

SOLDIER

BUILDING BLOCKS

Brits help stabilise emerging Afghan society

SNAP DECISION

Photographers promote picture-perfect trade

RIO'S ROAR

Exclusive interview with England World Cup skipper Ferdinand



INSIDE: ALL-TIME ARMY XI • GARY LINEKER • TOWNSHIP TOUR

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Chelsea hero and Three Lions' midfield man at the double



HISTORY MAKERS

Russia welcomes Welsh Guards to Moscow for colourful Red Square parade



SPIKE IN INTEREST

Sitting volleyball surges in popularity as wounded aim for London 2012



SOLDIER

Est 1945 – incorporating the
Territorial Army Magazine

Parsons House, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

All enquiries: Tel 01252 347353
(Ald Mii 94222 2353)

Fax: 01252 347358 (2358)

Email: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Managing Editor: Andrew Simms

EDITORIAL

Editor:

Stephen Tyler 01252 347356 (2356)

styler@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editor:

Joe Clapson 01252 347154 (2154)

jclapson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Sports Editor:

Richard Long 01252 347362 (2362)

rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Editorial Assistant:

Doreen Cadwallader 01252 347360 (2360)

dcadwallader@soldiermagazine.co.uk

DESIGN

Art Editor:

Tudor Morgan 01252 347169 (2169)

tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Graphic Designers:

Chris Sell 01252 355080 (8080)

csell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Kath Lee 01252 347361 (2361)

klee@soldiermagazine.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chief Photographer:

Mike Weston 01252 347357 (2357)

mweston@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Photographers:

Graeme Main 01252 347357 (2357)

gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Steve Dock 01252 347357 (2357)

sdock@soldiermagazine.co.uk

ARCHIVE

Archivist/Information Manager:

Ruth Kusionowicz 01252 355056 (8056)

rkusionowicz@soldiermagazine.co.uk

MARKETING and ADVERTISING

Business Manager:

Andy Clarkson 01252 347351 (2351)

aclarkson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Advertising:

Heather Shekyls 01252 347352 (2352)

hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions:

Stephen King 01252 347353 (2353)

sking@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Distribution:

Patricia Lampert 01252 347354 (2354)

plampert@soldiermagazine.co.uk



ARMY



WINNER

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence
and printed by St. Ives Roche Limited. Print
contract managed by CDS.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

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



“These matches may be good for hearts and minds, but they’re playing havoc with my fit-for-duty rate.”

● Away game – Pages 43-57

Rio’s sporting gesture

THEIR jobs may be worlds apart, but the language used to describe footballers during a World Cup becomes remarkably similar to that applied to soldiers.

Believe the press and Fabio Capello is not taking his side into a sports tournament in South Africa this month. Instead, he is leading his troops into a battle akin to Rorke’s Drift.

It does not stop there. Even the labels applied to certain positions – take the “midfield general”, for example – evoke a sense that this is a tournament of military importance.

But while the media works itself into a frenzy over the nation’s chances of ending the wait for football’s biggest prize, it is very comforting to know that England’s players are much more grounded in reality.

Take this month’s cover star Rio Ferdinand. The skipper may have had his indiscretions in the past, but he is leading by example in the build-up to this tournament by refusing to put himself and his teammates on a pedestal.

The Manchester United man’s sense of perspective extends to his awareness of the work of the men and women of the Armed Forces.

While he has millions of fans scrutinising his every kick each Saturday, Ferdinand told us that his job is a piece of cake compared to the role of today’s Service personnel (Pages 48-51).

He also revealed that the England squad will be thinking about the troops watching their performances in South Africa from Afghanistan and pledged to go that extra mile to try and put a smile on their faces.

The same is also true of double-winning Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard, who described Britain’s soldiers as “inspirational”

when we spoke to him (Pages 52-55).

The reasons for the stars’ praise are easy to find. Aside from the sacrifices being made on behalf of the nation in Afghanistan, Britain’s soldiers are a force for good around the globe – including in the very country where the World Cup is taking place.

A group of Army Physical Training Corps soldiers travelled to South Africa last month to put on a series of football coaching clinics for children in Durban’s townships (Pages 46-47).

As well as passing on their sporting expertise, the military team left the youngsters with a host of new kit and equipment to ensure they are able to put their new-found skills into practice.

The link between football and the military is no surprise given that some fairly illustrious British players donned an Army uniform at one time or another.

We asked our friends at *Football Punk* to come up with

the best eleven soldiering soccer stars and the list includes some big names (Page 57).

Stepping off the football pitch, this issue features the inspirational work of two groups striving to help Afghanistan rebuild its society.

We met the British-funded Stabilisation Unit which sends experts to Helmand province to provide advice on everything from countering the drugs trade to establishing a solid government (Pages 26-27).

And a charity set up by Army wives to help rebuild one school in Kabul has gone on to raise more than £200,000 for learning establishments across the country (Pages 28-29).

Inspirational stuff that makes it easy to see why Rio thinks the Army is grand. ■

‘It is very comforting to know that England’s players are much more grounded in reality’

Herrick troops' ten-mile test

SOLDIERS serving in southern Afghanistan put down their weapons to take part in a 30-year-old Services' road racing tradition.

The Bruggen Ten, which was first run in 1980 at RAF Bruggen, is held annually at Armed Forces bases around the world and personnel at Camp Bastion, Kabul, Lashkar Gah and Kandahar all joined in this year.

Four hundred and fifty people, including members of Germany-based 16 Signal Regiment, braved a 0530 start to take part in the event.

Race organiser WO1 Dave Wheeler said: "It was a huge success, bigger than we expected.

"The number of personnel that pitched up to show their support surprised everyone.

"We took photographs throughout the race and sent them back to our barracks at Elmt Station where they were printed out for our families to see before the German race."

The run at Camp Bastion took in sections of Bastion 1 and 2 and was won by US marine 1st Lt Adam Crandall. Capt Alex Hall (3 Med Regt) was the fastest female.

Entrants in the Bruggen Ten across Afghanistan helped raise more than 4,000 US dollars for BFBS's Big Salute and a Kabul charity that runs three orphanages in the Afghan capital.

Lt Col Andrew Fallons, commanding officer of 16 Signal Regiment, said: "The money we have raised so far will make a real difference. Children here have a very hard life in comparison to our western expectations so the young soldiers and officers hope the project will become a flagship."



Picture: Cpl Dave Blackburn, RAF

Nad-e-Ali votes for change

SENIOR figures in Helmand have made history after taking part in a successful ballot to elect a new regional council.

More than 600 elders had their say about the make-up of the 45-strong Nad-e-Ali community council during the democratic process in the district governor's compound.

The elections were previously attempted in early 2009, but a shura attended by candidates, voters and elders was disrupted by widespread violence and intimidation.

Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team supported the ballot and governance adviser Derek Griffiths was pleased with the outcome.

He said: "This election clearly demonstrates the willingness and enthusiasm of the local nationals across the whole district to get involved in the democratic debate.

"The security situation last year would have made what has happened today unthinkable."

The fact that the elections were able to go ahead was largely thanks to the security generated by Op Moshtarak, which drove the Taliban out of many of their Helmand strongholds.

The improved freedom of movement

for civilians along key transport routes has allowed the economy to flourish and saw more than 3,600 people attend pre-election shuras throughout Nad-e-Ali District.

The shuras, which took place in areas classified as insecure less than one year ago, allowed elders to discuss and nominate candidates for each of the 18 electoral zones.

Haji Abdul Sattar, deputy governor of Helmand province, said he was happy to see so many people exercising their right to vote.

He added: "It is important that you nominate senior, loyal and democratic people to represent you.

"This is a clear demonstration that locals can take decisions for their future. This is democracy; we have struggled for more than three decades for this system."

The election also saw the first time that residents of Nad-e-Ali's "desert zone" received representation, with seven candidates on the council raising concerns at a district level.

Because of the remote nature of the zone, previous candidates had been intimidated by insurgents.

Nad-e-Ali joins Gereshk, Nowa and Garmsir in forming district councils.

30 THE AMOUNT OF VEHICLES JJ, A FOUR-YEAR-OLD SPRINGER SPANIEL, CAN SEARCH IN A DAY WHILE ON DUTY IN KABUL. JJ IS HANDLED BY PTE LAURA FOXTON OF THE ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

Coalition must top opinion polls

ACHIEVING success in Afghanistan will only be possible by changing the nation's perception of the coalition, according to the head of the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf).

Speaking to reporters at the Pentagon, Gen Stanley McChrystal said that although missions like Op Moshtarak had made significant gains, winning over the entire population would take more time.

"Ten months ago, we began a series of operations into Taliban-controlled parts of the central Helmand River valley, expanding the Afghan government's influence in key areas," he said.

"There has been considerable progress in security and governance, but, as is expected in counter-insurgency, progress is often slow and deliberate."

The senior officer, who is also the head of the United States military

presence in Afghanistan, added that although their capability still has room for improvement, the Afghan National Security Forces would play an important role in the future of their country.

"While both the army and police have demonstrated considerable growth, significant challenges remain," he explained. "The bottom line is there is much more work ahead to mature the Afghan security forces."

With governance starting to take hold across Helmand province, Gen McChrystal urged the country's new generation of politicians to work hard to convince the population of their motives.

"It's a government of Afghanistan challenge, with our help," he said.

"They must convince the people they have the capability to deliver and then the political will to follow through."



LT Nick Landon (RDG) shows an Afghan child his rifle during a patrol near the village of Gorup-e-Shesh Kalay. The junior officer and his cavalry comrades have been protecting and rebuilding the village, which was an insurgent stronghold, in the wake of Op Moshtarak. He said: "Now that the International Security Assistance Force is showing that we can clear the Taliban, and once [they] have gone we can bring reconstruction and development, we're finding that locals are coming to the patrol base for assistance."

Scots sniff out explosive threat

AN Army platoon serving in the Sangin valley has been praised after finding and disposing of a series of explosive devices during a routine patrol.

Soldiers from C Company, 1 Scots, who are working as advisers to the Afghan National Army (ANA), uncovered the IEDs during a joint mission with their students.

Platoon commander Lt David Dufus explained: "The area we were going into had been the scene of lots of shooting so we were even more alert than we usually are. The second [device] was

spotted by the ANA – they were a bit suspicious of it and went forward with one of my lads and it came up positive."

As well as patrolling with their Afghan colleagues, personnel from 1 Scots have been living alongside them to pass on their top-class battlefield and logistic skills.

"Our main drive is to leave Afghan National Security Forces which are more capable and have more capacity to take responsibility for the security of this nation," added officer commanding Maj Richard Forsyth.

Afghan forces gain British praise

A COLDSTREAM Guards officer in Afghanistan has praised the growing professionalism of the Afghan National Security Forces.

Lt Robert Hanking Evans (1 Coldm Gds) has been working alongside the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) in the Malgir region of Helmand province.

He said that the respect both groups command among the local population has allowed strong relationships to be

developed between villagers and the International Security Assistance Force.

He added: "We interact with the ANA and ANP very well. They're very useful assets in terms of being able to read the local population.

"The ANP are local and live about one kilometre from the location where they are based so they know if there is anyone new in the area who shouldn't be there.

"The ANA have the benefit of being seen by the locals as impartial."

NEWS IN BRIEF

A SENIOR NCO is tackling a 96-mile cross-country race to raise money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Sgt Don Campbell (RA), a veteran of Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, has been selected to enter the invitation-only West Highland Way Race, which follows a course from Glasgow to Fort William.

Sgt Campbell said: "The training I've had in the Army puts me in a great position to really give the competition a good run for their money."

To sponsor the Army man, log on to www.justgiving.com/remember-them

GURKHA soldiers in Afghanistan have been boosted by the introduction of a Nepali-language television channel.

British Forces Broadcasting Service has run a Nepali radio station since the 1970s, but this is the first time a TV channel has been put on the air.

Spokesman Nick Pollard said: "We know how important our TV channels are for morale on operations and now we can extend this morale-boosting service to this vital part of the British Army."

Troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles are currently deployed to Nahr-e-Saraj in southern Afghanistan.



0900125 Morello Futura 2000 Bulling Polish £7.95 SP153 Shock Stopper Double Strike £18.99 736159 Bridgedale Trekker Endurance Sock £12.99 AB71 Magnum Elite Spider 8.0 £87.95 LL13 Lova Urban GTX £139.95 AB67 Alt-Berg Warrior £139.95 LL04 Lova Combat GTX £159.95 AB63 Magnum Stealth Force Leather £79.95 AB73 Magnum Stealth Force Side Zip £79.95 LL16 Lova Desert Elite £129.95 AB76 Magnum Scorpion Desert £79.95



TAS-ID-CT PLCE ID/ Admin Pouch £9.95 LUJP Large Union Flag Patch £1.95 AE99G British Forces Velcro Zap Badges £8.95 VBAB British Army UBACS Badge £3.85 TLRD Luminous Blood Group Patches £5.99 VRC Red Cross UBACS Badge £3.85 VRST Other Ranks UBACS Rank Badges £2.55 VROT Officers UBACS Rank Badges £2.55 GAP Allergy Patches £1.95



BGP Blood Group Patches £1.95 AE103 Multicam Rank Slides £4.25 CA014 BCB Deployment Bag 110 Litre £59.99 CB02MULT Camelbak Thermobak Multicam 3L £69.95 CR181C Camelbak Motherlode £99.95 JAC005 Pro-Force Griffin Reversible Jacket, Olive/Black £49.99 JAC007 Pro-Force Griffin Reversible Jacket, Olive/DPM £49.99



TOR114 Red Cobra LED Torch £8.95 8403 LED Lenser P3 £14.99 TOR110 Mira Tactical Headlamp £9.99 VAN3028 Frog Sheath £8.95 BC45M Crusader Cooking Set £22.95 12180 Travel Mug £6.45 SWW-5983 Paratrooper Watch £39.95 SWW-167 Pilot Watch £36.99 CK01 IED Awareness Playing Cards £4.99 HL101 Combat Helmet Liners £17.95 CB220DPM UBACS Shirt £34.99 AA74 SAND Shemagh £7.95

Magnum Panther 8.0

A brilliant fieldcraft boot for a brilliant price the Magnum Panther is lightweight yet sturdy.

Ergonomically designed the boot is manufactured from an action leather upper with 900 denier nylon side panels for excellent breathability.

Tested and certified to European Standard EN 20347:2004 for occupational footwear and featuring a high traction slip resistant outsole.

Available in UK foot sizes 4 to 14.
Colour: Black.

AB77
ONLY
£49.95



BACK IN THE NETS

Service stars have returned to the crease for an action-packed season that includes a return to the home of cricket. The team's manager and captain gave *SoldierSport* the view from the middle

Interviews: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

ARMY cricketers will be returning to Lord's this summer as the Twenty20 revolution takes its grip on the Inter-Services competition.

The showdown at the world famous venue will be the pinnacle of a hectic season for the squad, who also face tough fixtures against second XI teams from Kent and Derbyshire as well as a challenge match with an invitational side from Durham.

Preparations for the new campaign are now well under way and manager Lt Col Phil King (RLC) told *SoldierSport* there was one clear objective for the coming months.

"The benchmark of our success is to win the Inter-Services competitions," he said. "Previously we have just had the 50-over format but now we have the Twenty20 at Lord's, we want to win them both.

"It does not matter if you are in the development squad or the full team, the aim is to win."

King was quick to highlight his expectations at a pre-season training camp, where the players were drilled in the technical, tactical and mental aspects of the game with a clear focus on the skills needed for success in the shortened format.

With the background work complete attention now turns to matters on the

pitch and the players can expect to spend some serious time out in the middle this summer.

"It is a fast and furious season," the manager explained. "There is an awful lot of cricket to play and our fixtures are about building momentum.

"Up to July we want to give as many players as possible an opportunity so we can see if they have the potential to make the development team or the full Army side.

"Then we will start to narrow the squad down in preparation for the Inter-Services competition.

"On the whole it will largely be the same as last year and we have a nice blend of youth and experience.

"We have got some new players coming through and that bodes well for the future."

The 2010 season has also seen the appointment of a new captain with Maj Alex Senneck (R Signals) replacing James Fulton, who ended his Army cricket career following last year's Inter-Services win at Lord's.

"Fulton was an outstanding leader," King explained. "Senneck has played for the second XI at Surrey and top grade club cricket as well so he is the perfect replacement.

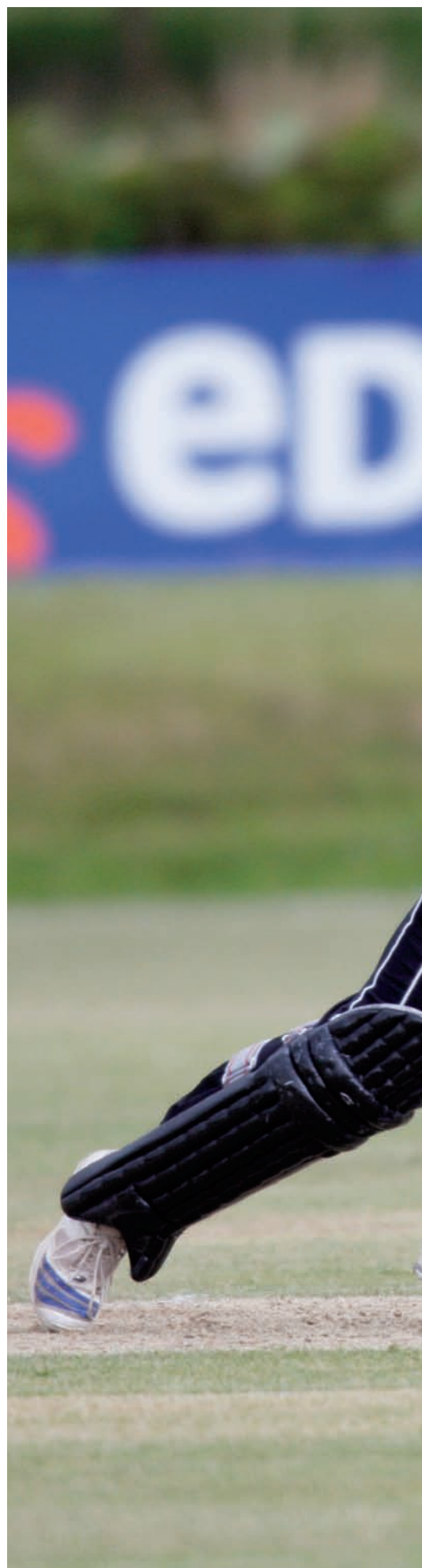
"He leads by example. He opens the bowling and is a top-class batter as well. I have worked with him for a number of years and we have a great relationship."

The new skipper has been pleased

ARMY 1ST XI CRICKET FIXTURES 2010

Men: June 15, Civil Service (Aldershot); 17, Huntingdonshire (Godmanchester); 22, British Police (Aldershot). July 5, Free Foresters (Aldershot); 6, Kent 2nd XI (Aldershot); 19, Derbyshire 2nd XI (Denby); 21, NUSC (Richmond); 22, NUSC Twenty20 (Richmond); 27, Combined Services Twenty20 (Lord's); 29, Stock Exchange (Aldershot). August 4, Royal Air Force (Portsmouth); 5, Royal Navy (Portsmouth).

Women: June 3, Oxford University (Shrivenham); 5, Wiltshire (Tidworth); 17, Combined Services Twenty20 (Portsmouth); 29, Cambridge University (Cambridge); 30, Royal New Zealand Air Force (Aldershot). July 3, Orpington (Aldershot); 7, MCC (Aldershot); 10, Reading (Aldershot); 13, Royal Navy (Aldershot); 15, Royal Air Force (Aldershot). August 10, CS vs Somerset (Aldershot); 12, CS vs MCC (Aldershot).





“THE BENCHMARK OF OUR SUCCESS IS TO WIN THE INTER-SERVICES COMPETITIONS”

– LT COL PHIL KING, RLC



with what he has seen so far and was delighted to see 23 players attend pre-season training in Aldershot.

