

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

100 YEARS OF ARMY PHOTOGRAPHY

Nikon

D4

JORDAN Vanguard group
braves Shamal Storm | **KABUL** 2 Scots get
streetwise

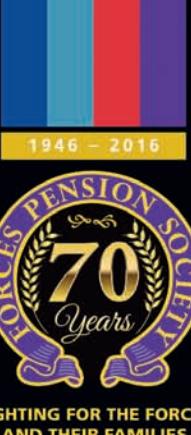


MAY 2016

£3.50



At the Forces Pension Society some things just don't change



We've been looking back at some of the thousands of letters received over the years from Members who have benefitted from the help given by our Pension Advisory Service.

Here are some of the sentiments they expressed 60 years ago in 1956.



"I have this morning received a communication from the Admiralty informing me that I am to receive an increase of my retired pay by 25 per cent as from April 1956.

Now I am writing to tell you about this as I feel that this has been brought about mainly

by the amazing work carried out by the Society. Good wishes for the continued prosperity of your admirable Society."

(Captain, RN)

"I have received notification from the Army Pensions Office of the increase in my retired army pay to take effect from 1st April 1956. As I know the Society has been instrumental in securing increases in army pensions and for keeping the subject ever-present before Ministers of the Crown,

I wish to express my appreciation for all the fruitful efforts made by the Society. May I add that The Pennant is a most instructional journal."

(Lt. Colonel)



"I am very glad to be a member of your Society and shall do all I can to get new members as I feel you are fulfilling a great need for Service people.

I am glad that I can rely on you for advice should I need it at any future time with regard to my pension; also that I shall get the 5 per cent increase as I was not sure that I came in for this."

(Widow)

And here is a quotation from one of our most recently received letters also in response to help from our Pension Advisory Service:

"Membership to this Society is worth its weight in gold."

(LH, FPS Member)



Pardon our moment of pride but it is our 70th anniversary.

Forces Pension Society

68 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL Tel: 020 7820 9988 Email: memsec@forpen.co.uk
To join us online, visit www.forcespensionsociety.org



JOIN US AND SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

SOLDIER

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

All enquiries: Tel: 01252 787107 / 94222 7107
Fax: 01252 787110 / 94222 7110
Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Acting Editor/Sports Editor

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

Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Art Editor

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

Designer

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

Photographer

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

Photographer

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

Managing Editor

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

Business Manager

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

Advertising

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

Subscriptions

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

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Wyndham (Roche) Ltd. Print contract managed by Williams Lea.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2016

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.



facebook.com/soldiermagazine
@soldiermagazine
@soldier_magazine



Up to the task

WHEREVER we travelled while putting together the content for this issue we found personnel honing their skills to prepare as best they could for the unpredictable.

On Salisbury Plain, we talked to 3rd (UK) Division's Lead Armoured Task Force as they moved hundreds of heavy assets and support vehicles from their barracks to a centralised mounting centre to practise deploying abroad at very short notice (pages 42-43).

We were also lucky enough to see, first hand, the largest serial of its kind since 2001.

Exercise Shamal Storm in Jordan was testing the potential to send vehicles, troops and all the logistical support they would require to a crisis zone anywhere in the world and even included airlifting in what was, quite literally, a hospital in a box (pages 28-33).

But on contingency operations in the future troops may find themselves days away from this kind of facility – which is why a small cohort at 16 Medical Regiment has developed the advanced team medic course (pages 47-51), an exciting new programme that will soon be rolled out Army-wide.

And even Afghanistan has moved on, as we report on pages 22-24, where British troops on Op Toral have learnt to expect the unexpected every single day as they patrol the volatile and dangerous streets of Kabul. ■



Steve Muncey • Managing Editor

Where to find *Soldier* magazine...

○ Printed copies

SHOULD be distributed to every Army site at the start of each month.

○ Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

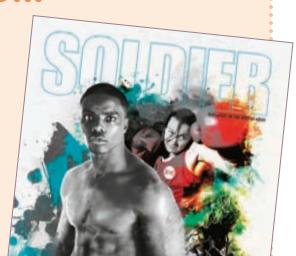
ALONG with news and glimpses behind the scenes at *Soldier*, we publish a link to the magazine at www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine and @soldiermagazine on Twitter.

○ Online

DIGITAL versions of current and past editions are available on the Army website at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk. Just click on "read it now".

○ Purchase

IF you're not in the Army you can buy *Soldier* from your high street magazine retailer or directly from us at subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).



CONTENTS

MAY 2016 VOLUME 72/05



Cover: Graeme Main

22



Picture: Greg McLean

28



FEATURES

22 Street life
2 Scots embrace Kabul deployment

25 Destructive dependence
Gambling addict speaks out

28 Desert storm
The Vanguard proves its value in Jordan

32 Airborne A & E
Mobile hospital sets up in the sand

35 The power of pictures
One hundred years of Army photography

42 Tractable training
On the move with the Lead Armoured Task Force

44 Speaking the lingo
Officer puts French skills to use in Mauritania

47 Medical advance
New package takes first aid to the next level

REGULARS

7 The Informer
Top stories from across the Service

53 Talkback
Ruminations from the ranks

57 Bullet Points
Troops' intelligence assets

67 Reviews
Films, games, books, and music to fill your downtime

90 Final Word
Royal Military Police discuss joint training with Jordanian counterparts

SOLDIERSPORT

76 Rugby union
Reds disappoint in Inter-Services opener

81 Table tennis
Soldiers end losing streak

83 Boxing
Army seal emphatic victory

86 Sea fishing
Anglers appeal for fresh talent



32



Picture: IWM



"This equates to a final rent increase of nearly 200 per cent"

Housing charges give cause for complaint

p53

JOININGFORCES

SAVINGS & LOAN REPAYMENTS TAKEN STRAIGHT FROM PAY

The MoD has made it possible for three of the UK's leading credit unions to join forces and make simple savings accounts and loans available to the armed forces and their families.



Visit
planesavercu.co.uk/MOD

Call us on
0208 607 5020

- Savings and loans straight from your pay
- Average return of over 3% paid on savings over the last 4 years
- Loans of up to £25,000 on top of your savings balance
- One month interest free on all first loans*
- Life Cover on Savings and Loans of up to £40,000*
- Online account management
- Currently serving over 10,000 members
- FSCS protection on deposits of up to £75,000

Join today for FREE



Credit Union services for the Armed Forces

Visit
serveandprotectcu.co.uk

Call us on
0845 266 1113

- Simple savings from £10 per month
- Sensible loans from £500 to £25,000
- Life cover on savings and loans at no extra cost*
- Secure online account access
- Serving over 25,000 members
- Free to join
- Join and borrow with no delay

Check us out!

'Serve and Protect' is a trading name of Police Credit Union Ltd.



Check out **WWW.JOININGFORCESCU.CO.UK**

*Terms and conditions apply.

Plane Saver Credit Union, London Mutual Credit Union and Police Credit Union are authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.



Combat cooperation is key

British troops and armour test ability to work with strategic allies

THE importance of recent major British Army exercises has been reinforced by Defence Secretary Michael Fallon when he said "the UK is unlikely to go to war on its own ever again".

He was visiting the Anglo-French military training exercise Griffin Strike when he made the comments, and the senior minister also stated that Britain should forge closer military links with European countries in the future, although he ruled out participating in the mooted European Union Army.

More than 5,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen from Britain and France spent two weeks working together as the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (see page 10), which was created following the 2010 Lancaster House agreement when both countries pledged closer defence ties.

"It's very hard to see the circumstances in which Britain would go into conflict on its own again," Mr Fallon said.

"The Falklands, I think, were very much an exception."

He added: "Britain and France have the biggest and most capable armed forces in Europe and we are natural partners working alongside each other."

Jean-Yves le Drian, the French defence minister, who also visited the serial on Salisbury Plain, commented:

"We are stronger together. In a world where instability and threats are everywhere, closeness and cooperation is absolutely essential."

The package closely followed the Army's annual manoeuvres with another important ally, Jordan.

Exercise Shamal Storm (see pages 28-33) was a jaw-dropping 60 per cent larger than in previous years and the largest programme of its kind since 2001, when the Service held a large drill in Oman.

Jordan's climate and its arid terrain offered varied and challenging conditions as well as a valuable opportunity to train alongside the Jordanian armed forces.

More than 300 vehicles were shipped out along with some 1,600 troops – including members of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment – plus all the logistic and support functions that were required.

An Army spokesman said: "This presents a challenging environment in which to assure our combat readiness to deploy and support a force of up to 30,000 troops anywhere in the world."

"The exercise tested key evolving concepts like air deployment of a high readiness field hospital and explosives ordnance disposal and search capabilities, which will enable us to be more agile in deterring threats to the UK and its interests."

Taking aim: Britain's relationship with military partners will grow in importance, says Michael Fallon

Pictures: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

ON ROTOR ROTA

■ EXERCISE Griffin Strike saw Army Reserve aircraft technicians deploy alongside their Regular counterparts for the first time.

Two Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Reservists from 129 Field Company, 104 Battalion, worked alongside 7 Aviation Support Battalion, to maintain Apache attack helicopters.

Given the highly skilled and specialist nature of the role, it was only opened up to part-time personnel in 2015.

A Reserve detachment was created in Ipswich to tap into the pool of civilian engineers working at RAF Wattisham.



IDLE PROMISE

■ RECRUITERS are targeting "time-wasting" youngsters in a bid to attract more people into the Reserves.

A survey of 2,000 18-35-year-olds found that they typically spend the equivalent of one day a week on social media, gaming or sitting on the sofa.

The research, which was conducted to support the new recruitment campaign – "A Better You" – also revealed that more than half of those questioned would like to learn new skills and engage in something adventurous or exciting.

Using the slogan "Who's got the time for that? You do", the Service is hoping to show that the amount of personal sacrifice for a Reserve role is less than they might think.



Picture: Shutterstock

★★★★★
TURN TO PAGE 67
For our reviews of...
MOVIES **BOOKS** **GAMES** **MUSIC**



1 UK

VETERANS' VOYAGE

FORCES sailing charity Turn to Starboard is gearing up to launch its Round Britain Challenge 2016.

Starting next month, a crew of up to 30 veterans – many with little or no experience – will embark on a 2,000-mile circumnavigation of the country, which is expected to take around eight weeks.

The Falmouth-based organisation provides sailing opportunities to serving and former military personnel who have been affected by operations, and their families.

For more information on the range of courses offered by the charity visit www.turntostarboard.co.uk

British Army Training Unit Suffield

British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

1 2

Gibraltar

Sierra Leone

5

British Army Training Unit Kenya

Cyprus

“
The wide and varied aspects of our mission will test us
”

3 AFGHANISTAN

GURKHAS ARRIVE

TROOPS from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have taken command of the Kabul Protection Unit in Afghanistan.

They have succeeded their colleagues from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, who have returned home after nine months in theatre.

The Gurkhas will provide security assistance and protection to military and civilian Nato advisers based in the Afghan capital.

“The wide and varied aspects of our mission will test us – but it is a challenge we are prepared for,” said CO Lt Col Jamie Murray.



Picture: Dominic King



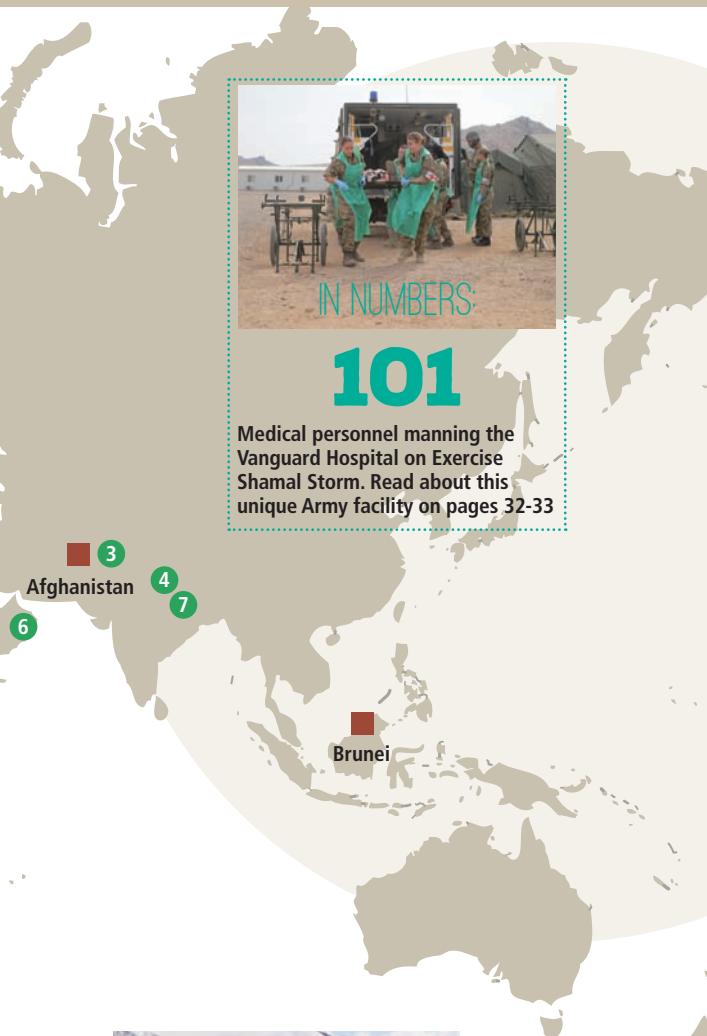
2 GERMANY

RIVER CROSSING CONQUERED

SOLDIERS from the Royal Engineers and the German Pionierbattalion 130 have been demonstrating their unique amphibious capability.

The M3 rigs – three British and four German – formed up to span the fast flowing River Weser, allowing an armoured recovery vehicle from the host nation to cross in an effective display of interoperability.

The test involved 18 soldiers from 23 Amphibious Troop, 75 Engineer Regiment, with 40 German personnel also taking part.



Picture: Iller Ender



4 NEPAL

BASE CAMP AWAITS

ADVENTURERS from the Joint Service Signal Unit in Cyprus have deployed to Nepal to test themselves on a training expedition in the Himalayas.

The 23-day trip started in Kathmandu and involved a trek up to Namche Bazaar towards the Gokyo Pass before the difficulty stepped up a level.

As well as tackling a climb to Gorakshep at 4,910 metres, the team headed for Everest Base Camp at 5,380 metres.

However, a summit attempt was not part of the plan for this trip.

“ I can't see this new house falling down – it will withstand anything ”

5 MALI

NEWCOMBE BOOSTS LOCAL FORCES

THE Malian Armed Forces have been benefiting from the expertise of the British Army as Op Newcombe continues at pace.

Troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have taught the host nation's soldiers a range of military skills, with a particular focus on counter-IED and basic infantry drills.

The mission is aimed at stabilising Mali and the Gurkhas have been working in a multinational environment featuring personnel from 25 different countries.



6 OMAN

STORM TROOPERS

DEFENCE engagement was at the forefront as personnel from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland deployed to Oman on Exercise Jebel Storm.

The test saw the troops training alongside the host nation's parachute battalion in the Jebel Al Akhdar region.

“It assists in forging a closer relationship between the two units,” explained officer commanding Maj John Dunn.

“The exercise went very well and was an excellent opportunity for 2 Scots to improve its war fighting skills following a successful deployment to Afghanistan on Operation Toral.”



7 NEPAL

CONSTRUCTION STEPS UP

ONE year on from the earthquake that left swathes of Nepal in ruins, elderly Gurkha veterans are rebuilding their lives with support from a younger generation of soldiers in the Himalayan foothills.

Among them is 75-year-old Krishnabahadur Thapa, who served with the 2nd Gurkha Rifles and fought in Brunei and Borneo.

Having received emergency aid from the Gurkha Welfare Trust he faced months in a temporary shelter but with the charity's long-term earthquake response now in full swing he is about to move into a new home with wife Belkumari.

“I can't see this new house falling down, I am confident it will withstand anything,” the ex-soldier said.

By the end of last month 150 such properties were due to be completed, with hundreds more under construction.



"We didn't execute our plans and the discipline was poor"

– Skipper reflects on Services defeat, page 76



SITE SALE CONTINUES

■ A FURTHER ten MoD sites are to be put up for sale as the department's footprint strategy continues at pace.

Earlier this year we reported that Kneller Hall was being disposed of as part of plans to generate £500 million and provide land for new homes and a further £140 million is to be added to the pot following the latest announcement.

Among the sites to go are Chetwynd Barracks in Nottinghamshire, Thornhill Barracks in Aldershot (pictured) and the MoD facility at Cheadle Hulme in Greater Manchester.

The move will free up land for around 7,000 new homes – the majority of which will be released in time to contribute towards the government target of 160,000 by 2020.

"Every pound we make disposing of excess land will be reinvested into the defence budget," said Defence Minister Mark Lancaster.

"It will make the military estate more efficient and better suited to the needs of the Armed Forces and it will help thousands of people to own their own home."



Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC



GRiffin GUIDE:

- 3,500 UK personnel
- 2,000 French personnel
- 5 UK ships
- 5 French ships
- 11 UK aircraft
- 10 French aircraft

Joint force steps up

BRITISH soldiers have been showcasing their skills on Salisbury Plain during a large-scale test to mark the culmination of six years of UK-French military cooperation.

Exercise Griffin Strike demonstrated the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force's potential to deploy at high readiness and saw personnel from the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy working side-by-side with their cross-Channel counterparts.

Ground troops – including members of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment – engaged in close combat drills, mechanised manoeuvres and air assault insertions, with support coming from RAF Typhoons, French Rafale jets and attack helicopters.

Warships from both nations were deployed to sea, from which training and military movements were conducted.

The exercise concluded with a land firepower demonstration and the mock seizure of a village by mechanised infantry.

"We are anxious to demonstrate that our military partnership is now on a new level and show how the UK-France Combined Joint Task Force, in the most testing of circumstances, stands shoulder to shoulder," said Maj Gen Stuart Skeates, Standing Force Joint Commander, on the eve of the deployment.

The senior officer added: "This is an immensely exciting prospect and one which will put our people through their paces."

SPECIAL DAY AT HYDE PARK

THE Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment gave a special behind-the-scenes tour of Hyde Park Barracks to youngsters with cancer. Six patients from the Oak Centre for Children and Young People in Sutton were given a taste of The Blues and Royals Squadron and their day-to-day duties. The visitors also inspected the Queen's Life Guard and tried their hand at grooming and feeding the horses.



A MILITARY dog that lost a leg in a roadside bomb blast has been awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal. The 12-year-old German Shepherd served on more than 400 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan with the US Marine Corps, protecting the lives of troops by sniffing out munitions. Lucca's owner, Gunnery Sergeant Chris Willingham, said: "She is the only reason I made it home and I am fortunate to have served with her."



HERO HOUND

"The standard of care in here is even better than in UK hospitals"

– Medics marvel at Vanguard facility, pages 32-33



Peshmerga perfect skills UK personnel deliver training to Iraqi forces

FEW female troops serving with the Peshmerga in Northern Iraq have been developing key front-line skills under the watchful eye of British personnel.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Rifles worked alongside their Dutch counterparts to deliver a comprehensive package of infantry, medical and counter-IED drills to a cohort of 120 fighters during an intensive three-week course.

The women have been operating alongside male colleagues in a front-line unit that provides protection to medics, wounded personnel and vulnerable civilians.

They are due to play a key role in the operation to retake Mosul, where they are likely to deal with victims

of Daesh sexual violence. They have also been trained in the law of armed conflict and protection of civilians.

"The female Peshmerga have been a pleasure to teach," said Lt Col Oz Lane, who is in charge of the UK training programme.

"They are keen to learn and highly motivated and we are providing them with the skill sets not only to fight Daesh but to manage the humanitarian situation after they have won the fight."

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon added: "The Iraqis are leading the fight for the security of their country.

"These brave female Peshmerga fighters will help ensure that Daesh are kicked out of Iraq for good and we must keep supporting them."

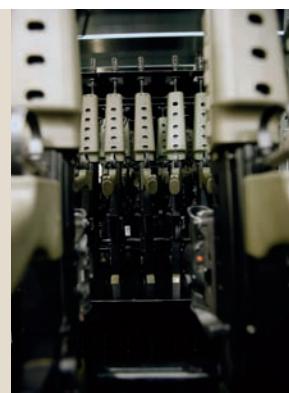
CRUNCH KICKS OFF



A RUGBY match involving the Royal Navy and their French counterparts was marred by a mass brawl involving

players from both sides. The annual fixture, aptly nicknamed "Le Crunch", descended into chaos as the teams traded a series of hefty blows. The referee dished out two red cards in the aftermath but the show of aggression failed to inspire the Senior Service as they slipped to a 28-6 defeat.

AN article in *The Times* claimed that British weapons are being offered for sale to terrorist gun traders on Facebook. The paper reported that revolvers, light machine guns, rifles and sub-machine guns that were built or designed in the UK have been put up for sale in secret arms-trading groups on the social network.



GUNS FOR SALE

BAD DRILLS



FRENCH FAVOURITE

A VETERAN who served with the Household Cavalry during the D-Day landings has been presented with France's highest military honour.

Former trooper Charles Foster received the Legion d'Honneur from French Ambassador Sylvie Bermann at her official residence in London.

The 93-year-old, who later enjoyed a tour of Hyde Park Barracks, said: "It is amazing to be here and I'm very proud. It's been a long time coming, but it's come eventually."

YORKS HEAD HOME

A TEAM of 40 soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment have completed a 512-mile walk around the North of England.

The route saw the troops of Corunna Company travel through every national park and area of outstanding beauty in the region as they averaged the equivalent of a marathon a day.

"We have covered some of the most beautiful and challenging landscape Britain has to offer," explained officer commanding Maj James Ashworth.





"Jordan affords us an almost unconstrained training template"

– Troops step up in the Middle East, pages 28-31



A PERSONAL VIEW FROM SARA BAADE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT THE ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION...

FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT OFFER

THE last few years have seen some significant adjustments to "the offer" for Service families. In addition to the recent changes to the military pension and pay model there have been a number of other considerable alterations.

These moves have had a huge impact not only on the serving person but also on their loved ones and their ability to support their spouse and the wider Army community.

Many of these changes are of course positive for families and I'm delighted to see the flexible working pilot taking off.

A more transparent accommodation charge is also a good thing in the long term. However, right now many feel this is yet another change, and an increased charge at that.

We are very concerned about the combined impact these recent developments will have on finer details within "the offer".

66
AS WITH
EVERY
AMENDMENT
THERE WILL
BE WINNERS
AND LOSERS
99

Take, for example, the future accommodation model.

This could be a fantastic opportunity for those who have an aspiration of home ownership and stability, but what will it mean for our mobile workforce?

As with every amendment there will be winners and losers, and whereas I applaud some recent positive changes, I'm worried about the cumulative effect these shifts and changes will have on many families.

I have raised my concerns about this in numerous meetings with senior stakeholders and the AFF will continue to champion the need for an oversight of the complete offer, as opposed to simply looking at these amendments in isolation.

www.aff.org.uk

PEAK PERFORMER

■ RESERVIST Lt Graham Stephenson (RA) is part of a tri-Service team that has travelled to Nepal to test the effects of altitude on the body.

The 33-year-old will attempt to climb the north east ridge of the Dhaulagiri peak without the use of breathing apparatus.

With the mountain measuring 8,167 metres the personnel will be the first people to conduct the research at such a height.

After six weeks of acclimatisation they hope to reach the summit on around May 20.

"It is bound to be a really challenging environment and an opportunity to climb higher than I have ever climbed before," Lt Stephenson said.



TRUST SEEKS TENDERS

■ THE Responsible Gambling Trust has invited tenders for a £75,000 programme to develop ways of reducing the impact of gambling-related harm among the Armed Forces community.

Dr Jane Rigby, the charity's director of commissioning, said: "Our Armed Forces do a vital job in defending us and there is an obligation to offer the best possible care during and after their service."

