulled the first delivery for four and the opener went on to make 36 from 27 balls.

Two wickets for Cpl Arun Krishnan gave their rivals hope but the strength of the loggies' line-up proved too much as another Army player, Sgt Denson Narayan, guided them home with an unbeaten 25.

"We are really happy with the win," said victorious skipper Capt Charlie Bevan. "We had a tricky season last year and didn't claim any silverware, so it is good to get this on the board early."

"It was a difficult road to the final. We were in a tough group with the Royal Artillery and had a tight semi-final, so we are delighted to come through the other side." ■

THE ARMY ADVENTUROUS TRAINING GUIDE IS NOW **LIVE!**

ARMY ADVENTUROUS TRAINING THE GUIDE



SCAN HERE TO VIEW AND
DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE

Packed with information about the courses available, as well as the planning and conducting of Expeditions, this guide is for *everyone* regardless of experience or rank.

Scan the QR code below to see how you could benefit from all that Adventurous Training has to offer.

The Army AT Group look forward to welcoming you on a course soon!



DEVELOPING LEADERS
BUILDING RESILIENCE



ARMY
BE THE BEST

ADR010238



READY TO RUMBLE: THE ACTION WAS DUE TO CONTINUE AT THE ARMY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALDERSHOT, JUNE 6 TO 9

» BOXING



PARAS RETURN FROM THE BRINK TO CLAIM VICTORY

SUPER heavyweight LCpl Liam Lindsey completed a dramatic comeback for 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment as his victory in the final bout of the night saw the team crowned Army Inter-Unit boxing champions.

Trailing 4-2 against 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with just three bouts remaining, the Colchester-based outfit hit top form to record a hat-trick of wins and retain the trophy they lifted last time out in 2019.

With the Covid pandemic seeing the competition postponed for two seasons, the fighters did not disappoint as they stepped into the ring for the event's long-awaited return.

Fus Liam Hicks started proceedings in style as some strong left shots and combinations saw him score a unanimous verdict over Cpl Aaron Langley at 57kg.

The Paras immediately restored

parity through Pte George Ingham, whose measured display against Fus Brandon Genty was rewarded with a split-decision win.

Pte Brandon Hendricks then proved too strong for LCpl Matthew Scott at 67kg as a barrage of blows forced a standing count at the end of the first round. The punishment continued in the second, leading the referee to stop the contest.

But the Fusiliers drew level as Cpl Nathan Darcy edged a close bout with Pte Josh Buckley on a split decision before back-to-back triumphs after the interval left them on the brink of glory.

Fus Connor Moore and Pte Ben Stone traded blows in a high-octane, fight of the night that resulted in a standing ovation as the former secured the verdict.

The fast pace continued as Cpl Griff Griffiths squared off with Pte Michael Coates at 80kg, but it was Griffiths who landed the cleaner shots as he went on to

force a second-round stoppage.

With the Paras staring at defeat they found the perfect man to launch their comeback charge in the shape of Pte Andy Farrow, whose combination of rock-solid defence and accurate punches proved too much for Sgt David Morrison, who was stopped in the second round.

Cpl Joseph Allen maintained the momentum by defeating Fus Brandon O'Dowd, leaving the stage set for a gripping finale.

Lindsey did not disappoint as he outscored Cpl Kyle Spencer in all three rounds to seal a unanimous verdict.

"It was a lot closer than I thought it would be," Cpl Tyler Johnson, 3 Para's head coach, told *SoldierSport*. "The Fusiliers turned up with some good boxers, but the passion and pride in our cap badge got us the win.

"At 4-2 I had to rally the lads who were left and those last three fights were real battles." ■



Final Word



Ensuring my people are fit enough for the job and their soldiering skills are up to scratch. Covid restrictions really affected readiness levels – there is no substitute for face-to-face training. With activity now ramping up overseas it's top of my list.

WO1 Gaz Hyatt, RA



I've just started at ATR Grantham and am focusing on getting everyone to show respect for each other as people, not the rank slide. The rank must be used when it's needed but enjoying working with your colleagues and the challenge of the job should be the biggest motivations in daily life.

WO1 Melita Jarvis, AAC



Making sure my soldiers are not afraid to open up about any concerns they have. Females in particular are sometimes scared to speak out in case they're not supported and nothing is done about their complaint.

WO1 Stacy McGrath, RA



Getting my soldiers fit. With apps like MyMuster this has become an individual responsibility, but I still need to ensure people are doing what is required to remain deployable.

WO1 Ben Thomson, RA



The lived experience. We are based in Northern Ireland and life there is restricted compared to the mainland because of the security implications. We have used our PRI fund to support the junior soldiers in particular.

WO1 Phil Docherty, AAC

Ensuring my unit, 4th Regiment, is continuously ready to deploy both physically and mentally by doing the basics well.

WO1 Victoria Parker-Smith, RA

NORTH EAST C



Warranting attention

We asked RSMs what their top priority is right now...

Encouraging a positive working culture by making sure everyone gets to know each other as well as possible.

Soldiers can come from very different backgrounds and carry different kinds of baggage but in our world we need to understand and value each other if we're going to work successfully together.

WO1 Abbas Salihu, RLC





1982 - 2022



LEVEL
PEAKS



Congratulations to Her Majesty The Queen on her Platinum Jubilee

ABF The Soldiers' Charity
is honoured to have
Her Majesty The Queen
as its Patron