“I have been very impressed by the turnout and level of commitment from the guys,” he said. “It all looks very favourable for the coming season.

“We want to win the Twenty20 and the main Inter-Services competition.

“Lord’s is an outstanding opportunity. I am looking forward to performing in front of a decent crowd and walking away with a victory.

“It is a huge honour to be asked to captain the side and I had no hesitation in accepting.

“I have been really impressed by the guys who have come along. A couple were there or thereabouts last season and they are shaping up to be in the mix this year.”

The opening fixture of the season saw the Army lose against a strong Hampshire second XI at Aldershot. The visitors posted an imposing total of 240-5 with the hosts struggling to 174 all out in reply.

The side travels to Lord’s for the Inter-Services Twenty20 contest on July 27 and they face their Forces rivals again in early August when they hope to extend their winning run in the 50-over competition.

● To follow the progress of the Army squad visit www.armycricket.com ■

Clockwise from left, Big hitter: Sgt Ian Dixon (REME) plays a cut shot on the way to a knock of 40 against Hampshire 2nd XI at Aldershot; **All-rounder:** Dixon also excelled with the ball, returning impressive figures of 3-33; **Safe hands:** Wicketkeeper Sgt Stu Houghton (R Signals) keeps a close eye on a Hampshire batsman

FARNBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

an evening with NORMAN HUNTER

Thursday 10th June 2010

Venue: The Dugout Bar, Farnborough Football Club

Time: 7.30pm for 8pm Carriages: 1am

Dress Code: Lounge Suit

Norman "Two Yer Legs" Hunter played a remarkable 724 times for Leeds United, scoring 21 goals in career which spanned 22 years. He also played for Burnley and Bristol City. He went on to play 28 times for England and was a squad member of the famous 66 World Cup winning squad.

Norman and the great Jack Charlton were a defensive partnership that clearly laid the foundations of what was to be a great Leeds United era at the late 60s and early 70s under Don Revie. In 1998, The Football League to celebrate their centenary produced The Football League 100 Legends, of which Norman was inducted into. A hugely popular figure on the after dinner circuit, come and enjoy some of the anecdotes and stories of a footballing great.

We are delighted to welcome Russ Williams as our MC and Comedian for the evening.

Russ Williams is a superb act with nearly 20 years experience as an entertainer. Known by many as The Blue Eyed Boy of Comedy, he has made his mark by appearing as a supporting act with countless major stars including Freddie Starr, Jethro, Joe Longthorne and Engelbert Humperdinck at some of the most prestigious venues in the world including The London Palladium.

Tickets are priced at (VAT inc):

Individual - £45
Standard (Table of 6) - £250.00
Platinum (Table of 10) - £400.00

For any enquiries contact Steve Daly at
steve.daly@farnboroughfc.co.uk
or call 07922 666621



Been given any unexpected GIFTS lately?



Most people don't even know they're infected with Chlamydia.

A simple free test is available at your Medical Centre or GU Clinic.

**HANDS ON SURVIVAL
USE A CONDOM**



SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

FREE BINDER FOR ALL NEW SUBSCRIBERS



SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

UNITED KINGDOM

12 ISSUES £ 23.00
24 ISSUES £ 40.00

OVERSEAS

12 ISSUES £ 47.00

BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE

12 ISSUES £ 13.80

Personal details

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Start my subscription with the issue

I would like to subscribe for: ☐ One year ☐ Two years

I enclose a cheque/ PO payable to **SOLDIER** for

Return to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

Order hotline:
01252 347353 or online
at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Ice warriors: Military stars will go head-to-head in the tri-Service competition in Sheffield this month

Services set for face-off

B RITISH summers are often criticised for being cold and miserable but the weather rarely reaches the temperatures needed for winter sports.

But this month the Army will make its way to Yorkshire for the tri-Service ice hockey championships, an event that will showcase the talents of one of the military's rapidly emerging sports.

The RLC Chiefs, AAC Hawks, REME Stallions and Army All-Stars will be in action at the four-day competition before the Service teams square off for bragging rights on the ice.

"This is a sport that is all about physicality, controlled aggression, teamwork and fitness," REME Stallions chairman Lt Col John Edwards told *SoldierSport*.

"These are great characteristics for our soldiers. The sport is being driven at Army level and the corps are pushing more teams so the standard is constantly improving."

And with the level of performance on the rise, there is no shortage of commitment among the ranks.

The RLC and REME teams take to the ice for training at 2230 every Sunday in Bracknell and many make huge sacrifices to play.

"The commitment and dedication these guys continue to show is massive," Edwards said. "A lot of these players travel a long way and they have to go to

work the next day. It is at an unsocial time but they understand that."

The REME squad has been the main force in Army ice hockey but the RLC is working hard to close the gap.

"We have got a die-hard squad of about 30 at the moment and we are always keen to bring new players in," said manager Capt Readford Geddes.

"But in line with all military units we are being hit on the operational side of things and it is difficult to get guys released so they can play the game."

As well as training regularly each week, the teams play a host of matches against local recreational sides while the Army squad frequently takes on

challengers from the English semi-professional ranks.

The tri-Service competition will see 17 teams in action before the Army play the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

RLC player coach WO2 Sammy Samuel said: "The standard has been raised dramatically and this year it will be a hard and challenging competition."

"The Army will be going all out to beat the Navy – last year we were second and we want to go one better."

The tri-Service championship will be held at Sheffield Ice Arena from Tuesday, June 8 to Friday, June 11.

Anyone interested in taking part in the sport – regardless of cap badge or experience – should contact Capt Geddes on 94674 8675. ■

‘The commitment and dedication these guys continue to show is massive’

SPORT SHORTS

ARMY endurance athletes tested themselves to the limit by competing in "the toughest foot race on earth".

The Marathon des Sables covers the extreme terrain and heat of the Sahara Desert as competitors run 156 miles in just seven days in temperatures of more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Lt Tom Sawyer, part of 1 Mechanised Brigade in Tidworth, finished 124th out of 1,013 runners and was 15th among the 250 British competitors.

The 26-year-old was competing alongside Royal Navy doctor Vijay Ahuja and they hope to raise £40,000 for Help for Heroes and Facing Africa, a charity supporting children with infections.

Maj Drew Craig (RE) also completed the challenge and raised around £5,000 for Help for Heroes and The Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research.

ALPINE mountaineers are being encouraged to travel to the Swiss Alps this summer for a two-week adventurous training expedition.

The Joint Service Alpine Meet will take place in the Valais Alps from July 16 to August 1 and is open to all members of the respective Service mountaineering associations.

Those taking part will have the opportunity to obtain training and instructor qualifications and there will be a chance for club members to gain logbook experience.

For more information contact WO2 M Morris on 95581 7905 or 01248 718305.

THE Army kabaddi team suffered a 34-21 defeat against the Italian national side at the Vaishakh Festival in Birmingham.

With the Service players facing experienced opposition they found themselves trailing at the interval.

But a spirited showing in the second period helped reduce the deficit in what proved to be a highly-entertaining match.

PLAYERS from 4 Logistic Support Regiment tasted victory in the Army unit volleyball finals at Tidworth.

The Abingdon-based soldiers defeated the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) 2-1 in a close final.

All units are being urged to take part in next year's competition. For more information email Sgt Chris Teogh at christeoh77@yahoo.co.uk

FIRST-class cricket clubs are offering more than 20,000 free tickets to Service personnel this summer as part of the new Wickets for Troops scheme.

The offer includes admission to domestic Twenty20, 40-over and county championship matches as well as the test series and one-day internationals.

For more information, visit www.ticketsfortroops.org.uk

SPORT SHORTS

FIGHTERS from the London District TA and Army Boxing Club have donated more than £60,000 to charity following a successful fund-raising event at Whitehall Palace.

The charity dinner brought officers from all three Services and city business people together for an evening of military entertainment and quality boxing at the venue's banqueting hall.

A number of good causes have benefited from the event including Help for Heroes, The Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.

FISHING fans are being invited to take part in the Royal Logistic Corps Angling Championships, which take place on July 8 and 9 at the Portland Water Fishery, near Newark. More information is available by calling SSgt Boris Kilner on 0115 9573236.

THE Help For Heroes 4x4 European Rally will be embarking on a 1,800-mile expedition across Europe when it leaves Wiltshire later this month.

Entrants will be following the path of the Allied invasion, which landed in France on June 6, 1944, as they try to raise more than £30,000 for the charity.

Serving and ex-military personnel will be among the 45-vehicle party who hope to complete the route in ten days.

RUGBY players from 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have been celebrating success in the British Army Germany inter-unit sevens competition.

The A team enjoyed a 43-12 win over the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion in the final while the 1 PWRR B team won the plate competition.

A close ladies final saw 1 Med Regt beat 1 LSR 29-10.

Cream of the crop commended

TOP Service athletes saw their achievements over the past year rewarded at the inaugural Army Sports Awards at MoD Main Building.

The ceremony saw elite sportsmen and women honoured in four categories with Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir David Richards presenting the awards.

Boxing sensation LCpl Martin Stead (RLC) was named Sportsman of the Year following some inspired showings for the Army and his country.

The lightweight fighter was crowned Amateur Boxing Association champion for the second successive year in 2009 and won a silver medal on his tournament debut for Great Britain.

"It is another great award to win and to be the first person to pick this up is a real honour," a delighted Stead told *SoldierSport*. "I cannot thank my unit enough for letting me have the time off. If they were not behind me I would not be here. I owe them a lot.

"With the Army I am training at one of the best gyms in Britain and I can only see things getting better."

England Rugby Union star LCpl Jane Leonard (RE) won the award for Sportswoman of the Year after she helped the England sevens team to victory in the European championships.

She is also part of the England elite squad preparing for this year's World Cup and has been a regular for both the Army and Combined Services teams.

The hard work and dedication of WO1 Jon Purvey (AGC) was also acknowledged as he took the sports official prize.

His commitment to badminton, both for the Services and his country, has been outstanding and his work as an



Picture: Graeme Main

● LCpl Jane Leonard (RE) shows off her award

official was recently rewarded when he was selected as a European umpire.

Completing the list of winners was the Army canopy piloting team.

The six-man squad produced consistently-high performances in their sport, which included a strong showing at the World Cup in South Africa.

Speaking to *SoldierSport* after collecting the team award, canopy ace Cpl Deane Smith (RE) said: "Everyone has been away on tour so to come back safely and compete is amazing.

"We devote all our spare time to the discipline. To be involved in the World Cup was a real challenge, we were 5,000 feet above sea level and were reaching speeds in excess of 100mph. It was a huge honour." ■

Army boxing future bright as novices shine

THE Service boxing season culminated in spectacular style with a thrilling night of ring action in the individual championships.

Athletes from units based around the world converged on Aldershot's Maida Gymnasium for the contest, which features the best up-and-coming fighters in the Army.

Speaking after the two-day event, Army head coach Sgt Tony Davis (APTC) told *SoldierSport* that the standard of boxing throughout the tournament had been outstanding.

"It was the first time I have seen that level of boxing in this event," he said. "They were skilful contests and there were no handbags at dawn – everyone who went in the ring tried to box."

Davis added that the contest

reflected the increasing standard of boxing at all levels in the Army.

"It's on the up-and-up from grassroots level and that can only be a good thing for the future," he explained. "I'm involved in running coaching courses and you can see

the quality is improving all the time which has to be a good thing for the long term.

"Hopefully over time we will see some of these guys coming through the system and trying to eclipse the likes of LCpl Martin Stead." ■

ARMY INDIVIDUAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

51kg: LCpl S Teale (27 Eng Regt) beat Kgn Starkey (2 Lances), disqualification;
54kg: Gnr S King (7 Para RHA) beat Spr Truslove (38 Eng Regt) 9-1 on points;
57kg: Pte Allen (3 Para) beat Spr S McCarten (1 RSME), fight stopped in third round;
60kg: Spr J Pritchard (23 Eng Regt) beat Fus A Salem (1 RRF) 7-4 on points;
64kg: Hldr Ashton (4 Scots) beat LCpl F Morris (DHU) by knockout;

69kg: Spr B Platt (25 Eng Regt) beat Kgn S Carmichael 10-5 on points;
71kg: Spr Barry (27 Eng Regt) beat LCpl Dickens (36 Eng Regt) 9-1 on points;
75kg: Spr D Wilson (24 Cdo) beat Spr Leigh (1 RSME) 6-5 on points;
81kg: Rfn R Popplewell (5 Rifles) beat Spr Bennison (101 Eng Regt) 10-4 on points;
86kg: LCpl A Mansfield (1 PWRR) beat Spr Parry 8-1 (RE) on points.

Martin highlights 'Steady' progress

BOXING star LCpl Martin Stead (RLC) continued his winning run at the sport's national amateur championships during a mixed night for Service athletes.

The newly-crowned Army Sportsman of the Year cantered to victory against Gary Reay in the 60kg division at the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) finals at London's York Hall.

Stead was one of a record four Army boxers to make the finals and although Cpl James Allen (REME), Spr Adam Whitfield (RE) and Rfn Izonritei (Rifles) all lost, head coach Sgt Tony Davis (APTC) praised their achievements.

"To get four boxers to the finals is the best the Army has ever done and it is a tremendous feat in my first year as coach," he said. "It caps a great year in which we trounced the Navy in the Combined Services and had nine boxers in the quarter finals of the ABAs so I'm very proud of the guys."

Royal Engineer Whitfield was first into the ring but the team captain failed to find his rhythm and was outboxed by his 51kg opponent Paul Butler.

"Adam's opponent had that little bit more than him on the night," said Davis. "Of course he was disappointed, but he will come back strong."

Cpl James Allen suffered a similar fate in the 54kg division where he faced James Dickens from Liverpool.

The NCO had beaten Dickens at a club show in February, but failed to reproduce his best form as he crashed to a disappointing 17-4 defeat.

Things improved for the Service soon afterwards as Stead stepped into

the ring looking to win the lightweight competition for the third year in a row.

The military man beat Reay on points to win his first ABA title in 2008 and he again proved too strong as he marched to a comprehensive victory.

It capped a great 12 months in which Stead won the Army and Combined Services Sportsman of the Year awards and Davis has pressed the case for him to become a regular international.

"We had done a video analysis of his opponent and knew we had a good plan which Martin stuck to," explained Davis. "To be honest, he didn't even get out of second gear."

"He deserves to go to the Commonwealth Games – he has been in the sport for a long time and is a fantastic trainer."

The final Army involvement of the night came in the heavyweight division where powerful Izonritei squared up to Scarborough's Danny Price.

The rifleman entered the bout having stopped all five of his previous opponents, but a slow start cost him as he failed to win on his ABA finals debut.

Despite the defeat, Davis singled Izonritei out as a huge talent who has added strength to a previously-weak Army heavyweight section.

The coach brought him into the fold after he had just completed an Op Herrick tour during which he was twice casevaced from the battlefield.

"When I first came into the job, the biggest thing was retaining

the Combined Services title and I concentrated on thinking who I could put in at each weight," continued Davis. "Emmanuel was in Afghanistan when I came in, so I got in touch with his unit and got him over here. He has had a gleaming run and stopped all five people he boxed before the final."

"On the night he didn't seem himself, but when you look at what he has achieved it's phenomenal."

With just a handful of shows remaining before the end of his first year as coach, Davis is justifiably proud of his team's success.

The former England international has brought sports scientists from Essex University and specialist sports masseurs on board to add further gloss to Army boxing's

professional set-up.

And with the Service squad now boasting more ABA finalists than any other club in the land, he is confident the success will continue into the future.

"I've got excellent guys and I know how to get the best out of them. We go to shows now and it's busier than I have ever experienced before."

"The other boxers and coaches see that we are turning out four guys at the ABA finals and think it's fantastic." ■

'I've got excellent guys and I know how to get the best out of them'

Fantastic four: The Army's record-breaking ABA finalists, from left, Cpl James Allen (REME), Spr Adam Whitfield (RE), Rfn Emmanuel Izonritei (Rifles) and LCpl Martin Stead (RLC) Picture: Graeme Main

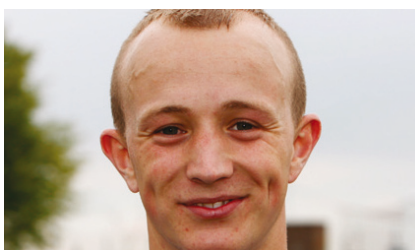


final word



With World Cup fever gripping the country, we asked Army footballers and coaching staff for their predictions ahead of the big kick-off

INTERVIEWS: RICHARD LONG
PICTURES: GRAEME MAIN



Sig Sam Agar (R Signals)

I am a patriot so I have to say England will do well in South Africa. I think they will make the final. Hopefully Rooney will be fully fit when the tournament starts, as his form has been second-to-none. Lennon and Walcott also deserve a chance as they have played well this season and their pace is frightening. I think they could really hurt the opposition.



SSgt John Stephenson (R Signals)

I think England will be ok. They could get to the semi-finals, but it all depends on the fitness of Rooney. Lennon could also play a crucial part. However, I believe Spain will win as they have great strength in depth. I will be on pre-deployment training for the first three weeks of the tournament so hopefully England will still be in at the semi-final stage and I can see them play.



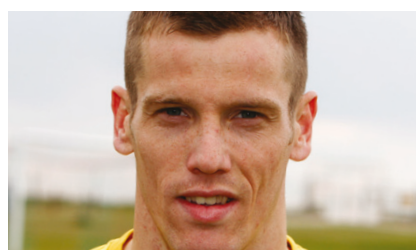
LCpl Jason Bates (R Signals)

Spain will be very strong and I see them as the overall winners. Brazil will also do well. They both have quality throughout the team and they have players on the bench who can win games. England need to keep people fit and I think Walcott could do well. I will be on ceremonial duties during the World Cup but hopefully we will have time to watch the games.



LCpl Kevin Cameron (R Signals)

I was hoping Wales might be there but unfortunately we did not qualify. I think Spain will win, but Argentina could be the dark horses and if Tevez, Messi and Mascherano perform they will do well. England choke every time but they will get out of the group stages. I will be on pre-deployment training so will miss the majority of the games. I love watching football but it has to be done.



Bdr Christian Holliday (RA)

England will get to the semi-finals but I do not think we are strong enough. A lot will depend on the goalkeeper and hopefully we will go with Hart. If King plays we may have a chance as he would work well with Ferdinand. Holland and Argentina are the teams to watch. The Dutch are just so fast and while Argentina struggled to qualify, they have great players like Messi and Tevez.



Gnr Ryan Kane (RA)

I am tipping Spain to win. They are an amazing team with great players and will be very hard to beat, just like at Euro 2008. I would like to see England do well and they will probably make it to the semi-finals, but they do not play as a team and that will go against them. The Ivory Coast could be an outside bet, they have Drogba and will be tough to beat.



LBdr Brid Thompson (RA)

I have always said Spain will win – they have a quality team and Torres will have a big impact. I would love to see England go all the way but I think they will be beaten in the semi-finals. It has always been a case of getting so far and then not doing very well in the later stages. Argentina could do well, they have a quality team as well as some real match-winners.



Capt Richie Bell (R Signals)

I think Brazil will be there or thereabouts and Germany always do well. Spain are flying but it is well within England's grasp if they play to their potential. However, it will be a penalty shoot-out with the Germans in the semi-final and we will lose. Dawson has been fantastic all season and he deserves a chance while Walcott could be a real impact player.



HANWAG SPECIAL FORCES

A high quality Gore-Tex lined technical combat boot.

(1) GTX BOOTS	Z620	£159.99
(2) LX BOOTS	Z621	£149.99



BATES BOOTS

(1) Bates Falcon Boots	SB242	£79.80
(2) Bates Ultra Lite GX-8	SB247	£109.60



MAGNUM ELITE SPIDER

(1) Sand	SB260DE	£77.80
(2) Black	SB260BK	£77.80



DEFCON VEST

DPM VG185DPM	DESERT DPM VG185DES	£129.80
--------------	---------------------	---------



VANGUARD PEGASUS AIRBORNE WEBBING

single unit webbing set with Hip Pad and Roll Pin Buckle. Made entirely from UK MOD specification materials.