● Gambling addict speaks out – pages 25-26

Sub-zero injuries prompt court claim

AN ex-soldier from Gambia is suing the Ministry of Defence over injuries caused by cold weather.

Abdoulie Bojang (ex-RLC) is seeking up to £200,000 after a 2014 skiing exercise in Canada left him with permanent damage to his hands.

According to the claim lodged at the High Court, Bojang's feet and hands became numb during the training and changed colour.

His lawyer is arguing that the Army

failed to take into account his ethnicity before deploying him on the package and should have provided him and his superiors with more training regarding the dangers of so-called non-freezing cold injuries.

Bojang, who was medically discharged last year, is one of several hundred Foreign and Commonwealth troops to have sought compensation for the condition, according to a report in *The Sunday Times*.





GET UP TO 30% MILITARY DISCOUNT AT MARSHALL MILITARY SALES

ALL-NEW JAGUAR XF

UP TO 20% MILITARY DISCOUNT. £317* A MONTH

Distinctively Jaguar. All-new XF's assertive design stands out from the crowd. An unrivalled combination of steering response, ride comfort, refinement and performance. Offering a drive with CO₂ emissions as low as 104g/km and fuel economy of 71mpg, up to engines with top speeds of 155mph and 0-60mph acceleration as quick as 5.1 seconds – there is an XF for every driver.

Call or visit to find out more.

*Plus deposit and final payment – please see details below.

Representative example XF Diesel Saloon 2.0D (180) R-Sport 4 door Manual

On the Road Price	£28,884.60
Customer Deposit	£3,884.00
Total Amount of Credit	£25,000.60
Credit Facility Fee (inc. in monthly payments)	£10.00
Purchase Fee (included in monthly payments)	£0.00
Initial Payment	£317.31
47 Monthly Payments	£317.31
Final Payment	£15,557.00
Total Amount Payable	£34,354.57
Duration of Agreement	48 months
Representative APR%	6.9% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.68%

MARSHALL MILITARY SALES

Jaguar Land Rover House, Mallory Road, Peterborough, PE1 5PT
+44 (0)1733 213231 jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk

LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE

12.5% MILITARY DISCOUNT. £291* A MONTH

Range Rover Evoque demands respect on every street corner. Its contemporary design and a brand new Ingenium diesel engine – our most fuel and emission efficient ever. The sleek, prestigious Range Rover Evoque provides uncompromised concept car styling and a unique balance of dynamic ability, advanced engineering and contemporary luxury. Call or visit to find out more.

Marshall Military Sales - The right choice.

*Plus deposit and final payment – please see details below.

Representative example Range Rover Evoque Diesel 2.0 eD4 SE Tech 5 door 2WD

On the Road Price	£28,531.87
Customer Deposit	£2,853.00
Total Amount of Credit	£25,678.87
Credit Facility Fee (inc. in monthly payments)	£0.00
Purchase Fee (included in monthly payments)	£10.00
Initial Payment	£291.52
47 Monthly Payments	£291.52
Final Payment	£17,832.00
Total Amount Payable	£34,386.44
Duration of Agreement	48 months
Representative APR%	6.9% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.68%

*The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. Finance is subject to status and only available to serving members of HM Forces, aged 18 and over resident in Mainland UK and N.Ireland. Indemnities may be required. This finance offer is available from Black Horse Limited trading as Jaguar Land Rover Financial Services, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. This offer is available on new Jaguar and Land Rover models at Marshall Military Sales only. Promotions are not available on used cars. Military on the road price includes: Tax Free for Export – Government First Registration Fee. Tax Paid for UK Government – First Registration Fee, 12 Months Vehicle Excise Duty and 20% VAT. Representative Example is based upon an annual mileage of 8000 miles. Prices and discount correct at time of going to press.



"I felt a little nervous beforehand but once I got in the ring it was great"

– Comeback star shines on fight night, page 83



LOGGIES ON THE MOVE

■ THE Ministry of Defence has approved the construction of a £250 million project at Worthy Down that will house new headquarters for the Royal Logistic Corps and the Adjutant General's Corps.

The facility will also become home to the Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration.

The one million square-foot site will contain a training college and mess halls plus accommodation for all ranks.

Funding for the scheme includes the sale of Deepcut Barracks, where 1,200 new homes, a school and other community facilities are due to be developed.

Work is expected to be completed by mid-2019.



BURIAL IN BELGIUM

■ THE remains of Joseph Rowbottom and Albert Venus, along with those of four other unknown soldiers of the First World War, have been laid to rest more than 100 years after they lost their lives in action.

A military burial took place at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Ypres, in Belgium, close to where the bodies were found.

Research pinpointed the 2nd Northumbrian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery to the area on May 24, 1915 – the day the Servicemen were killed.

Only gunners Venus (pictured), who was 22 and hailed from Hull, and 27-year-old Rowbottom were identified following extensive tests and investigations.

Both died on the first day of the Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge.



“
I didn't
expect to
be where
I was
”



Picture: Cpl Jamie Dudding, RLC

Cousland tops the class

An officer cadet who grew up on a council estate and left school at 15 has been awarded the Sword of Honour at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

2Lt Kidane Cousland finished top of his 200-strong intake, becoming one of only a handful of black, Asian and minority personnel to win the prestigious accolade.

Raised in Tottenham by his mother, he could not read until he was 12 and joined the Army as a soldier at 16.

His superiors in the Royal Artillery recommended him for officer selection and he embarked on his training in Sandhurst in May 2015.

Speaking to the BBC prior to his passing out parade last month the 24-year-old said he had not thought

becoming an officer would be possible due to his educational background.

"For me, with my few GCSEs at a C grade to rub together, I didn't expect to be where I was, to be perfectly honest," he explained.

"But when people ask you how well you did in certain departments, academic scores, you realise I'm selling myself short and I'm a little bit better than I think I am."

Despite his mother's initial misgivings over racism within the military, he thinks joining the Service may have turned his life around.

"I either did that or my anger issues and frustration would actually see me move in a different direction, and probably end up killing me or I'd be in prison," he added.



Military art prints

LAST month's spine line clues may have been recognised by those with a keen eye for adventure.

Inspired by our feature on the Army's intrepid ice maidens, Gertrude Bell, Isabella Bird, Edith Durham and Freya Stark are all the names of famous British female explorers.

This month, courtesy of remembrance artist Jacqueline Hurley (www.poshoriginalart.co.uk), we are giving away two signed prints of her inspiring artwork.

Remembered by Day and Night and *While We Sleep* measure 12.5" by 12.5" each, and would make a fitting tribute for any wall.

To be in with a chance of winning one of these pictures, tell us what links the words on the spine of this month's issue. Answers to the usual address or email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by May 31.



HAIX®

BLACK EAGLE® ADVENTURE

Sporty boot based on advanced
running technology



www.haix.co.uk



"I am speaking out now to try and help other people"

– NCO's gambling hell, pages 25-26

CREDITS LOWDOWN

■ CHANGES have been made to the system for accessing enhanced learning credits (ELC) and further education and higher education (FEHE) funding.

Under the new employment model all soldiers will automatically be enrolled to be eligible for both schemes and have greater flexibility in how they choose to spend the cash.

Service personnel will now have the option of claiming the lower tier ELC allowance as a lump sum of up to £3,000 instead of spread over three years in £1,000 instalments.

While the qualifying period for ELC higher tier funding remains eight years, the length of service for lower tier ELC payments and FEHE has increased from four to six years.

Post-service access for both programmes has also been reduced from ten to five years.

Standard learning credits have not changed and will continue to provide £175 per year for lower level qualifications.

For full details on the new rules read 2016/DIB16 or visit www.enhancedlearningcredits.com



TROOPS TO TEACHERS

■ A SCHEME to help ex-military personnel in the Croydon area develop teaching skills is still accepting applications.

The programme is funded by Croydon Council and the Armed Forces Covenant and will offer ten veterans the chance to study for a BTEC level three award in education and training over the course of one week in July.

Once qualified, three candidates will then be employed by vocational charity CVQO to teach in local schools one day a week for three months, when they will help youngsters attain BTECs in teamwork, personal skills and citizenship.

For more information on the scheme or to apply for a space contact Clinton Riley on cr@cvqo.org or 07940 103598.



Picture: POA (Photo) Owen Coogan, RN

Next generation cannon delivered

Taking aim: The new cannon system will deliver a battle-winning edge

THE British Army has taken delivery of 515 new 40mm cannons that will offer improved firepower for the Ajax and Warrior armoured vehicles.

Developed in a joint venture between BAE Systems and Nexter Systems, the weapon uses a rotating breech mechanism and delivers a more explosive charge at up to four times the power of the 30mm rounds it replaces.

It is the first completely new cannon system ordered by the MoD since the 1960s and the handover follows years of exhaustive testing and qualification.

The cased telescoped ammunition includes armour piercing and training rounds, while a new airburst shell for engaging light vehicles and infantry

spread over a large area is currently undergoing development.

Ammunition is loaded at a 90-degree angle to the barrel before being rotated into the firing position; therefore saving space in the vehicle that can be used to store extra rounds or other kit.

"This next-generation cannon has been developed through close Anglo-French collaboration and adds significantly to the capability of the UK and our Nato allies," said Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Philip Dunne.

"The delivery of the first cannon on our Ajax vehicles is another example of how our £178 billion investment in UK defence is ensuring our Armed Forces personnel have the equipment they need."

New accommodation charges kick in

THE new charging framework for Service families housing has come into force.

Under the combined accommodation assessment system (CAAS) the majority of personnel will see their rent go up, however, larger rises will be phased in over several years and capped at a maximum increase in any given year – equating to around £40 per month for junior officers and £20-30 for other ranks.

Following a survey of all quarters, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation wrote to tenants to inform them which grading their house had been given.

Troops should check their April pay statement to ensure the amount they have been

charged corresponds to their home's CAAS band.

Different arrangements are in place for personnel serving abroad as part of a package to make overseas postings more attractive.

In Cyprus and the Falklands Islands SFA occupants will benefit from a two-band reduction but the implementation has been delayed and troops will be informed of interim measures.

Those in Germany will remain on the previous four-tier grading system and will also be charged at one grade below their current level.

The DIO is also in the early stages of a similar review of single living accommodation pricing.



"If the call was to come we need to know that we could deploy as a brigade"

– Task force tested, pages 42-43



DALES TREK AWAITS

■ FORMER Royal Engineer Col (Retd) Mike Brooke and ex-rifleman Paul Jacobs, who was blinded while on operations in Afghanistan and later received the George Medal for exceptional valour, will tackle Blind Veterans UK's inaugural 100km challenge over the Yorkshire Dales.

The duo will embark on the mammoth overnight trek on June 18 to 19 and hope to raise more than £10,000 to pay for essential specialist rehabilitation equipment.

The team will set off from West Yorkshire's Denby Dale towards Holmfirth before taking in the western edge of the Pennines until finally reaching Sheffield and the finish line.

To donate to the cause visit www.gofundme.com/paulspeople

EQUALITY PAYS OFF

■ THE Army has been recognised by *The Times* as one of the top 50 employers for women for the first time.

Places on the list are given to organisations that have demonstrated that gender equality is a key part of their business strategy.

In an interview with the newspaper Director General Personnel, Maj Gen Rob Nitsch, said the Service was proud to be included in the line-up.

"We must develop policies that resonate with the traditions of the institution, without alienating people in it, and must reflect the society we represent," the senior officer commented.

"This is not about political correctness. This is about bringing the very best talent from across society and nurturing and developing them."

The Royal Navy also made its second appearance in the top 50.



Picture: Shutterstock

Pension protection

SPUSES and civil partners of Service personnel who accompanied their soldier on deployment overseas and weren't able to keep up their National Insurance contributions can now protect their state pension.

It's estimated the new Class 3 credits could benefit around 20,000 people.

To be eligible individuals need to reach pension age on or after April 6, 2016 and have joined a spouse or civil partner on deployment outside the UK since April 6, 1975.

In addition, at the time of the posting the spouse or partner must have paid, been treated as

having paid or been credited with National Insurance.

Those now widowed, divorced or who have had their civil partnership dissolved can apply, provided they were married or in a civil partnership during the time spent abroad.

Some of those who meet the above criteria will not have a gap in their records and therefore won't be eligible.

Individuals can check their status using an online tool on the gov.uk website called Check your State Pension.

For more information go to www.gov.uk/dwp/ni-credits-armed-forces-partners

“This is about bringing the very best talent from across society”



Picture: Mark Owens

Scots toast milestone

THE Royal Regiment of Scotland marked its tenth anniversary with a day of celebration in the capital Edinburgh.

A thanksgiving service at Canongate Kirk was followed by a parade through the streets as the proud Servicemen exercised the Freedom of Edinburgh, which was granted by the city's council in 2013.

Founded on the heritage of 14 historic Scottish Infantry units the regiment's battalions have since deployed on 12 operational tours to Afghanistan and a further three to Iraq.

● Force to be reckoned with – pages 22-24



"It can be quite daunting but they're not asking us to be doctors"

– Paras learn advanced medic skills, pages 47–51



TRENCH TREASURES

■ PREHISTORIC monuments, Anglo-Saxon graves and military items from the First and Second World Wars were unearthed during works on MoD land earmarked for new Army homes in Bulford.

The features were discovered by specialists from Wessex Archaeology, who were brought in by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to carry out standard pre-planning application trenching at the site.

Further investigations revealed an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of around 150 graves, which included spears, knives, jewellery and other personal items that date between AD 660 and 780.

The location was also used for training during both world wars and there was evidence that a field farrier may have re-shod horses there before they went to the front.

Other artefacts highlighted how the land was used in the later conflict, with experts suggesting the Projector Infantry Anti Tank weapon – which saw action during the Allied invasion of Sicily – was fired in an exercise.



DOCUMENT DISPATCHED

■ A LETTER that ignited the countdown to the Falklands War is on sale for £24,000.

Sir Rex Hunt, governor of the British protectorate back in March 1982, sent the correspondence demanding that 50 Argentinian troops masquerading as scientists leave a research station on the remote Atlantic island of South Georgia.

Little did he know that their occupation would eventually lead to a conflict lasting ten weeks and costing the lives of 255 UK military personnel.

The South American party left only to return in greater numbers a day after Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands a couple of weeks later.



On track: LCpl Billy Redmayne (Para) was hoping to star at this year's TT race

“
Words cannot describe how hard this is for us all
”

'He died doing what he loved'

Soldier suffers fatal crash at Scarborough race weekend

TRIBUTES have been paid to motorcycle racer LCpl Billy Redmayne (Para) following his death at the Oliver's Mount Spring Cup meeting in Scarborough.

The 25-year-old, who had served in Afghanistan, sustained severe head injuries in a crash and later passed away at the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough.

LCpl Redmayne spoke to *Soldier* in November about an encouraging 2015 campaign, which saw him win the Junior Manx Grand Prix.

He was set to make his debut at the North West 200 and Isle of Man TT races this summer.

The soldier's girlfriend, Hannah Wright, announced news of his death – which came on the day of their second anniversary – via Facebook.

She said: "Billy died doing what he loved and that was the way he always wanted it."

"Words cannot describe how hard this is for us all, and to be honest it hasn't really sunk in yet."

"Saying goodbye to him was the hardest thing I have ever done."

LCpl Redmayne completed three operational tours of Afghanistan in 2010, 2012 and 2014 in the most demanding of circumstances.

His abilities were recognised in 2014 when he was awarded the prestigious Fishmongers' Trophy, which is annually awarded to the most outstanding Parachute Regiment soldier from all four battalions. He was promoted to lance corporal the same year.

"What marked Billy out was his good humour, loyalty, determination to succeed and utter calmness under pressure," a spokesman for the regiment said.

"These qualities also enabled him to compete at the highest levels of motorbike road racing."



■ FORCES charity SSAFA is urging cyclists to sign up for its annual Ride of Britain event in September. The five-day challenge starts in Edinburgh and finishes in London via rest stops in Newcastle, Harrogate, Newark and Cambridge. For more details email teamssafa@ssafa.org.uk or call 020 7463 9297.

Pictures: Shaun Lewis and Dave Kneen

YOU CAN'T VOTE.

In the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016.
Unless you've registered by 7 June.

It only takes a few minutes. Go to gov.uk/register-to-vote



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT**





THE BIG PICTURE

> CASTLEMARTIN, PEMBROKESHIRE

AEERIAL ASSAULT

A CREWMAN from 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps hones his marksmanship skills in the skies over Pembrokeshire. Pilots and aircrew from the formation's 661 Squadron spent a week at Castlemartin ranges conducting live firing from the Wildcat helicopter, practising hitting targets on the ground from different heights and angles. Picture: Peter Davies



2 Scots embrace life on the streets of Kabul

W

ITH the Herrick campaign confined to the history books the Army's ongoing commitments in Afghanistan can easily be overlooked as tales of derring-do are now few and far between.

But the lack of combat does not detract from the important role being carried out by the British personnel who have seen their operational focus shift from Helmand province to Kabul.

Having completed a nine-month tour in the nation's capital the soldiers of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland have just returned home, with their counterparts from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles now replacing them as the spearhead of the Kabul Security Force.

Known as Op Toral, the mission sees troops providing protection for the various Nato advisers working in the city by transporting them to different locations via armoured vehicles and then acting as "guardian angels" on the ground.

They also form a quick reaction force (QRF) that immediately responds to any incidents involving the organisation's staff.

It may sound like routine work but the tempo is high. During 2 Scots' time in theatre they completed more than 7,300 missions ranging from two-man foot patrols to five-vehicle convoys.

"Our primary purpose is to provide a manoeuvre arm," commanding officer Lt Col Graeme Wearmouth told *Soldier* on the eve of departure.

"We are here to protect the Nato workers in Kabul, who are on hand to advise the various Afghan security agencies.

"During our time in theatre there have been more than 50 significant incidents, requiring the QRF to respond on 19 occasions.

"The Afghans have the lead but if there is a Nato adviser or international person involved we will go and get them out of trouble.

"We have good links with the local forces and if we respond to something there are lots of their personnel on the scene.

"Of the 7,300 missions we have completed only two have involved direct contacts on us. The Afghans are targeted more."

The call to Kabul came less than two years after 2 Scots completed their last Herrick commitment and marked the unit's fourth deployment to the country.

This pedigree meant Lt Col Wearmouth had full faith in his soldiers and their ability to adapt to an environment that was vastly different to that found on previous tours.



Report: Richard Long Pictures: Greg Macvean



FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH





The guys have been on the ground every day and that keeps them focused

LT COL GRAEME WEARMOUTH



"We have guys with lots of Herrick experience," he explained. "Op Toral is a challenge, albeit a different challenge.

"When violence happens in Kabul it can come from anywhere but in Helmand we were able to pick up on a deteriorating situation on the ground.

"But it is still operations and the city poses different security problems."

Given the repetitive nature of the work complacency could become an issue but the officer was quick to stress that his troops maintained their standards at all times.

In a brand new approach for the Army, the battalion's headquarters deployed for the full nine months while the companies performing the day-to-day tasks were rotated midway through the deployment.

"It is a great way of maintaining the alertness of the soldiers on task," the commander added.

"The guys have been out on the ground every day and that ensures we keep them focused.

"I am very proud of them. They have upheld the traditions of the regiment; we celebrated our tenth anniversary out here and it was fitting that we were on operations at the time.

"When they were called to respond the training held them in good stead and there has been some fine junior leadership on show – all situations have been dealt with appropriately."

While the mission may lack the intensity of previous efforts in Afghanistan it remains a key commitment and Lt Col Wearmouth believes it is deserving of greater coverage given the link to the Army's earlier front-line campaign.

"Op Toral is probably not that well known, it doesn't get much exposure," he added.

"A lot of people think Afghanistan is all over but

we still have elements here, just on a smaller scale.

"This is our first tour as a battalion in Kabul and it is very different. The main difference for me, as someone who has previously deployed on Op Herrick, is that the Afghan forces are now very much at the forefront.

"It shows how this campaign eventually ends. But our contribution is still important; we are working in a multinational Nato environment and are shouldering the burden as things move forward."

The personnel of 2 Scots have certainly shouldered the burden over the past nine months but as with many units in the Service their net has been spread far and wide.

Kabul has been the main focus but the battalion has also seen a company deploy on exercise to Oman. Other troops have performed Royal Guard duties at Balmoral while maintaining a high-readiness role within the UK.

And once post-tour leave is complete attention will turn to preparing for an exercise in Kenya early next year.

Herrick may be long gone but 2 Scots have underlined the Army's continued commitment to Afghanistan while at the same time encapsulating the varied roles expected of the Service in 2016. ■



Force fact file:

► The Kabul Security Force boasts 550 soldiers from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Denmark

► 2 Scots contributed 215 troops towards the UK-led formation as part of Op Toral

► Personnel carried out more than 7,300 missions during nine months in theatre

It's worse than drugs and alcohol



Serviceman reveals his addiction to gambling in a bid to rescue comrades from the vice

TO put it bluntly, you are never fully over an addiction".

These are the words of a serving soldier who has bravely revealed his destructive gambling habit in the hope of helping fellow Service personnel.

Sgt Stew Duffus (RE) has squandered a fortune playing fruit machines and online slot games during an obsession that has gripped him for nearly 20 years.

He believes that, like dependence on alcohol and drugs, the Army should treat compulsive gambling as a health problem.

"I am speaking out now to try and help other people," said the veteran of numerous tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, who is now an instructor at the mission training and mobilisation centre at Chilwell.

"If you have a drink problem you will be seen at the medical centre but gambling isn't treated the same way.

"I have been to mental health experts in the Army and they were excellent, but they hadn't come across my particular issue before.

"My units supported me with getting help and assisted by providing hire cars so that I could attend Gamblers Anonymous meetings."

The 39-year-old added: "People who think they might have a problem should speak to their chain of command or visit their doctor because this is an illness."

The remarkably candid soldier explained that although he is in recovery at the moment he would never claim to be cured.

Sgt Duffus' habit started in his early twenties »



» when he played the slots at a fairground.

As time went by the sapper spent more and more money trying his luck on the machines but did not recognise his growing dependency.

"The first or second day after payday I would throw half or all of my money away on gambling and not pay the bills," he confessed.

"I would then beg, steal and borrow to get through the month.

"When you get in deep you lose your sense of priorities and rational thinking goes out of the window as you try to recoup your losses.

"I can remember being in a motorway service station for six hours playing fruit machines and receiving parking tickets because I couldn't tear myself away.

"At home on the computer I often played online games all night.

"In total, I reckon I've spent more than £50,000 on gambling."

When Sgt Duffus realised his obsession was out of control he started to attend Gamblers Anonymous meetings but found that his job got in the way.

"You need to commit and because I wasn't attending regularly I kept falling off the wagon," he said.

"It's the same for any soldier – they may not be able to attend meetings consistently because they are too busy with work."

The Serviceman went on to admit that after getting to grips with the issue in his early thirties he lost control again a few years later, putting his current girlfriend "through absolute hell".

"For a reason I still cannot explain, something just clicked and for about two-and-a-half years I lost all direction and sense of reality," he recalled.

"I would settle the bills, then borrow money and end up stealing money to pay others back – it was a vicious cycle."

Realising he needed more than the odd support group meeting to help him, the desperate soldier turned to the Gordon Moody Association, a registered charity with over 40

years' experience in providing residential care and treatment for people who are severely addicted to gambling.

"My warrant officer backed me up and I went away for four weeks," he said.

"Surrounded by nine other people, I got to hear their stories and some of the lads there had been through far worse experiences than me – it made me think that I didn't want to be where they were."

Elaine Smethurst, managing director of the Gordon Moody Association, said: "We do get a fair few Service personnel coming through our doors but I wouldn't say there are any more soldiers than civilians coming to us.

"The key thing for any employer is to be aware that gambling can be an issue and to get a policy in place to recognise it.

"If somebody goes to their medical officer stating that they have a gambling problem then it should be recognised as a genuine health issue."

Sgt Duffus believes the Army should take a proactive approach to helping its personnel because there are more soldiers out there who, just like him, may not have let gambling get in the way of their work but are suffering financially and emotionally in private.

"I would say it's worse than drugs and alcohol because when you take those you go to another place – you're drunk or high – but when you're gambling you know you shouldn't be doing it but you carry on anyway," he said.

"Once you've lost all of your money the mental strain is horrendous because you start thinking about what you need to pay for."

He is hoping to see out the remaining seven years of his Service career and during this time wants to help others who are affected by the pitfalls of the deadly dependence.

"The Army has helped me with my problem and I am taking the days as they come," he said.

"I know there are people out there who have similar problems and if talking to *Soldier* helps just one of them then it's been worth it." ■

SERVICE SPEAKS OUT

● Has any advice on ABNs, DINs or other documents been given to Service personnel on gambling?

There is no single policy document on gambling. Conducted responsibly, it can encompass a great many enjoyable leisure pursuits and the Army tries not to take a too-paternalistic view on the subject. However, it can become problematic and may fall into a number of areas such as clinical addiction, indebtedness or in some cases discipline, according to the individual's personal experience. It is, therefore, covered within the broad context of a number of policy areas. All Service personnel can access advice on debt and money management, including on an annual basis as part of the "Healthy Living" component of MATT 6.

● Is there a suggested course of action for a soldier with a problem?

There is no prescribed course as this is determined by the nature of the issue. Addictions of any sort can be managed by professional healthcare providers and should be referred to the Defence Medical Services (with the regimental medical officer or a civilian medical officer at Defence Primary Healthcare Services being the first port of call). Advice can also be found at the Army Welfare Service or SSAFA. The first step is to acknowledge the problem. Help works by strengthening the part of you that wants to stop – it is hard work, and may involve difficult choices, but it can be achieved.

There are several national agencies that provide support in this area, to which military personnel have as much access to as their civilian compatriots.

If deployed overseas and local support is not sufficient for appropriate assessment or management, then evacuation back to the UK is possible.

● Do soldiers have any guidelines?

There are two areas the Army legislates which are repeated on routine orders on a regular basis. Gambling by under-18s is restricted by rules in JSP 898 while activities on military premises are subject to *Queens Regulations 5.083*, which, essentially, prohibits all forms of gambling and bookmaking, or acting as an agent for a bookmaker, in units. The exception is when a lottery or sweepstake is conducted at the commanding officer's discretion but it must comply with the Gaming Acts or, if abroad, local law.

→ For further help and advice go to the Gambleaware (www.gambleaware.co.uk), or the National Gambling Helpline (www.gamcare.org.uk)

The Army's official stance on the subject...



CALLING ALL SERVING ARMED FORCES, EX-MILITARY, VETERANS AND MOD...

Exclusive UK based discounts and tax free sales
saving you up to **50% off** your new car



AUDI



CITROËN



HONDA



HYUNDAI



SEAT



ŠKODA



PEUGEOT



TOYOTA



NISSAN



Mercedes-Benz



SUZUKI



- Local participating dealer handover
- Low rate finance options available
- Part exchange programme



FORCES
Cars**Direct**
IF YOU SERVE YOU SAVE

T: 01522 814 010

W: FORCESCARSDIRECT.COM

Images for illustration only. Prices and details correct at time of print. 50% saving related to tax free, tax paid discounts up to 30% available. Discounts vary between makes and models, please ask for detailed quote. Please ask about local participating dealer handover. Forces Cars Direct Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (672273). We act as a credit broker not a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders who may be able to offer you finance facilities for your purchase. We will only introduce you to these lenders.

VANGUARD VAULTS INTO ACTION

Force Troops Command proves
its capability in the Middle East

Report: Joe Clapson Pictures: Graeme Main



AROCKET-propelled grenade flies off the back of a pick-up truck and hits its target as a British Army convoy moves across the stifling Jordan desert.

Bullets from AK47 rifles rain down on troops of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment as its nine-vehicle logistics patrol is stopped in its tracks.

Blood is splattered over the single road cutting through the barren landscape and the pop of gunfire and screams of soldiers fighting to survive punctuate the tense atmosphere.

The plain-clothed perpetrators speed away as the British personnel coordinate a safe evacuation and call in medical treatment for their wounded comrades.

Thankfully, this whole scenario is part of an extensive training package on Exercise Shamal Storm, where more than 1,600 troops have deployed to Jordan to test their ability to move soldiers, vehicles and equipment anywhere in the world at short notice.

This year the annual exercise for the formation known collectively as the Vanguard Enabling Group (VE Gp) is

60 per cent bigger than ever before, signalling the Army's commitment to readying itself for contingency operations.

"We have always got to expect casualties and need to be prepared to evacuate them while under fire," says Kgn Steven Farnworth (1 Lancs).

"All of the personnel did their jobs giving fire support as a section moved forward across the ground." ➔





The Armed Forces Covenant is for you and those you care about

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. It offers support in areas such as:

- Education and family well-being
- Home ownership
- Career development outside of the Service
- Access to healthcare
- Discounted services
- Access to financial products



To find out how the Armed Forces Covenant can benefit you, visit:
www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk



→ LCpl Sean Dodsworth adds: "Although we are in desert conditions we still need normal skills and drills."

"It doesn't matter where the operation is."

"We are used to working with casualties with extreme trauma and, to be honest, we are so focused on the fight that it doesn't affect us."

While building relationships with the Jordanian Armed Forces and learning to operate in a foreign climate, the experts from bomb disposal, intelligence, medical and logistics units were also testing the limits of their abilities through the wide-ranging package.

Brig Simon Hutchings, commander of 104 Logistics Support Brigade, comments: "For a long time we focused on what we needed to do to succeed in Afghanistan but now we are reinvesting in understanding and practice."

"It's important to have the capacity to independently get to the party anywhere in the world and the credibility that comes with that."

"What Jordan affords us is an almost unconstrained training template that is malleable while the climate may be representative of where we might need to go in the future."

Lt Col Jo Chestnutt (RLC), commanding officer of the VE Gp, adds: "It's all about testing and validating our power to get troops and equipment anywhere in the world, quickly and safely."

Elsewhere in the Middle Eastern desert personnel from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) were securing an area of land with the aim of holding off an "irregular force" with hallmarks of a militia faction.

Tasked from a higher level, the unit's job is to enable free movement for the rest of the battlegroup by denying the enemy use of explosive devices and understanding the foe better.

Capt James Ash (33 Engr Regt), officer commanding the EOD and Search headquarters, says: "We are working on everything from IEDs and general purpose bombs, to missiles."

"We're not training for anything in particular but we are developing our standard operating procedures for whatever the next operation might be."

"When, where and how we will next deploy is not known, but we will just roll with the punches and await our orders."

Operating on arduous terrain that is far removed from anything to be found in the UK, the exercise highlights the Army's commitment to preparing for its next fight.

Nobody is certain of what or where that mission will be but on this evidence, British troops are more than ready to move. ■



Sgt Ian Reilly (33 Engr Regt EOD), working out of a Mastiff EOD Variant 3 vehicle:

"We turn up, find out what the device could be and ideally get the wheelbarrow robot down to deal with it.

"The number two will need to make it safe with the robot and once I'm happy that is achieved I'll go down and finish the job off.

"It is a lot different operating out here because of the testing terrain and especially because of the heat when working in the bomb suits.

"We would always take the wheelbarrow with us if we can get our heavy vehicles to the location.

"It can disrupt the weapon, neutralise power sources and it's useful even just for getting eyes on a device. **"**



AIR-DROPPED

A + E

The Vanguard Enabling Group's field hospital sets up in the sand

WHEN troops launch into a fresh operation against a versatile enemy in an unknown territory it is vital that they know they are in safe medical hands.

But setting up a working hospital in theatre with equipment and standards to match any NHS trauma centre might sound like a tall order, especially when faced with a barren location.

Nevertheless, the Army's air deployable "hospital in a box", unveiled on Exercise Shamal Storm in the desert conditions of Al Quwayrah in Jordan, proved it is up to the job of being assembled and ready for patients in less than 16 hours.

The rapid reaction vanguard hospital was packed into the back of two Royal Air Force C17 aeroplanes before being transported to the mock battlefield for its first ever test on a military proving ground.

As part of the Vanguard Enabling Group the 101 medical professionals that staff 34 Field Hospital are on five days' notice to move and are required to construct the tented wards themselves wherever they are deployed across the globe.

In a war zone a key task of the world-class facility would be to operate on and stabilise casualties to enable an evacuation back to the UK.

"This is a rapidly deployable facility and we had it up in under 12 hours – four hours quicker than required," explained Maj Pauline Neilson (QARANC), officer commanding the operating theatre department.

"It means we are ready to accept the first casualties as soon as we enter theatre."

The trialling of the 50 metre-square pop-up hospital, equipped with millions of pounds' worth of kit, was part of the Army's focus on contingent operations and being prepared to deploy anywhere at short notice.

From the outside the green canvas construction was unremarkable but once the doors swung open to accept a casualty its wide-ranging capability was plain to see.

An emergency department was at work, with

Report: Joe Clapson Pictures: Graeme Main





Out of the box: Behind the canvas walls lies a state-of-the-art field hospital to rival any NHS trauma centre



THE VANGUARD HOSPITAL



doctors and nurses crowded round beds mid-operation, albeit for the training scenario.

In the same ward a state-of-the-art Dragon-X machine – suitably ruggedised for military operations – was on hand to provide immediate radiological scans.

Cpl Chris Hay (RAMC) said: "In this tented environment we are ready to carry out an X-ray in the resuscitation bay, which is different to what would happen in hospital."

"Radiation safety procedures are still applied and lead gowns must be worn – those not wearing them cannot come within six metres."

Along the corridor the intensive care unit, which deals with "life-, limb- and eye-saving" treatment had two beds ready for the most critically ill or wounded personnel.

The task of the experts in this section would be to transfer patients to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham within 24 hours.

Capt Eleanor Perrin (RAMC), a nursing officer, said: "There is absolutely nothing we do here that is different to what happens in hospitals at home."

"If a patient comes to us then they need to get back to the UK within 24 hours and we optimise them so that they are safe for travel."

The hospital was also equipped with a blood bank capable of holding 160 units (84 litres) to enable doctors to carry out immediate on-site transfusions if required.

Explaining where the knowledge and ideas for the revolutionary service came from, Col Ian Greaves, an accident and emergency consultant, said: "These are skills learnt from working in Afghanistan – what we have got now is the best bits from that operation."

"We take treatment directly to the patient with a medical emergency response team; we use blood as far forward as possible and we treat things that kill very fast and worry about the other stuff later."

The team of Regular and Reserve soldiers drawn from 20 units across the UK had never worked together before but they quickly formed a tight-knit formation to implement their expertise.

With all ranks and levels of medical seniority mucking in to swiftly build and operate the hospital, it is clear the facility will make a huge impact whenever and wherever in the world it is called into action. ■





Military1st.co.uk
GEAR UP FOR ACTION!



5.11

FREE UK DELIVERY! 30 DAY RETURN POLICY!
FREE UK RETURNS!

5.11
Taclite Pro Shirt
Long Sleeve



FROM
£40.50



5.11
Taclite Pro Pants



FROM
£40.50



5.11
Stryke TDU Shirt
Long Sleeve



£70.20



5.11
Stryke TDU
Pants



£72.00



5.11
RUSH 72
Backpack



FROM
£126.00



5.11
Stryke Shirt
Long Sleeve



£58.50



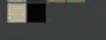
5.11
COVRT 18
Backpack



£103.50



5.11
Stryke Pants



£58.50



5.11
UCR Slingpack



£90.00



5.11
RUSH MOAB 10



£81.00



5.11
COVRT
Boxpack



£90.00



Mechanix Wear
M-Pact Gloves

£29.95



Mechanix Wear
The Original
Gloves

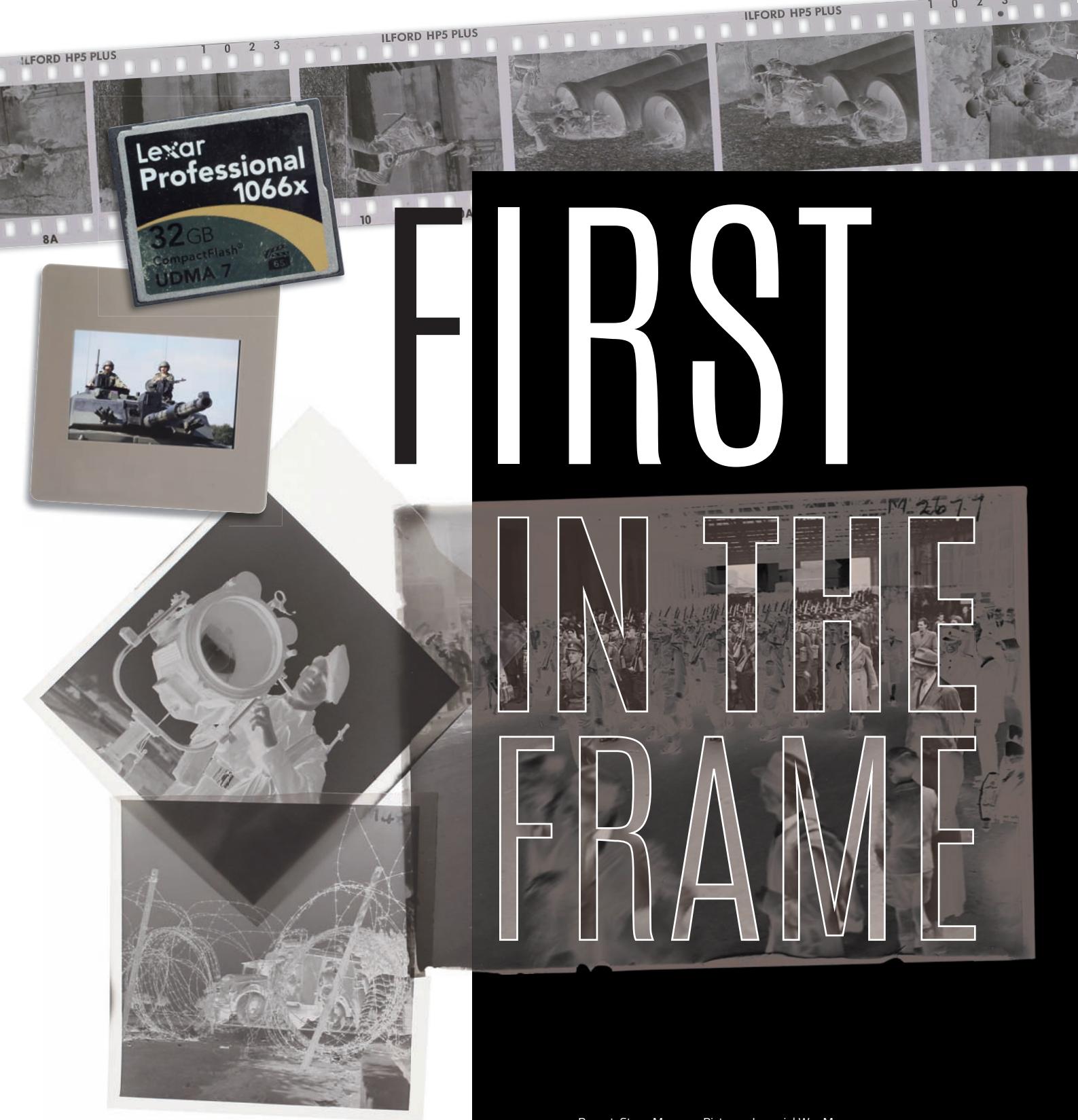
£19.95



Mechanix Wear
FastFit Gloves

£12.95





100 years ago the Army created a new trade to record the heroics on the Western Front

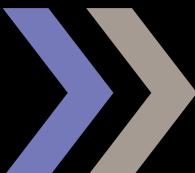
Report: Steve Muncey Pictures: Imperial War Museum

Na year of many First World War centenaries one of the most obscure must be the birth of Army press photography.

In the early years of the conflict Service personnel were deployed with cameras only to take pictures for survey and reconnaissance work.

The few press images of the war the general public had seen in the newspapers were unauthorised shots captured by troops using their own personal equipment.

"That led to the high command wanting to take more control of the situation because they realised how important these images could be for propaganda purposes," Hilary Roberts, Research Curator of Photography at the Imperial War Museum, tells *Soldier*.





As a result, in early 1916 Lt Ernest Brooks, a former *Daily Mirror* employee who had been serving with the Royal Navy, was appointed the British Army's first official photographer.

He was given the honorary rank of second lieutenant and a loose brief to take as many pictures with as much variety as possible.

"Brooks produced some very thought-provoking images," says Roberts.

"His dedication was extraordinary. He had to get right into the danger zone at times as zoom lenses didn't exist then."

Brooks worked solo initially but was soon joined by John Warwick Brooke, a former press agency photographer.

Their task was to record the major events on the Western Front – a difficult brief for two people covering an army of over two million.

In 1917 the team was bolstered by the arrival of another former *Daily Mirror* man, David McLellan, plus Tom Aitken and Armando Console, who would lose a leg in a shell blast.

By the war's end the group had taken more than 20,000 pictures, with Warwick Brooke producing around 4,000 images alone between 1916 and 1918, a gargantuan effort considering they were hampered by restricted access and bulky camera equipment that couldn't be used in poor light.

However, this small team managed to change the military's attitude to photography for ever.

Fast forward to 1941 and the Army was now making strides to professionalise its photographic production by creating a corps of trained personnel capable of working to the highest standards on the front line in a way that few civilians could.

When D-Day arrived in 1944 the Service managed to deploy no less than 81 professionally-trained soldiers from its Army Film and Photographic Unit (AFPU) to cover the sequence of events for a news-hungry general public back home.

This determination to organise its picture output in this way meant that the Army even put former pressmen through specialist training in battle photography on a course that was set up and run at Pinewood Studios.





Images from left: Lt Ernest Brooks; Sgt George Laws, a photographer with No 5 Army Film Photographic Unit who was the first cameraman ashore on D Day; A Royal Irish Rifles ration party rest in a communication trench during the opening hours of the Battle of The Somme in 1916

Right: Lt Armando Console, who served briefly as an official photographer on the Western Front in 1918 until he lost a leg in a shell explosion. The image shows him on crutches looking at an exhibition of naval pictures in the Princes' Hall, Piccadilly, accompanied by a small girl; A Thornton Pickard Imperial 1/4 plate camera that would have been used on the Western Front in 1914

Training for the Army Film and Photographic Unit at Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire, June 1943: A Valentine tank moves into "action", negotiating a water obstacle: one trainee cameraman films from the bank, a second from the tank's turret



The British Army hits Sword beach: Hailed at the time as "the greatest photograph of the war" this was just one picture in the rolls and rolls of film taken on June 6, 1944, by Sgt Jimmy Mapham, the *Leicester Mercury* photographer-turned wartime Army snapper



"THE HEAT
AND THE
DUST WAS A
NIGHTMARE,
IT WOULD
EAT ITS WAY
THROUGH A
LAPTOP IN
NO TIME"



Images from top: Army photographer Cpl Dan Wiepen training at the Defence School of Photography in Cosford; Sgt Paul Randall is silhouetted against the sunset during Op Herrick in 2010; Sgt Adrian Harlen shooting pictures in Iraq during Op Telic in 2006; Sgt Will Craig in Afghanistan in 2007

Pictures: Defence School of Photography; Sgt Mike Fletcher; Cpl Wes Calder; Sgt Jim Hennessey, RLC



The legacy of that organisation survives to this day, with the military's current would-be snappers required to complete a 28-week course at the Defence School of Photography in Cosford.

The candidates gain a photography NVQ Level 3 qualification, learning how to operate the latest digital equipment, what newspaper and magazine picture editors look for in an image and all about the use of laptops and software required to edit, store and transmit digital pictures.

"I don't envy the photographers of old with their huge, heavy cameras and back plates," says Sgt Rupert Frere, one of the Army's award-winning photographers who is currently attached to London District.

"But today's equipment presents us with a lot of technical challenges too.

"Out in Afghanistan I was part of a combat camera team and we'd carry two cameras, three lenses, hard drives for image storage and an office in a box with a large laptop and a mobile internet connection.

"The heat and dust was a nightmare, it would eat its way through a laptop in no time and when they failed it really affected your ability to do your job."

The art of the possible through new technology has also meant today's photographers have to be able to multi-task.

"The fact is, our job is now more than just getting the picture," adds Sgt Frere.

"We now store images on location, edit them and send them directly to the picture desk at Army HQ or, from certain events, even straight out to newspapers via our phone.

"A lot of that work used to be done by couriers and people in dark rooms or offices miles away from the action itself."

But even if the role of the Army photographer has morphed over the years, there's one element that hasn't changed: a person behind the lens with the ambition that Lt Ernest Brooks and his small band of associates showed all those years ago to capture a shot that will live long in the memory. **+**



Left: Sgt Rupert Frere (RLC) between shoots in Afghanistan

Below: One of Sgt Frere's award-winning photographs taken during Op Herrick



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (11146420) and Scotland (SC039189).

Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).

Registered Office: Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth Street London SW1W 9RB Tel: 020 7901 8900, Email: fundraising@soldierscharity.org



We are ABF The Soldiers' Charity

The Army's National Charity

We work with every Regiment & Corps of the British Army.

Last year we spent some £7.7million on delivering grants to over 5,000 soldiers, veterans and their immediate families. In addition we provided funding to 72 charities which deliver specialist support on our collective behalf.

To donate or to find out more about our Charity visit www.soldierscharity.org

[facebook.com/soldierscharity](https://www.facebook.com/soldierscharity)



twitter.com/soldierscharity





Pictures: Cpl Daniel Wiepen, PLG, Peter Davies and Steve Dock

THE green pastures of Salisbury Plain became a giant parking station for 1,200 military vehicles and 1,800 soldiers as 3rd (UK) Division's ability to deploy its heavy armour on operations at speed was put to the test.

During Exercise Tractable, 1st Armoured Infantry Brigade, in its role as the Army's Lead Armoured Task Force (LATF), had to prove it had the skills and drills to move from the comforts of camp to air and sea points of embarkation via a centralised staging area.

Old Carter Barracks served as home for the formation's mass of wheeled and tracked vehicles – including Challenger 2 tanks – as they awaited the call to move out.

A key feature of the validation process was a challenge to complete a 50km deployment of all assets across the Salisbury Plain Training Area by day and night.

Lt Graham Sweetman (1 RRF) said: "It was an opportunity for the brigade and division to get all of our equipment and people in one place to test our capabilities.

"If the call was to come we need to know that we could quickly deploy as a brigade."

Each of The Iron Division's three armoured infantry brigades rotate through a 36-month operational cycle to deliver a formation at readiness each year – 1st Armoured Infantry Brigade currently holds the role. Everything from keeping the vehicles moving and maintaining communications links to living off rations and providing accurate fire

was examined during the testing three-week exercise.

The staging area represented a home bank for Service personnel ahead of mounting their assets on ships for an operational deployment anywhere in the world.

WO2 Andrew Preston, regimental signals warrant officer for The Household Cavalry Regiment, explained the importance of the communications process during such a manoeuvre.

"The signals side of things is very complex and demanding," he said.

"If my G6 team don't do a good enough job to allow vehicles to speak to each other then they cannot go out of the gate.

"An exercise like this shows that communications are as vital as weapons and skills."

Under Army 2020, the 3rd (UK) Division was redesigned as the Service's Reaction Force, providing a high readiness capability to undertake contingency tasks and conventional deterrence.

If a call to deploy comes, the division's LATF has 30 days to move.

Maj Matt Shearer, officer commanding 10 Armoured Company, REME, said: "This is proof that we can get our vehicles out of the door at high readiness.

"Deploying to Afghanistan was a well trodden path with a known route to theatre but now we have to think outside the box and forecast what might happen with vehicles."