MULTICAM Z082MC	COYOTE Z082CT	£119.95
-----------------	---------------	---------



HEATGEAR® TACTICAL T-SHIRT With Tactical logo

Black TS257BK	Olive Green TS257VO	Desert Tan TS257DE
White TS257WH	Navy Blue TS257NB	

JETBOIL PERSONAL COOKING SYSTEM

Jetboil's ultracompact 1 liter unit is ideal for dehydrated meals, coffee or tea on the go, remote workites, and emergency kits. Travel light and prep easy.

(1) Z430	£68.99
----------	--------

JETBOIL FLASH A new upgraded version of the original Jetboil PCS.

(2) Z433	£68.99
----------	--------



SLEEKA ELITE JACKET

Olive Green B185	£59.99
------------------	--------



Wiley® GLASSES

(1)SG-1	LA145	£97.30
(2)XL 1	LA203	£89.70
(3)PT-3	LA174	£99.60

IRIS 50 MILITARY COMPASS

Olive BO130	£62.45
-------------	--------

Made using Waterproof tactical Softshell material

Olive V243	£49.99
------------	--------



MORA OF SWEDEN

(1) Mora Clipper 860MG	BP569	£11.95
------------------------	-------	--------

(2) Mora MK2000	BP568	£21.90
-----------------	-------	--------

DEFCON MODULAR BACK PACK

Made of 1000 Denier Nylon, the Extreme Modular rucksack is designed to survive under the most intense conditions.

DPM S438DPM	£84.99
Desert S438DES	£84.99



PLCE AIRBORNE WEBBING SYSTEM

The airborne webbing system has fastly become a popular item with soldiers

Z082DPM	£119.95
Z082DES	£119.95



KOMBAT UK SMALL ASSAULT PACK.

A good quality rucksack at a great price! Made from 1000 Denier DPM Waterproof Cordura. MOLLE tabs and compartments all over the rucksack. 28 Litre capacity.

COYOTE TAN Z901CT	BLACK Z901BK	£29.99
OLIVE GREEN Z901OG	BRITISH DPM Z901DPM	£29.99

Sales of knife to over 18s only

Please send me the new USMC catalogue.

Free for the readers of Solier Magazine.

My name:

Address:

Post code: City:



RENAULT



SECURE YOUR LOW RATE FINANCE AT EMC

VISIT - WWW.EMCTAXFREE.COM/FINANCE.PHP
OR CALL - 01323 739675



MASSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR UK & OVERSEAS BASED PERSONNEL



www.emctaxfree.com

**emctax
free**

UK PHONE 01323 739675

UK FAX 01323 745339

GERMAN FREEPHONE

08001 860183/08001 827633

UK FREEPOST (BR 1394), CAVENDISH BRIDGE, EASTBOURNE BN21 5TD
Tax Free discounts only apply to personnel based overseas who qualify under BFG ruling.



Picture: Cpl Steve Wood, RLC

AN intrepid pair of Army doctors are attempting to become the first people to row non-stop and unsupported around the British mainland. Capt Hamish Reid and Capt Nick Dennison (both RAMC) set off from Hampshire on May 12 for the 45-day, 2,100-mile voyage which will see them rowing for 20 hours at a time. Capt Reid, who is based at Bovington Camp, said: "The row demands prolonged physical endurance and in order to complete it we will have to achieve an elite level of fitness. The race will put us in situations we have not experienced before and we shall need to dig deep into our mental reserves to maintain our efforts, uphold these standards and, in the worst case, survive." The medical experts are aiming to raise £20,000 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Help for Heroes. For more information about their progress, including a live blog, log on to www.rowforheroes.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

SOLDIERS are to receive yearly testing on their counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) skills and drills.

A new Military Annual Training Test is being introduced this year to provide troops with a baseline knowledge about the threat posed by IEDs.

Personnel deploying on Op Herrick 14 will be the first to do so having undergone the lessons, which will take place before mission specific training.

CIVILIANS in Nad-e-Ali will benefit from improved healthcare following the opening of a new clinic.

District governor Habibullah was on hand to open the centre, which was funded by the Military Stabilisation Support Team.

Speaking after the ceremony, the proud governor said: "I am grateful that I am able to open the clinic, which has taken 18 months to develop."

A CORPORAL who completed a foundation degree despite being deployed to a remote station in Kenya has won an award.

Cpl Herbet Goredema (RLC) was named as a regional winner of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education's Adult Learning Week, which was held last month.

The NCO completed his hospitality and food service management course online despite only having 30 minutes of internet access each day. He had to seek special permission to complete one exam when the system crashed halfway through.

He said: "This course has improved my reading skills, confidence, knowledge and computer skills."

Homes boost for overseas troops

GERMANY-based troops have moved into gleaming new accommodation after a £6.3 million housing project was completed.

Three new single living accommodation (SLA) blocks, each providing 108 en-suite bedspaces, have been built by Defence Estates at Gutersloh's Princess Royal Barracks.

The blocks are built over three stories, with two "flatlets" containing six individual apartments complete with modern furniture, laundry facilities and kitchenettes on each floor.

Sgt Dave Grinter, of 1 Logistic Support Regiment, said: "The rooms are great.

"There is a lot more space, great storage, Sky television, my own bathroom and it is much quieter. This

is the best accommodation I have lived in by far."

Construction work on the development included a new car park, access road, landscaped gardens and patio area.

Defence Estates project manager Nick Farrell said: "It has been a privilege to deliver yet another SLA-modernisation initiative providing long-overdue improvements in home comfort for our soldiers."

Soldiers serving with 7 and 16 Signal Regiments at Javelin Barracks in Elmpt have also received new facilities, with the refurbishment of 42 communal kitchens across 25 SLA blocks benefiting more than 500 personnel.

The renovations took less than six months to complete.

LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

	SWAG	FORCE FOR GOOD	QUIDS IN
1	£8,847	SSGT JAMES WHITE THE Royal Engineer raised the immense cash sum by giving a series of presentations to members of the Thames Valley Friday Luncheon Club	Help for Heroes and Carver Barracks Injured Soldiers Charity Fund
2	£1,307	MAJ PHIL PACKER Maj Packer – who was injured in Iraq – walked the London Marathon to raise money for 26 different charities, including more than £1,307 so far for SSAFA Forces Help	The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help www.ssafa.org.uk www.philpacker.com
3	£1,000	TRACEY CLARK ARMY wife Tracey Clark has set herself the challenge of completing this year's Paras' 10 event – a ten-mile endurance race – while carrying a 35lb bergen	Help for Heroes www.justgiving.com/Tracey-Clark-army-wife

NEWS IN BRIEF

TERRITORIAL Army personnel and other Reserve Forces are being encouraged to take part in Uniform to Work Day on June 25.

The annual event is aimed at increasing the public's understanding of the commitment made by TA soldiers and to show the positive impact the Army has on individuals, employers and communities.

Anyone wishing to take part must seek the support of their workplace and inform their chain of command.

CHEPSTOW Racecourse will stage the Thunder Rally on Armed Forces Day in support of the charity Afghan Heroes.

The event, on Saturday, June 26, will feature a series of tribute bands, a mini-moto circuit, a shopping area and a live satellite link to Camp Bastion.

On the same day 10,000 parcels will arrive in Afghanistan for serving troops. They are being paid for with the money raised when 15,000 bikers drove through Wootton Bassett earlier this year.

A FORMER soldier has completed a fund-raising challenge in honour of Rfn Jamie Gunn (1 Rifles), who died in Helmand last year.

Kristian Williams, who served for four years in the Royal Logistic Corps, set himself a target of running a race for every year of his friend's life and finished his 21st and final event at the London Marathon.

He is hoping to raise £2,100 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/jamiegunn

A CYCLING team from 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) is set to ride 900 miles in five days to boost the coffers of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

The team aims to ride from Land's End to John O'Groats and will set off on June 5.

To sponsor the geo-wheelers go to www.justgiving.com/geo-wheelers

SOLDIERS who fought side-by-side with colleagues from the Afghan National Army during a tour of Helmand province have visited a Nottingham mosque.

The troops, from 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, were invited to the Bobbersmill facility by Imam Dr Musarraf Hussein.

He said: "We wanted to show how we value and appreciate the work of the British Army, the most professional army in the world.

"We value their professionalism and the difficult tasks they do and it is important their work is recognised."

Pte Jason Gale added: "I think it was a great idea to invite us along. It's quite an honour."



Picture: Mike Weston

COMMUTERS at London's St Pancras International Station rush to get onboard a high-speed train which has been named *Help for Heroes* in honour of the Services charity. East Midlands Trains managing director Tim Shoveller was joined by the military group's co-founders Bryn and Emma Parry for a naming ceremony for the train, which runs on the London to Nottingham line. The newly-refurbished transport is the only one in passenger service to bear the Help for Heroes name.

Soldiers' sporting gesture

THE beautiful game helped build bridges between British and Afghan troops and a local community during a football session held at a Helmand province school.

Soldiers from the Afghan National Army and International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) squared off against pupils from Luy Bagh, in Nad-e-Ali district, to demonstrate the increased security they have achieved.

The event, which included a training session as well as the match, was organised by the influence team based at nearby Forward Operating Base Shawqat following a suggestion from the school's headmaster.

He said: "The security situation has

improved since last year. We now feel safe to work in our fields and that the security work provided by the Afghan National Security Force and Isaf is a real benefit to the people of Nad-e-Ali."

The school, which has 600 pupils ranging from four-to-25-year-olds, was supplied with new kit and equipment ahead of the football match, which the youngsters won 5-3.

Cpl Michael Duffy (1 Scots), a former professional youth player with Scottish side Motherwell, said: "I was happy to pass on [my] skills to the pupils of this school.

"It was good to see how enthusiastic they were to learn, both in lessons and in playing sports."

Guards remember forebears

SENIOR members of the Household Division gathered for a service to re-dedicate a memorial to Guards regiments' soldiers who died between 1884 and 1945.

The poignant ceremony, held in the memorial garden at Brompton Cemetery, was led by the Rev Paul Wright and was identical to

the original service performed in November 1889.

Maj Gen William Cubitt, general officer commanding the Household Division, laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial, which is comprised of a Cornish granite base supporting a 20ft cross hewn from pure white Sicilian marble.

550

THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL FROM THE 1ST BATTALION, GRENADIER GUARDS IN ATTENDANCE AS THE QUEEN PRESENTED THEIR NEW COLOURS DURING A CEREMONY HELD AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE. THE BATTALION HAS UNDERTAKEN A TOTAL OF 20 OPERATIONAL TOURS SINCE ITS LAST COLOURS WERE PRESENTED IN 1992.

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN A VOLVO. THERE ARE RADICAL DEPARTURES AND ELEGANT REFINEMENTS. SUBTLE SHIFTS AND FANTASTICALLY DARING MANOEUVRES. SURGES OF ADRENALINE AND BURSTS OF INSPIRATION. STRIKING DESIGN WITH LOWER EMISSIONS. LEAVING CONFORMITY AND CONVENTION IN THE DUST. AND LEAVING AN IMPRESSION WITH YOUR NEW C30 WHILE ARRIVING AT ANYTHING BUT A COMPROMISE. THAT'S WHY YOU DRIVE ONE.



	C30 1.6 ES	C30 1.6 R-DESIGN (AS PICTURED)
ON THE ROAD UK BASIC PRICE	£15,355	£17,605
TAX-FREE PRICE*	£12,353	£14,268
MILITARY PERSONNEL DISCOUNT	£1,235	£1,427
ADDITIONAL 'TRADE-IN BONUS' (MINIMUM)**	£2,000	£2,000
TOTAL PRICE OF CAR, INC. VAT REGISTRATION & DELIVERY	£11,295	£13,295

VOLVO CARS BRITISH MILITARY SALES ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE EXTENSION OF THEIR INNOVATIVE TRADE-IN BONUS – MEANING YOU CAN OWN A NEW VOLVO FROM AS LITTLE AS £11,295!

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS LIMITED OFFER.

Volvo. for life



UK OFFICE

Volvo Cars British Military Sales
PO Box 200, Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL9 7AH
T: +44 (0) 1707 262388
E: bms@volvocarslondon.co.uk

WWW.VOLVOCARSBRITISHMILITARY.COM

*VAT OF 17.5% APPLICABLE FOR UK BASED PERSONNEL. MILITARY DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE TO CURRENT SERVING MEMBERS OF H.M. FORCES WITH A VALID PROOF OF MILITARY STATUS. TAX-FREE PURCHASES ARE SUBJECT TO PERSONAL ENTITLEMENT DURING OFFICIAL OVERSEAS POSTING. PRICES AND DISCOUNTS ARE CALCULATED BASED ON UK-SPEC MY111 PRICES. **TRADE-IN VEHICLES MUST HAVE A CURRENT MOT (OR GERMAN EQUIVALENT), WHERE THE VALUE OF THE TRADE-IN EXCEEDS £2,000 (UPON OUR VALUATION), THIS ADDITIONAL SUM WILL BE FURTHER DISCOUNTED FROM THE VEHICLE BEING PURCHASED. ONLY ONE TRADE-IN VEHICLE PER NEW VEHICLE PURCHASE.

FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE VOLVO C30 RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 20.9 (13.5) – 61.4 (4.6), COMBINED 31.4 (9.0) – 74.3 (3.8), EXTRA URBAN 43.5 (6.5) – 85.6 (3.3), CO2 EMISSIONS 99–211G/KM



**Personal
Relationships**

**Support to
Families**

Health Worries

Army Welfare Service

- the welfare co-ordinators

We are here to help if you need us

Civil: 01722 436569

Mil: 94331 2569

Email: LF-AWS-WelfareInformationService@mod.uk



www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support

IN MEMORIAM



CPL HARVEY HOLMES (22)
1ST BATTALION,
THE MERCIAN REGIMENT
KIA MAY 2 – AFGHANISTAN

AN "exceptional leader" who showed immense promise throughout his Army career died in an explosion in Helmand province.

Cpl Harvey Holmes, of 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, was providing protection for a patrol which was investigating a compound east of Wishtan when the blast happened.

The 22-year-old had been attached to the 40 Commando Royal Marines Battlegroup and had played a key role as British soldiers and their Afghan partners expanded security around the Sangin area.

The NCO's family said that although Cpl Holmes lived for his family and friends, his passion was the Army.

They added: "He has made [us] extremely

proud for the sacrifice he has made and will be missed every day."

After enlisting in the Army in 2004, Cpl Holmes attended the Infantry Training Centre Catterick before being posted to 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment in 2005.

He had previously deployed on operations in Northern Ireland and Iraq and served in Belize and the Falkland Islands.

Lt Col Andrew Hadfield, commanding officer of 1 Mercian, said Cpl Holmes had been promoted twice in quick succession and was "without doubt one of the very best".

He added: "There is a new star in the sky tonight – it is a bright, enduring one that should inspire all of us."



SPR DARYN ROY (28)
ROYAL ENGINEERS
KIA MAY 3 – AFGHANISTAN

ROYAL Engineers in southern Afghanistan have been mourning the loss of a versatile soldier who was killed in an explosion.

Spr Daryn Roy was travelling in a convoy near Patrol Base Pimon when his vehicle was caught in a blast. He was evacuated to Camp Bastion but later died of his injuries.

The 28-year-old, from Consett, County Durham, joined the Army in 2005 as a combat signaller and completed a combat engineer course before joining 21 Engineer Regiment in September 2006.

He deployed to Iraq on Op Telic 11 between November 2007 and May 2008 and had passed the potential-junior non-commissioned officers' cadre in October last year.

He was due to be posted as a lance corporal to 101 Engineer Regiment EOD in June.

In a statement, Spr Roy's family said: "We will miss Daryn's happy-go-lucky personality and his cheeky smile so much. He loved the Army and he lived his life without regrets."

Lt Col Bobby Walton-Knight, commanding officer of 21 Engineer Regiment, said: "He never complained; never moaned. He worked hard, looked after his mates and made a difference. He was the type of soldier you wanted around and the type you wanted to be around."

Cpl Liam Ord, a section commander with 4 Armoured Engineer Squadron, added: "He was always a loyal lad and ever ready to voice his opinion in support of his mates."



LCPL BARRY BUXTON (27)
ROYAL ENGINEERS
KIA MAY 3 – AFGHANISTAN

A ROYAL Engineer who "always gave 100 per cent" died after he was involved in a road traffic accident in southern Afghanistan.

LCpl Barry Buxton, of 21 Engineer Regiment, was commanding a vehicle during a move between two patrol bases along the Nahr-e-Bughra canal when the road collapsed, causing his wagon to roll into the waterway.

His fellow sappers heroically managed to free him from the submerged wreckage and the junior NCO was evacuated to Camp Bastion, but he was pronounced dead shortly after.

LCpl Buxton's mother Sharon said: "When Barry joined the Army it was his dream come true. It became his life and we couldn't have been prouder of him."

LCpl Buxton, from Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 2002 as a design draughtsman before retraining as an armoured engineer. He had previously served with 25 Engineer Regiment and 22 Engineer Regiment and deployed to Iraq in 2006.

Lt Col Bobby Walton-Knight, commanding officer of 21 Engineer Regiment, said LCpl Buxton was a "great soldier", adding: "Friendly and outgoing with a keen sense of humour, he had only been in the regiment for a short time but had quickly made his mark."

"Among his many talents, he was known for his fitness and determination. He would rise to every challenge and particularly relished tough physical activity."

Troops' Moshtarak sacrifices yield positive results

THE selfless actions of British soldiers and their international colleagues have helped a major offensive make substantial gains across Helmand, according to a senior officer.

Since being launched three months ago to drive the Taliban out of key parts of the province, Op Moshtarak has brought about a dramatic increase in security and allowed Afghans to carry out vital reconstruction work.

Maj Gen Nick Carter, commander of the International Security Assistance Force Regional Command (South), explained: "There are many positive indicators, especially in the areas of development and economic growth.

"We have roads being built, district centres being reconstructed and a lot of infrastructure projects on the way."

Maj Gen Carter pointed to the re-emergence of bazaars in district

centres across the region as a sign that things are steadily improving.

"The basic point is that you are seeing stability and prosperity flourish in central Helmand," he said.

"What you see is a consumer culture beginning to happen.

"The trends are positive and my bet is that we're in a good place in terms of the resources available on the ground and in the way in which the campaign is progressing."

RESOLVEUK



Don't Let Debt Destroy You

Can't afford your repayments? Refused a loan? CCJs? Debt collectors? Bailiffs? Facing bankruptcy?

If you need debt help we can find a solution without more borrowing.

If you have debt over £15,000 and are struggling to keep up your repayments, then you may be able to take advantage of Government Legislation to clear your debts. An Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) is a legally binding agreement between you and your creditors - You only pay back what you can afford, usually by way of 60 affordable monthly payments - The remaining debt is written off.

Tel: 0044(0)1732451133 or 0800 6525113 (UK only)

Email: info@resolveuk.com

Web: www.resolveuk.com

OFT Licence No 500295

This is not an offer for a loan

OUR ADVICE IS
FREE, PRIVATE AND
CONFIDENTIAL AND
THERE ARE NO
UPFRONT FEES



Picture: Steve Dock

MORE than 1,000 soldiers put their military skills to the test in a keenly-contested Corps Operational Shooting Competition at Ash and Pirbright Ranges. The event is the largest event of its kind in the world and saw individual corps competing for their own championships ahead of an Inter-Corps challenge to decide the champion shot. Cpl Khagendra Tamang (QG Signals), serving with 30 Signal Regiment, was crowned the Inter-Corps rifle champion with Cpl Craig White (REME) winning the TA competition. Event organiser Maj Colin Woodley (RLC) said: "Competitions such as this and the divisional and Army-wide events that follow later in the year are vitally important because skill at arms is probably the one core skill that all soldiers must master, regardless of their trade or corps. Over the years the competition has developed to better reflect the kind of shooting being conducted on operations with more physical elements introduced and it now represents a realistic and challenging addition to the training cycle."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MILITARY and civilian personnel joined forces to pull an 18th century replica naval cannon 15 miles to raise cash for Help for Heroes.