For now there are no whispers of where the next operational deployment might be but the task force has proven it is ready for the command to move. ■

Testing times: More than 1,800 personnel and 1,200 vehicles of the 3rd (UK) Division's Lead Armoured Task Force pictured at the staging area at Old Carter Barracks, Salisbury Plain, during Exercise Tractable





Moving en masse

A tough test
for the Lead
Armoured
Task Force



GIFT OF THE

HOW ONE SERVICEMAN'S LANGUAGE SKILLS OPENED UP A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Report and pictures: Christopher Wade



A

SCENE more wildly different from his garrison back in the UK would be difficult to imagine.

For Lt Luke Shaw of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment the familiar surroundings of Colchester have been replaced by the arid, scorching desert plains of one of largest but least-known countries in West Africa, Mauritania

As a French linguist, the platoon commander has been interpreting for a tri-Service short-term training team consisting predominantly of Royal Marines weapons instructors and small boat specialists delivering tactical training to their Mauritanian counterparts, the newly-formed Marine Fusiliers.

Lt Shaw was exposed to French from an early age and gained a degree in the subject from Bristol University before going to Sandhurst in 2012 and commissioning the following summer.

Thanks to the Army's language scheme, he spent two months training with the French Foreign Legion's Deuxième Régiment Etranger de Parachutistes in Corsica before enrolling in a short course programme in French at the University of Westminster and going on to complete his military linguist exams.

"The scheme is an excellent tool for those with an interest in developing their linguist skills," he says. "It offers long-term foreign attachments and the university programme provides week-long intense courses catering for the full spectrum of serving personnel."

While this clearly represents a substantial investment, Lt Shaw believes the Service is more than willing to provide its full support because of its increasing emphasis on participating in short-term training missions.

"There's a growing necessity for military interpreters at the moment," he says.

"A basic level of cultural understanding sets the foundation for any strategic mission, and it's crucial if we want to get our message across.

GAB



"Traditionally, we used local interpreters but now we're beginning to invest in our troops to help deliver training to partner nations in their own tongue."

And seeing the impact of the UK's international training effort first-hand has given him a valuable insight into just how time and cost effective a well-run programme can be once a strong bond of trust has been built between mentors and students.

"The Mauritanians have made a huge amount of progress since we've been working with them," he explains.

"They have fully immersed themselves in the training packages and been hugely welcoming and hospitable.

"They've been particularly good on the ranges and really applied themselves to the task at hand."

Another unexpected benefit has been the opportunity to develop a close working relationship with the Royal Marines, who are leading the day-to-day training, gaining an insight into their amphibious capabilities.

He comments: "As a Para it's been great to see how closely they echo our regimental values and commitment to professionalism."

Perhaps most valuable of all, Lt Shaw believes this experience has broadened his understanding of how and why the modern British military deploys on operations like these, and just how significant the contribution from skilled specialists such as linguists can be.

While many young infantry officers might worry about how spending long periods away from their unit could potentially damage their career prospects, the young lieutenant believes the lessons he's learning will make him more operationally mature.

"Even though this isn't every infantry platoon commander's dream of working in an operational theatre, it has given me a real understanding of where our focus lies right now and how much we can offer our international

partners through the training format," he says.

"I've also been supported to the hilt by my chain of command who have fully encouraged my involvement."

France's influence in her former West African colonies, both militarily and linguistically, remains very strong despite the fact they gained independence almost 60 years ago.

And with Britain's involvement in the region almost certain to grow, the importance of building robust and lasting relationships with strategic partners has never been greater. ■

MAURITANIA FACT FILE

- Around 90 per cent of Mauritania's land is within the Sahara desert.
- French is taught in schools but Arabic is the official language.
- The 3.5m population is mostly Sunni Muslim and mainly farmers or livestock breeders.



PLUS
£500
GIFT CARD

A THANK YOU THAT'S MORE THAN WORDS

You do an incredible job. To show our appreciation, we'll give you a **£500 tax free Gift Card** along with selected new car purchases, in addition to your Partners discount.

That's our way of saying thank you.

For more information, you can call the Vauxhall Military helpdesk on **01582 426 858** or **01582 427 909**.

www.partnersprogramme.co.uk

military partners

more for you and your family



VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall GTC range: Urban: 27.7 (10.2) - 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 43.5 (6.5) - 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 36.2 (7.8) - 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions: 111 - 84g/km.*

£500 Gift Card offer is available to all serving members of UK Armed Forces, retired service personnel, MOD civilian personnel and HM Forces Reservists, as well as spouses or partners, parents and step-parents, brothers, sisters, step-brothers and sisters, children and stepchildren. Offer available on new Vauxhall purchases only from 1 April and 30 June 2016. All Expression, ES, Tech Line (except Mokka and Astra), VIVA, Corsa Sting/Sting R, Meriva Life, Insignia VXR SuperSport and VXR8 models are excluded from this offer. £500 Gift Card will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash or at self-service petrol pumps. Offer applies to Military and Defence Discount Service customers eligible through Vauxhall Partners only. Tax Free is excluded. For Partners Terms and Conditions go to www.partnersprogramme.co.uk/terms-and-conditions. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press 14/04/2016.



Your Family Friendly Club in Central London
for Serving personnel and their family



www.ujclub.co.uk
020 7902 6000

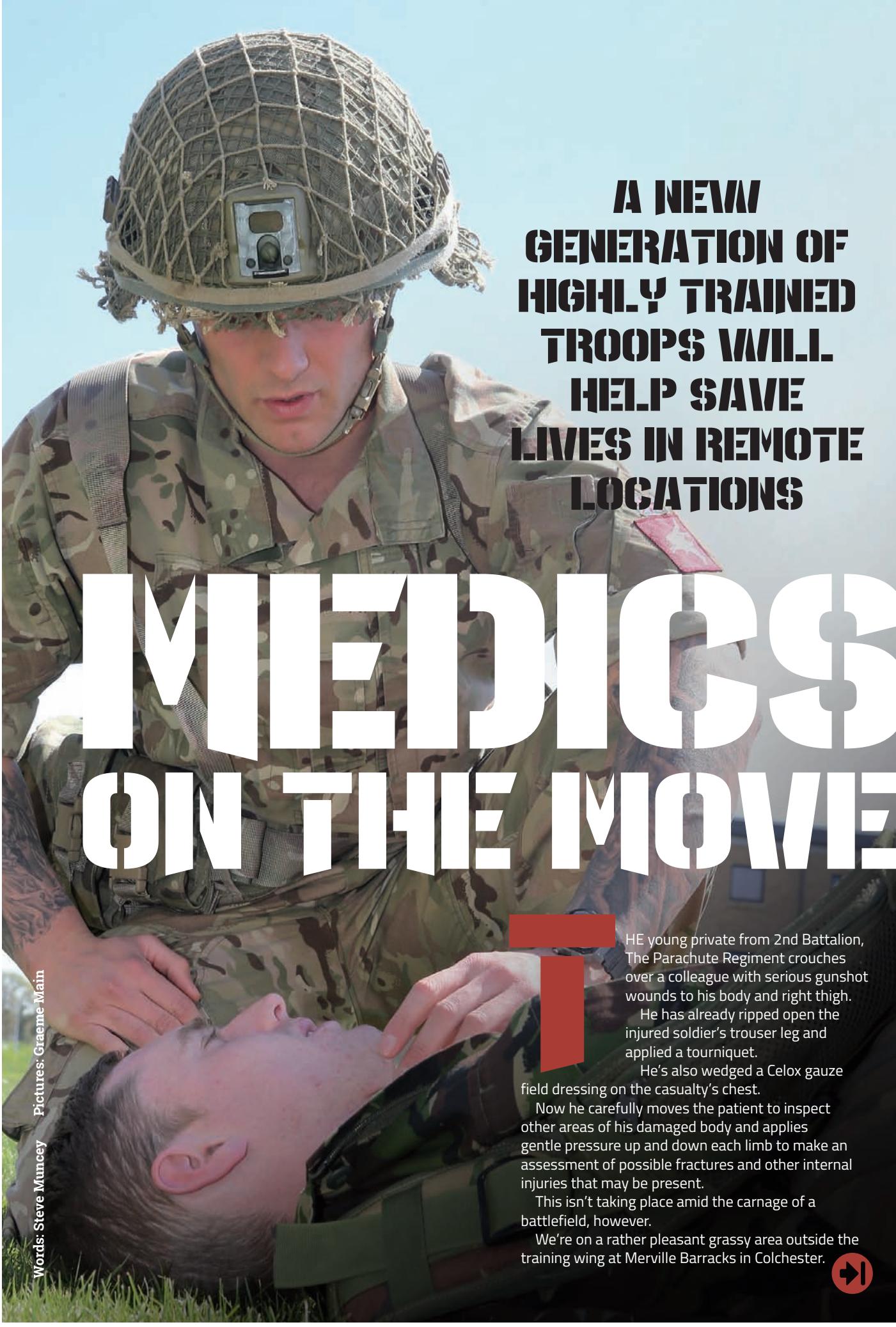
Find us on
Facebook
Union Jack Club

On Twitter
@unionjackclub

- ✓ Opposite Waterloo Station
- ✓ Safe and secure atmosphere
- ✓ Restaurant with tailored children's menu
- ✓ Bar and espresso bar
- ✓ Family rooms and Flats available
- ✓ Games Room
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Located close to top family attractions



Please call 020 7902 6000 and quote UJC/FAMILY



A NEW
GENERATION OF
HIGHLY TRAINED
TROOPS WILL
HELP SAVE
LIVES IN REMOTE
LOCATIONS

MEDICS ON THE MOVE

Words: Steve Muncy Pictures: Graeme Main

HE young private from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment crouches over a colleague with serious gunshot wounds to his body and right thigh.

He has already ripped open the injured soldier's trouser leg and applied a tourniquet.

He's also wedged a Celox gauze field dressing on the casualty's chest.

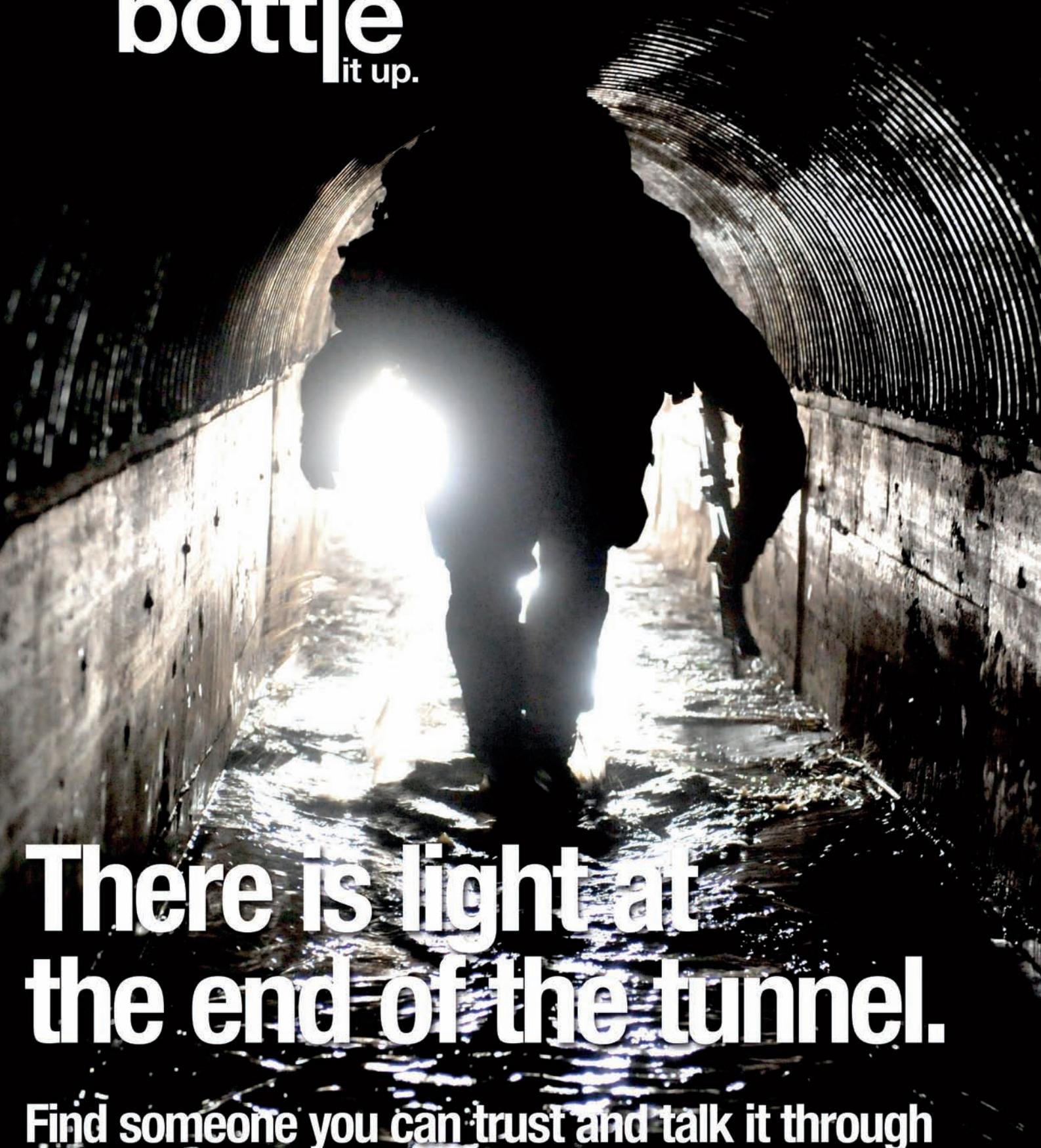
Now he carefully moves the patient to inspect other areas of his damaged body and applies gentle pressure up and down each limb to make an assessment of possible fractures and other internal injuries that may be present.

This isn't taking place amid the carnage of a battlefield, however.

We're on a rather pleasant grassy area outside the training wing at Merville Barracks in Colchester.



Don't
bottle
it up.



**There is light at
the end of the tunnel.**

Find someone you can trust and talk it through



ARMY



FIT FOR LIFE | FIT TO FIGHT



The sun is out, the birds are chirping merrily and the "casualty" is a volunteer feigning his injuries.

But for the soldier providing medical aid, the pressure is still very much on.

All through this scenario he's been providing out-loud commentary on his actions, his thoughts on the patient's state and his plans for the next stage of treatment.

He has also been replying to a constant stream of questions from an eager instructor who has been probing for an oversight, a weakness, anything that might fall short of the optimum standard of care.

The paratrooper is being tested to his limit on lots of new-found knowledge gathered over the previous two weeks during a groundbreaking scheme that will soon be rolled out across the whole Army.

The Advanced Team Medic Course has been developed by personnel of 16 Medical Regiment with an eye on the Service's shift towards contingency operations and its increasing commitment to short-term training teams around the world.

This year the UK has already scheduled 45 such missions, involving 422 troops who will be deployed to advise, train and support partnered nations.

This, however, has serious implications for medical provision on the ground. Soldiers may be part of very small teams operating in inhospitable conditions in extremely remote and barren locations such as Mauritania, for example (see

pages 44-45), where the nearest doctor or surgeon can be hours or even days away.

"Often there's no medic among them so this course is really needed," says Capt Huw Jones (RAMC).

"Many of our people also make up small teams posted to attachés around the world.

"In the past personnel might have completed a remote medical support course, which teaches you how to identify certain problems but doesn't show you how to intervene."

This advanced option is open only to those who have completed the basic team medic programme because the training and education involved demands a significant commitment from the student.

"Essentially, we've taken what was our medical course for the Pathfinders and grown it to be applicable Army-wide," explains Capt Jones.

"We are now producing troops with the knowledge and skills to bridge the gap between the team medics and vocational medical personnel such as combat technicians and doctors."

But Pte Andy Williams (Para), a student on the first of two courses being staged at Colchester in 2016, believes soldiers shouldn't be put off by the high standards the programme aspires to reach.

"The science behind what is taught can be quite daunting but they're not asking us to be doctors," he says.

"The stuff they teach is really interesting and they bring in medical experts like burns

BACK TO BASICS

The primary survey, called CABCDE, refers to the approach taken to the basic management of a wounded person.

C – Catastrophic haemorrhage

A – Airway
(with cervical spine control)

B – Breathing

C – Circulation
(with haemorrhage control)

D – Disability

E – Exposure



By the end of the primary survey, the patient should be in a stable condition, a few initial baseline investigations should have been organised and the medic should have some idea of the extent of injuries.



specialists to improve our knowledge.

"Overall, it has greater depth and you have a lot more to take in compared to the team medic package but you get extra time to absorb everything too as it lasts a couple of weeks rather than just three days."

The demands on the students are something that all the instructing staff are aware of, including Cpl Todd Owen (RAMC), a highly experienced combat medical technician who runs the package for 16 Med Regt on a day-to-day basis.

"The practical tests are the most important element because some of these blokes have come out of school with no qualifications and may not be able to say some of those long medical words," he explained.

"But it's more important they know how to do it than being able to say it."

The junior NCO believes the end result for the students more than justifies the time invested in the course.

"As a team medic you wouldn't be expected to appreciate the implications of a cervical spine injury, for example, where a blast has injured the bones or ligaments around the pelvis, abdomen or perhaps the neck," he added.

"On this course they are expected to consider factors like that while they treat the patient – they've got quite a bit more going on in their heads as they attempt to keep the soldier alive.

"Not only that, they have to be able to provide an accurate status report for when the doctors get their hands on the patient."

With many more personnel now being deployed around the world in small teams the value of this new training regime is hard to overemphasise.

The ultimate aim of this scheme is to create a generation of non-vocational but very capable medically trained soldiers who will have the skills and knowledge to keep a sick or injured Serviceman or woman alive out in the field for up to 36 hours.

"In Afghanistan team medics provided things like tourniquets and haemorrhage control that saved a lot of lives," comments Capt Jones.

"But the troops who complete and pass this course will be able to treat and manage a seriously wounded colleague on their own over an extended period – and that is very relevant to where the Army is going now."

'THE SCIENCE BEHIND WHAT IS TAUGHT CAN BE QUITE DAUNTING BUT THEY'RE NOT ASKING US TO BE DOCTORS'

Soldiers on the advanced team medic course are expected to perform relatively complex medical evaluations and procedures under pressure applied by an instructor who watches and assesses every move the student makes



Pte Andy Williams (Para)

ADDED VALUE

Some of the subjects the advanced syllabus provides over and above the basic team medic course



1 How to do needle decompression, where a collapsed lung causes the chest cavity to fill with air, compressing the heart – a potentially fatal condition.

7 Learning prolonged field care through a new procedure dubbed "Hitman". Applied to the patient after the primary survey (see p49) this is a head-to-toe check for hydration, heat, infection, tubes, medication, analgesia, nutrition and nursing. This system is now being taught in America and Israel among other places because it helps prevent nasties like pressure sores which can lead to permanent muscle damage.

6 Applying morphine and other major painkillers through the bone, which is quicker and more effective than the team medic injector.

5 Dealing with serious facial wounds. Swelling can be lethal so students are taught how to create an incision in the larynx and insert a tube to create a surgical airway.

2 Giving antibiotics quickly by drilling into the humeral head in the shoulder and injecting directly into the bone – vital because infections often affect long-term health and rehabilitation. "It sounds nasty but if you can drill into a wall and put in a rawl plug it should be fairly straightforward," says Capt Jones.

3 Conduct hypovolemic fluid resuscitation, where blood pressure is allowed to fall low enough to control bleeding but high enough for the patient's heart and brain to receive sufficient oxygen. This can only be done for two hours maximum and the patient must be monitored by analysing urine output.

4 How to give saline through the bone (which is surprisingly absorbent) in the same way as antibiotics. Students are coached in the method and which sites around the body are suitable.



Defending those who defend us



Our specialist solicitors can help you with:

Military law • Family law • Wills & probate
Powers of attorney • Property • Disputes
Crime • Motoring offences • Employment law

With national coverage we're there whenever you need us

You can find us at: 51 Amersham Road | Beaconsfield | Buckinghamshire | HP9 2HB

 **Hine**
Solicitors

We offer a **10% discount** on our fees for service personnel

In addition all service personnel, regardless of rank or income, are entitled to a solicitor free of charge in an interview conducted by service police or prosecuting authorities at home or abroad.

01494 685588
hinesolicitors.com


Cranfield
UNIVERSITY

Cranfield is at the forefront of Defence and Security and our partnership with the UK's Ministry of Defence (MOD) offers a unique gateway for teaching.



Our Defence and Security programmes combine global expertise, cutting-edge facilities and research to provide innovative courses that meet the needs of a changing sector.

Our portfolio of full-time and part-time Masters include:

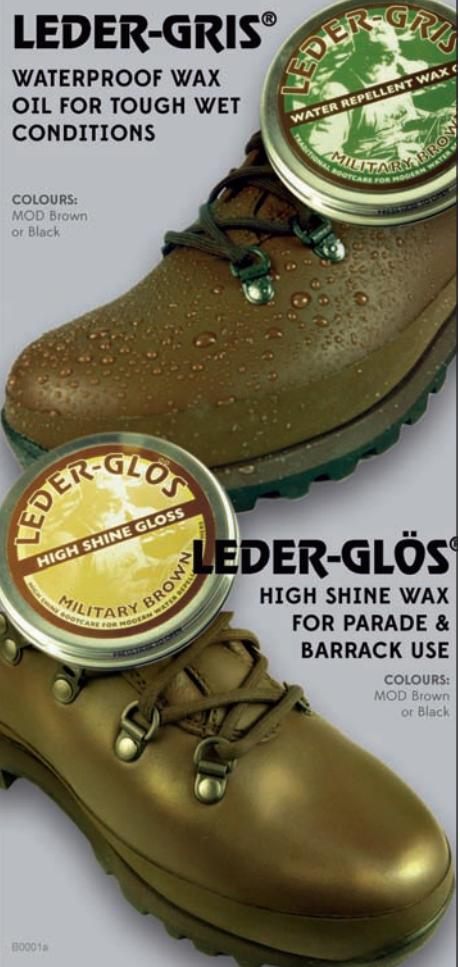
MSc Defence Simulation and Modelling
MSc Forensic Programme
MSc International Defence and Security
MSc Security Sector Management

Search: Cranfield Defence and Security

STOCKISTS
J Bull Catterick
Silvermans London
Base Camp Arbroath
Beckets Norwich
Cadet Direct E.Sussex
Altberg Yorkshire
Camouflage Store Devon
Dragon Supplies
Colchester
JJ Supplies Brecon
Henry Dubora Aldershot
Military Kit Manchester
Taunton Leisure
Exeter, Bristol, Taunton
Soldier of Fortune
North Wales
Top of the the Range
Tadcaster
Enforce Logic Windsor
ATR Bassingbourn
Royston
Adventure One
Glasgow
MOD Southwick Park
Fareham
RAF Halton Aylesbury
Battlesbury Barracks
Warminster
Hazelbrook Barracks
Arborfield
Bay Stores
HMNS Clyde

ALSO AVAILABLE IN
MOST SHOPS AND
PRI'S IN CAMPS

www.altberg.co.uk



“

TALKBACK

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

”

Housing charge hikes 'unacceptable'

NORMALLY there is an uproar when accommodation charges are raised by a couple of per cent.

I am therefore extremely surprised that your pages have not been full of letters of complaint about certain Service family housing being upgraded from the previous bottom level of four to the top band under the recently introduced combined accommodation assessment scheme (CAAS).

This equates to a final rent increase of nearly 200 per cent (albeit applied in yearly steps) without any work being undertaken on them, bringing some pretty old properties into the same category as a brand new dwelling in the same area.

The criteria for the new top grade, called "Decent Homes Plus", is so broad that a house such as ours, with a 32-year-old kitchen, no place for an upright fridge freezer and a 25-year-old bathroom, somehow falls into it.

What I also find incredible is that the JSP specifically highlights noise as a nuisance to be recognised in the grading process, but is not taken into consideration unless the area has been noise mapped by the government.

In my case, living less than 20 metres from one of the busiest dual carriageways in the country with ineffective double glazing is not taken into account because my house has not been subjected to this survey.

Admittedly, CarillionAmey have said they will map the area in the near future but until then the new grade remains.

No doubt, whoever replies to this letter will say the updated charges reflect modern living and that our housing is still cheap compared to prices on the private rental market.

However, these factors do not hold water when one thinks of the reasons why we are given reduced cost properties in the first place and the fact that we continue to receive poor levels of service for repair and maintenance. — **Name and address supplied**

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, replies: I understand the alarm caused by these changes and welcome the chance to put them in context for you.

CAAS was designed to provide a fairer, simpler, more objective and independent system for determining the charges for



Housing help:
The MoD is to spend £80 million on SFA upgrades

our accommodation.

The increases are largely the result of a failure to conduct objective four-tier grading and rent increases on SFA properties following improvements over a significant period of time.

For example, the MoD spent £65 million in 2014/15 and £62 million in 2015/16 on upgrading this accommodation – and it proposes to spend a further £80 million in 2016/17.

This work cannot be funded by rent increases alone.

In other words, we have been underpaying for SFA properties for many years and as a result the rebalancing effect of CAAS feels worse than if the previous gradings had been more appropriately applied.

The staggered nature of the new rises will reduce the impact on personnel.

It is true that under CAAS approximately 80 per cent of SFA occupants will face accommodation charge increases, with nearly two-thirds moving up three bands over three years.

However, only one per cent (344 homes to be precise) are going from the old grade four to the new scheme's top bracket.

The charges still offer a considerable discount compared to market prices

and the extra money raised by these increases will be reinvested in improving Service accommodation.

You are correct in saying that it is possible for housing with older kitchens and bathrooms to be categorised as "Decent Homes Plus" but only if they are in a reasonable state of repair.

Also, the other parts of the property have to score sufficiently highly to offset the age of its facilities.

Regarding noise, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has mapped all major trunk roads in England, as have regional governments in their areas, where traffic volume is in excess of six million cars per annum, which is in line with European Union direction.

These standards, and the guide for charge reductions, are used as part of the CAAS survey process.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation will ensure the data is provided on its CAAS intranet pages.

Finally, I accept there is continued dissatisfaction throughout the Service with CarillionAmey.

However, separate measures are currently being put in place to take stock of this particular situation and the fairness and appropriateness of the new rent bands are not related to that company's performance.

Ultimately, the changes that have been made are essential if we are to have an affordable and sustainable housing solution in the medium to long term.

“

THE NEW TOP GRADE IS SO BROAD THAT OUR HOUSE WITH ITS 32-YEAR-OLD KITCHEN SOMEHOW FALLS RIGHT INTO IT

”

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, replies: I understand the alarm caused by these changes and welcome the chance to put them in context for you.

CAAS was designed to provide a fairer, simpler, more objective and independent system for determining the charges for



Army Photographer 100th anniversary

think you have what it takes?



Find out more on facebook www.facebook.com/BritishArmyPhotographers

become another part of our proud history



Army Photographic Competition

2016

only 6 months until the deadline
to win you first have to enter
let the countdown begin.....

more information at www.army.mod.uk/photocomp

Bottled up anger over leave demands



Off limits: You can't enjoy a drink on leave if you have to be back within four hours

It seems my interpretation of JSP 760, which details the regulations for leave, differs to the way my chain of command sees it.

I was recently on duty at four hours' notice to deploy anywhere in the world.

This is a regular occurrence in my present role at Joint Forces Headquarters and I do not usually submit a leave pass on JPA when I'm being held at this state of readiness.

But I'm now being told to take leave even when I am on this type of duty.

That doesn't seem fair because I'm very restricted in what I can do.

For example, I cannot go away with my family, I'm not able to touch alcohol as I may

have to drive back to barracks and be briefed in less than four hours and I have to regularly check in.

The JSP states: "The purpose of annual leave is to allow Service personnel time away from duty and so to return to work refreshed. This is a key element of the moral component of fighting power".

I understand that as a member of the military I can be recalled from leave at any time, but restricting my movements due to the distance I'm allowed to travel and then telling me I should take time off at the same time seems an underhand way of getting the leave stats down. — **Name and address supplied**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds:

You are either on leave or you are on duty – you cannot be on both at the same time.

If you have applied to take time off and your request has been agreed by your chain of command then that period has to be recorded on JPA in advance of being taken.

You are correct in that the purpose of leave is to allow you time away from work in order for you to remain refreshed for further duty, and that it is a key element of the moral component of fighting power.

Unless you are taking advantage of one of the options that are available under the new employment model, it is Army policy that individuals enjoy their holiday time in the leave year for which it is granted.

Wherever possible, you should be able to take your break when you choose.

However, this is granted at the discretion of the Service and subject to operational requirements and other demands so there may be occasions during your career when you cannot go away at a time of your choice, or certain restrictions are applied such as remaining in the country.

This is one of the key components of the X-Factor.

In the circumstances you have outlined, it would not be appropriate to take time out unless you were prepared to accept the restrictions placed upon you.

RESERVIST'S CAREER RESERVATIONS UNRESOLVED

● I HAVE concerns about career progression for Reservists after being informed by my administration officer that a colleague and I had been selected for promotion to sergeant.

That was back in March 2014. Soon afterwards I learned we had been deselected for not having a prerequisite qualification, which we both gained later that year.

Now, here we are 24 months on, and nobody from our company was put forward for the recent promotion board.

I do not have a line manager who I can go to for assistance and our OC didn't give us cause to be optimistic when he said it wouldn't happen in the near future.

It's very frustrating because if we had been promoted in 2014 we would now be coming up for promotion to staff sergeant. Is there scope for our cases to be reviewed in light of this? — **Name and address supplied**



Lt Col Stephanie Jackman, S01 Reserve Plans, Career Management Policy Branch, Army Personnel Centre, replies: As with the Regular Army, policy differs depending on cap badge, with soldiers and officers dealt with differently across directorates.

In the Army Reserve, promotion is unit business with the commanding officer having overarching responsibility.

He is guided by policy doctrine that outlines career management and how the unit promotes and manages personnel.

The Reservists' point of contact is the regimental career management officer, and I would strongly advise you to consult with that individual. Overall, huge changes have been made to deliver greater career development opportunities to Reservists which were not available to the same extent in the Territorial Army.

Queen Ethelburga's - Girls and Boys

Thorpe Underwood, York. YO26 9SS. Tel: 01423 333 330 Email: info@QE.org. www.QE.org

Living as a member of a Forces' family is an unusual experience and not normally one understood by those unfamiliar with service life. Civilians find it difficult to imagine a job where you can be moved at little or no notice and where you can be sent into a hostile zone with no regular means of contacting your family.

Rest assured we understand the pressures that your family has to go through. About a fifth of our pupils come from Forces' backgrounds and we work hard to support those children and the difficulties they face being away from home and worrying about their serving parents.

The College has seen another outstanding year with its A-Level results. 80% of grades at A-Level were A*-A and 98% were A*-B. The Faculty of Queen Ethelburga's, which offers students the opportunity to do more vocational subjects at BTEC, celebrated some of its best results ever. 80% of grades at A-Level were A*-A (up from last year's

76%) and 96% of grades were A*-B (up from last year's 90%). The Faculty's 88% Distinction*-Distinction pass rate at BTEC (equating in UCAS points to an A/A* grade at A-Level) shows equal strength in these qualifications.

Over the last few years our Combined Cadet Force has gone from strength to strength and we have a thriving contingent with cadets split between the Air Force and the Army.

With the backing of The Collegiate Charitable Foundation we are able to guarantee that your contribution to fees is no more than £795 per child per term. This makes us one of the most competitively priced boarding schools in the United Kingdom for Forces' children. With our investment now standing at £100m, 2015 has seen more facilities come online including new sport science lab, state-of-the-art gym and Activity centre with further developments underway for 2016. Please see our dedicated sports

village website for further information, including Elite Rugby (supported by Yorkshire Carnegie) and Netball (with Yorkshire Jets). www.sportsvillageqe.org. With the number of young people we have living on campus it is important that there is always a range of things to do in their spare time. This is the idea behind our new Activity Centre. Packed full of all the favourite things young people like. Combining outdoor energetic activities and challenges such as a huge climbing tower, assault course, trampolines, roller boating, go-karts, Segways and professionally built BMX track with indoor activities like electronic games, musical activities plus much more. Don't just take our word for it, pay us a visit and see for yourself.

Call us on 01423 333330 for a prospectus and DVD.

Next Open Day is 23rd January 2016



→ **Your parental termly contribution is only £795**

For four years we have pegged your contribution per child, per term, at £795. Childcare Vouchers also accepted. This now means we rank as one of the most competitively priced schools for UK Forces

→ **Queen Ethelburga's College is league table ranked as the 3rd best UK independent co-educational boarding school for academic results and our Faculty is 4th.**

We accept a broad range of abilities. As one parent said "QE has the ability to turn the average youngster into well above average academically and have them also turn out as happy and well-rounded." 95% of Year 13 students go to University with majority to Oxbridge, Ivy League or Russell Group universities.

→ **Our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. No one else even comes close.**

Every bedroom has its own private shower and toilet plus telephone, voice mail, large plasma TV/DVD player + gaming port (on timer), a Sony PS3, fridge, microwave, trouser press and hot drinks facilities. House staff are friendly and caring.

→ **A vast amount of fun filled activities and trips out.**

Each week we run 150+ non-sports and sports extra-curricular activities. Fun packed weekends.

→ **£30m Sports Village with 7 Astro-Turfs + 250,000 sq feet of indoor facilities**

QE is Regional Performance Coaching Centre for: England Basketball, England Hockey, England Netball, and Regional Centre Developing Player Programme England Rugby, plus QE Cricket Academy in association with Yorkshire County Cricket Club. In 2015 QE won the British Colleges Rugby National Cup Final.

→ **More British Forces children than any other boarding school - because we care.**

We understand the needs of service families with staff who are married to serving members of the Forces. With years of experience in ensuring our 300 + Forces children settle well, are confident and successful. Easy to get to by road, rail and air. Dedicated, professional, friendly and helpful staff go the "extra mile" to ensure your child is happy and doing well. We have Forces families from all over the UK.

→ **Over £100m invested in new facilities in the last 8 years.**

Why choose an independent school education for your child if you qualify for CEA? If you made a list, the same reasons would keep appearing. We think the list might include: happy children, academic results, a personalised approach, top quality teachers with specialised expertise, good discipline, latest technology and superb facilities, excellent pastoral care, excellent sport, first class boarding accommodation, diverse experience, small classes, university success, excellent career prospects, first class confidence and self assurance. If you want the best for your child, and to stand a chance of achieving most of this list, we believe you would need to pick one of the top 10 UK Independent boarding schools as ranked by the Sunday Times. BUT, most importantly of all, we unashamedly also offer TLC - tender, loving care!

Co-ed	All types	UK's 2015 Top 20 Boarding Schools	
		Based on Sunday Times % A*/A A-Levels	% A*/A
1	1	Wycombe Abbey School	85.7%
	2	Westminster School	85.4%
	3	Brighton College	85.1%
	4	Winchester College	84.2%
	5	Sevenoaks School	82.9%
2	6	Queen Ethelburga's College	82.5%
	7	St Paul's Boys School	81.4%
	8	Eton College	80.7%
	9	Faculty Queen Ethelburga's	80.2%
3	10	Concord College	79.9%
	11	Tonbridge School	78.0%
	12	St Mary's School Ascot	77.1%
	13	Cheltenham Ladies' College	74.5%
4	14	Whitgift School	73.0%
	15	Wellington College	72.8%
	16	Ruthin School	72.8%
5	17	St Swithun's School	71.0%
	18	City of London Freemen's	70.5%
	19	Downe House	70.4%
	20	Westbourne School	69.7%



BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW



CAREERS

Transition Force uses a combination of technology and events to provide personalised career support for ex-Service personnel nationwide. To register visit www.transitionforce.com/events

Ex Military Recruitment assist former Service personnel from specialist technical regiments trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, logistics and telecommunications in finding similar civilian careers. For details visit www.xmr.co.uk



COMPETITIONS

Spine line winner: Daz Neary, York.

Armadillo Merino: LCpl Adam Blackburn, DMS Whittington, Lichfield.

BE Headwear beanies: Charlie Graham, Binley Woods, Warwickshire; Gary Birch, Taunton, Somerset; Mrs J Matthews, Dallas, Morayshire.



DIARY

May 7: Stoke-on-Trent Military Tattoo, King's Hall, Kingsway, Stoke-on-Trent, on behalf of ABF The Soldiers' Charity. This event will feature the Military Wives' Choir, massed bands, marching displays, beating retreat and sunset ceremonies. For further details visit www.soldierscharity.org

May 29-31: Solent Overlord 2016, The Lawns, Forest Road, Denmead. All day military spectacular with 300 vehicles, 500 re-enactors and trade stalls. Adults £10; children £5; family ticket £25. Free entry for Service personnel with MoD F90. For further information visit www.solentoverlord.co.uk

June 30-January 8, 2017: Real to Reel: A Century of War Movies at the Imperial War Museum London. Marking the 100th anniversary of the release of the film *The Battle of The Somme*. Using costumes, props, scripts and set designs, the exhibition goes behind the scenes of some of the most iconic war films. Adults £10; children (15 and under) £5; concessions £7.

July 1: Over The Top, remember The Battle of The Somme and watch football at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford. Twenty teams – military and civilian, male and female, adults and

youth – will play each other to honour the sacrifices made by local men who 100 years earlier kicked footballs "over the top" to encourage an advance. Chelsea, Southampton and Aldershot are among the clubs taking part. For details email Fred Hughes via se-comms@rfca.org.uk

DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity:
0845 241 4820

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

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

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

Armed Forces Muslim Association:
Chaplain 020 7414 3252;
www.afma.org.uk

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

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

Army Libraries: 01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society:
www.armybirding.org.uk

Army Welfare Service:
01904 882053;
www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support

Big White Wall:
www.bigwhitewall.com

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

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:
020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership:
020 7469 6661

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

Combat Stress:
01372 841600;
www.combatstress.org.uk

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

Family Escort Service:
020 7463 9249

Forcesline: UK – 0800 731 4880;

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

Forces Pension Society:
020 7820 9988

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

Heroes Welcome:
www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

HighGround:
www.highground-uk.org.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office:
94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

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

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

PoppyScotland:
0131 557 2782;
www.poppyScotland.org.uk

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

Remount:
01451 850 341; www.remount.net

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans Welfare Service:
0808 1914 218 (from the UK);
0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)
www.gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfare-service

SSAFA:
0845 1300 975; www.ssafa.org.uk

Stoll (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation):
020 7385 2110; info@stoll.org.uk;
www.stoll.org.uk

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

The Poppy Factory:
020 8940 3305;
www.poppyfactory.org

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

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

uk4u Thanks!:
01798 812081; www.uk4u.org

INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 46/16: Army recruiting campaign "A better you". Army Reserve surge

ABN 45/16: Amendments to ELC and higher education and higher education policy

ABN 44/16: Royal Artillery v Royal Engineers tercentenary commemorative cricket match

ABN 43/16: Basing footprint strategy announcement: March 24, 2016

ABN 42/16: Muslim conference

ABN 41/16: Regular flexible duties Army trial update 2

ABN 40/16: Driving standards for entry to the Army

ABN 39/16: Revision to the allocation of official mess functions

ABN 38/16: Combined accommodation assessment system Service families accommodation goes live

ABN 37/16: Armed Forces Covenant: discount tickets to Saracens v Harlequins on Saturday April 16, 2016

ABN 36/16: Single living accommodation infrastructure management system – Project Harmonia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

INTELLIGENCE CONTINUED

ABN 35/16: Army Servicewomen's Network annual conference

ABN 34/16: Defence instructional techniques update

ABN 33/16: Army Reserve officers revised enlistment and selection process

ABN 32/16: Handheld device for management of the joint deployed inventory

ABN 31/16: Pay award

ABN 30/16: Sikh festival of Vaisakhi 2016

ABN 29/16: Challenging behaviour D&I training package

ABN 28/16: Command leadership and management

DIN 2016DIN01-061: Revised policy for the recruitment and management of transgender personnel in the Armed Forces

DIN 2016DIN01-059: Late entry commissions in the Royal Army Physical Training Corps

DIN 2016DIN01-058: Late entry commissions in the Army Medical Services

DIN 2016DIN01-057: Late entry commissions in the Royal Artillery

DIN 2016DIN01-056: The Services Cotswold Centre

DIN 2016DIN01-055: Reserve Army Medical Services soldier general trainability index score requirements

DIN 2016DIN01-054: Civilian new allowance package

DIN 2016DIN01-053: Increases in the rate of excess fares allowance for vehicle users and the rate of excess fares allowance for public transport users

DIN 2016DIN01-052: Assisted conception and fertility policy

DIN 2016DIN01-051: Improvements to veterans and Reserves mental health services from April 1, 2016

DIN 2016DIN01-050: Universal infant free school meals

DIN 2016DIN01-048: Army Servicewomen's network annual conference – June 21, 2016

DIN 2016DIN01-047: Healthcare provision in British Forces Cyprus – directory of local health services and medical supportability advice

DIN 2016DIN01-046: The Professional Engineering Institution Churchill Medal award 2015/16

DIN 2016DIN01-045: Defence Humanists annual general meeting – 2016

DIN 2016DIN01-044: Overseas commercial healthcare contract with Foreign and Commonwealth Office healthline (Healix International)

DIN 2016DIN01-043: BR 3(1) – issue of February 2016 edition

DIN 2016DIN01-041: Hospital welfare service

DIN 2016DIN01-040: Introduction of a board and offer policy for the conversion of Army officers from SSC/SSC (LE)/SC to IRC/IRC (LE)

DIN 2016DIN01-039: Support to operations kit and equipment

DIN 2016DIN01-038: Eligibility for acting higher rank for those selected for defence attache and supporting staff appointments

DIN 2016DIN01-037: The Sikh spring festival of Vaisakhi 2016

DIN 2016DIN02-002: Procedures for defence visitors to Canada

DIN 2016DIN02-001: Army national security vetting clearance requirements

DIN 2016DIN03-012: Procedures for all official duty visitors to the USA

DIN 2016DIN04-069: BID/2190/Thamer cessation

DIN 2016DIN04-068: Weapon equipment – declaration of obsolete/obsolescent status

DIN 2016DIN04-067: Removal of 5310-01-064-8787 wingnut

DIN 2016DIN04-066: Adventurous training foundation delivery British Forces Germany loan pool stores and JSATFA processes

DIN 2016DIN04-065: Intended out of service date – declaration of obsolete hand tool

DIN 2016DIN04-063: Declaration of obsolete Cormorant, Kestrel and Ptarmigan

DIN 2016DIN04-062: Changes to passenger and cargo services at RAF Brize Norton

DIN 2016DIN04-061: Intended out of service date – declaration of obsolete hand tool

DIN 2016DIN04-059: Confirmed out of service date – declaration of obsolete toolkit

DIN 2016DIN04-058: Unit request procedure for ADAC 12011-06 (round 7.62mm ball linked L44A1). NSN: 1305-99-724-3616

DIN 2016DIN04-057: Unit request procedure for ADAC 12009-03 (round 7.62mm 1B/1T linked L44A1/L45A1). NSN: 1305-99-255-9348

DIN 2016DIN04-056: Unit request procedure for ADAC 12007-07 (round 7.62mm 4B/1T linked L44A1/L45A1). NSN: 1305-99-255-9349

L45A1). NSN: 1305-99-602-1616

DIN 2016DIN04-055: Disposal of test set electronic (MSD)

DIN 2016DIN04-054: Disposal of MLRS Sport TPS

DIN 2016DIN04-053: Disposal of FCP breakout box

DIN 2016DIN04-052: MoD Sanctuary Awards 2016 calling notice for nominations

DIN 2016DIN04-050: Buying common goods and services – utilisation of Crown Commercial Service and route to market portal

DIN 2016DIN04-049: Notice of obsolescence of surplus JOFS items

DIN 2016DIN04-048: Notice of obsolete DMC 34F and DMC NP

DIN 2016DIN04-047: Team 8 stretcher

DIN 2016DIN04-046: Issue of 3 and 1 colour detector paper for training

DIN 2016DIN04-045: Secure management radio equipment obsolescence

DIN 2016DIN04-044: Special storage instructions for aircraft electrical wire

DIN 2016DIN04-043: Defence demand for crypto units and key

DIN 2016DIN04-042: Land equipment assurance team assessment process

DIN 2016DIN04-041: Declaration of obsolescence – SEER

DIN 2016DIN04-040: Gas turbine group memoranda of understanding sales and accounting information

DIN 2016DIN04-039: Notice of TFHE fire fighting equipment becoming obsolete

DIN 2016DIN05-015: Defence Attaché and Loan Service Centre

DIN 2016DIN05-014: Land Systems Reference Centre 2016/17

DIN 2016DIN05-013: Updated acquisition system guidance

DIN 2016DIN05-011: Organisational changes to the patient coordination cell at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine

DIN 2016DIN05-010: Defence medical library service – military medical archive collection development policy

DIN 2016DIN06-009: Informing force health protection and health risk management through the use of medical information and medical intelligence

DIN 2016DIN06-008: Contractor for the handling of employers

liability and third party motor claims

DIN 2016DIN06-007: Range safety policy letter 16-01 – overseas out of area live firing aide memoire

DIN 2016DIN06-006: Defence annual road safety award

DIN 2016DIN06-005: New regulatory requirements for the transport of lithium batteries

DIN 2016DIN07-056: Adventurous training – planning expeditions to Nepal in 2017

DIN 2016DIN07-055: Regimental sergeant majors course

DIN 2016DIN07-054: Intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance foundation course

DIN 2016DIN07-053: Military annual training tests and workplace induction programme policy update

DIN 2016DIN07-052: International events available to members of the UK Volunteer Reserve Forces

DIN 2016DIN07-051: Defence Medical Services Reserves course application process

DIN 2016DIN07-050: Defence cyber practitioner courses 2016/17

DIN 2016DIN07-049: Helicopter handling training

DIN 2016DIN07-048: MoD management for training, education and simulation software

DIN 2016DIN07-047: Defence Simulation Centre asset management policy

DIN 2016DIN07-045: Withdrawal of dismounted close combat (DCC) training volume IV: *Ranges, Competition Shooting (Pamphlet 20)* and issue of DCC training, volume 1: *Skill at Arms, Individual Training, Operational Shooting Policy, Volume 1-3 (2016 Edition)*

DIN 2016DIN08-003: Private use of MoD-provided vehicles by MoD personnel (including commuting journeys) tax and NI liabilities

DIN 2016DIN08-002: Aquatrine and site developments where alternative water and/or waste water service provision is being considered

DIN 2016DIN08-001: 2015/16 annual report and accounts – closure of feeders

DIN 2016DIN09-014: The General Service Medal 2008 with Eastern Africa clasp for Operation Verditer (Operation Presidium)

DIN 2016DIN09-013: The General Service Medal 2008 with Western Africa clasp for Operation Newcombe (Phase 1)

DIN 2016DIN09-012: The General Service Medal 2008 with Arabian Peninsula clasp for Operation Quantum

DIN 2016DIN09-011: The General Service Medal 2008 with Northern Africa clasp for Operation Vocate

DIN 2016DIN09-010: The General Service Medal 2008 with Arabian Peninsula clasp for Operation Iceni

DIN 2016DIN09-009: The General Service Medal 2008 with Eastern Africa clasp for Operation Backwell

DIN 2016DIN09-008: The General Service Medal 2008 with Southern Asia clasp for Operation Verditer (Operation Leeway)

DIN 2016DIN09-007: Honours, decorations and medals – the cross-government Ebola Medal for service in West Africa (Operation Gritrock)

DIN 2016DIN09-006: The General Service Medal 2008 with Eastern Africa clasp for Operation Modest

DIN 2016DIN09-005: The General Service Medal 2008 with Northern Africa clasp for Operation Deference

DIN 2016DIN10-022: Army level golf events organised by the AGA in 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-021: 2016 tri-Service karting championships

DIN 2016DIN10-020: Inter-Service paragliding championships 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-018: Services offshore regatta 2016 – notice of race

DIN 2016DIN10-017: Army sport climbing championships 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-016: British Army motorsports event – Spring Foil 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-014: Basic gliding courses at the Wyvern (Army) Gliding Club, Upavon

DIN 2016DIN10-013: Inter-Services Twenty20 cricket

DIN 2016DIN10-012: Army inter-unit cricket cup competition 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-011: Army Rifle Association target shooting courses 2016

DIN 2016DIN10-010: Army inter-unit tennis competition

DIB16/16: New employment model: amendments to enhanced learning credits and further education and higher education

DIB15/16: Updated civilian performance appraisal process for 2016/17

DIB14/16: Implementation of the combined accommodation assessment system for Service family accommodation

DIB13/16: Pay 16, the new Armed Forces pay model

DIB12/16: PUS writes to staff to update them on the Better Managers, Better Defence programme

DIB11/16: Stephen Lovegrove to be appointed MoD permanent secretary

DIB10/16: Armed Forces pay award 2016

DIB09/16: MoD permanent secretary Jon Thompson to move to a new post

DIB08/16: New employment

model: Armed Forces pay reform job evaluation and trade supplement placement explained

DIB07/16: The effect of the AFPS 75 earnings cap on senior officers' pension benefits

DIB06/16: PUS writes to staff about the Your Say 2015/16 employee engagement action plan

REUNIONS

The Queen's Own Highlanders grand reunion gathering 11-12 June at Cameron Barracks, Inverness. For more information contact the RHQ on 01463 224380 or visit www.cabarfeidh.com/gathering2016

The Army Lesbian, Gay and Transgender Forum summer ball, St David's Spa and Hotel in Cardiff, July 9 (1830). Drinks reception followed by three-course meal, guest speakers, entertainment and charity raffle. Serving personnel and veterans welcome. Tickets, £50, from Sgt Alastair Smith on 07970 785913.