Soldiers from the Adjutant General's Corps (Military Provost Guard Service) hauled the quarter-ton imitation heavy weapon from RAF St Mawgan to Padstow in Cornwall.

On the day of the impressive feat the team raised £2,200 in collection buckets alone and the grand total is expected to exceed the £7,000 mark.

A MAJOR project to capture first-hand memories of the Second World War has been launched to mark the 70th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation.

English Heritage has started a nationwide search for veterans who played a part in the mission, known as "the miracle of Dunkirk".

The organisation would like to hear from any of the 338,000 troops plucked to safety from the Dunkirk beaches during the ten-day evacuation in 1940.

A video recording booth has been opened at the Secret Wartime Tunnel at Dover Castle to collect personal experiences and recollections for use in the exhibition.

Those unable to visit in person can record their memories online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/dunkirk

BROADCASTER BFBS has been honoured by an industry awards body.

The organisation won a special Sony Radio Academy Awards prize for its services to the Armed Forces.

Partners' progress

AFGHAN National Security Force chiefs demonstrated their continued development during a senior US officer's flying visit to Helmand province.

Gen David Petraeus, the head of the United States Central Command, met with representatives of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) while on a tour of Lashkar Gah.

The former head of US Forces in Iraq received updates from ANA colonel Shirin Shah and ANP colleague Col Kamulladin during the visit, which was hosted by Task Force Helmand commander Brig Richard Felton.

The British officer said: "Giving the Afghan National Security Forces the opportunity to brief Gen Petraeus really

demonstrates the success of partnering.

"An Afghan plan supported by Task Force Helmand is the real way to deliver security to the people of the province who we are here to protect.

"[This] was a significant day and indicates the security forces' preparedness to lead the way in the development of Afghanistan."

After finding out about the partnership activities, Gen Petraeus – who was joined by International Security Assistance Force joint command boss Lt Gen David Rodriguez and Maj Gen Nick Carter, commander of Regional Command (South) – flew to Forward Operating Base Shawqat in Nad-e-Ali to meet soldiers from 1 Lancers and walk around the thriving district centre.

Win... Exclusive Jelly Belly selection box

WITH the British Army's aerial power taking centre stage in last month's magazine, we set a lofty challenge in our spine line competition.

The names adorning the side of the issue's cover – Branson, Nichol, Goose, Hughes and Travolta – all belong to famous aviators from the real world as well as from the realms of fiction.



We have again teamed up with Jelly Belly, www.jellybelly-uk.com, to offer the winner of this month's competition one of the company's selection boxes of gourmet jelly beans.

To enter, tell us what links the names on this month's spine.

Answers to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by June 30. Usual rules apply.



Drop Zone Supplies

www.army-surplus.co.uk

BFPO TAX
FREE SHIPPING

T: 08456 44 50 60

1980's Old School Tropical's MKIII

Put the 'Alliness' back into your summer with these 80's Pattern Tropical Shirts and Trousers.

- » Exact bright yellow camo of those impossible to find 80's issue Trop's.
- » Shirts have pockets Velcro on arms, compass pocket on chest
- » Trousers have reinforced knees and seat
- » Improved belt loops



£29.95
PER ITEM



Altberg Sneaker
- £139.95



Altberg Warrior
Microlite - £144.95



Altberg Desert
Microlite - £129.95



Bates Falcon
- £79.95



SAS Assault Smock
- £59.95



SAS Smock Genuine
Old Issue - £89.95



Multicam Waterproof
Jacket - £69.95



Tac Ops Multicam
Cap - £12.95



Patriot Fleece
- £39.95



Under Armor Heat
Gear Shirts - £21.95



Web-Tex Softshell
Jacket - £49.95



Multicam H Harness
- £19.95



Multicam Padded
Belt - £29.95



Multicam EMT
Pouch - £16.95



Multicam Smoke
Grenade Pouch - £14.95



Multicam Triple
M4 Ammo - £22.95



Multicam Double
M4 Ammo - £19.95



Multicam Double
Kangaroo - £19.95



Multicam .308 Sniper
Ammo Pouch - £12.95



Camelbak Motherlode
Multicam - £159.95



Blackhawk Cyclone
- £149.95



Multicam A-III Pack
- £39.95



Wyvern Grab Bags
MKII - £49.95



DZS Airborne Infantry
Webbing - £134.95



TAS Admin ID Panel
- £10.95



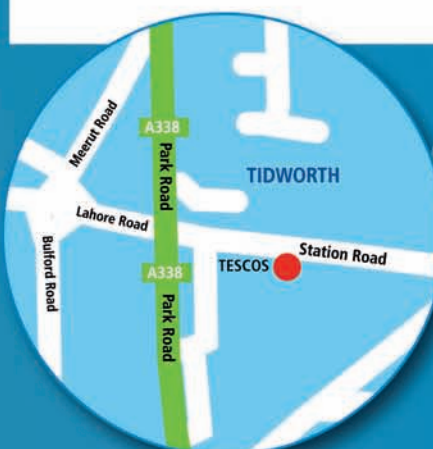
Snugpak Softie
- £82.95



Hatch Knee Pads
- £22.95



A5 Nyrex Wallet
- £8.95



RETAIL STORES AT:

► CARTERTON OX18 3DH

► TIDWORTH SP9 7NN

MAIL ORDER:

Drop Zone Supplies
Unit 3, West Oxon Ind Park, Norton Way,
Carterton, Oxfordshire OX18 3YJ, UK

www.army-surplus.co.uk

Bill rides out for Telic troops

A FORMER soldier has embarked on the ride of his life after setting off on a 6,467-mile motorcycle trip to Iraq.

Bill Allan, who served with The King's Royal Hussars, left England on his Yamaha TDM as this issue went to press and will travel through France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Italy before reaching the Turkish/Iraqi border.

The intrepid 53-year-old, who is travelling alone, aims to raise £50,000 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

He said: "When you consider how many miles of sand our troops had to walk through, 6,000 miles on a motorbike seems miniscule."

● To make a donation, log on to www.expressinsurance.co.uk/web/bill_allan/index.html



Picture: Matt Watkins/Express Insurance Services

Fitting tribute

THREE Service stars are embarking on an 851-mile run covering the length of Britain in just 17 days in memory of a fallen comrade.

Lt Col Nigel Moreland (AGC(ALS)), Maj Carl Boswell (Rifles) and Capt (Retd) PJ Luard will be raising money for Help for Heroes, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and The Rifles Regimental Trust when they embark on the gruelling Undentable Run on June 10.

The team decided to square up to the challenge in memory of Capt Mark Hale (2 Rifles), who died while trying to rescue an injured colleague in Afghanistan in August 2009.

Speaking ahead of the run, which will see the participants cover the equivalent of two marathons each day, Lt Col Moreland said it was the perfect way to remember his fallen comrade.

"The death of Capt Hale hit us all as we were very good friends with him – I had known him for 25 years," he explained. "I wanted to do something to capture his spirit and ability to motivate people and also something that he would have been up for."

"It needed to be something significant because there was no point in playing at it and this is a perfect way to honour him."

To prepare for the challenge, which will lead them from John O'Groats to Land's End via a number of towns and cities, the runners have been putting in

hundreds of hours of training on top of their work and family commitments.

Lt Col Moreland has completed three-to-four-hour runs every other day to get himself into top shape.

But the officer admitted to being "the wrong side of 40" and acknowledged that the 851-mile slog will undoubtedly take its toll.

"We all accept that we will be broken men at the end of it," he said. "The reality is that this will be hard from the start and there will not be good days and bad days – every day will be a struggle."

"The key for us is capturing the approach that soldiers have on operations where every day is difficult but you just get on and do hard things time and time again."

As well as hoping to raise £100,000 for the Service charities, the team will also be offering their support to Capt Hale's widow Brenda and daughters Tori and Alix.

The Hale family will be joining the runners at different stages of the event and Lt Col Moreland said that would provide added inspiration.

"This is obviously about raising money to help soldiers in need," he added. "But for each of the three of us it's also about the purity of running to properly remember a thoroughly-decent, hard-working, honourable and motivational individual."

● www.justgiving.com/undentable-run



Lineker: Troops deserve World Cup glory

THE GENTLEMAN of football who captained England and hosts the BBC's *Match of the Day* programme hopes England's current crop will give British troops something to smile about at this month's World Cup.

Gary Lineker, who netted 48 goals for his country during an 80-cap international career, spoke exclusively to *Soldier* about the likelihood of England winning football's greatest prize.

The former Spurs hero explained his gratitude for the support given to the national team by Army personnel.

"I've heard the soldiers in Afghanistan will drop their tools to watch the matches and quite right too," he said. "Hopefully England can give the soldiers a bit of a lift with their performances just like the Army is giving the country a boost."

"Playing football for England in a World Cup is completely different from fighting a war but it's still important and let's hope they do well."

With injury plaguing the England back four, Lineker insisted the country would only succeed if every member of the squad is on top form.

"A lot depends on who is fit, because at the moment there are some uncertainties," Lineker added. "I would say England have got an outside chance if we have our best team out."

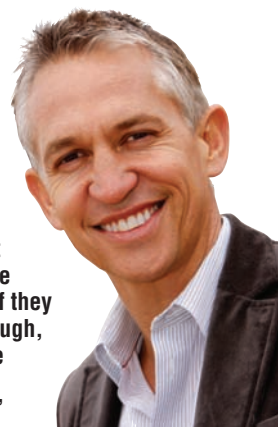
"England's defence has been questioned with Rio not being fit for parts of the season and John Terry having a somewhat difficult season."

"If the World Cup had started at the beginning of May, I would have said England had no chance because the

defence was not ready then."

"But by the time the tournament kicks off we should have had more than enough time to prepare."

The 49-year-old veteran of the 1986 and 1990 World Cup campaigns added: "I think Capello will bring out the best in the players and if they are good enough, he will be the right man to coach them."



Picture: Graeme Main

LISTEN UP

PUT THE KETTLE ON, MAN YOUR TEAPOTS,
THE BIG BREW UP IS BACK.

The Big Brew Up 2010: 4th – 10th October

We're delighted to announce SSAFA's biggest fundraising event of the year. For one week in October, we're getting the whole country to put the kettle on, organise tea-related events and raise vital funds for SSAFA Forces Help.

This is our 125th year of supporting those currently serving in Britain's Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both, so we want the celebrations to be bigger than ever.

Come and be part of the world's largest tea party.

SIGN UP

CALL: 020 7463 9310

EMAIL: THEBIGBREWUP@SSAFA.ORG.UK

WWW.SSAFAI25.ORG.UK



GOOD DRILLS

PROACTIVE POLICE

BOBBIES in south east England have teamed up with a military charity to help out former Service personnel who get arrested.

Kent Police are working with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help to check whether detainees have a Service background and, if so, provide advice and support. Email DC Colin Back at 8633@kent.pnn.police.uk for details.

ARMY ATTRACTION

SOLDIER readers are being offered discounted entry to a series of events at London's National Army Museum.

Guests including Gen Sir Richard Dannatt will take part in "Rocks and Hard Places", a discussion on Afghanistan on June 19, with tickets costing £10 – a £5 saving. Discounts are also available for celebrity speaker talks.

To take advantage of the offer, call 020 7881 6600 and quote code "solmag".

● www.national-army-museum.ac.uk



PITCH INVADERS

LAST month's Army vs Royal Navy Rugby Union showdown at Twickenham was a stop-start affair, but it had nothing to do with either side's players.

The game was halted several times by streakers and the interruptions cost the Reds dear as they slipped to a 24-22 defeat. Turn to pages 96-97 for a full report.



EBAY SALES

UNSCRUPULOUS internet users selling Army clothing and equipment online are being hunted by the MoD Police.

Trading gear via the web is an offence and officials are keeping an eye on auction sites including eBay to catch offenders. A Defence Clothing Team spokesman said that soldiers should return all unneeded kit through the quartermaster's store.

BAD DRILLS

Army's sport for all

SERVING personnel will be encouraged to participate in a minimum of two-to-three hours of physical activity each week under the new Army Sport Policy.

The regulations apply to those who are not on operations or field training and all major units will be asked to produce at least two summer and two winter teams in leading sports including football, cricket and hockey.

Minor units will have to produce at least one summer and one winter team for these events.

Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir David Richards spoke in favour of the policy during the Army Sports Awards at MoD Main Building and was quick to highlight the benefits regular exercise can have.

"There is a direct correlation between sporting excellence and operational success," he said. "There was a concern among the chain of command that the contribution of sport was not really being reflected in the way we were

encouraging participation.

"Sport develops the very qualities we need in good soldiers."

Officers have also highlighted how sport reinforces key military skills and attributes and forms an important component of effective and balanced welfare provision.

The new policy states that the Army should make every effort to ensure Servicewomen have an adequate range of sports to cater for their needs.

Units that have insufficient female personnel to produce teams are to affiliate or amalgamate with others in the same situation.

A detailed policy for adaptive sport is being

developed as the Army recognises the role physical activity can play in the recovery process.

In addition, major units should have four level one coaches and two officials for all key sports. Minor units will be required to have two level one coaches and one official.



4 THE NUMBER OF TEAMS THAT TOOK PART IN A FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT INVOLVING THE AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE IN LASHKAR GAH. MORE THAN 100 SPECTATORS WATCHED THE EVENT, WHICH WAS RUN BY MOD POLICEMAN BILLY HAYES

Ambassador's reception

THE new British ambassador to Afghanistan got a first-hand look at a raft of redevelopment projects during a trip to Helmand's green zone.

Sir William Patey toured sites including a village school, farming training centre, medical facility and bazaar during a visit to Nad-e-Ali.

The diplomat flew into Forward Operating Base Shawqat where he was met by 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment commanding officer Lt Col Frazer Lawrence and district governor Habibullah Khan (pictured right).

The ambassador said: "It was good to meet the governor and hear what his needs were. What really impressed me was the co-operation between the international forces, the international officials and the governor.

"An Afghan, international-supported effort is of the utmost importance."

The visit, which came during Sir Patey's first month in office after



being named as the successor to Mark Sedwill, was organised to demonstrate the progress being made in the area.

Lt Col Lawrence said: "The walk around the centre allowed the governor to tell the ambassador exactly what he has managed to achieve."

Sir Patey moves to Afghanistan after serving for two years as the ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He has previously held similar posts in Sudan, where he worked from 2002-2005, and Iraq between 2005 and 2006.

WHATCAR?
CAR OF THE YEAR 2010

BEST
EXECUTIVE
CAR



Award-winning performance. Unbeatable value.

Jaguar's range of high-performance luxury cars proves that Britain can lead the world. From the Jaguar XF, winner of over 50 international awards to the sensational XK coupé and convertible, Jaguar's range offers a winning combination of advanced technology, outstanding design and lavish specification as standard, giving you more for your money when compared with rival makes.

Tailored finance packages for British forces personnel.

Jaguar is proud to support the work of Britain's armed forces and offers substantial discounts for serving forces personnel. For a detailed quotation on the model of your choice, please contact your Jaguar Military Sales agent.

JAGUAR
UK MILITARY
SALES

0800 046 6453

For exclusive Military prices* on the Jaguar range call or email
ukmilitary@jaguar.co.uk



JAGUAR

OFFICIAL FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR JAGUAR RANGE: MPG (L/100KM); URBAN 14.9 (18.9) – 30.0 (9.5), EXTRA URBAN 32.4 (8.7) – 51.3 (5.5), COMBINED 22.5 (12.5) – 42.0 (6.8), CO₂ EMISSIONS 292 – 179 G/KM.

*JAGUAR UK MILITARY SALES PROGRAMME AND 13% FACTORY DIRECT DISCOUNT APPLIES TO QUALIFYING MEMBERS OF THE UK ARMED FORCES, RETIRED SERVICE PERSONNEL AND HM FORCES RESERVISTS ON NEW VEHICLES ONLY. 13% FACTORY DISCOUNT ALSO APPLIES TO FACTORY FITTED OPTIONS. THIS PROMOTION CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION AND IS SUBJECT TO STATUS AND AVAILABILITY. ALL DETAILS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. MODEL SHOWN JAGUAR XF 3.0L V6 DIESEL LUXURY WITH OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT (£600).

THE BIGGER PICTURE

GDSM Danny Newton, of 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, shares a joke with a member of the Afghan National Police (ANP) while serving on Op Herrick 12 in southern Afghanistan.

Based in the Babaji region of Helmand province, 1 Coldm Gds have been helping to spread security for the local population in the area by taking part in joint patrols with members of the Afghan National Army and the ANP.

Picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC







Are Debts a **BIG** part of your Life!!

Solutions to Debts are just a click away!

You could write off up to 80%
of your debts - and also save
3 easy steps to find out in minutes

- ☞ Fill in the online form @
www.solutionstodebts.co.uk
- ☞ Find out which solution to debt
suits you the best with our free
calculator
- ☞ We will get the best debt advisor
to see how much debt you could
write off



Apply Now

Call : 0800 048 8800

Terms & Conditions apply. Solutions to Debts is a trading name of Vintels UK, registered in England and Wales. We are registered under the Data Protection Act Registration No: Z2087802. Calls may be recorded and monitored for security and training purposes. Calls may be charged depending on the telephone operators.

As British soldiers and their international colleagues continue to make progress in Helmand province, the tough task of rebuilding Afghanistan's social and physical infrastructure has begun to take root

We take a closer look at the positive impact two British groups have made on the war-torn country's prospects



**P26-27
FIRM
FOUNDATIONS**



**P28-29
CLASS
ACT**

BUILDING BLOCKS

Picture: Mike Weston

Report: Stephen Tyler

ANYONE looking for evidence that the majority of southern Afghanistan's residents are ready for peace need look no further than Sangin District Centre.

Back in 2006, the important town nestled in the verdant surroundings of the Helmand River Valley was home to a bustling bazaar inhabited by 3,200 stallholders.

But as the insurgency took hold, ordinary civilians fled the indiscriminate attacks from Taliban fighters. Just one year later, only 70 shops were still trading.

The ensuing period has witnessed an ongoing battle between International Security Assistance Force troops and insurgents. Most recently, the 3 Rifles Battlegroup lost 31 men and had more than 100 injured as British soldiers pushed their foes away from the district.

Their sacrifices were great, but so too were their results. The ever-improving security situation has convinced more and more people to return to Sangin, with in excess of 920 shops now reopen for business.

Sangin's momentum will undoubtedly continue under the current

stewardship of 40 Commando Battlegroup, but ensuring that it thrives well after the last British soldier leaves Helmand province is a task for the Afghan people themselves.

With a lasting peace unobtainable without solid governance, the UK-funded Stabilisation Unit has been working hard behind the scenes to put the foundations in place to allow security to flourish.

"If you talk to ordinary Afghans, they just want security and the basic services delivered for them," said Fiona White, the unit's deputy head. "We very much view ourselves as a mechanism to help Her Majesty's Government

deliver on the civil effect side in Afghanistan.

The aim is to deliver support to build

Afghan capacity to the stage where they can take more and more responsibility for their own governance and rule of law."

The Stabilisation Unit came into being as the Post Conflict

Reconstruction Unit in 2004 as a joint effort between the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Since taking on its current guise in 2007, the body has deployed civilian staff to "hot" conflict zones around the world to serve as stabilisation advisers.

In Afghanistan, its staff work in the UK-led Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) which focuses on activities including developing local government, security sector reform and countering the drugs trade.

Phil Weatherill, a civil engineer with experience working for charities including Oxfam, Medics Sans Frontières and The Red Cross, first deployed with the unit in 2008.

He returned for a tour of Sangin last year as an adviser and told *Soldier* that the stabilisation effort in the district had already achieved a number of successes.

"The regeneration work going on within the district centre speaks for itself," he said. "We have gone from 70 shops in 2007 to 922 now.