Dover Grammar School CCF 100-year anniversary dinner, July 9. All ex-cadets are welcome to attend. For further information email Capt Matt Peall via 2ic-dgs-ccf@armymail.mod.uk

Royal Green Jackets 50th Anniversary veterans day on July 9 at ATR(W), Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester. Open to all past and present riflemen and their families. For full details

contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or email roy.stanger787@mod.uk

26 Regiment, RA Big Weekend

Bash, July 23-24 at Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh. Open to all past and present members and their families. For further information contact the QM, Maj Gary Leadbitter email 26RA-QMDEPT-MAINT-QM@mod.uk or BSM 19 (Gibraltar) Battery RA email 26RA-19-BSM@mod.uk

16 Regiment, RA reunion

July 30 at the combined mess, Kirton in Lindsey. Bar and BBQ from 1830. For further details contact Gus Goodall on 01652 648713 or email stuartgoodall@ymail.com

24 Field Sqn, RE reunion

August 5-7 at the Waterfront Hotel, Brighouse, West Yorkshire. Members of the squadron, who served between 1963-65 at Kingshill Camp, Hoo and Aden, are welcome to attend. For further information contact Tony Saunders on 0113 285 2621

SEARCHLINE

Former soldier John Linley, who served with 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, is calling for **Servicemen and women to submit their funny stories from life in operational theatres** with a view to having them published in a book. Details of name, rank and unit will be required, along with the location and timeframe of the incident. Email maclinley@hotmail.com

NO. 894

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

TEN details have been changed in this picture of London District Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 Vern Stokes, talking to Sandra and Sandy from *Gogglebox*.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 894, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,**

Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by May 31. A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers.

The results will be announced in the July

issue. Usual rules apply.

March's winner:

Lesley Starkey, Leros Barracks, Canterbury.

Runners up: Jude Spencer-White, Churchdown, Gloucester and Sue Manning, Army Reserve Centre, Hebburn.

WIN
£100





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



national talking newspapers and magazines

Part of **RNIB** Group

To receive an audio sample of *Soldier* contact the National Talking Newspaper Service on

01435 866102 or
info@tnauk.org.uk

National Talking Newspapers & Magazines, National Recording Centre, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8DB
Registered Charity 293656



www.custom-threads.co.uk
Tel: 01256 841020
@custom_threads
Custom Threads Ltd
sales@custom-threads.co.uk

Embroidered
and screen printed
clothing suppliers



Call for MILITARY Discount #SM/JAN16



Attention

Due to family within the Army, we have supplied diamond engagement and wedding rings to Service personnel on a word-of-mouth and recommendation basis for several years. We are a manufacturing/wholesale jewellery company based in Hatton Garden, London.

If you are getting engaged or married and would like to buy direct at **trade prices** (not available to the general public), then contact Philip on 0207 404 0912 or email philip@rajaveer.com with your requirements.

Testimonials are available on request.

Tel: 0207 404 0912 email: philip@rajaveer.com www.rajaveer.co.uk

GET YOUR MESSKITONLINE AT GOODALLSTAILORS.CO.UK



Best price top quality made to measure uniforms and mess dress accessories.
Fully guaranteed.

- ✓ Mess Dress
- ✓ Priority Service
- ✓ Dress Accessories
- ✓ Badges & Buttons
- ✓ Miniature Medals
- ✓ Mounting Services

**0% FINANCE
AVAILABLE
ON ALL MESS UNIFORMS**

Fine military tailoring from Goodalls Tailors

WWW.GOODALLSTAILORS.CO.UK



0113 2889944



sales@goodalltailors.co.uk

VISIT WWW.SOLDIERMAGAZINE.CO.UK



**FORCES
LAW**

Legal Advice and Guidance You Can Trust...

Forces Law Network Solicitor members offer legal services to serving and retired personnel throughout the world (including Reservists, the Civil Service and their families).

Initial advice and guidance is FREE. Our reputation is well supported with over 60 years of experience in legal assistance to the Armed Forces.





Business Start Up
Wills and Probate
Lasting Power of Attorney
House Sale or Purchase [FHTB]

Courts Martial
Police Interview
Family Law
Any Legal problems

0845 601 1260
Quote: S
www.forceslaw.com

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.

Photos © Crown copyright 2013

EMBROIDERED • WOVEN • ENAMELLED BADGES

TOLLEY Badges

INSIST ON THE BEST

BADGES we don't do anything else because this is what we do BEST!

- ✓ Best quality
- ✓ Best prices
- ✓ Best delivery times
- ✓ No artwork set up charges
- ✓ Specialists with over 50 years' experience

MINIMUM ORDER QUANTITY 50 BADGES

Check out our website to place your order
www.tolleybadges.co.uk

51-55 Enville Road, Kinver,
Stourbridge DY7 6BX
TELEPHONE : 01384 878550
email : info@tolleybadges.co.uk










branded notebooks

www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army
branding@bureaudirect.co.uk
0845 505 4555

VISIT WWW.SOLDIERMAGAZINE.CO.UK

MICHAEL JAY
CIVIL AND MILITARY
TAILORS

Made to Measure
MESS DRESS
Especially for you



- ✓ Made in the UK
- ✓ 14 day Make or
- ✓ 4Shr 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

Navigation Training

Intensive 2 day courses in Map & Compass work. Theory & Practical Small Groups (4/5) or Individuals Ex-Mil Instructor. Accom incl.

Contact Andy 01974 821680
email.brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk

**TO ADVERTISE
IN SOLDIER
TELEPHONE
01252 787106**

Quality Branded Merchandise Suppliers



Impamark have been supplying HM Armed Forces for over 40 years and are your one stop shop for anything military.

CONTACT US TODAY for prices and further details:

01621 783550 • info@impamark.co.uk

www.regimentalmerchandise.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/ImpamarkPBM

 @Impamark


PRESTIGE BRANDED MERCHANDISE

Military Marketing International

Suppliers of commemorative plaques and presentation pieces



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

PLAQUES: £12.95 each
SHIELDCLOCKS: £24.00 each



for a full colour brochure contact:

82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. B18 7AF

Telephone / fax: 0121 454 5393

Email: mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk

Website: www.militarymarketing.co.uk



Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd
Specialists in Orders Decorations and Medals

Full Size and Miniature Medals supplied and mounted for wear or display to the highest standards.

MoD Licensed Medals

(License No. D/PR/IX/E/0019/02)

Available from stock including

- ✿ Telic
- ✿ Afghanistan
- ✿ Golden Jubilee
- ✿ NATO, EU and UN
- ✿ Long Service awards
- ✿ Complete range of gallantry awards

We offer a complete engraving service and supply fine handmade storage cases, display cases and wallets for your awards.

Whatever your requirements our helpful staff will be pleased to help with your enquiry by telephone, email or fax.

Visit our secure online shop
www.worcmedals.com

Unit bulk enquiries welcome



56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: wms@worcmedals.com

BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
WORCESTERSHIRE MEDAL SERVICE
BROMSGROVE

VISTA TIES
THE BESPOKE TIE SPECIALIST

Bespoke
Regimental Ties
Made In Britain
For 35 Years



FREE DESIGN SERVICE

our ties are woven & hand finished in the UK
in your regimental design & colours

email your details & design to info@vista-ties.co.uk

01903 266883

vista-ties.co.uk

Genuine **JAYJAYS** *Limited*

23 Years In
Business
1993-2016



Our Reputation
Is Your
Guarantee



Bergan Adoptions Molle Pouches
Molle Padded Belts Yoke Systems
Gen 4 Webbing Systems

www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk
01874 610036



**Printed or Embroidered
Leisurewear to your Own Design**

For a Free Colour Brochure contact :
TEES TOTAL, 153 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7AB
Tel :+44 (0)1793 849888
Email : sales@teestotalclothing.co.uk
Website : www.teestotalclothing.co.uk

Suppliers of high quality embroidered and printed sports and leisurewear to the Armed Forces

motif8 ltd

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

Motif8 Will Beat Any Price - Guaranteed

supporting our forces charities

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



LIVING & WORKING in South Wales

For advice on:

Education
Employment
Health
Housing
Welfare

Thursday
23rd June 2016

Cardiff City Hall
1200 - 1500 hrs

Further information and register at:
160X-Transition-GroupMailbox@mod.uk

Families Welcome
FREE ENTRY

SOLDIER

Subscription rates

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



Enjoy 12 issues
for only
£23

+ receive a
free binder and
choice of gift*

Simply complete and post the form below or

01252 787107

subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Your details

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Start my subscription with the _____ issue

I would like to subscribe for One year Two years

My chosen free gift is a: pocket torch calculator
business card holder manicure set * Offer open to new subscribers only

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

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

**INTER-SERVICES
TWENTY20
TOURNAMENT**

Thursday 19th May 2016

**BUY YOUR
TICKETS TODAY**

Adults: £16 | U16s: £5
Over 65s: £8

tickets.lords.org
020 7432 1000
interservicest20.co.uk

Special Offer
available on tickets
**4 FOR THE
PRICE OF 3**
(ONLINE ONLY)

[VISIT WWW.SOLDIERMAGAZINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SOLDIERMAGAZINE.CO.UK)

OVERLORD Military Spectacular

May 28th - 30th 2016



**The Lawns, Forest Road
DENMEAD, Hants PO7 6HS**

Adults £10

Children £5

Family (2+3) £25

FREE Parking

FREE WiFi



www.solentoverlord.co.uk



Alcoholics Anonymous
OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO STAY SOBER AND HELP OTHERS TO ACHIEVE SOBRIETY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE HERE TO CALL US!

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING

0800 917 7650

GO ONLINE AT: alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

40291015



ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES RESERVE RECRUITING NOW

If you're looking for something extra in life outside of your regular working hours, you're sure to find it in the Army Medical Services Reserve. It's an experience that's not only enriching, but rewarding too, with new entrants getting up to £2,300 and ex-Regulars getting up to £10,000 on top of the tax-free bounty and Army Reserve salary.

Search Army Medical Services Reserve

Or contact us on:

T: 0121 6336450

E: Armyjobs-medical@mod.uk


ARMY
BE THE BEST

SERVICES

Finding homes for military personnel.
We organise your mortgage, search for your ideal property, manage the complete purchase, arrange the letting if required and pay all your professional and legal fees. www.forceshomes.co.uk



Armed Forces CVs
taking you forward of the line

Leaving The Forces?

Get your CV written by a professional, who understands the language and the market place.

We carefully translate your military experience into 'civvy-speak'.

Company owned by retired Infantry WO1. 15 Years' hard-won experience. Success guaranteed.

Web: www.ArmedForcesCVs.com
Email: CVMaster@ArmedForcesCVs.com

BOOKS

Military history books. Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.
www.militaryhistorybooks.com

FOR SALE

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia.
Send £2 for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU.
Tel: 01723 513287
george.cairnxson@hotmail.co.uk



THE REGIMENTAL TIE SPECIALIST
Current Ties & New Designs
THE BESPOKE TIE COMPANY



0845 3575710
bespoketies.com
sales@bespoketies.com



regimentalbrooches.com
ONLINE SHOP
with large selection of genuine RFC and RAF sweetheart brooches from WW1, WW2 and through to the current reign.
RN, FAA and many regiments also available.
All guaranteed original.



Cooper Stevens Headwear



Military Headwear

- All British Army Regiments
- Male and Female Officers
- Hand made in England
- Re-Ranking also available
- Fast Delivery

tel: 020 7277 5601
info@csheadwear.co.uk
www.csheadwear.co.uk

Contact us by phone, email or visit our workshop

15 (UK) PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS GROUP

BLACK & WHITE ASSOCIATION
WEBSITE NOW AT:

WWW.BLACKANDWHITEASSOCIATION.COM

FOR ALL SERVING AND FORMER MEMBERS OF 15 POG, 77 BDE OR THOSE IN THE INFLUENCE ENVIRONMENT AREA.

ARMY **sports** LOTTERY

RESULTS



WELFARE

Your WelComE account card...

A **WelComE account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit: www.mywelcome.co.uk

Lost your account card? No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelComE account number and a password to reset your PIN.

WelComE Customer Contact Centre
customer.support@mywelcome.co.uk | www.mywelcome.co.uk

WelComE
Welfare Communications Everywhere

4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery
We remain hidden



The Army's Static Covert Surveillance Specialists

Acquaint Course 3-5 Jun 16 - Patrols Course Aug-Nov 16

Tel: 01748 875943 Mil: 94731 5943

REVIEWS

MAY'S MAGIC



MOVIES

ROBOT REVOLUTION

Technology takes over in sci-fi action thriller

P69

GAMES

P70

BOOKS

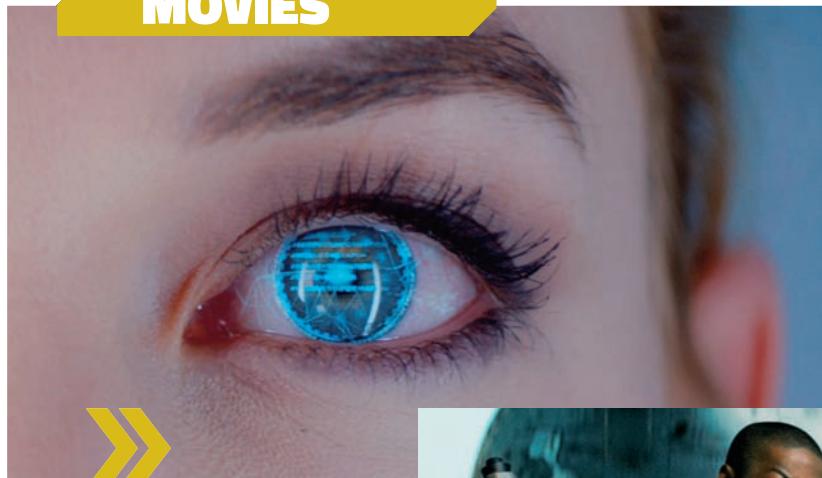
P72

MUSIC

IN this digital age, where the military is increasingly reliant on computers, clouds and unmanned technology *Kill Command* presents a nightmare scenario where the robots take over. Set in the very near future, a squad of US marines are sent to a remote island for a training exercise where they are cut off from all communications. The elite unit soon discover that they have become live targets of advanced robots and that their colleague Specialist Mills – a coder whose brain is interfaced with a computer – is somehow part of the conspiracy.



MOVIES



KILL
COMMAND
IS OUT IN UK
CINEMAS ON
MAY13

The movie is the directorial debut for the talented Steve Gomez, an Emmy award-winning special effects guru, and his insistence on first-rate graphics certainly shines through.

Speaking exclusively to *Soldier*, Gomez said: "I wanted to take this idea and make it a real ride – a chase movie that would feel dynamic, atmospheric and tense. Most importantly the heroes wouldn't be supermen, they would be frail and human. One wrong turn and they could lose their lives.

"When we first pitched it to Vertigo Films there was a lot of footage being shown of a military robot called Big Dog walking through woods.

"It was really creepy to see this mechanical object so at home walking over the land and I thought the next move would be to give it a gun.

"It was always going to be a sci-fi movie and we just looked at the potential for technology of the future."

Gomez, who also wrote the film's script, has packed as much action as possible on to the screen and his lethal robots are worryingly believable in design.

Rather than two-legged cyborgs his multi-legged robo-creatures move like animals and are more than comfortable on rough ground.

Against the manufactured force the marines face certain death and need Mills' technology to survive.

"I'm tired of seeing humanoid robots in sci-fi movies and I wanted to build something that suited the terrain," said Gomez.

"What I found



VERDICT:

A high-octane, futuristic action thriller with roots in reality



was that the more you make the creations like people, the less realistic they appeared.

"When the robots are functional they look believable."

On a tight budget of just £1 million the actors worked with simulations rather than real beasts firing ammunition at them and instead of finding themselves on a remote island, the actual shoot location was Dorking, in leafy Surrey.

"A lot of the work was done against a green screen so the guys and girls did a remarkable job of making it look realistic," Gomez explained.

"Creatively it's been a huge and rewarding challenge mounting such an ambitious project with a limited budget."

At a time when the use of robots in the Armed Forces for jobs such as bomb disposal is commonplace and the debate over the use of autonomous drones continues, the movie's storyline is not as far-fetched as it might once have seemed.

It could be a while before the machines can "study, analyse, reprogram" like in this film but that is a matter for the technology boffins of this world.

"There is a lot of different opinion about the use of robots because they are lifesavers but there is also the element of the

unknown," said Gomez.

"At the moment the robot technology is controlled by people and it is doing a good job, saving us from dangerous situations, but in the future they could be autonomous – where do you draw the line?"

The visual effects brain behind the hit Animal Planet show *Monsters Inside Me* added: "It is amazing how far ahead of the curve the military actually is, with things like drones, robots and other technology and I don't think the general public realises this.

"That might mean Armed Forces personnel have a greater appreciation of what is happening in this film."

The movie is by no means a vehicle to preach about the use of autonomous assets in the military but it certainly provides food for thought.

The purpose it serves is to breathe life into the sci-fi genre with some new ideas, high production values and quality acting performances.

Gomez added: "At its heart this is an action movie with robots that are real fighters so people who love science fiction should enjoy it.

"It's tense and exciting and I hope viewers have a lot of fun watching it." ■



INTERVIEW: JOE CLAPSON



GAMES

SOLDIER SELECTS



Stars Wars: The Force Awakens out now

IT is hard to think of a recent release that has been met with more fervour than the latest instalment in the elongated Star Wars saga. Thankfully, this justifies the hype as director **JJ Abrams** successfully captures the essence of the original trilogy while avoiding the CGI overload and plethora of annoying characters that plagued the prequels. In many ways this is a tribute to the very first film and certain elements have a more than familiar feel. However, there is still plenty to enjoy as the story quickly evolves and some stunning action sequences add to the excitement level. A host of familiar faces also make a welcome return but it is **Daisy Ridley**, as Rey, who steals the show in a storming lead performance. We await the next offering with bated breath.

Richard Long, Soldier



The Lady in the Van out now

MAGGIE Smith is on top form in this warm-hearted movie directed by **Nicholas Hytner** and adapted by **Alan Bennett** from his own memoir.

The acclaimed actress steals the show as Miss Shepherd, the rude and eccentric homeless woman who somehow persuaded Bennett into having her campervan parked on his driveway for 15 years. Despite the charity shown to her the "lady in the van" fails at any point to show any gratitude and is at best a scowling old bag – a role Smith was made for. Fans of Bennett's work will undoubtedly be entertained by this very British story.

Joe Clapson, Soldier



Daddy's Home out now

EVEN the biggest fans of **Will Ferrell** and **Mark Wahlberg** must accept that this movie is not up to the expected standard. Following

the hilarious *Other Guys* the pair are back on screen together as a square stepfather (Ferrell) is pitted against an uber cool and chiselled biological father (Wahlberg) in a face-off over the children's affections. Laughs are few and far between and only come in unadulterated slapstick moments such as a motorbike being accidentally driven through a wall. It's certainly no *Old School* or *Anchorman* but *Blades of Glory* remains the worst on Ferrell's roster.

Rachel Dennis, civvy



PICK OF THE MONTH:

DIRT RALLY

Out now for Xbox, Playstation and PC

THIS impressive title features 39 of the most iconic rally cars from the past 50 years.

With six events featured there are more than 70 stages to tackle. You can race on the muddy paths of Wales, the dusty trails of Greece and the icy tarmac of Monte Carlo.



SOLDIER SELECTS



Trackmania Turbo

Playstation, Xbox and PC

THERE is an accepted wisdom for what a driving game should be – *Trackmania Turbo* rejects this emphatically.

It's an arcade racer in which you undertake time trials, rather than more traditional racing.

Stages are set in four environments – Canyon Grand Drift, Down and Dirty Valley, Rollercoaster Lagoon and International Stadium.

Breakneck speed is the focus of the latter two while the former concentrate on off-roading.

Graphically there's a nice contrast of realistic scenery and more cartoony vehicles and tracks.

The single-player campaign has 200 stages but they're frustrating to unlock as later tracks are inaccessible until you've reached a certain number of medals on previous ones.

This results in a lot of replaying of levels to get a better time.

An offline multiplayer is available, including a four-player split-screen mode. The online variant has you completing time trials against up to 100

ghost cars, which is an impressive sight to behold.

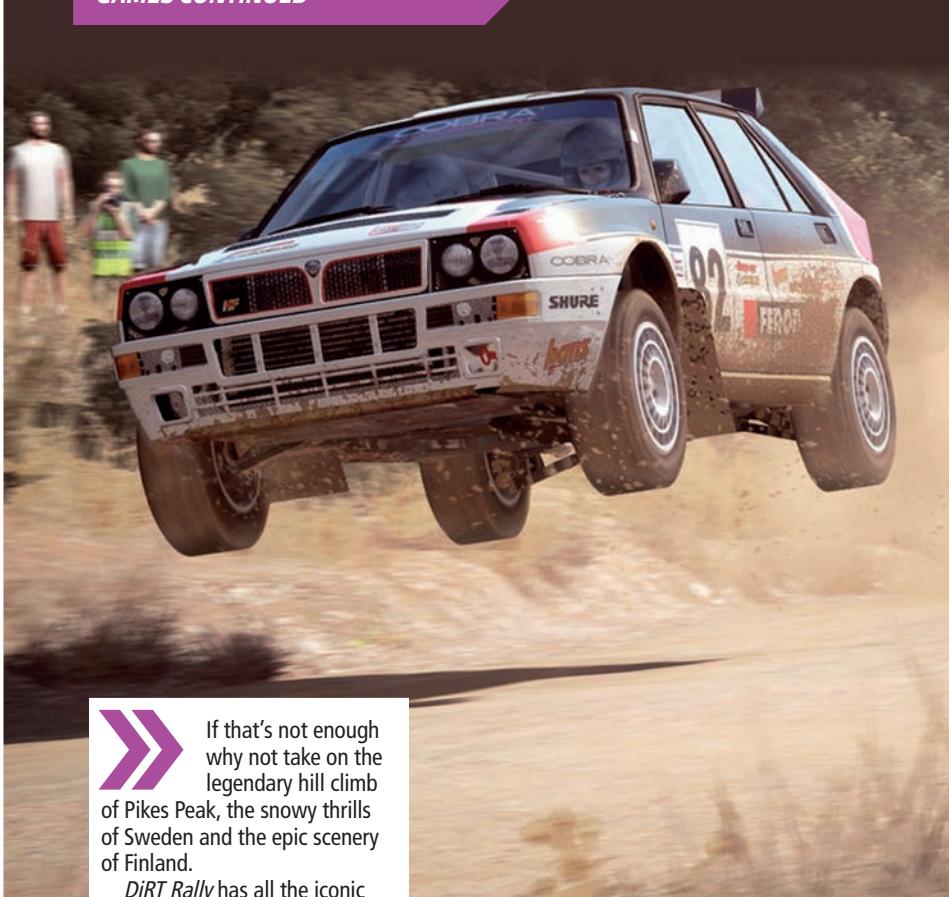
But much of the game's appeal comes from its Trackbuilder mode that lets you design and plan your own courses.