"You have to keep in mind that the original figure in 2006 was 3,200. A member of the municipal shura summed it up well when he said that Sangin was destroyed over 12 months and it is going to take three or four times that to rebuild it."

In addition to the reinvigorated district centre, the Stabilisation Unit has played a huge part in the development of other areas of life for civilians in northern Helmand.

More than 70 projects have been carried out in Sangin since July 2009, including the building and redevelopment of five government schools, 45 community schools, two health clinics and a seed distribution project designed to provide farmers with an alternative to growing poppies.

"All of this is being done by Afghans and the work is not confined to the security bubble – it's going

FIRM FOUNDATION

Stabilisation experts help Afghans take charge of their own destiny

on throughout the district and drawing people toward the Government of Afghanistan," added Mr Weatherill. "That's quite a fantastic outcome for us because people are seeing that only the government can provide the services they need."

"The local strategic intent was to make Sangin District Centre so good that it was something everyone wanted to be a part of and we are starting to achieve that. We are very, very optimistic for the future."

One of the keys to Sangin's future is the continued positive reception of new district governor Mohamad Sherrif.

Since coming to power last year, Sherrif has managed to engage people who previously did not trust the governance system and Weatherill said that the British contingent were keen to help strengthen the growing bond.

"There are people who want peace and to be able to carry out a normal existence," he said. "They are all for it, but it takes time to earn their trust and show that we are not just a flash in the pan."

"Most of my role is about being able to communicate with people and be willing to sit down on a carpet and talk for hours to make progress."

"Human interaction is so important because once you have built the trust up, the possibilities are endless."

Allied with the sterling work of the nation's Servicemen and women, British civilians are steadily creating an

environment in which peace and security can flourish.

From its hub in Lashkar Gah, the PRT and its Stabilisation Unit contingent

have spread their influence across Helmand province and Fiona White hoped the rewards from their efforts would only continue to grow in the future.

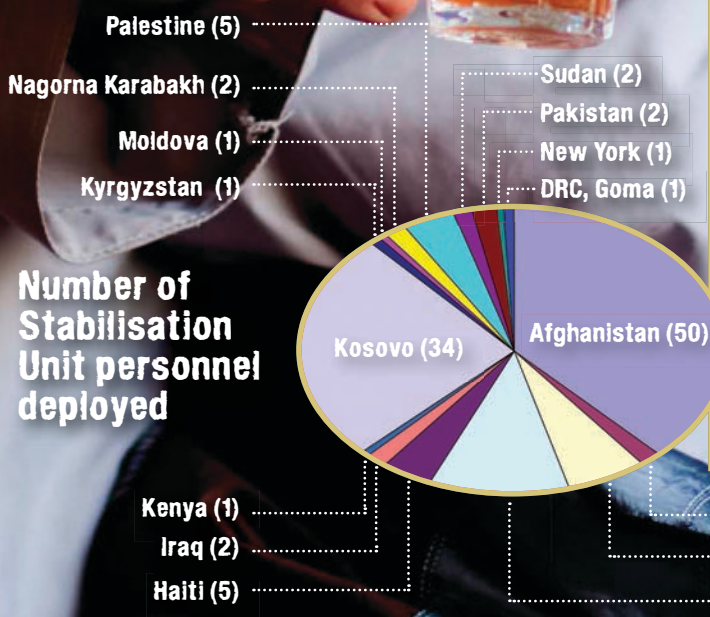
"The Afghans' greater ability to receive support and assistance has meant

there has been progress at provincial and district level," she concluded.

"They are now more able to deliver on behalf of their people and that's good because the limit on what we can deliver is determined by what they can absorb." ■

Talk time: Stabilisation Unit adviser Phil Weatherill, left, insists conversation is key to building trust and cementing the perception of British personnel as a force for good

The regeneration work going on within the district centre speaks for itself. We have gone from 70 shops in 2007 to 922 now!



Stabilisation unit-facts and figures

- Formed in 2004 as the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit (PCRU)

- Tri-departmental organisation owned by the Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence

- Grown from 30 core staff in 2009, to more than 60 in June 2010

- More than 130 people have deployed overseas with the Stabilisation Unit

- It is the largest single UK source of civilians to the Helmand Provincial

Reconstruction Team system with more than 35 deployed staff

- 11 stabilisation advisers are working at forward operating bases alongside British and US troops in nine Helmand districts

- The Civilian Stabilisation Group pool contains 1,007 deployable civil experts and 212 UK civil servants. Up to 200 members of the group can deploy at any time



act یی یی

Army wives' charity breathes new life into Afghan education system

Afghanistan



Above, Before and after: The ragged and torn tents of the school facility in Kabul which prompted ARRC families into action

Main picture, Education, education, education: Pupils hard at work at the AAF-funded school in Wardak province, central eastern Afghanistan

Pictures: Afghan Appeal Fund

FOR all the adversity that generations of Afghans have had to endure, their appetite to better themselves through education has remarkably remained intact.

Minimal funds, basic conditions and the very real threat of violent reprisals from the Taliban have made going to school a tough and potentially deadly activity for pupils and teachers. However, continue to go to school they have.

Back in early 2006, British soldiers serving with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Kabul came across a prime example of the lengths children and their mentors had gone to keep learning in the face of real hardships.

Searching a compound in the country's capital, the troops came across a row of battered tents, their tarpaulin ragged and torn and offering meagre protection from the freezing excesses of the harsh winter.

Inside were hundreds of children sitting on the dusty floor in the absence of chairs or desks as they paid attention to their tutor during a lesson.

The British contingent were horrified by the conditions and sent photographs back to HQ ARRC in Rheindahlen where their wives and loved ones pored over the pictures of the rudimentary school.

The group – which included Caroline Richards, wife of the current Chief of the General Staff and then-ARRC commander Gen Sir David Richards – was so moved by the children's plight that it pledged to start a fund-raising campaign to have the school re-tented.

A series of events was set into motion and it was not long before the women had made £5,000 to refurbish the facility and provide new equipment.

The campaign signalled the foundation of the Afghan Appeal Fund (AAF) and, four years on, the charity has had a hand in rebuilding a number of schools in the war-torn country.

Administrator Mel Bradley has been at the forefront of the organisation since its early days, overseeing its transformation into a registered charity that has raised more than £200,000.

"I feel that the Afghan people get very little sympathy because we don't see the reality of their lives in the papers," said Mel, whose husband Maj Simon Bradley is OC of 39 Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment.

"These are people who have suffered terribly and have gone from living in a thriving country 40 years ago to the situation they are in now.

"What we are trying to do through the fund is allow the children in Afghanistan to receive a non-fundamentalist education and have the chance to bring peace to the country themselves.

"We are trying to bring out the good in Helmand and elsewhere to show people beyond the conflict."

The AAF works closely with non-governmental organisations and other charities with a presence in Afghanistan to identify areas that need help.

The group then provides the necessary funding to allow building work to be completed and new equipment such as benches, desks, backpacks and books to be purchased.

Since its money helped to transform the original school in Kabul, the charity's reach has extended into the provinces of Bamiyan, Nuristan and Wardak where new facilities have also been installed thanks to AAF money.

Helmand province, where the majority of British troops are based, is the latest area to be targeted by the AAF and a school that was destroyed in 2008 was reopened in January this year. Plans are already afoot to add another five classrooms to the flourishing establishment.

True to its military roots, the AAF has utilised the unique experiences of British personnel to fine-tune its work.

Maj Nick King (1 Rifles) worked alongside an Afghan National Army kandak during Op Herrick 9 and was involved in a project to reopen a school in Musa Qala. He met with Mrs

Bradley to share the details of the procedures involved.

The officer told *Soldier* that he was surprised by the depth of the population's need and wish to access education and described the ongoing reconstruction work as "essential".

"The troops are showing that they are there to improve the lives of the population and the best way to do that is through actions," he said. "In the past promises have been made on huge projects at the expense of quick ones and that causes the locals to lose faith.

"All of this should be provided by the International Security Assistance Force and the government of Afghanistan, but the need is so great across the whole area that any other support is always welcome.

"The other aspect that a charity like the Afghan Appeal Fund brings is that it shows the ordinary Afghan on the street that there are people abroad who are thinking of them and who understand their plight."

The dedication of the AAF's members has made a real difference to downtrodden children living in poverty in Afghanistan and has attracted some big-name backers.

Gen Sir Richards was the group's original patron and actor Ross Kemp has now taken on a similar role, while fund-raising initiatives including the release of a set of British Army Top Trumps have raised the charity's public profile.

But no matter how grand the AAF's schemes become, those who were there at the beginning remain focused on their reason for setting it up.

"I love having something to concentrate on and it is good that we are helping out in the country where our Servicemen and women are serving," concluded Mrs Bradley. "I think the people of Afghanistan are unloved and have had a hard time, especially the children.

"I have two small boys myself so that side of it is particularly heart-rending and we are committed to raising awareness of the things you don't see on the news reports." ■

● www.afghanappealfund.org.uk

SOLDIER

in this issue

JUNE 2010 Vol 66/6

26 **Firm foundation**

Stabilisation experts shape Helmand's future

28 **Class act**

Army wives' Afghan assists

34 **A history of war**

Behind the scenes at the Imperial War Museum

37 **Snap decision**

Life through the lenses of Army photographers

40 **Guards of honour**

Russians welcome Welsh soldiers to Moscow

44 **Forces' footy fix**

A guide to BFBS's World Cup coverage

46 **Beautiful game**

Troops teach in South African townships

48 **Rio's rule**

England skipper reveals tournament hopes

52 **Frankly speaking**

Lampard on his admiration for the Services

57 **All-time XI**

Football Punk picks best-ever Army footballers

95 **SoldierSport**

Regulars

7 **The Informer**

59 **Talkback**

69 **Home Truths**

73 **Bulletin board**

84 **Movies**

86 **Games**

88 **Music**

90 **Books**

92 **Top gear**

106 **Final word**

Cover picture (left): England captain Rio Ferdinand, who spoke exclusively to *Soldier*

Picture: Claire R Greenway

Background image: A strong Hampshire 2nd XI dispatched the Army's senior cricket team during a fixture at Aldershot. The county team posted a total of 240-5 which their Service opponents failed to match, eventually being bowled out for 174

Picture: Graeme Main



88

26

40

95



blue
o two
dive the world

Military Expeditions and Resettlement Training...

blue o two is looking for Expeditions to assist our ongoing projects throughout the Egyptian Red Sea...

Projects include:

- Reef Conservation
- Wreck Surveys
- Fish Identification
- Coastal Community Regeneration Projects
- Shark Monitoring

Expeditions are run from our fleet of liveaboard vessels.

Call us now on **+44 (0) 1752 480808** or visit the Military section of our website for more information.



www.blueotwo.com/soldier

Tel: +44 (0) 1752 480 808 | Email: info@blueotwo.com

Tomorrow's world

Kit team develops futuristic fare for troops

Interview: Stephen Tyler

A NEWLY-FORMED group has pledged to continue "pushing the boundaries of technology" in its quest to develop new kit for soldiers.

The Personal Combat Equipment Team, which was set up in April having formerly been an element of the Defence Clothing Team, is responsible for delivering battle gear perfectly-tailored to the rigours of current operations.

Col Peter Rafferty, the team's leader and an infantry officer who recently returned from a tour of Afghanistan, told *Soldier* that he and his colleagues are constantly striving to reduce the burden on dismounted troops.

"The aim is to deliver *Robocop*," said Col Rafferty. "That's science fiction today but it is the long-term vision – a fully-integrated, lightweight,

state-of-the-art system with the welfare of the soldier at its heart.

"The demands of modern operations mean that more

equipment is being placed on the bodies of our soldiers. You can't simply wave a magic wand because if you add equipment, you add weight.

"It's a massive challenge but we now have one single group responsible for all the bits and bobs that go on a soldier."

The team will display the fruits of its labour in public later this month when it makes its debut at the Defence Vehicle Dynamics (DVD) Show, the MoD's land equipment showcase in Millbrook, Bedfordshire.

Also present will be stands from the MoD's Light Weapons, Photographic and Batteries and Dismounted Soldier Systems units and Col Rafferty is keen for serving personnel to attend the show to learn more about how the kit they use on the front line comes into being – and give their views on equipment they have used.

"The value of attending DVD for younger soldiers is the chance to see the evolution of the equipment, some of which they may not be familiar with," he said.

"They can talk with a number of procurement teams and get a better idea of how the equipment is developed and, crucially, how they can influence that with a view to further developments in the future.

"Not every good idea can be implemented but we strive to listen very carefully to the thoughts of our users. They are the ones who use the equipment and it is important for them to know that they have a voice."

Op Herrick has posed some particularly tricky questions to the people tasked with developing battle-winning kit, but the experts continue to come up with the goods.

Col Rafferty pointed to the Army's current line-up of ballistic protection, including Osprey body armour, as an example of where the British military is at the "forefront of the world".

But although the senior officer is justifiably proud of the procurements made to date, he told *Soldier* that the importance of their work will ensure that he and his team never rest on their laurels.

"We invest a lot of time, energy and tax payers' money in taking lessons learnt from clothing and equipment we have fielded and I send a team to theatre each and every deployment to get feedback directly from the soldiers," he added. "Where it's sensible and affordable to do so, we build any capabilities they suggest into the equipment.

"Our staff understand that whatever the operation or the environment, there is a job to be done to make sure that soldiers have the best solutions available. Everybody who deploys benefits from their work.

"It's daunting in the realisation of the volume of the work involved, but it's not a challenge which we feel is beyond us."

DVD 2010 takes place at Millbrook Proving Ground, Bedfordshire on Wednesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 24. For more information, visit www.theevent.co.uk ■

Front-line feedback: The MoD's Personal Combat Equipment Team uses the views of soldiers on operations to help develop new kit

Picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC

IN SUPPORT OF
**HELP for
HEROES**



MILITARY DISCOUNTS
New Offers. New Cars.
Including all-new Astra.
And now even more of your
family are eligible to save!
For full details of eligibility
and listings of prices and
savings right across the
entire Vauxhall range
visit our website now.

www.vauxhall-military.co.uk/soldier

Visit our website today to check out eligibility, our full range and discounts



VAUXHALL

Terms and conditions: Military discounts are available to all serving members of UK Armed Forces, retired service personnel, MOD civilian personnel and HM Forces Reservists. The offer is also extended to spouse or partners, parents and step-parents, brothers, sisters, step-brothers and sisters, children and step-children. Model illustrated all-new Astra SRi 1.6i 16v VVT £18,600 RRP otr with optional 19-inch alloy wheels (£510), Premium Forward Lighting Pack (£770) and metallic paint (£435).

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). All-new Astra 5-door Hatchback range: Urban – from 28.5 (9.9) to 57.6 (4.9), Extra-urban – from 49.6 (5.7) to 76.3 (3.7), Combined – from 39.2 (7.2) to 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ emissions from 169 to 109g/km.

Do you have what it takes to take on Club La Santa's 25 challenging sports?



**Club
La Santa**
LANZAROTE

With over **25 different sports FREE**, plus free group instruction and entertainment, Club La Santa is the perfect location for groups. An excellent opportunity to build and encourage team spirit!

PRICE FREEZE! Apartments for Winter 2010/11 on sale NOW... AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES!
PLUS - Take advantage of our Fantastic **EARLY BIRD** and **SUPER GROUP OFFERS**.

www.clublasanta.co.uk Tel: 0845 686 0217

Enjoy the Club La Santa Lifestyle



Club La Santa is protected by the ATOL arrangements when you book your holiday or travel, that includes flights and accommodation. Our ATOL number is 2711. Where you book a non-air inclusive holiday, and we act as the principal, your money is financially protected by our ABTA bonding arrangements. Our tour operating ABTA number is V1479.

House of Lourdes

Pilgrimage respite for Forces' families

Report: Joe Clapson
Pictures: Steve Dock

BEAMING smiles spread across Service children's faces alongside Armed Forces personnel crying tears of joy were products of a life-changing charity pilgrimage to Lourdes in France.

Personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force embarked on the trip representing a party from HCPT – The Pilgrimage Trust which was taking disabled and ill children to the spiritual market town at the foothills of the Pyrenees.

Maj Kate Wilden (AGC(ETS)), chairman of Army HCPT, explained that the break was as much for the parents as for the children.

"This is also like a week off for the Forces parents who can rest assured that their children will be having a great time in safe hands.

"While the children join in with the noisy fun, singing and dancing, the parents have a chance for some respite."

This was the first time in The Pilgrimage Trust's 54-year history that an official Army group joined the 7,000-strong mass.

Among the Service ranks were brother and sister Luke (10) and Emily (8) Smith, who both suffer with autism, and 15-year-old Kitty Bains, who has cerebral palsy.

During their spell in Lourdes – where Christians believe the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous – the children took part in a candlelight procession at the impressive Basilica of St. Pius X (pictured below) and played in water at the spring.

Thousands flock to Lourdes each year in the genuine belief that it is a place of miracles and cures. But whether or not the shrine holds healing powers, everyone leaves in good spirits regardless of their condition.

Speaking at a fancy dress dinner for the children, Catholic Bishop of the Forces, Bp Richard Moth, said: "I feel strongly that the Armed Forces are about making people's lives



better and the HCPT does exactly that.

"The children involved take love away from the experience."

Although Catholicism and the Marian apparitions are part of the holiday, religion is not an overbearing focus.

"It is not all about religion, the kids all work together and that's where the magic happens," said Maj Wilden.

"Lots of people are not Catholic, it's just an opportunity to join a group of like-minded children with a common goal to have fun.

"The large mass is anything but a religious ceremony," Bp Moth added.

Such a message was evident when a senior officer appeared on stage in front of mesmerised children as magician extraordinaire Mr McMarvo (pictured right).

Under his spell, laughter and hysterical cheers replaced thoughts of illness or disability.

Emily, pre-empting the appearance of the red-hatted Mr McMarvo, said: "The magic is all in your imagination – he could be in the pipes and pop out anytime, you just have to believe.

"The magician is the greatest man, you have to be careful not to get too close – he could make you disappear."

For one week the tri-Service team alongside the other HCPT groups ensured that each child had the time of their life. Being allowed to bang on the dinner table singing *We Will Rock You* was just one example.

The grand finale of the uplifting experience came at the Trust Mass in the awe-inspiring underground Basilica, attended by the bishops



and priests of the HCPT.

The carnival atmosphere, with the constant sound of whistles and drums, was more akin to a World Cup final than a religious ceremony and saw leprechauns cart-wheeling over seats and bishops covered in face paint.

Luke, who had been in a quiet, downbeat mood on entering the ceremony, was suddenly a changed person as he danced with an American group wearing flamingo hats.

"This is the best day," he said. "I've made lots of new friends and they joined in the dancing with me."

Back in England, Luke and Emily's father, Sgt Russell Smith (Irish Guards), described the experience from the perspective of a nervous parent.

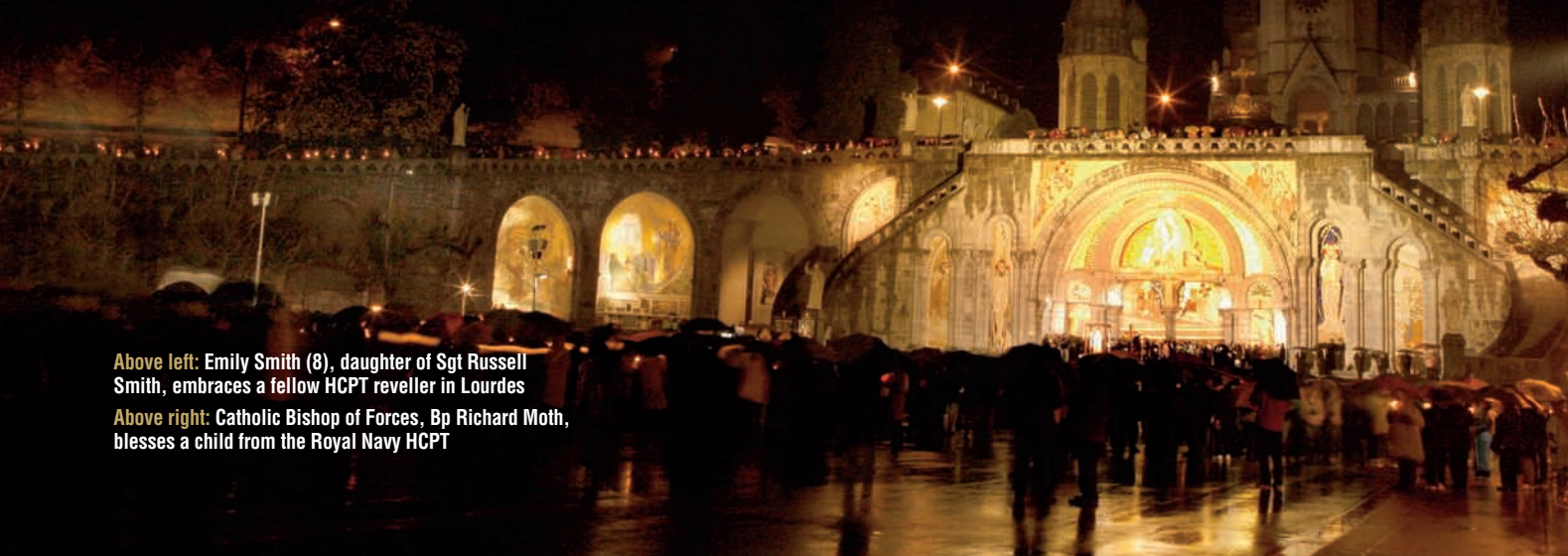
"It was the first time they had both been away together and I was apprehensive," he said.

"But when I spoke to Luke on the phone he said 'it's like paradise dad', so I knew he was ok." ■



Above left: Emily Smith (8), daughter of Sgt Russell Smith, embraces a fellow HCPT reveller in Lourdes

Above right: Catholic Bishop of Forces, Bp Richard Moth, blesses a child from the Royal Navy HCPT



A dark, atmospheric photograph of a trench. In the foreground, a machine gun is mounted on a tripod, with its searchlight beam illuminating the ground. The background shows the earthen walls of the trench and some military equipment. The overall tone is somber and historical.

A HISTORY OF WAR

Soldier goes behind the scenes at the museum charting Britain's involvement in world conflicts

Report: Richard Long

FOR most people the thought of visiting a museum conjures a boring image of ageing displays exhibited with a stern warning of "look but do not touch".

However, one institution in the heart of London has broken this mould to offer the public an insight into all aspects of conflict and the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces.

The Imperial War Museum was founded in 1917 to record the Great War, but with the boundaries of its remit continually expanding it now houses collections, exhibits and displays from every major military campaign since.

"Cabinet minister Sir Alfred Mond came up with the idea for a national war museum to record the ongoing conflict of the First World War," museum historian Terry Charman explained to *Soldier*.

"The civilian population were making

munitions and had been suffering badly at the hands of bombings and Zeppelins. It was a war everyone was involved in.

"He thought there should be a permanent museum devoted to it and the War Cabinet decided it was a good idea. As the war was going on men were going round the battlefields tagging items for the museum."

At first it was known as the National War Museum, but with a constant flow of artefacts and exhibits from countries across the Commonwealth and Empire it soon adopted its present-day name.

By 1920 the site had been established in Sydenham, south London, and over the August bank holiday that year it attracted a staggering 90,000 visitors, such was its popularity.

Between 1924 and 1935 the museum moved to a home at the former Imperial Institute in South Kensington before transferring to its current base in 1936.

Today the tourist attraction is committed to illustrating and recording all aspects of modern conflicts, as well as individual experiences of war, whether they are allied or enemy; Service or civilian; military or political; social or cultural.

To achieve this the site boasts a staggering array of artefacts, from a main hall crammed with a vast fleet of military vehicles to exhibitions on the Holocaust and the First and Second World Wars.

Another key attraction for visitors is the impressive cycle of special exhibitions, the most recent of which is entitled *The Ministry of Food*.

The display coincides with the 70th anniversary of rationing in wartime Britain and gives a fascinating insight into how people survived on such short supplies.

"We also have an art department with the biggest collection after the Tate gallery," Mr Charman explained.



Picture: Steve Dock

Picture: Cpl Rupert Friere, RLC

"We have a photography archive with more than six million pictures and a sound archive with 82,000 hours of reminiscences and recordings.

"The thing about the Imperial War Museum is that it is very much a living museum, our subject matter is alive and ongoing. Our final First World War veterans only died last year – other museums do not have that same sense of association.

"People can come here and visit The Ministry of Food exhibition for example and see how their grandparents' kitchen might have looked during the war. This is part of everyone's history."

Mr Charman has seen a clear shift in the visiting patterns over the decades and believes the facility now has a much wider appeal compared to when he first walked through the doors.

"When I came here in 1957 it was seen very much as a lads-of-all-ages museum with the tanks and guns," he said.

"But now we have exhibitions such as The Ministry of Food that are breaking that mould. We are showing that we are not just about the sharp end of war."

He added: "For soldiers serving today they can come and see what the Army was like for their grandfathers and great grandfathers.

"I think they will be really interested to see the equipment that their predecessors had to carry over the battlefield in the Somme in 1916.

"They can also look at the life they led in the trenches and see the similarities between Iraq and the Great War in Gallipoli. It is the old cliché of history repeating itself."

And the history is not just confined to the museum's base in London.

Across the city the Churchill War Rooms show what it was like to work within the Cabinet at the height of the Second World War, while Imperial War Museum Duxford, in Cambridgeshire, covers the history of conflict in the skies.

The naval perspective is captured at HMS *Belfast*, on the River Thames, and Imperial War Museum North, in Manchester, gives further insight into the impact of modern conflicts on people and society.

With such a dynamic selection of resources to its name this proud institution expands way beyond the notion of a stuffy museum and is well worth a visit for anyone with a passing interest in the military.

For more information on all five branches visit www.iwm.org.uk ■

History repeating: The tactics employed by today's soldiers can be spotted throughout the exhibits featured at London's Imperial War Museum



CRUSADER COOKING SYSTEM



Cooker and Cup

Complete set. This innovative solid/gel fuel field cooker is designed to meet the changing requirements of the future combat soldier.

Size: 11.5x12cm
Weight: 450g

Boils 500ml of water in under 8 minutes.

Stainless Steel: **CN004**
Black PTFE: **CN004B**

R.R.P. FROM
£39.95

This set consists of:

- Plastic Mug (standard)
- Water Bottle (standard)
- Crusader Cup Lid
- Crusader Cup
- Crusader Cooker
- Zulu Belt Pouch
- 12x Ethanol Fuel Gel
- Fireball™ Flint & Striker



STOCKISTS



www.survivalaids.com
enquiries@survivalaids.com
01892 610181



www.sofmilitary.co.uk
sales@sofmilitary.co.uk
01490 412225



www.johnbullclothing.com
mail@johnbullclothing.com
01748 833614

**DURABLE AND
COMPACT**



BCB International, Clydesmuir Road, Cardiff, CF24 2QS Tel: +44 (0)845 300 4111 Fax: +44 (0)2920 433701 Email: info@bcbint.com Web: www.bcbint.com

Union Jack Club Your Club for you and your family

All serving members below commissioned rank of HM Armed Forces are members of the Club. All Ex-service personnel are welcome to become members whilst all serving officers are entitled to make use of the Union Jack Club.

Make it your Club in central London.

Close to Waterloo, it offers a wide selection of affordable accommodation and facilities to meet you and your family's needs. The Club's relaxed atmosphere and casual dress code make it truly a home from home.

Online booking facility is now available to all members.



**For online bookings, special offers
and other information visit**



www.ujclub.co.uk Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ

020 7902 6000



Snail decision

ARMY PHOTOGRAPHERS
EXPOSE THE HIGHLIGHTS
OF THEIR TRADE

In focus: This image of British soldiers patrolling through a poppy field in Helmand province is Cpl Rupert Frere's personal favourite

Picture: Cpl Rupert Frere RLC

Report: Stephen Tyler

LINED up on a patrol in the heart of Helmand province in 2009, Cpl Rupert Frere was at first glance indistinguishable from his comrades in uniform.

Kitted up with body armour, webbing and a rifle, the NCO was a key component of the section looking to impose its presence on the ground in southern Afghanistan.

But while his military skills were a valuable asset, it was Cpl Frere's artistic ability that led to him venturing out on Op Herrick 10's front line.

The Royal Logistic Corps man was deployed as part of the Combat Camera Team responsible for capturing the conflict on film and the patrol was one of several where he was expected to act as both a fully-competent Serviceman and a highly-skilled photographer.

"The benefit to having a soldier taking pictures is that the other troops don't have to worry about us," he explained. "We do come under fire, but unless it's life-threatening I will always continue taking photographs because those are the images people want to see. My job is capturing the pictures that no-one else can."

With his work having adorned the front pages of newspapers around the world, it is fair to say that Cpl Frere is fast becoming a master of his art.

Like each of his colleagues in the photographic trade, his skill set is more than comparable with the best photographers on civvy street.

But apart from an AS Level in media studies and a self-confessed "keen eye" for a good picture, he joined the military as a complete amateur.

"I was never really a geeky photographer – I didn't know a thing about shutter speeds, I just enjoyed taking photos," explained Cpl Frere, who previously

served as a driver and explosive ordnance disposal operator. "I didn't think I could get into the trade, but I spoke about it with a warrant officer at an RLC day and decided to go for it."

The first step on the road to joining the ranks of the Army's photographic hot shots is a selection course that tests recruits' fitness, maths and basic camera skills.

Candidates then deliver a lecture on a subject not related to the Army or photography before being given 24 hours to compile a portfolio of ten pictures covering a range of subjects.

"The whole process is not so much about proving that you know all of the technical procedures," said Cpl Frere. "It's about showing you have the eye for good photos and that you can approach people and are approachable yourself."

"You can be the best photographer in the world but there is no point unless you can talk to people."

Success on the initial test earns applicants access onto the final stage of training – an eight-month, tri-Service course at RAF Cosford that covers everything from managing light to using the arsenal of modern photographic kit.

Cpl Frere, who is one of 44 soldiers currently serving as Army photographers, met the high standards of the selection process and immediately took up his first posting with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester.

"I was lucky because I arrived when they had just returned from Afghanistan," he said. "Within a couple of months I had a front page in *The Times* and a lot of pictures used elsewhere."

In his role as the brigade's photographer, Cpl Frere covers everything from cheque presentations in the garrison to Army sports and overseas exercises.

The variety of his position will also see him deploy on Op Herrick 13 in October and Cpl Frere admitted that the chance to experience more of what the Services have to offer was one of the job's big draws.

"I went into this thinking it was all about going to Hawaii to take photographs of windsurfing," he said. "I soon found out that it wasn't, but it is the only way to see everything about the Army without being a high-ranking officer."

"It's amazing when I think what assignments

I have been on. On one Herrick tour I saw every element of how things work in Afghanistan.

"A lot of people don't know we exist and think we are doing this as a hobby. They also don't believe the Army pays for all of the equipment, but it does."

After picking up his camera bag for the first time as a professional, Cpl Frere soon discovered why the selection process places as much emphasis on personality as it does photographic skill.

Coming from his regimented former job, the NCO was suddenly in charge of his own time management and was expected to be able to deal confidently and professionally with everyone from junior soldiers to the Chief of the General Staff.

"It was daunting at first," he said. "But for me the hardest guys to talk to are groups of young troops."

"When I have a group of 30 paras flinging insults at me I have to give as good as I get and I enjoy that challenge."

With one operational tour completed and another on the horizon – not to mention the hundreds of jobs he has shot back at base – Cpl Frere's photographic portfolio is constantly expanding.

And the wealth of new images he captures each week makes choosing his personal favourite a tough task.

"You get sick of looking at your own pictures, but my favourite is the one of guys in Afghanistan walking through a field of poppies," he said. "It was one of the first I took out there."

"I'm always changing my mind and striving to get better results. Op Herrick is a good place to go as a photographer because the reason people want to see a photo is because it is slightly unusual."

"Afghanistan is something people outside of the Army aren't used to seeing, so even a simple portrait takes on extra emphasis."

For an NCO with a wealth of experience in their current trade, making the jump into life as an Army photographer is a daunting step.

But for Cpl Frere there are no regrets. He and his colleagues get a rounded view of the military like no other and know that their work will tell the Service's story long after they retire to civvy street.

"If you love the Army and love taking photos it's brilliant," he added. "It's a really interesting job – it's history you are documenting and it's a proud feeling to think people will look back on my pictures in 50 years' time." ■

IT'S ABOUT
SHOWING YOU
HAVE AN EYE
FOR GOOD
PHOTOS AND
THAT YOU
CAN APPROACH
PEOPLE
AND ARE
APPROACHABLE
YOURSELF



Hot shot:
Cpl Rupert Frere (RLC) during his time with the Army's Combat Camera Team on Op Herrick 10
Picture: Sgt Jon Bevan, RLC

The kit

Flashgun

Wide angle
14-24mm
zoom lens

Telephoto
70-200mm
zoom lens



Radio control for
flashgun/camera

Medium
focal length
24-70mm
zoom lens

High-resolution
digital cameras



FLASH TRADE: ARMY PHOTOGRAPHERS TELL *SOLDIER* ABOUT THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THEIR PROFESSION



SGT IAN FORSYTH



CPL STEVE WOOD



CPL KELLIE WILLIAMS



CPL STEVE BLAKE

SERVICE BACKGROUND

Served for 16 years in the Royal Artillery as an observation post assistant

Spent 12 years with the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, then with 1 Rifles

Joined in 1996 as a driver in the RLC and spent most of her career in Germany and Northern Ireland. Also played football for the Army and Combined Services

Served for 11 years in the Royal Signals, working with hi-tech secure satellite systems. Last post before transfer was as a Phase Two training instructor

TIME AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

Five years

One year

One year

Seven months

WHY CHOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY?

To continue a photographic passion, interest and career that I have pursued for the last 20 years

I tried to join the Army as a photographer, but was persuaded to join the Infantry. I started to develop an interest in photography at the age of 18 when I started a City & Guilds course in black and white photography

I got interested in photography in Northern Ireland and it became a hobby. I decided to pursue it as a profession and was convinced to give it a go. At the time I didn't even know that there was such a trade in my corps

The chance to fulfil an ambition in photography and the fact that I am technically getting paid to do my hobby. Also, the varied jobs and the chance to travel to different places to capture history in the making and tell a story through my lens is great

BEST BITS OF THE JOB

The freedom to pursue a passion for photography and the means of documenting the lives of people – civilian and military – that you meet through your work

The fact I get to travel the globe doing my hobby full-time while capturing history in the making is one best bit. I also get to use thousands of pounds-worth of state-of-the-art camera gear as the tools of my trade

I personally like being able to manage my own time and work on my own. You also get a real kick out of seeing a photograph that you have taken published. I have had stuff in the nationals, including *The Sun*

Getting state-of-the-art equipment and training and the varied travel and experiences. No one job is the same so every day is an opportunity to learn

WORST BITS OF THE JOB

Anything not related to photography

I sometimes miss the camaraderie of the Infantry. Also spending a lot of time working alone and travelling

I've only been doing it for one year so there's nothing yet

None

ADVICE FOR SOMEONE WANTING TO TAKE UP PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ARMY

Photography must be your passion – you have to be fully committed to it. The reward will be the opportunity to take great photographs, many of which will happen in varied and interesting locations, and then provide them for the wider media to promote and raise public awareness of the British Army and individual soldiers and their efforts

It helps to have a sound understanding of the basics of photography before applying – you don't need to be the next David Bailey. On successful completion of the interview process, and being loaded onto a one-week selection at the Defence School of Photography, you will be taught everything you need to know for the job

Practice, practice practice! You should take on board what other people say and never be afraid to ask questions. If you are that keen, get a camera – you don't need to spend a lot of money – and try to get on a unit photographers' course. From there, if you really enjoy it you can study and learn new techniques which helps to build up your confidence

Work hard at getting a good portfolio together first. Take some advice from people already in the trade and then go for it. Entry criteria apply so make sure that you have got all the boxes ticked before you decide to take the plunge. It can be tough, but fight through it – it will be one of the best choices you make in your life

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE IMAGE AND WHY?

This image was taken in Arizona during coverage of the Apache crews on a pre-deployment exercise. The British pilot and US co-pilot had just landed and I set the shot up quickly using an off-camera flash onto the pan trying to anticipate when the Apache in the background would be in the best position

My favourite is the image of an Army combat medic as this was my first published photograph after becoming an Army photographer. It was printed on the front cover of *Soldier* in October 2009. The other reason I like it is that I used an advanced lighting technique to get the achieved effect

As a photographer, I work with people all the time so it was nice to get something a bit different. I like the photograph because it is full of colour and history. I also used an off-camera flash which was a technique I had wanted to try for a while and I was pleased that it worked out well

My favourite is of two soldiers sat in their vehicle ready to move out on a combat logistic patrol. I like the composition of the image as well as its overall detail. The image depicts the professionalism of the British Army in the fact that whatever the task, we are always on top of our admin and look the part

For more information about the photographic trade in the British Army, contact WO1 Fiona Stapleton (RLC) on 07766 245379



Web-tex[®]
Military products

A British Company

TACTICAL SOFT SHELL JACKET

RRP £59.95

Made from waterproof
tactical softshell material

Velcro arm patches with
subdued Union Jack

Storm proof zips
with pullers

Zippered chest pocket

Zippered side pockets

Draw string waist

Adjustable cuffs

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

**FIT FOR
DUTY**

Extensively tried & tested in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq

Web-tex[®]
Military products

For stockists and a catalogue contact
web-tex.co.uk or call 01234 740327
Haynes West End, Bedford MK45 3QU

Report: Claire Allen
Pictures: Cpl Russ Nolan

BRITISH soldiers marched on Moscow's iconic Red Square for the first time in history as more than 13,000 international troops marked the 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The Russian Government invited 76 personnel from 2 Company, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards to take part in last month's parade, which was also attended by members of the United States, French and other armies from the Second World War's Grand Alliance.

In a massive display of military might, the one-hour parade saw hundreds of ground vehicles and aircraft pass through and over Red Square as Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and an army of spectators watched on.

For the British contingent, the Welsh Guards' distinctive red tunics and bearskins attracted considerable attention with many soldiers being asked to pose for pictures by members of the public.

"There is a sense of pride to be in this massive parade," Gdsm Ian

Mundy explained. "It seems that everyone is interested in us as well and I'm proud to be a part of that."

As well as coping with the grand scale of the occasion, the soldiers had to master elements of the Russian language to ensure they stayed in time on the parade square.

"It's a very difficult language to

learn," said LCpl John Sanigar.

"But it's a brilliant place to be at the moment for the British Army and the Welsh Guards."

The regiment's participation in the spectacular parade came just six months after they returned from serving in southern Afghanistan, during which commanding officer Lt Col Rupert Thorneloe was killed alongside Tpr Joshua Hammond in a roadside blast.

Gdsm Thomas James, whose grandfathers both served in the



Parade by numbers

Total troops:	13,000
Russian troops:	10,500
Estimated cost:	£26m
Strength of military band:	1,000
Tanks and missiles:	161
Number of aircraft:	127
Foreign dignitaries:	25

Second World War, admitted it had been an emotional tour.

"We all lost friends and good colleagues there," he said. "We've been back a few months now though and you have to get on with it."

"This is the first time I've been on official parade in my tunic since we've been back. It's an honour to be here."

Commanding officer Lt Col Charlie Antelme added that taking part in the parade was a "surreal" experience.

"This is an historic moment for

the Welsh Guards and British Army and, of course, for the Russian people," he said.

"I think this is a really interesting time in Russian history. They want to celebrate what was achieved, not only by their veterans but by veterans across all the Allied Forces."

"We really welcome the chance to get alongside the people we fought so hard with for the freedom of Europe."