The interface is easy to use placing many options at your disposal. Once designed, a track can be uploaded and as such there's a large amount of user-generated content available to play through.

It's a unique and (mostly) fun game but if you're expecting a conventional racer you'll be disappointed.

Stephen Smith, civvy





If that's not enough why not take on the legendary hill climb of Pikes Peak, the snowy thrills of Sweden and the epic scenery of Finland.

DiRT Rally has all the iconic locations to test your nerve and delight your senses as you race at the Lydden Hill, Holjes and Hell tracks in six of the fastest off-road cars.

You can even take on your friends in bumper-to-bumper multiplayer racing.

It is a tough one to master but if you like driving games then this is your title.

I was unsure when I first took the controls of *DiRT* due to it being a simulation and not an arcade offering.

I normally prefer the option of taking a sneaky short cut or pulling epic stunts, however, this is one of the best simulators I have ever had the chance to play.

Be warned though, it requires your complete concentration and the only help you have to stay on the road is your co-driver shouting out commands as you go.

If you make the slightest mistake you'll lose valuable time or, even worse, find yourself upside down in a ditch.

The cars all react differently and take time to get used to. If you drive badly and crash your vehicle starts picking up realistic levels of damage.

The tracks take a while to learn and sussing out how to keep your car steady and fast

VERDICT:
Tough but a very good racing game
★★★★★

takes a lot of time and patience.

You need to stick at *DiRT Rally* and as it is so hard it's easy for new players to quit before giving it a proper go.

In the various stages you race against the clock, the courses are long, varied and very unforgiving but the more you race a car the more your engineers modify it.

You earn credits for completing different events but also lose them if you have to pay for repairs or start again.

In the rally-cross championships you compete against others and the fast speeds, tight corners and changing surfaces make it difficult to stay ahead – it doesn't take much to end up at the back of the pack.

The online gaming is good fun but I recommend you get a few hours smashing the single player before you lock horns with the wider world.

This release is frustratingly hard and I honestly think doing the real thing would be easier.

Putting the difficulty to one side the graphics are mega, the cars and tracks are awesome and the game is very addictive. ■

REVIEW: SGT RUPERT FRERE, RLC

PICK OF THE MONTH:

BURMA '44

The battle that turned Britain's war in the East

IN February 1944, in a remote patch of Burmese jungle, British and Indian troops mounted a desperate stand against the cream of Japan's infantry.

Pinned down and outnumbered in a defensive position known as the Admin Box, a disparate group of clerks, drivers and support staff, plus a handful of combat soldiers, managed, against all odds, to inflict the first decisive defeat on the Japanese in the region.

Their victory turned the tide of the war in the Far East but the battle remains largely overlooked today.

Historian and broadcaster James Holland (pictured below) believes it deserves greater recognition and has brought the drama to life in his new book, *Burma '44*.

"It's basically like *Zulu*, as in Rorke's Drift back in 1879, but it's against the Japanese and it's in the jungle, not the Highveld," he told *Soldier*.

"It's such a compelling story, but like a lot of people, I'm ashamed to say I didn't know much about the campaign in Burma apart from the basic narrative.

"The Admin Box gets overlooked because it was followed by Kohima and Imphal, which were much bigger in terms of scale, but it was important because it set a pattern for how to defeat the Japanese."

The 15-day ordeal began when the headquarters of Gen Frank Messervy's 7th Indian Division were forced to fall back to their administrative area in the face of a Japanese offensive.

With both sides beset by logistical problems, the thinking by commanders was that if the Allies could just withstand the onslaught, the enemy would be unable to sustain themselves.

Holland explained: "One of the reasons the Japanese had been able to move through the jungle so much quicker than the British was that they fed off the supplies they captured, so if you could deny them that, they would swiftly run out of ammo and food.

"That was the key."





The days brought heavy shelling, while nights were spent straining to spot the approaching enemy amidst the dark and noise of the rainforest.

With not a man to spare, drivers, clerks and staff officers alike had no choice but to fight for their lives.

"Slim [Gen Bill Slim, commander of the British Fourteenth Army] had insisted that all troops, whether they were cooks or maintenance men, had to be trained to carry arms and fight and that really paid off at the Admin Box," said Holland.

"They also had enough regular soldiers to instil discipline and show the others what had to be done."

But the bloody, hand-to-hand fighting was not their only problem. Heat, hostile flora and fauna and diseases such as dysentery and malaria took a heavy toll.

"You really wouldn't wish the conditions in the jungle on your worst enemy," continued the author.

"Many of the guys had never even left their home town before joining up and suddenly they found themselves a million miles from anything they'd ever known and having to live and fight in that terrain."

"You just can't imagine how they managed to stick it out."

Air power and the presence of three squadrons of Lee tanks helped swing the result in the Allies' favour but at the heart of the story is the courage and the resilience of those who fought on the ground.

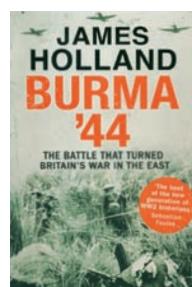
"It's an epic battle and I hope my book conveys that level of excitement and the awe in which I hold those guys," said Holland. ■

INTERVIEW: BECKY CLARK

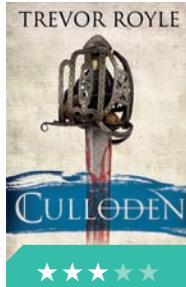
VERDICT: A gripping account of one of the war's lesser-known episodes



Burma '44, by James Holland (Bantam Press) is out now, priced £20



SOLDIER SELECTS

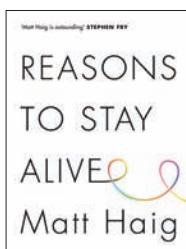


Culloden
by Trevor Royle

CULLODEN was the pivotal clash of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, when the Hanoverian Duke of Cumberland led his disciplined government troops to smash Bonnie Prince Charlie's motley

army. Rather than focusing on the oft-told story of the battle itself, Trevor Royle commendably attempts to link the victory to subsequent British successes on continental Europe and in America. Sadly, in broadening the scope of his subject he fails to do either part justice, telling us nothing new about a moment that altered the course of British history or the reprisals that afterwards destroyed the Highland way of life and there is little depth to his coverage of later events.

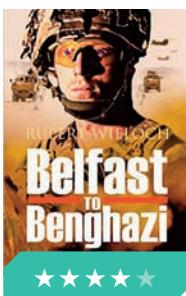
Douglas Jackson, historical novelist



Reasons to Stay Alive
by Matt Haig

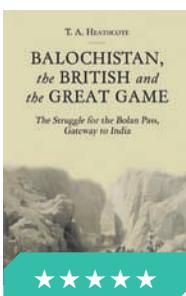
IN this short and easy-to-read book novelist and journalist Matt Haig writes first-hand about what it is like to have depression and anxiety and – most significantly – how he moved on with his life. The title might not mention the military specifically but mental health problems do not discriminate; they are common to soldiers and civvies alike. If your head isn't in a great place at the moment, or you're trying to understand someone else who is depressed, I cannot recommend this book enough. Part memoir and part self-help manual, it is funny, blunt, moving and potentially life-saving.

Sarah Goldthorpe, Soldier


Belfast to Benghazi
by Rupert Wieloch

ANY book outlining a 35-year career in the Forces is worth a look. As the title suggests, the author has been involved in most major military conflicts since the Second World War. What I found refreshing about this title is the way Wieloch gives his troops due credit for the work they carried out rather than glorifying his own role. From Belfast to the First Gulf War and, ultimately, to the highest levels of command in Iraq, Libya, Kosovo and Afghanistan, he tells his stories with brutal honesty mixed with military humour. A thought-provoking and thoroughly readable account of our nation's recent military history.

Tony David, ex-RE


Balochistan, the British and the Great Game
by T A Heathcote

A FORMER curator at Sandhurst, T A Heathcote is an expert on the Indian Army and Britain's Afghan Wars 1839-1919 – just the person to tell this complicated story of fighting and intrigue in the defence of India's north-west frontier. Conspicuous in this well-researched narrative is the ambitious and calculating Robert Sandeman, who, working through the Jirga, or council, established a policy of subsidising the Sardars of Kalat – a strongly pro-British group. Had he lived longer, the author asks, would his dealings with Pashtuns have paralleled those in Kalat? This is a compelling account with clear parallels today regarding the West's involvement in Afghanistan.

Dr Rodney Atwood, military historian


Wicked Game
by Matt Johnson

THIS is a cracking, fast-paced and authentic novel in which the main character is an inspector who has just left the Royal Protection Squad to return to mainstream policing and settle down with his new family. A series of horrific murders of coppers ensues and it transpires that all the victims were ex-SAS. Why are they being targeted? Is it an IRA team out for revenge and what is the role of a mysterious Iranian? The plot twists and turns and keeps the reader enthralled throughout. The tension lasts until the very end. This debut effort is a real page-turner.

Andy Kay, ex-RS

★★★★★

★★★★★


PICK OF THE MONTH:
WE ARE SCIENTISTS
Helter Seltzer

IT has been more than a decade since We Are Scientists burst onto the scene with their energy-charged breakthrough *With Love and Squalor*.

The raw indie rock sound of tracks such as *Nobody Move*, *Nobody Get Hurt* and *It's A Hit* helped the band achieve a cult following that flirted with the mainstream as record sales continued to grow.

Follow-up effort *Brain Thrust Mastery* saw the outfit moving in a different direction and their failure to hit the same initial high meant subsequent offerings *Barbara* and *TV en Francais* almost slipped under the radar.

Indeed, when the release of new record *Helter Seltzer* was announced it provoked great surprise in this reviewer, who believed the Californian rockers

VERDICT:
No scientific breakthroughs here
★★★★★

had been firmly consigned to the history books.

The album has been a year in the making and sees members Keith Murray and Chris Cain reunited with ex-keyboard player Max Hart, who has assumed the role of producer.

Coming off a three-year stint playing alongside Katy Perry, it comes as no surprise to learn that the latter has added a pop sheen to the guitar-driven material offered by his former band mates.

"We've always made overtures towards being a pop band but we've generally had the inclination to obscure those pop leanings in grit and chaos – to screw them up with fuzzed-out tones and raucous performances," Murray said.

"It's made us really think about what our musical genre



is. We're not punk – we're too interested in making our songs as pretty as possible.

"We're not straight-up rock – our tastes are too left of centre.

"We're not indie rock – our heads aren't far enough up our own butts.

"So finally, after putting as much time into thinking about it as we're apt to – about ten minutes – we decided that our genre is Helter Seltzer."

To describe this as full-on pop would be wrong but at the same time it lacks the raw excitement and drive that made their aforementioned breakthrough so enjoyable to listen to.

The tracks hint at a thirst to cut loose but it feels as though they have been shackled, meaning top gear is hard to find.

That said; there are plenty of

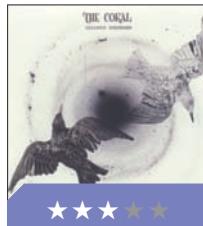
highlights. Single *Buckle* features thumping drums, heavy bass and trademark guitar riffs, while *In My Head* continues the trend as the impressive opening is maintained.

Too Late veers more towards the pop market as Hart's production takes centre stage and this veneer is persevered with on the likes of *Hold On* and *We Need A Word*.

The formula becomes repetitious as the album evolves and a lot of the material sounds very similar. It is far from disastrous but at the same time it fails to fully capture the imagination, making *Helter Seltzer* very much middle-of-the-road fare. ■

REVIEW: RICHARD LONG

SOLDIER SELECTS



★★★★★

Distance Inbetween by The Coral

SO, **The Coral** are back after a six-year layoff and to be honest, I hadn't noticed they'd been away. The album starts with the very good *Connector* and finishes with the creepy *End Credits*, both with serious echoes of **Pink Floyd**. However, the meat between doesn't quite live up to the hype. *Chasing the Tail of a Dream* is an attempt at a teenage anthem but it's *Million Eyes* and *Holy Revelation* where the record is saved. With an obvious blues influence on the guitars these are the songs worth listening to. Overall, *Distance Inbetween* is not that bad – it's just a shame the band has not managed to make the same mark as *Dreaming of You* did back in the early 2000s.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles



★★★★★

Old Magick by Steven James Adams

THIS is the second solo album by **Steven James Adams**, former singer-songwriter with the critically acclaimed **Broken Family Band**. His first effort set the scene for his style, which is very minimalist with the emphasis on vocals rather than instruments.

Thankfully, it works and works well and not many artists can carry that off these days. Overall, this is pretty good from start to finish. It doesn't try and pull in every musical genre as it goes on; it's simple and very well made. It won't appeal to everyone but has that sort of 'background, relaxing in the evening' feel to it.

Rodge Tapply, ex-RE



★★★★★

Eliza and the Bear by Eliza and the Bear

WELL you can't deny that the **Imagine Dragons**-inspired **Eliza and the Bear** like an anthem – there are 15 on their eponymous debut offering. And that for me is what is wrong with this record; it sounds more like a pop collection than an album and the tracks are lost because they sound the same. I would

like to have seen a bit more depth and broodiness included, something that may have showcased a different side to the band. But as with many groups nowadays they seem intent on pleasing the festival circuit of singalong hipsters in posh wellies. That said there are some things to admire as *Friends*, *Oxygen* and *It Gets Cold* are well written and stand out from the rest.

Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)



★★★★★

Taking One for the Team by Simple Plan

THIS is a pop-punk band trying to escape its roots by mixing their original sound with a host of others. Somehow it's just a mish-mash of romantic metaphors and heavy anthems throughout, which shows this album is going nowhere. It lacks imagination and is neither in their traditional

category or the more upbeat RnB style they seem to be looking to create. This is a group with a healthy following, but this record is a bad idea as it offers nothing new. Tossing out romantic drivel and sugar coated anthems just makes you think they haven't thought this through at all.

Tony David, ex-RE

“EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE”

James Kenway  TRUSTPILOT



61 REG
BMW 320D (184) ES
5DR ESTATE BLACK 64K

ONLY £9733



62 REG
VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI ECOFLEX EXCLUSIV 5DR START STOP SILVER 45K

ONLY £8644



13 REG
NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA 5DR BLUE 20K

ONLY £9050



62 REG
NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 (117) VISIA 5DR WHITE 33K

ONLY £9076



62 REG
VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 TSi MATCH 3DR BLUE

ONLY £7898



PART EXCHANGE WELCOME



FULL HISTORY CHECK



FLEXIBLE FINANCE AVAILABLE



NATIONWIDE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR



BRAND NEW CARS AVAILABLE ALL MAKES

UP TO 4,000 USED CARS PRICE CHECKED DAILY, COMPREHENSIVELY CHECKED AND FULLY GUARANTEED

 **FORCES DRIVE**

DEDICATED CAR BUYING FOR FORCES PERSONNEL

CALL 0845 122 6901 | FORCESDRIVE.CO.UK



Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnity may be required. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

because you're
there for us



Our team of lawyers have many years of experience providing specialist legal advice to forces personnel. Our military law experts will not only advise you on issues arising from the line of duty but with your home life as well.

There for you supporting the forces

wilkin chapman llp
inc. gilbert blades
solicitors

Contact: 01522 512345 or visit wilkinchapman.co.uk
Out of hours for Military Discipline Matters only, contact
Alex Rynn on 07775 022268

BEST VALUE FURNITURE
For Mess Bars, Restaurants and Cafés

Choose this furniture combination
for your Mess Bar



Prices are subject to availability, delivery and VAT.

or try these
popular
alternatives...



£89.99

£174.99



£89.99

forces furniture
from pubstuff

Call our expert, friendly sales team to request
a floor plan of your venue on 01295 758536

MOD Listed Supplier | Trusted | Experienced

sales@pubstuff.co.uk pubstuff.co.uk 01295 758536

SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Kings of the ring:
The Army's boxers maintained their stranglehold on the Inter-Services Championships last month. Read about the event on page 83...



Game brief

Date: April 6, 2016

Competition: Inter-Services Rugby Union

Venue: RAF Halton

Army

Reeves	Austin	Budgen
1	2	3
Llewellyn	Bates	
4	5	
Lennox	Laqekoro	
6	7	
Koroiyadi		
Farrell	Prasad	
9	10	
Wessels	Leatham	
12	13	
Bulumakau	Watkins	
11	14	
Davies		
15		

Subs: Dwyer, Titchard-Jones, Whittaker, Boladau, Parkins, Shaw, Dixon, O'Reilly

Army tries: Bulumakau, Wessels

Conversion: Dixon



Capt Rob Lennox (Scots)

Captain's comments

We are absolutely devastated, but credit to the RAF. They came out and played the way they wanted; they slowed the game down and deserved the win.

We didn't execute our plans and the discipline was poor; the yellow cards really cost us.

Revenge was on our minds but for us it is all about performance. We don't really focus on the opposition, we look at what we want to do but we have really let ourselves down today.



Bright start: Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots) opened the scoring but ill discipline scuppered the Army's hopes

Ragged Reds made to suffer

Inter-Services

Royal Air Force 13
Army 12

rewarded in the 25th minute.

Fly half Pte Jack Prasad (Scots) made a trademark break before finding Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots), who held off two tacklers to score.

SAC Brad Cook slotted a penalty to open the RAF's account and he edged his team ahead early in the second half.

With the referee warning the Reds' forwards over a string of infringements LCpl Maku Koroiyadi (RE) was made to suffer as he picked up a yellow card for not releasing in the tackle.

Cook slotted the resulting penalty before LBdr Owain Davies (RA) failed with a difficult kick out wide.

The miss proved costly as the light blues rumbled deep into opposition territory, where the Army's lack of discipline was fatal.

A series of strong surges placed the soldiers under severe pressure and a misdemeanour from LSgt Paul Llewellyn (R Welsh)

received double punishment as the player was shown a yellow card and the RAF were awarded a penalty try.

But the Reds hit back with a sustained spell of pressure that yielded maximum reward. A quick penalty from skipper Capt Rob Lennox (Scots) generated momentum and when Dixon picked out Cpl Gerhard Wessels (RE) the centre glided through the defence for a converted score.

With the clock ticking down the Reds continued to press and Bulumakau produced a storming run that was thwarted by a high tackle.

The referee played the advantage and a flowing cross-field move looked to have sealed a remarkable win before the touch judge ruled that Gnr Connor O'Reilly (7 Para, RHA) had failed to ground the ball in the corner.

Play was brought back for the original penalty but with Dixon missing a tough chance from out wide the RAF toasted a famous victory. ■





SERVICES COMPETITION STEPS UP A GEAR

HAVING recorded a series of emphatic wins over the Royal Air Force in recent years the Army women were made to work for their latest success in the opening round of Inter-Services fixtures.

A stubborn light blues outfit proved more than a match for their rivals for long periods before a late flurry of tries sealed a 29-7 victory.

The hosts enjoyed the better of the opening exchanges but a prolonged spell of pressure in the 22 failed to yield any points.

As the match progressed the Reds grew into the contest and fly half Capt Gemma Rowland (RA) was at the heart of their best moves.

The Welsh international

played in Cpl Carrie Roberts (REME) midway through the half but some determined defending thwarted the centre as she went for the line.

But the visitors were not to be denied and a smart interchange between Rowland and Sgt Sarah Mitchelson (RLC) saw the former cut through the RAF rearguard for a converted try.

However, the breakthrough failed to spark an avalanche of points and the Army had to wait until the stroke of half-time to add to their tally.

With the forwards stealing possession Rowland delivered quick ball to Roberts and winger Cpl Jade Mullen (AGC (SPS)) was on hand to round off a clinical move.

The RAF returned for the second period in determined mood and they found themselves camped in opposition territory as they expertly moved through the phases. With the pressure building they were finally rewarded as LAC Kate Edwards surged over.

Having escaped without further damage the Reds set about seizing control and England ace Sgt Bianca Dawson (AGC (RMP)) edged her side further ahead as she crashed home following a strong run from Bdr Beth Dainton (RA).

Mullen crossed for a second score in the 75th minute as she rounded off a slick passing move and

replacement scrum half LCpl Maz Claasens (AGC) darted to the line after good work from Dainton and Rowland.

"Testament to the RAF, they threw everything at us," Rowland told *SoldierSport*.

"They've got two internationals in their starting line-up and the other players really stepped up.

"It was chaos in the first 30 minutes but as soon as we scored we settled down.

"Their try pushed us on to the next level but we never thought the game was in the bag. We have really had to focus on the RAF as they have gone from strength to strength and that is good for the competition – we want tough matches." ■

Masters move in right direction

THE Army Masters warmed up for their 39-17 victory over the RAF with a tough test against a Rugby Aid XV at the home of Worcester Warriors.

Former internationals Thinus Delport, Dave Wilson and Henry Paul, along with ex-Service star Apo Satala, lined up for the invitational side, which represents the military charity Rugby For Heroes.

Having undergone a major shake-up this season – with more than half of last year's players hanging up their boots – the masters were keen to test themselves against tough opposition and they produced a strong display despite slipping to a 27-14 defeat.

WO2 Steve Limbrick (pictured) and Cpl George Naigunugunu crossed for the soldiers.



MONTH in sport

May's key fixtures...



WHAT: Invictus Games

WHEN: Sunday, May 8 to Thursday, May 12

WHERE: ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Orlando

COMMENTS: A 110-strong team of wounded, injured and sick personnel will represent the UK as they take on their international rivals in ten sports



WHAT: Inter-Unit Boxing Championships final

WHEN: Thursday, May 12

WHERE: Combat Sports Centre, Aldershot

COMMENTS: The cream of the Army's amateur fighters will descend on Aldershot for one of the highlights of the military boxing calendar



WHAT: Inter-Services T20 cricket

WHEN: Thursday, May 19

WHERE: Lord's Cricket Ground, London

COMMENTS: The Army dominated their rivals in 2015 thanks to a superb effort from their bowlers and they will be hoping for more of the same



Picture: Roger Thompson

Soldiers shine in national colours

THE opening match in the 2016 Inter-Services rugby union campaign marked a return to Army action for Sgt Bianca Dawson (AGC (RMP)) after her exploits with the England squad in the recent Six Nations.

Despite losing the tournament-decider to France the tighthead prop was delighted to gain experience on the international stage and is hoping to be part of the team that tours Canada in the summer months.

"It was a real step up," the Servicewoman told *SoldierSport* at the end of the competition. "I've progressed through the development and academy system and everyone in the senior squad has been very welcoming.

"There are players there with more than 100 caps and that can really bring you on; it was an amazing experience.

"We were obviously disappointed to lose that final game, it was always going to be a big match and we didn't

get the result on the day.

"There's a summer tour coming up and I will be attending the training camps so we'll see what happens.

"I want to stay in the zone. I'm taking everything in and listening to what the coaches are saying so hopefully I can be part of it."

The Six Nations marked a successful international foray for the Army, who also saw Bdr Beth Dainton and Capt Gemma Rowland (both RA) representing Wales. ■

DOLPHINS DELIVER

» A DOMINANT display in the pack steered 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps to glory in a thrilling Army Premiership final.