Like all foreign soldiers invited to the parade, the Welsh Guards were presented with a Russian Ministry of Defence-issued medal to commemorate the occasion.

The mementos were handed over by a three-star Russian colonel general during a ceremony at the

Moscow Military Academy.

The troops also got to explore the historic city during a guided tour of the Kremlin and a cultural boat trip up the Moscow River.

And the experience was rounded off as the troops formed the honour guard at a reception at the British ambassador's newly-refurbished residence opposite the Kremlin.

Gdsm Sancho Edwards said

the visit to Russia's capital city had been "awesome".

The junior soldier added: "Everyone wanted to have their pictures taken with us and it made you feel really special. We were all part of something that nobody has done before and I was so proud. I'll always remember that." ■

Red army: Welsh Guards line up outside St Basil's Cathedral. From left to right – CSgt Dean McCabe, LCpl Gareth Lucas, Gdsm Bleddyn Craze, Gdsm Lee Meaney and Gdsm Stephen Rowe

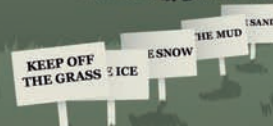
Guards of Honour

Russians welcome Welsh soldiers for historic parade

With intelligent 4WD,
for tarmac, grass, ice,
snow, mud and sand.

From £15,924

With 4 wheels.



To find out more, call our dedicated Military Sales team on 0208 891 9044.

FREELANDER 2 Why get a car when you can get a Land Rover?



GO BEYOND

For more details visit www.landrover.co.uk/military. UK Military Price relates to a Freelander 2 Td4 S for export & includes 13% discount; vehicles supplied for use in the UK are subject to 17.5% VAT, Purchase Tax and 12mth Road Fund Licence. Available to all serving members of Army, Navy and RAF whether stationed in the UK or Overseas; Proof of status will be required. **FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE FREELANDER 2 RANGE MPG (L/100KM):** URBAN 26.4 (10.7)–33.2 (8.5) EXTRA URBAN 42.8 (6.6)–49.6 (5.7) COMBINED 35.8 (7.9)–42.2 (6.7) **CO₂ EMISSIONS G/KM:** 179–214. Drive responsibly on and off-road.

Price Guarantee (Motif8 Will Beat Any Genuine Quote On Any Garment)

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

The UK's largest supplier of
high quality embroidered
and printed sports
and leisurewear
to the Armed Forces
across the world

motif8 Ltd



every order placed helps us to support the above charities

BRITISH FORCES BRING AFGHAN AUDIENCE TO 2010 WORLD CUP

ALWAY GAME

BFBS SCHEDULE (44)

TOWNSHIP TRAINING (46)

RIO'S RULE (48)

FRANKLY SPEAKING (52)

ARMY XI (57)





FORCES' FOOTY FIX

WATCH EVERY MATCH OF THIS SUMMER'S TOURNAMENT

GROUP A

Fri, Jun 11		South Africa vs Mexico		1600 BFBS 1
Fri, Jun 11		Uruguay vs France		2030 BFBS 1
Wed, Jun 16		South Africa vs Uruguay		2030 BFBS 1
Thu, Jun 17		France vs Mexico		2030 BFBS 1
Tues, Jun 22		Mexico vs Uruguay		1600 BFBS 2
Tues, Jun 22		France vs South Africa		1600 BFBS 2

GROUP B

Sat, Jun 12		Korea Rep vs Greece		1330 BFBS 2
Sat, Jun 12		Argentina vs Nigeria		1600 BFBS 2
Thu, Jun 17		Argentina vs Korea Rep		1330 BFBS 2
Thu, Jun 17		Greece vs Nigeria		1600 BFBS 2
Tues, Jun 22		Nigeria vs Korea Rep		1600 BFBS 1
Tues, Jun 22		Greece vs Argentina		1600 BFBS 1

GROUP C

Sat, Jun 12		England vs USA		2030 BFBS 1
Sun, Jun 13		Algeria vs Slovenia		1330 BFBS 2
Fri, Jun 18		Slovenia vs USA		1600 BFBS 2
Fri, Jun 18		England vs Algeria		2030 BFBS 1
Wed, Jun 23		Slovenia vs England		1600 BFBS 2
Wed, Jun 23		USA vs Algeria		1600 BFBS 2

GROUP D

Sun, Jun 13		Serbia vs Ghana		1600 BFBS 2
Sun, Jun 13		Germany vs Australia		2030 BFBS 1
Fri, Jun 18		Germany vs Serbia		1330 BFBS 2
Sat, Jun 19		Ghana vs Australia		1600 BFBS 2
Wed, Jun 23		Ghana vs Germany		2030 BFBS 1
Wed, Jun 23		Australia vs Serbia		2030 BFBS 1

GROUP E

Mon, Jun 14		Netherlands vs Denmark		1330 BFBS 2
Mon, Jun 14		Japan vs Cameroon		1600 BFBS 2
Sat, Jun 19		Netherlands vs Japan		1330 BFBS 2
Sat, Jun 19		Cameroon vs Denmark		2030 BFBS 1
Thu, Jun 24		Denmark vs Japan		2030 BFBS 1
Thu, Jun 24		Cameroon vs Netherlands		2030 BFBS 1

GROUP F

Mon, Jun 14		Italy vs Paraguay		2030 BFBS 1
Tue, Jun 15		New Zealand vs Slovakia		1330 BFBS 2
Sun, Jun 20		Slovakia vs Paraguay		1330 BFBS 2
Sun, Jun 20		Italy vs New Zealand		1600 BFBS 2
Thu, Jun 24		Slovakia vs Italy		1600 BFBS 2
Thu, Jun 24		Paraguay vs New Zealand		1600 BFBS 2

GROUP G

Tue, Jun 15		Ivory Coast vs Portugal		1600 BFBS 2
Tue, Jun 15		Brazil vs Korea DPR		2030 BFBS 1
Sun, Jun 20		Brazil vs Ivory Coast		2030 BFBS 1
Mon, Jun 21		Portugal vs Korea DPR		1330 BFBS 2
Fri, Jun 25		Portugal vs Brazil		1600 BFBS 2
Fri, Jun 25		Korea DPR vs Ivory Coast		1600 BFBS 2

GROUP H

Wed, Jun 16		Honduras vs Chile		1330 BFBS 2
Wed, Jun 16		Spain vs Switzerland		1600 BFBS 2
Mon, Jun 21		Chile vs Switzerland		1600 BFBS 2
Mon, Jun 21		Spain vs Honduras		2030 BFBS 1
Fri, Jun 25		Chile vs Spain		2030 BFBS 1
Fri, Jun 25		Switzerland vs Honduras		2030 BFBS 1

SECOND ROUND

Sat, Jun 26	Winner A vs Runner-up B	1600 BFBS 1
Sat, Jun 26	Winner C vs Runner-up D	2030 BFBS 1
Sun, Jun 27	Winner D vs Runner-up C	1600 BFBS 1
Sun, Jun 27	Winner B vs Runner-up A	2030 BFBS 1
Mon, Jun 28	Winner E vs Runner-up F	1600 BFBS 1
Mon, Jun 28	Winner G vs Runner-up H	2030 BFBS 1
Tue, Jun 29	Winner F vs Runner-up E	1600 BFBS 1
Tue, Jun 29	Winner H vs Runner-up G	2030 BFBS 1

QUARTER FINALS

Fri, Jul 2	Winner SR5 vs Winner SR6	1600 BFBS 1
Fri, Jul 2	Winner SR1 vs Winner SR2	2030 BFBS 1
Sat, Jul 3	Winner SR3 vs Winner SR4	1600 BFBS 1
Sat, Jul 3	Winner SR7 vs Winner SR8	2030 BFBS 1

SEMI FINALS

Tue, Jul 6	Winner QF1 vs Winner QF2	2030 BFBS 1
Wed, Jul 7	Winner QF3 vs Winner QF4	2030 BFBS 1

THIRD/FOURTH PLAY-OFF

Sat, Jul 10	Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2	2030 BFBS 1
-------------	------------------------	-------------

WORLD CUP FINAL

Sun, Jul 11	Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2	2030 BFBS 1
-------------	--------------------------	-------------

ALL KICK-OFF TIMES CET, AFGHANISTAN +2.5HRS, CYPRUS +1



You're watching their backs, but who's watching yours?

Whether on deployment, in training or off duty, Personal Accident Insurance from Towergate Wilsons is designed to offer you and your family protection from the financial impact that injuries can have.

- Premium start at just £3.50 per month
- Cover available even if you are under orders to deploy
- Optional family cover available
- No additional charges for hazardous occupations (EOD, Special Forces)
- Four levels of cover

For more information about insurance products from Towergate Wilsons or details of the work we do in support of military charities and associations, please telephone:

0116 240 7766 or visit www.towergatewilsons.co.uk

*The offer is for a 20% saving on Military Kit, Personal Possessions and Contents insurance and is available to new clients of Towergate Wilsons only. Policy cannot run in tandem with another similar policy. Normal underwriting criteria apply.

Adventurous Training Grant

A biannual £1000 grant has now been launched for military expeditions by Towergate Wilsons. All you need to do is register at www.towergatewilsons.co.uk before the 31 July 2010.

We recognise that AT and sporting activities are a key part of service life and we want to help you keep this superb training affordable for all which is why we have launched this grant, as well discounting all group adventurous training insurance policies. Full terms and conditions are contained online.



 **towergate wilsons**
Military Insurance experts

20% Off*
Military Kit & Contents
when you buy our
PA Insurance



Sport for good: Soldiers from the Army Physical Training Corps helped spread the joy of football to underprivileged children living in the townships of South Africa

Main picture: Getty images/Alistair Berg

Beautiful game

Army coaches give townships a sporting chance

Report: Richard Long

SOUTH Africa will host the biggest footballing spectacle on the planet this month when the FIFA World Cup kicks off in Johannesburg.

While the glitz and glamour of the tournament will undoubtedly capture some of the game's greatest players at their peak, the hours of live television coverage will fail to tell the story of the crippling poverty that has gripped the nation.

Personnel from the Army Physical Training Corps (APTC) witnessed such difficulties first hand when they travelled to Durban to offer a series of football and netball coaching sessions to youngsters.

The visit was organised as part of the corps' 150th anniversary celebrations and those involved were determined to make a positive impression on some of the country's most deprived areas.

"We chose to come here as we wanted to make a real difference in the townships," Capt Lee Dyson told *Soldier* on his return to the UK.

"We have done tours to Australia and other areas, but by going to South Africa we knew we could have a real impact."

The APTC spent time working in the townships of Wentworth and Amaoti and the challenges they faced were immediately obvious.

"Both have high levels of social problems, unemployment,

crime and drugs," Capt Dyson explained.

"We coached football and netball to 1,000 children in the townships.

"In these areas when people give something away they [the recipients] expect to have to do something in return.

"It is almost unheard of in South Africa for an organisation to turn up, offer coaching and give away kit and equipment like we did.

"In the second week we started the coaching clinic and on the first morning there were 150 children. On Tuesday we had 200 and by Wednesday it had increased to 250.

"These were youngsters who were turning up with



nothing on their feet, asking if they could join in. We didn't turn anyone away and coached everyone who came along.

"All these kids do is kick balls around. Technically they are far better than children in this country but they do not get the chance to receive any coaching.

"This was probably the first time they have had any structured sessions."

The trip received terrific support from a number of high-profile backers and the APTC was able to donate kit, equipment and footballs to the youngsters they worked with in the townships.

Tool supplier Speedy Hire provided 6,000 sets of Umbro shorts, socks and shirts while Manchester United, Liverpool, West Ham and Rotherham all gave generously to the cause.

The Football Association showed its support by donating balls, bibs and cones for the sessions.

As well as working with youngsters on the streets, the APTC was keen to develop a legacy scheme so the good work can continue long after the soldiers have returned home.

"We ran a train-the-trainer programme for the senior boys and girls and produced coaching manuals for them to keep," Capt Dyson explained.

"These children shadowed us for two or three days and ran some sessions themselves. We have left the programmes with them so they can continue the work.

"I am quite keen to go back in a couple of years to run some more clinics and see how the scheme has progressed."

By venturing off the beaten track the visiting personnel were able to gain a greater understanding of the problems young people face and they used football and netball as a



tool to overcome these difficulties.

Capt Dyson said: "Sport is the one thing that unites boys, girls and adults right across South Africa.

"It can bring gangs together who would normally be fighting each other and the local and national governments see sport as a way of solving the social problems out there.

"We organised a tournament and decided to mix the teams so the kids who would otherwise be fighting once the school bell goes were playing together. That was really important."

While the two-week trip had a strong emphasis on work, the APTC found time for battlefield tours at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana.

They also visited Cape Town's dramatic Green Point Stadium – the host of seven World Cup matches – where daring personnel were able to bungee jump from its soaring archway.

"The World Cup will be huge for South Africa, the buzz we

experienced around the country was just amazing," Capt Dyson said.

"The stadium is phenomenal, it is awe-inspiring just to look at the building they have created.

"You can get a pod car to the top and the view of Cape Town is unbelievable.

"We had guys jumping off a World Cup stadium – it was fantastic."

With the touring party now safely home Capt Dyson is looking ahead and he hopes to make a return trip to build on the foundations the APTC has formed.

"I would personally like to take a group back in two years to do something similar," the officer added.

"I am now going to take a short break then I will start planning for the future." ■

It is almost unheard of in South Africa for an organisation to turn up, offer coaching and give away kit and equipment





RIO'S RULE

Interview: Joe Clapson
Picture: Claire R Greenway

IN an exclusive interview with *Soldier*, England captain Rio Ferdinand has issued a call to arms to British troops to get behind the country's quest to win the World Cup in South Africa.

Army personnel at home, in Afghanistan and across the world will be downing tools at every opportunity to watch England's progress and the Manchester United defender took time out from his preparations for football's showpiece tournament to speak about his team's chances.

What does it mean to have the full support of the British Army behind you as you go into the World Cup?

"It's brilliant and I think all the England players recognise what a good job the Army is doing for the people of this country. The soldiers in Afghanistan are keeping us safe and allowing people in the UK the freedom to walk the streets. To do something like play well in the World Cup to keep them happy is something we want to do."

Is there added pressure on the England team knowing that British soldiers across the globe will be watching World Cup games while deployed overseas?

"There's no extra pressure but we know we have an extra responsibility for the country to give 100 per cent – winning is something we want to do for the whole nation."

What are England's chances of glory?

"We've got a good chance of doing well but I don't want to over-hype things like we've done before. It's all about creating a team atmosphere to do well, having a bit of luck on our side and putting everything we've worked on into action."

Does the team have a most-feared opponent?

"We respect all the teams in the tournament but we fear nobody. We'll take each game as it comes and we are not worried about anyone specifically."

Do you know anyone in the Forces?

"My wife's brother served with the Army in Iraq, Sierra Leone and Northern Ireland and one of my best mates is currently serving, so I am well aware of the job the soldiers do. My granddad was involved in the Second World War too and before he passed away he filled me in on all the stories which were quite humbling."

Did you ever consider a career in the Army?

"To be honest I was always too engaged with football to think about anything else: what team I would play for, what shin-pads I would wear, what boots I should get. I was solely focused on football and it has always been my life. From a young age when others might've joined the cadets, I was playing football."

How much do the England players know about Operation Herrick?

"Every morning at the training ground all of the players look at the papers to see what's going on out in Afghanistan. Personally I think the media should cover what the Army gets up to with a bit more zest – the soldiers should get as much coverage as the sports players."

Which of your teammates do you think would be best suited to Army service?

"At Man United we play a military game on the PSP and obviously I'm the best and myself, Michael Carrick and Nemanja Vidic are the dream team. I'm not so sure about the real thing though. I reckon JT [John Terry], Frank [Lampard] and Wayne Rooney would be good."

Although you're not dealing with guns and bullets, can you compare your job for England with a soldier's career?

"There is no comparison between what we do and what the men and women in the Army do. It's a case of life or death for them and as footballers we respect and appreciate that there's a big difference – football is entertainment."

What does the England captaincy mean to you? What qualities do you bring as a leader?

"To be given the captaincy is an honour and an achievement. To be asked to lead your country means a great deal but for me it's more important that the team does well. Who wants to lead a team that's not successful?"

"Some captains lead by example, letting their football do the talking. Others, like Tony Adams, are more about shouting in the changing room. I would say I'm a mixture of both styles."

Which players and managers have you learnt most from?

"I think Roy Keane was a great leader and knew exactly what to say and how to say it. Also Sir Alex Ferguson is obviously someone to learn from given his record and you always know what he requires."

"For England, Fabio Capello is brilliant – sometimes he can be like a barking sergeant major and other times he is softly spoken. Either way you know when something needs doing."

England players could be away from family and friends for up to two months at the World Cup. What added pressure and emotions does that separation bring?

"Like soldiers away on tour players at the World

Cup will miss their families and that can be difficult, but we only get a chance to compete to win the trophy every four years, so it's something we deal with. In comparison, soldiers are away for six months and putting it bluntly they don't always know if they are coming back, so their situation is much harder to deal with."

At the end of a long season, fighting each other for the Premiership title, is it difficult for players to put club rivalries aside in the England dressing room?

"With Chelsea winning the title the shoe is on the other foot for me because I've been used to winning it. But when the players from the different teams come together for England there's no rivalry at all and there's a good atmosphere. On the training ground we work hard together and off the pitch we all have a good laugh – I'm sure people in the Army will appreciate that when a group of lads are together there's plenty of impromptu pranks and banter."

Is there any player in particular you think could turn out to be a star in South Africa?

"If he's selected to go then I think Aaron Lennon has the potential to make a big name for himself. In my opinion he could do well and is definitely one to watch."

What does England need to do to lift the World Cup this summer?

"That's not the easiest question to answer, but I think if everyone in the team plays to their potential in every game, we have what it takes to be successful – we just need to make it happen. I imagine it's similar in the Army – to be successful we need to pull together as a strong unit and get all areas functioning at the top of their game for as long as it takes to win."

Do you have a message for the troops and the rest of the country as you lead the nation into such an important tournament?

"Be safe. We will do what we can to cheer all the boys and girls up out in Afghanistan and fingers crossed we can get as far as possible to boost morale for all the troops. We are going to South Africa to win, not to make up the numbers."

"We are looking for the Army and the whole country to get behind the England team and cheer us on – this is a call to arms for all soldiers who want us to lift that trophy."

To find out more about Rio, including his #5 magazine, log on to www.rioferdinand.com

"PERSONALLY I THINK SOLDIERS SHOULD GET AS MUCH COVERAGE AS SPORTS PLAYERS"



RIO FACTS

Full name: Rio Gavin Ferdinand

Born: Peckham, November 7, 1978
(age 31)

Height: 6ft 2.5in

Position: Centre back

Club: Manchester United

Previous clubs: West Ham United,
Bournemouth (loan), Leeds United.

England U21 caps/goals: 5/0

England caps/goals: 76/3

England debut: November 15, 1997
vs Cameroon

Did you know? Ferdinand's appearance against Cameroon at the age of 19 years and eight days made him the youngest defender ever to appear for England. The record was broken by Micah Richards in 2006.



Interview: Joe Clapson
Pictures: Michael Regan/Getty Images

AS one of the senior members of England's World Cup squad, a lot of pressure will be heaped onto the shoulders of cultured midfielder Frank Lampard during this month's showpiece tournament.

The former West Ham man's undeniable talents will serve as an anchor for the youthful exuberance of less-experienced team members such as Theo Walcott and Aaron Lennon in South Africa.

The all-action player goes into the competition after a successful season in which his guile, drive and – most importantly – goals helped Chelsea claim the domestic double for the first time in their history.

But despite his mind focusing firmly on guiding the Three Lions to glory, Lampard took time out of his training to speak to *Soldier* about his hopes for the national team and his pride in the knowledge that soldiers at home, in Afghanistan and elsewhere will be cheering him and his teammates on.