The Marchwood-based soldiers outgunned their rivals from The Royal Welsh in rugby union's showpiece fixture as two tries from forward Pte James Peckham helped them to a 15-12 win.

Having lost last year's final the Welsh Warriors were staring at a heavy defeat as their rivals crossed three times in the opening 30 minutes to take firm control of the match.

A series of expertly dispatched penalties allowed the challengers to claw their way back into the contest but a lack of try-scoring opportunities saw them fall short as the final whistle sounded.





SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER.

You know the importance of looking ahead. Not only in your Service role but in your career. Whatever your role, wherever you are stationed, you can develop your career or your interests without disrupting your professional and personal commitments. So can your dependants.

All you need to do is take advantage of the special relationship between The Open University (OU) and the UK Armed Forces. Pick from over 600 OU and Open University Business School modules and make the most of the cost, flexibility and quality benefits on offer. More than 1,200 of the British Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy are already doing that.

For further information visit the OU Forces www.openuniversity.co.uk/soldier and ELCAS www.enhancedlearningcredits.com

BENEFITS.

LOW COST

The OU is ELC approved and you are eligible for support for your OU costs on most of our modules.

FLEXIBILITY

The OU is the UK's only university dedicated to distance learning. Our flexible materials let you work your studies around shifts and postings, even when on active duty. You can sit your exams overseas.

SUPPORT

The OU is world-renowned for the depth of support it offers to each and every student. You'll have a personal tutor to guide you through, and feedback on your studies.

QUALITY

The OU is ranked amongst the top UK universities for the quality of its teaching. An OU qualification is highly valued by employers. More than 30,000 sponsor their staff on our modules – including Airbus, BAE Systems, Deutsche Telekom, NHS, FirstGroup, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Pfizer, Rolls-Royce, Royal Bank of Scotland and Telefonica.

ADVANCE



CHALLENGE YOURSELF WITH TEAM SSAFA

Join teamSSAFA: walk, run or cycle for veterans, serving Forces and their families. Whatever your challenge it all makes a difference to our Armed Forces family.

TO FIND YOUR PERFECT CHALLENGE

Visit ssafa.org.uk/teamSSAFA

Call 020 7463 9297

Email teamssafa@ssafa.org.uk

ssafa
the
Armed Forces
charity



Resurgent Reds do the double

A SENSATIONAL debut from Rgr Ashley Robinson (2 R Irish, pictured) helped steer the Army to an historic double at the Inter-Services Table Tennis Championships in Aldershot.

The Reservist spearheaded a successful charge from the men's squad and with their achievements being matched by the women the Reds claimed both team titles for the first time in 33 years.

Robinson – a Northern Ireland international who has competed at the Commonwealth Games – also secured the singles', doubles'

and mixed doubles' crowns as the Royal Air Force's dominance of the sport was emphatically broken.

The pairing of Rev Nicola Frail (RAChD) and Cpl Hilary Greig (AMS) reigned supreme in the ladies' doubles, with the former teaming with Robinson in the mixed event.

"Ashley is an international player and he won everything," said Cpl Hannah Bacon (AGC (SPS)), secretary of Army Table Tennis.

"But to secure the double we needed everyone to do well. The Royal Engineers agreed to release one of our players

from a trade course, which was fantastic, and Capt Daisy Pelton (RE) stepped in to help the women.

"Everyone was buzzing with the win.

"We have just started to get the sport back on track; we are building a strong community and the team is getting better and better.

"The future is looking bright."



For more details visit the British Army Table Tennis page on Facebook or follow @Army_TTA on Twitter



» A HAT-TRICK from Army star Pte Sean Wooley (pictured) was the highlight of a commanding win for the Royal Logistic Corps in football's Woolwich Cup final. The winger was the standout performer in a 6-1 rout of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with fellow Service stars Cpl Calum Wilkinson and Pte Matt Glass also on target. An own goal contributed to the REME's downfall. "They had a couple of players missing but we did not want to dwell on that, it was about focusing on the task and doing our job," said victorious skipper Wilkinson.

SPORT SHORTS



Devizes delight

» ARMY canoeists dominated the water in the annual Devizes to Westminster race as they claimed the team title for a second successive year.

With 14 of its 15 crews completing the course the Service celebrated on a number of fronts, including victory over fierce rivals the Royal Marines.

Cpl Jay Amies and Pte Connor Jarrett (3 Para) claimed the trophy for the quickest Army pairing, while Sig Ella Murr (R Signals) and Pte Josh Barnes (165 P&M) were the third fastest mixed crew.



Oval awaits

» THE Royal Engineers will take on the Royal Artillery in a 50-over cricket match at Surrey's Kia Oval on May 20 as part of the corps' tercentenary celebrations.

Play starts at 1045 and admission to the ground is free.

For more details visit www.kiaoval.com

ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION YEOVILTON INTERNATIONAL

AIR DAY

SATURDAY 2 JULY 2016



A SPECTACULAR FAMILY DAY OUT!

SAVE WITH ADVANCE TICKETS

TICKET LINE 0330 100 3656

Advance Ticket Prices: Adult 16+ yrs £21 (£27), Child 5-15 yrs inc £7 (£14), Child U5 Free
Please quote 'NP' when booking.

BOOK NOW - www.royalnavy.mod.uk/yeovilton-airday



ROYAL ENGINEERS vs **ROYAL ARTILLERY**
TERCENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE MATCH

BEING CONTESTED AT THE
KIA OVAL

FREE ENTRY
FRIDAY 20th MAY 2016

GATES OPEN 1000HRS
MATCH STARTS AT 1045HRS

ONE DAY (50 OVERS) - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HOW DO YOU GET HERE?

BY RAIL
Take South West Trains to Vauxhall station which is a ten minute walk from the ground. The station is well connected with the rest of the network and is also within easy reach of the M25 and the M3 in Hampshire as well as from the Greater London area.

BY UNDERGROUND
Take the Northern Line to the Oval tube station. The main entrance to the ground is 100 metres from the station. The station is also a 10 minute walk from Vauxhall tube station which is on the Victoria line.

BY BUS
Route numbers 36, 385 and 456 stop outside the ground and other local services stop around the corner. The bus station is a 10 minute walk from the ground. 3, 59, 109, 133, 159, 333.

BY CAR
There is a pay and display car park at the ground. It is a 10 minute walk from the ground.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
THE KIA OVAL
SURREY COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
100 KIA OVAL
LONDON SE11 1NS
Tel 0844 375 1845 Web: www.kiaoval.com

ROYAL ARTILLERY CRICKET

ROYAL ENGINEERS CRICKET

THIS IS WHERE

I prepare for my future with an ELCAS approved learning provider

This is distance learning at Leicester, with over 25 years' experience delivering quality courses

Our expertise, wherever you are

If you're looking to retrain, upskill or start a new career, choose from over 50 varied and practical distance learning courses at the University of Leicester, including our internationally renowned MSc Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management.

Start your journey
e: dladvisers@le.ac.uk
www.le.ac.uk/thisiselcas



**UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER**

Allen sparkles on ring return

Inter-Services Boxing

Army 7
Royal Navy 2
Royal Air Force 0

A STUNNING victory for Cpl James Allen (REME) on his return to the ring was the highlight of a comprehensive title defence for the Army at the Inter-Services Boxing Championships.

The bantamweight star secured a unanimous verdict against Royal Air Force rival SAC Ricki Lyon in his first bout in almost two years.

Allen was a replacement for the injured LCpl Kyle Morrison (RLC) but showed no sign of ring rust as he produced a calculated display to claim the Reds' first win.

However, the overall contest was decided before a punch was even thrown as the other Services failed to match fighters in five weight categories, therefore surrendering a 5-0 deficit to the Army.

As a result, LCpl Shamim Khan (RLC), Gnr Ryan Fillingham (RA), LCpl Connor Vian (Para), LCpl Natty Ngwenya (Gren Gds) and team captain LCpl Chez Nihell (1 PWRR) all picked up walkover victories.

The disappointment failed to take the shine off Allen, who capped his performance with a storming second round in which he rocked his opponent with a brutal right.

"The plan was to make him miss and then connect with a right hand down the middle," Allen told *SoldierSport*.

"I felt a little nervous beforehand but once I was

in the ring it was great. It's okay doing it in training but it's what happens on the night that counts.

"I've been training the REME team and have been keeping myself fit with cross country. When you are coaching you are doing all the footwork and focusing on the tactical side of things so coming back wasn't hard.

"I had five weeks of training beforehand. I was able to get some good quality sparring and I came into the Army team for the ten-day build-up.

"The coaches have really bent over backwards for me and I got the win; it could have been really important had the Navy fielded more fighters."

Allen will now progress to the pre-quarter finals of the Amateur Boxing Association Championships, a competition he won in 2009.

The tournament will mark

his final action in the ring as he intends to return to coaching and officiating.

"I'm going there with no expectations," he explained. "I would like to get to the quarter finals and be in the top eight fighters in the country. That would represent a great season."

The Army's other win on the night came from the impressive LCpl John Marvin (1 PWRR), who produced an electrifying display against Mne Marley Abadom.

Having seized the upper hand in the second round the soldier capitalised on his advantage in the third, where he forced two standing counts to take the contest via a unanimous decision.

Elsewhere, LCpl Oliver Knight (1 RRF) and LCpl Chrissy Nealon (3 Rifles) suffered defeats as the Navy emerged with two wins. ■





Comeback star: Cpl Steph Wroe (REME) defeated Gemma Campbell to win an England Title Belt in Aldershot

Title belt softens injury blow

WELTERWEIGHT star Cpl Steph Wroe (REME) put a nine-month injury nightmare behind her as she claimed an England Title Belt on her ring return.

The soldier defeated Gemma Campbell, of the Luton Amateur Boxing Club, to secure the silverware and in the process became the first female to fight on the card at the Inter-Services Championships.

Wroe was diagnosed with a tear in her retina last year and an initial two-week layoff turned into an agonising nine months on the sidelines.

"I thought all the hard work and effort I had put into my boxing had come crashing down," she told *SoldierSport*.

"I had to deal with a lot of frustration as I was unable to spar. I had to be patient with my training and work round the injury.

"After that it was a case of focusing on getting better.

"But it was really hard. When you know you have a fight coming up you push yourself much harder, so staying motivated was tough."

Wroe had forced herself into the England set-up prior to the injury and is hoping to

return to the fold now her comeback is complete.

"I'm still in the team and they've been waiting for me to get the all clear," the Servicewoman explained.

"The Amateur Boxing Association Championships are my next focus. This was only my 13th bout and I'm still relatively new to the game.

"I need more experience and fights; that will come with time and training with England is great.

"But the Army set-up is also really good. The support we get from the coaches and each other is fantastic."

Guards dominate division

THE Welsh Guards proved to be a dominant force in the ring as they claimed the honours in the first Household Division boxing competition in more than 50 years.

Having seen their fighters reach six of the seven finals the team saw four members secure victories, with light heavyweight Gdsm Aled Thomas named overall champion.

The standard of boxing was particularly high, with the preliminary contests proving keenly fought affairs.

With a successful return to action complete attention will now turn to a key fixture in October, when the Household Division will do battle with The Parachute Regiment.

"We can only go from strength to strength," said organiser Capt Milton Butler (IG). "We want to use this as a platform to launch the careers of future Army boxers and to bring on our novices to a high level of sporting excellence."

SPORT SHORTS



Season starts

► ROWING ace Maj Heather Stanning (RA) has been named in the Team GB squad for the European Championships in Germany.

The officer will compete in the women's pair alongside Helen Glover and the duo will be looking to defend the title they won last year.

Stanning faces a busy season of international action, the highlight of which will be the Rio Olympics in August.

IN NUMBERS

12

The ranking achieved by race ace Sgt George Morrison (REME) in his class at the Somerset Stage Rally. He returns to action at the Manx National Rally this month



Picture: Sgt Rupert Fiere, RLC



CRYE PRECISION



MODIFY. MOBILISE.
EASILY TAILORED TO USER PREFERENCE



CUSTOM LIGHTWEIGHT HARDWARE
MAXIMISING USER COMFORT



DETACHABLE COMPONENTS
CHOOSE FROM AN EVER
EXPANDING CATALOGUE OF PRODUCTS

AVS™ RECCE CONFIGURATION



HIGHLY CONFIGURABLE
SWITCH LOADOUTS
TO SUIT YOUR MISSION



AVS™ BASE CONFIGURATION



AVS™ ASSAULT CONFIGURATION



AVS™ PLATE CARRIER CONFIGURATION

ADAPTIVE VEST SYSTEM™

The AVS™ is a revolutionary system that quickly configures as anything from a low-vis rig to a fully armored load-bearing vest—and everything in between. Changing calibers? Simply switch out your front mag panel. Switching loadouts? Quickly slide off your modular pouches without unweaving them. Shifting threats? Just add or remove armor panels without having to modify your gear load-out. Varying missions? Configure it as a load-bearing vest for recce work and switch right back to a fully-armored configuration with ease.

Attach packs, zip-on rear panels, SIKSS™ LOAD SUPPORTS, and many other accessories—the options are infinite.

LPA provides UK MoD specialist users, including military aircrews, with the world's finest combat equipment. Providing the best to the best. LPA supply equipment to UK MoD, Police and other government departments via a variety of contracts. Please email for more information: info@levelpeaks.com

LEVEL
PEAKS
ASSOCIATES

WWW.LEVELPEAKS.COM

WITH the UK coastline boasting fantastic opportunities for sea angling it is no surprise to learn that the Army's top fishing talent is embracing the challenges presented on our waters.

Split into two disciplines – shore and boat – the activity has attracted a nucleus of core participants over the years but as with any pursuit in the Service's sporting realm the quest for newcomers continues.

One of the highlights of the 2016 calendar – the Army Boat Fishing Championships – is now rapidly approaching and secretary SSgt Jim Mayor (RLC) believes such events are the perfect platform for those seeking an alternative to the mainstream.

"It is all about raising the profile of what we do," he told *SoldierSport*.

"Throughout the Army there are soldiers who have taken part in contact sports at unit, corps or Service level and have maybe picked up injuries.

"Boat fishing allows them to be representative again; it is not physical but there is that competitive element.

"I only started fishing four years ago. I played a lot of rugby but got injured too many times.

"I got involved through a friend of a friend and it snowballed from there.

"I was made secretary and then two years ago I became captain of the Army boat team.

"It is a sport that is easy to pick up and I've quickly progressed from being a total novice to someone who represents the Service. It is a brilliant set-up."

There is no shortage of action once the anglers hit the water as species range from bass, cod and pollock to bream, gurnard and ling.

The Army showdown will be held in Weymouth from July 12 to 15 and the top performers will go on to compete at the Inter-Services in September.

As with any military sport,

ANGLERS EMBRACE LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS

Service scene appeals for fresh blood to drive their sport forward





the rivalry between the Forces is fierce despite one side dominating the waters in recent times.

Mayor added: "The Royal Air Force are very good and have won the event for ten years running.

"They have three Welsh internationals and they fish at a very high level.

"That is why I need to get more interest in the Army scene – we want to break that stranglehold.

"The Inter-Services is very competitive. People may be less than truthful about what they are doing in a bid to put others off. It is the equivalent of a golfer saying they are using a five iron when they really have a seven. It is about gaining that extra edge.

"As soldiers it is something that is drilled into us from day one.

"We always want to be the best and compete at the highest level."

Newcomers will be pleased to learn that the cost of the initial tackle and equipment is not too expensive, with Mayor saying a basic set-up can range from £50 to £60.

However, participants need to cover the boat

hire fees each time they go to sea. The Army Angling Federation subsidises certain events but individuals also have to pay.

This factor restricts the number of fixtures available but there are no such problems for the discipline's shore fishermen.

Monthly matches are held all along the country's coastline, with groups in Germany and Northern Ireland also proving popular.

"Shore fishing is more about tactics," Mayor explained. "But for us we can only go to one place on a 25-foot boat. It is about doing the best you can to catch what is below the keel.

"It is almost primeval. We are going out to hopefully catch something for dinner. However, a lot of what we catch will not be killed and in shore matches there is a massive intention to keep the fish alive and return them to the environment."

As with every Service sport, sea fishing thrives on a competitive edge.

It may be a minority pursuit but with soldiers on the lookout for new ways to push themselves it could be featuring in the mainstream very soon. ■



JOIN
THE FOLD

» Newcomers are welcome to come and try the sport, with kit and equipment provided. However, they will have to contribute towards boat hire fees.

Places are still available for this season's Army Sea Boat Championships.

For details on the event and the sea boat discipline email SSgt Mayor via 165RL-232-SPSI@mod.uk

The Army Shore Championships will take place from October 17 to 21, with participants based at Napier Barracks at Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone.

For information on the contest and how to get involved in the discipline email WO2 Mark Burnett via SWS-MOR-S03G7-B@mod.uk

SPORT SHORTS



REME on top

Inter-Corps Women's Rugby

AGC 10
REME 15

REVENGE was also on the mind of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as they faced the Adjutant General's Corps in the ladies' final.

Their rivals triumphed in a high-scoring thriller last year but it was the REME who were celebrating after they secured a 15-10 win in their latest encounter.

With a host of Army players on show there was no shortage of quality and Cpl Carrie Roberts gave the challengers the lead.

The AGC fired a response through LCpl Maz Claasens before forward LCpl Chelsea Snead hit back.

Reds' winger Lt Leah Thompson restored parity with the try of the game but the REME were not to be outdone and it was left to the long-serving Sgt Rosie Haigh to seal the contest.



→ Team of the month

Royal Artillery Rugby Union Team



THE Royal Artillery completed an emphatic revenge mission over their rivals from the Royal Engineers to claim rugby union's Inter-Corps title.

Having lost 39-18 to the same opposition in last year's final the gunners turned the tables with a fifty try salvo that formed the bedrock of a 30-9 victory.

The challengers showed their intent from the first whistle when a strong surge from the forwards saw them rumble towards the try line but a stern rearguard action repelled the threat.

However, they didn't have to wait long to open their account. After winning possession at the lineout the defending champions seemed to be in control but Capt Luke Robinson seized the ball and charged through the lines to score.

The sappers edged their way into the contest through the boot of LCpl

James Dixon, who slotted two penalties from distance to put his side ahead.

But the gunners came roaring back with a lengthy spell of pressure that drew maximum reward when Sgt Ratu Nute crashed over.

Their opponents were dealt a further blow when Dixon was yellow carded for a deliberate knock-on and they were punished further as LBdr "Bola" Boladau rampaged forward to set the platform for Capt Ollie Davis to touch down.

Dixon converted from the tee in the early throes of the second half before Bdr Owain Davies stretched his team's advantage with a well-struck penalty.

The artillery landed a decisive blow in the 55th minute as Boladau released LBdr Pete Austin, who ghosted in under the posts, and they sealed the contest late on as the outstanding Robinson stole the ball at an engineers' scrum and raced to the line.

"The score flatters us a little bit but we are pleased to get one over them," Robinson said.

"It means a lot to us. We've had this group of players for a long time and it has always been a case of so near, yet so far but now we have finally got over the line."

"We aspire to do what the sappers have done in recent years and create a legacy of gunners rugby."



Inter-Corps Rugby Union Championship 2015/16

Royal Engineers 9
Royal Artillery 30



Audi



mazda



Mercedes-Benz



PEUGEOT



ŠKODA



HONDA



SEAT



HYUNDAI



CITROËN



Jeep



More Choice Bigger Savings

From Europe's Biggest
Military & Diplomatic Dealer

**Save up to 60%
off your next new
tax free vehicle**

Simply bring us
your 'best deal'
And we'll show you
a better one!

Featuring
The ALL New Audi A4

From Only

£18,395 Tax Free



WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM
German Freephone: 08001 800 560
Uk Phone: 01273 574000

Email: soldier@griffintaxfree.com

Pictures for illustration purposes only

Final word

We spoke to personnel from 3rd Regiment, Royal Military Police and the Jordanian Armed Forces about training together on Exercise Shamal Storm



Lt Katie Miller

This is the first time that I have worked with my own platoon on exercise in an interoperability role and, to be honest, I wasn't expecting a high standard from the Jordanian soldiers, but I was proved wrong – they were as good as us. I've definitely had my eyes opened to the fact that we can learn from foreign forces.



Cpl Andrew Misell

The nature of policing has changed with the times in that it involves a lot of new kit and we can now track things a lot easier with digital technology. Interoperability is a recent concept that we are kicking off with and working with the Jordanians has been good for gaining ideas on capturing personnel and close protection.



LCpl Aidan Grubb

It is always good to experience a different culture and to learn how to work with people from different religions and parts of the world. Locals will understand the nuances of their area and we can gain from that, so it is useful to practise doing that on exercise. Operating with troops from Jordan has made me more open-minded about other forces.



Brig Gen Mohammad Jaradat

As chief of staff of training for the Jordanian Army I think it is very good for us to work with the British and to promote strong ties between our nations. We have to operate together to have mutual understanding and a joint way of doing things as we face the global threat of terrorism.



SSgt Mike Christian

The quality of training and personal development has been more rigorous in recent years. Working with the Jordanians has shown them to be well trained and very forensically and tactically aware. There is always something to be gained from operating alongside another professional agency.



1st Lt Mufaq Mansour Al-Nowfali

I am very happy with the exchange of information between British and Jordanian forces. Day to day things change with our training methods and it was good to be learning. I love my job as a military police officer and the fact that it keeps my country safe.

Camelbak Motherlode Light Multicam

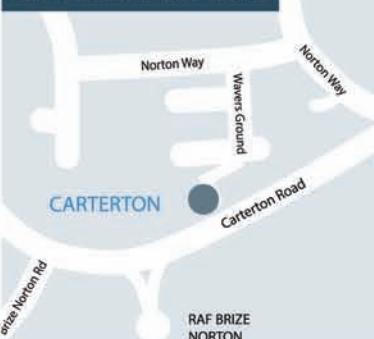
NOW BACK IN STOCK!



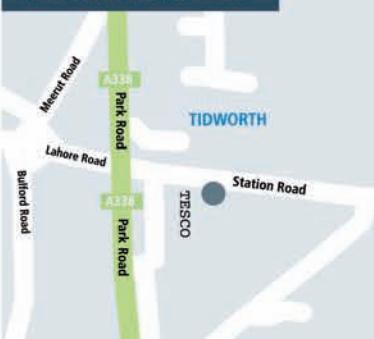
No.1 BEST SELLING
Day Sack in the UK

£139.95

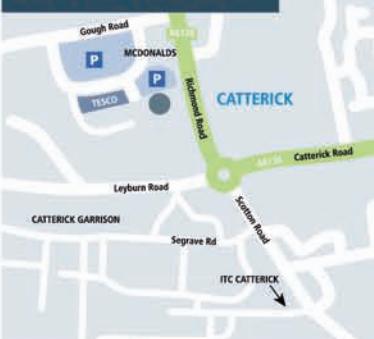
CARTERTON OX18 3YJ



TIDWORTH SP9 7PS



CATTERICK DL9 3EN



£224.95



£39.95



£149.95



Carinthia MIG 2.0
Multicam Jacket

from
£3.00



Disciple APCU Level V
Soft Shell Jacket

£19.95



£24.95



£9.95



£39.95



£17.95



£36.95



£4.95



£13.95

Visit us in store or call

08456 44 50 60

Gerber Warrant US Apache
Pilots Issue Tactical Knife

GSR Waterbottle Caps

HGH HMTC Camo Gaiters

Spring Suzuki Specials

Huge Spec, tiny prices. Visit our website for full car details



Suzuki Vitara 1.6 SZT (Nav)

£11,085

Tax Free

£12,490

UK-based

Suzuki SZL 1.2 (Nav) 3dr

£8,685

Tax Free

£9,750

UK-based



We represent the following marques, call us now to find out about our offers



Plus over 500 used cars in stock

emc forces
cars

0800 0157359
01323 739675
www.emcforcescars.com



05.16