Frankly speaking

LAMPARD FACTFILE

Full name: Frank James Lampard

Born: Romford, June 20, 1978 (age 31)

Height: 6ft 0.5in

Position: Midfield

Club: Chelsea

Previous clubs: West Ham United, Swansea (loan)

England U21 caps/goals: 16/9

England caps/goals: 77/20

England debut: October 10, 1999 vs Belgium

Did you know? Lampard was a model student during his time at the fee-paying Brentwood School, where he gained ten GCSEs – including an A* in Latin – and was urged by his teachers to study for A-levels and go to university



What does it mean to have the full support of the British Army behind you as you go into the World Cup?

"Obviously it is something that means a great deal. We are going into a major competition but it is nothing compared to what the soldiers go through and it is inspirational to know that they will be thinking about us."

Coming off the back of winning the Premiership and the FA Cup with Chelsea, how easy is it to move on to the World Cup?

"For me personally, it is a very easy progression to make as winning the FA Cup puts a finality on the season and now I feel I can allow myself to think about the World Cup. Prior to that, I had to focus on domestic competitions so now it feels great to be able to look forward to it."

Soldiers will be watching the games at every opportunity. Does that give you a boost?

"Yes. As I said before, it is very flattering to know that they will be thinking of us from everywhere. What we are doing is nothing compared to what they are constantly doing for the nation so to have their support is a massive boost."

What is your personal goal for England in the World Cup? What are the team's chances of winning the trophy?

"My personal goal is to be part of the England team that wins. We have to go into it with that frame of mind. There are a lot of good teams like Brazil, Spain and Argentina but we have to believe that we can succeed."

What similarities do you think exist between the regime of the Army and the England team at a tournament?

"I really can't comment as I can't even imagine what it is like to be in the Army in a battle situation. I'm sure the camaraderie is remarkable as you become so reliant on each other. There is that similarity on a football team and you do rely on your teammates, but it is not a life or death situation as it is in the Army."

Are there any task-masters or generals in the England team?

"The management do push us very hard. [Fabio] Capello is very tough on discipline, training and diet but personally I really like that. I think it is

good to have someone strong in control keeping an eye on everything."

Where would you say England's strengths lie?

"We have a great team spirit, world-class players and also one of the best managers in the world."

Do you manage to follow what Britain's soldiers are doing in Afghanistan?

"Only really through what I see on television and in the news and they can only show so much. It is extremely difficult to know what it must be like in real life."

Who in the England team could handle going into battle? Who would be best-suited to military service?

"This is a really difficult question for me to answer because playing football is so easy compared to what soldiers do. It is hard to know how any of us would cope if we were in their situation. Obviously we do have some natural leaders and strong characters such as John Terry and Wayne Rooney, but to know if they could go into battle? I have no idea."

It has been a long season with your club and England – how do you keep focused?

"I am always trying to push myself and I do not feel happy unless I know I have done my absolute best. I have always been motivated this way so it is not hard for me to keep focused. With Chelsea this is reflected in the trophies we have won and in this case it is the prize that keeps you focused."

What do you do to boost team morale in difficult moments?

"I personally am not one that rants and raves. Sometimes I will have a word with younger players if they need picking up. At Chelsea we have a very calm and experienced manager in Carlo Ancelotti and he and all his staff, especially Ray Wilkins, are amazing at getting us fired up and keeping us on track."

Is there anything you would like to say to Britain's Service personnel before you head to South Africa?

"I would just like to say how proud I am that they will be watching and rooting for us and also how grateful I am for the job they do for all of us."

"THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD TEAMS BUT WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN SUCCEED"



'HEROES' by David Shepherd CBE, FRSA

Artist and conservationist David Shepherd owes much of his success to the military who commissioned his first wildlife painting. Whilst most of his charitable work focuses on conservation through The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), his lifelong commitment to the Forces continues today.

Depicting a scene in Afghanistan, 'Heroes' is David's latest military work and he is donating royalties and all profits from the sale of this print to 'Help the Heroes' and other charitable organisations close to his heart.



This print is a single limited edition of 1,150 copies, signed by the artist. Price £80 - including p&p
To buy a copy please call DSWF on 01483 272323 or go to our website www.davidshepherd.org quoting ref: S1
Published by DSWF - the sole publisher of David Shepherd.



The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation – saving critically endangered mammals in the wild
Registered charity number: 1106893



T-Shirts With FREE EMBROIDERY Just £4.25 plus vat (£4.99 inc)

Polo Shirts With FREE EMBROIDERY Just £6.95 plus vat (£8.17 inc)

Hoodies With FREE EMBROIDERY Just £8.95 plus vat (£10.52 inc)

**FREE EMBROIDERY
NO SETUP CHARGE
NO MINIMUMS**

Call now for our free catalogue packs



We will beat any quote, like for like - contact us for details.

BRAND NEW MILITARY / POLICE WEB SHOP: www.BobbyBoots.com

01792 31 32 33

see our website for full company details

E&OE. Terms and conditions apply- contact the sales office for details.



STARTING XI

WE WERE SOLDIERS

Football Punk's Simon Bourne picks the best players ever to have worn Army colours...

GAFFER BILL NICHOLSON

Forced to leave his beloved Spurs for the ranks of the Durham Light Infantry at the outbreak of the Second World War, Bill later returned to White Hart Lane to see out his career. He became the club's manager in 1958, guiding them to a plethora of domestic and European honours, including the first ever league and cup double in 1961.

2 CENTRE-BACK BILLY WRIGHT

During the Second World War, the Wolves and England legend served as a physical training instructor. He went on to win three league titles and an FA Cup with Wolves, as well as becoming the first man to reach the 100-cap mark for England. Remarkably for a defender, he managed to avoid being booked during his entire career. It was easy for Lineker (page 19), he never made a tackle.

1 GOALKEEPER MAIK TAYLOR

No, we've no idea why Maik's parents opted for the unconventional spelling of his forename either. After moving to the UK from Germany in his early 20s, the Northern Ireland international served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Arborfield, Berkshire, where he turned out for the regiment and several semi-professional sides, before the princely sum of £700 took him to Barnet. Now with Birmingham.



5 CENTRE-BACK JUSTIN WHITTLE

In a televised League Cup tie against Newcastle in 2005, the then Grimsby Town defender responded to being caught by Alan Shearer's flailing arm by introducing his elbow to the *Match of the Day* pundit's mush. His 15-minutes of fame were ensured as *The Guardian* and *The Times* gave him a royal kicking the next day. Maybe the flying elbow technique was something he'd picked up during his time with the Royal Army Pay Corps.

3 CENTRE-BACK DAVE MACKAY

Posted to Worcester with the Royal Engineers before turning professional with Hearts in 1957. Went on to win the Scottish title with the Jambos, before continuing his trophy collecting at Spurs. As a manager he led Derby to the First Division title in 1975, attributing his planning and disciplined approach to his time spent in the Army. Best remembered for throttling a terrified Billy Bremner.



7 RIGHT-MIDFIELD SIR TOM FINNEY

Unlike many footballers who were called up during the Second World War, Finney was involved in actual conflict – fighting in Egypt with Montgomery's Eighth Army in 1942. When Bill Shankly was asked if a certain star of the 70s was as good as the marauding Preston winger, who scored 30 goals in 76 games for England, the former Liverpool manager said: "Aye, he's as good as Tommy – but then Tommy's nearly 60 now."

6 CENTRE-MIDFIELD GARY HOLT

Affectionately known as "Three Lungs" by Norwich fans because of his remarkable engine, the former Scotland international was a late-comer to the pro game after serving as a chef in the Army Catering Corps. He was spotted by Norwich after cooking up a storm (you're fired – Ed) with Kilmarnock and went on to play for Nottingham Forest and Wycombe. Has since slipped into non-league football and can now be spotted making waffles with Lowestoft Town.

4 CENTRE-MIDFIELD DUNCAN EDWARDS

The Manchester United legend served two years as an ammunition storeman at Nesscliffe near Shrewsbury, where the laid-back future England international described Army life as "not too bad". The Busby Babe – who died in the Munich air disaster at the tender age of 21 – remains one of the greatest talents England has ever produced. Sir Bobby Charlton once said of Edwards: "He was the only player that made me feel inferior."

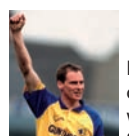
8 LEFT-MIDFIELD JIM BAXTER

Although we're firmly of the opinion that Lorraine Kelly and the Proclaimers are the greatest things to come out of Scotland, some die-hard Rangers fans would have you believe that it's the admittedly mesmerising talent of "Slim Jim". Baxter served two years of National Service as a Black Watch soldier before becoming an Ibrox legend, and is fondly remembered by everyone north of the border for humiliating World Cup holders England at Wembley in 1967 by performing keepy-uppies and other tricks during a 3-2 win.



9 RIGHT-ATTACK LEE BRADBURY

Cruelly dubbed "Badbuy" by Manchester City fans after the profligate Citizens splashed out an eye-watering £3 million for the hit-man in 1997. Following his City nightmare, Bradbury also failed at Palace before resurrecting his career upon returning to Portsmouth – the club he joined after buying himself out of the Army. As his powers in front of goal waned, he did what many of us resort to – became a fullback. Now at Bournemouth.



10 CENTRE FORWARD PHIL STANT

Forget Sutton and Shearer, the original footballing SAS man was Phil "Ooh, Aah, Stanton" Stant. The Falklands War veteran joined the SAS* as a bomb disposal expert, before launching rockets of another kind during a hugely productive goal-scoring career in the lower leagues with the likes of Mansfield, Cardiff and Hereford.

*"Did I 'eck! I was based in Hereford and the media put two and two together and came up with six." – Stanton, ex-ROC



11 LEFT-ATTACK GUY WHITTINGHAM

"Dick" bought himself out of the Army in 1988 and scored a bucket-load of goals for Yeovil Town before joining Portsmouth. Became known as "Corporal Punishment" at Fratton Park because of his prowess in front of goal, prompting "Big Ron" Atkinson to snap him up for his title-chasing Villa side. However, he flopped at Villa Park and became something of a footballing nomad. Was last seen working as a development coach at Fratton Park.



What no place in the middle for the godfather of English football, Sir Bobby Charlton? No room on the flank for Welsh wing wizard Cliff Jones? Think you can pick a better XI than this punk? Email your line-up to styler@soldiermagazine.co.uk

INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY?

You may be entitled to claim compensation to protect you and your family's future



NO WIN, NO FEE

You are entitled to claim compensation for injuries sustained whilst in a theatre of operations or in training or at any time.

FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL
CALL FREE ON 0800 132965
or visit us at: www.militaryinjuryclaims.co.uk



You've got nothing to lose and perhaps a lot to gain



We're here to take care of **your family** when you're taking care of ours!

There is a healthcare organisation that **understands** that while you're busy looking after us and our families, you are away from your own. That's why we offer discretionary healthcare services so you can offer them **first class healthcare** for only **£1.50 per person per week**.

Call us today on
0845 270 3814*
quoting ref **SOLDIER**
or visit www.benenden.org.uk/soldier



only
£1.50
per person
per week

* Calls cost a maximum of 4p per minute for BT customers. The price of calls from non-BT lines will vary. Lines open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Calls may be recorded. Benenden Healthcare membership is initially only available to current or former employees of the Post Office, Civil Service, BT, registered charities, public sector bodies and other approved organisations whose aims and objectives are deemed compatible with those of the Society. Some services have a six month qualifying period. The Benenden Healthcare Society Limited is an incorporated friendly society, registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, registered number 480F. The Society's contractual business (the provision of tuberculosis benefit) is authorised by the FSA. The remainder of the Society's business is undertaken on a discretionary basis. The Society is subject to FSA requirement for prudential management.
Registered Office: The Benenden Healthcare Society Limited, Holgate Park Drive, York YO26 4GG.

AD/SOLDIER/SP/05.10/AF



Picture: SAC Andrew Morris

Rapid turnaround: From bad news to hospital bedside in little more than 13 hours, Sgt Derrick heralds the service of those who expedited his return to UK

Compassionate care highly-commended

HAVING read a multitude of letters from British Forces personnel complaining about the service provided by Royal Air Force/Royal Logistic Corps Movements Control to those travelling to and from operational theatres, I felt compelled to write and let *Soldier* readers know about the other side of the story.

I have served in the Army for 20 years and, until last month, had been lucky enough to never be directly involved with a compassionate travel case.

On the day I flew out to Afghanistan to start my Op Herrick tour my mother was taken gravely ill. Unfortunately, the call came through a little too late to catch me before leaving Akrotiri.

However, as soon as the flight landed in Kandahar I was taken off the aircraft and informed of what was happening. Having been taken to the terminal, I was provided with a Paradigm phonecard by one of the movements staff (if you're reading this, thank you, sir) and my luggage was retrieved.

I was then put straight back on the same aircraft and returned to the UK as soon as possible. During the return journey the movements staff at both Kandahar and

Akrotiri were very supportive and welfare facilities were made available without having to request them.

On arrival at Brize Norton I was again taken straight off the aircraft and rushed through the terminal to a taxi which was waiting to take me to the hospital in Oxford.

Due to the excellent work of all involved, I was able to be at my mother's bedside a little more than 13 hours after first being informed of her illness.

I wish I could say that this story had a happy ending, but unfortunately my mother passed away two days later.

Nevertheless, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks, and those of my family, to all the staff at the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and the RAF/RLC movements staff. Without their dedication and hard work I don't think I would have had the chance to say goodbye. They should all be rightly proud! – **Sgt D Derrick, 32 Regt RA.**

● FOR his own act of compassion in thanking those who offered a supporting shoulder in his hour of need, *Soldier* are pleased to offer Sgt Derrick a prize break for a family of four, courtesy of our partners at Pontin's. As the author of this month's prize letter he can enjoy a three- or four-night break in Pontin's Self-Catering Classic accommodation at a choice of four coastal Holiday Parks: Brean Sands in Somerset; Camber Sands in East Sussex; Prestatyn Sands in North Wales and Southport in the North West.



Terms and Conditions. 1. All places are subject to availability at time of booking. 2. Prize is for a one bedroom Classic apartment, for up to 4 persons (adult or child) to be taken by October 30, 2010, excluding dates between 31/07/10 and 28/08/10, Bank Holidays and special events. 3. Open to UK residents aged 18 or over, except employees of the Ocean Parcs Ltd and their families.

Give Forces' families a global view

WHY can't my family in London access BFBS Television channels on their Sky box?

If, like other networks, BFBS was accessible worldwide it would be a real bonus and would give those left at home an opportunity to stay up-to-date with what's going on wherever their soldier may be.

If this is a licensing issue, surely the MoD can work something out. – **Cpl D Kalisa (RLC), HQ 20 Armoured Brigade.**

Helen Williams, controller BFBS Television, responds: I'm delighted that Cpl Kalisa feels *British Forces News* deserves a wider airing. We agree!

As ever though it's a matter of funding. To buy a half-hour slot on an open-access channel on the Sky platform would add up to nearly £200,000 per annum.

However, BFBS Radio is now available on DAB digital radio in the UK.



The best



deserve the best



UK telephone number:

01522 814010

German freephone number:

0800 1800 119

**Call now. Our buying
power will get you the
best deal.**

Get the best for less.

With over 30 years of buying experience and more choice of new and used cars in Europe, we guarantee to find you the best deal around. Simply call us or submit your search online and we'll contact dealers and manufacturers nationwide to find the car of your dreams.

So leave all the hard work to us – we'll find you the best deal for less.

twitter

facebook

*To get the latest news, details of our
upcoming events and deals follow
us on twitter at @carsforforces or
find us on Facebook.*

**FORCES
CarsDirect**
www.forcescarsdirect.com

SAVE UP TO 52% OFF THE LIST PRICE – ANY CAR, ANY MAKE, ANY MODEL

Webbing



Weapon



Ammo



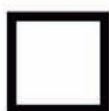
Helmet



Boots



Balls?



Whenever you check your kit, check your tackle.

Feel your balls for lumps, which could be a sign of testicular cancer.

If you find one, get yourself to the doctor immediately.

Remember – **delay can make a difference** to survival with your tackle intact.

HANDS ON SURVIVAL

CHECK FOR LUMPS



PS...

I WRITE to add my comments to the ongoing debate on these pages about the need for left-handed SA80s.

Some 20 years ago I heavily desired to join the Army as a bandsman and thought the weak vision in my right eye would not be a problem. Having never been in the cadets, I had no technical knowledge of the SA80 and thought the normal sight in my left eye would allow me to fire the rifle.

It was only at my medical that I was informed of the weapon's design flaw [can only be fired right-handed] which would prohibit my enlistment. Of course if I had been able to apply seven years earlier, I would have been accepted and could have become a crack shot using the SLR [self-loading rifle] with my left eye.

I hope the MoD will see sense and incorporate left-handed soldiers in the design process of the SA80's successor. — [Name and address supplied](#).

REGARDS the subject of a 50 per cent reduction in Council Tax for Service personnel with a second home. I am currently based in Northern Ireland and have been informed by my local district council that this legislation only applies in England, Scotland and Wales. Furthermore, I was told that as my address in Richmond is not my primary residence and due to single occupancy, I am not entitled to a 25 per cent reduction. — [Name and address supplied](#).

Shun media circus and respect fallen from afar

I WRITE in response to the prize letter from Wootton Bassett resident Mr Brian Porter, "Our town's tribute to fallen will endure" (May).

While the support shown by the town during each repatriation service is admirable, I cannot help wondering how many townsfolk are finding it harder and harder to line their streets as a result of the presence of all the local and national press, television crews and politicians.

Like it or not, Wootton Bassett has become a media circus and a magnet for "grief tourists". Mr Porter even states in his letter that the people he has talked to at repatriations readily admit they do not know the fallen. They are simply there because they know of someone who is about to go out to Afghanistan or come back.

More disturbing are the few who admit to having watched the repatriations on television and then want to witness one at first hand.

The most annoying thing of all has to be

politicians using the repatriations for their own agendas. Did Nick Griffin recently lose someone in Afghanistan? I didn't hear of such news in the media and yet I saw plenty of press articles showing his smirking

face when I should perhaps have seen pictures of a hearse and bereaved family members instead.

There are several decent ways of paying one's respects to the fallen, one of which is in silence from the comfort of your own home. Another is by turning

up at your local church for a Remembrance Day service. But the method I recommend is saving the petrol money you would have spent travelling to

Wootton and donating it to

one of the many Service charities instead.

Or does this interfere with the possibility of getting one's face on TV and being able to say "I was there"? Of course, knowing the answer to this question is a good indicator of whether or not you are indeed a "grief tourist". — [SSgt P Martin, 7 Air Assault Battalion, REME](#).



Chefs carved out of operational cookhouses

WHY does the Army have chefs if we don't use them? The introduction of Pay As You Dine has seen the arrival of contractors in most garrisons and now the same is happening in Afghanistan.

I served on Op Herrick 11 and when I arrived in theatre in October 2009 both cookhouses at Camp Bastion were run by RLC chefs. However, by December Bastion 2 was being run entirely by KBR and you could tell – the quality and standard of food fell dramatically.

This same company was also responsible for the laundry facilities on camp – despite the Army having its own laundry squadrons. Why train up personnel to do a job but then waste money by paying someone else more to do it to a lower standard? — [Name and address supplied](#).

Capt Carl Fulford, J4 CSO PJHQ, responds: The Government has set a limit on the number of British military posts in Afghanistan. Within this limit the number of military chef posts at Camp Bastion has been set at 58. This is deemed sufficient to meet the enduring requirement and to allow for the rotation of military chefs to more forward locations.

This recognises that there has been an increased emphasis in using Service chefs to provide quality food forward of the main operating bases.



"Do you think the contractors might improve things if they let the laundry team do the cooking and the chefs do the washing?"

However, this rebalancing of personnel has meant that we have had to use increasing numbers of contract chefs to feed the several thousand personnel stationed at Camp Bastion.

To increase the number of military chefs in theatre would require a corresponding reduction in posts from other capabilities, which is highly unlikely to happen in the short term as the current priority is

providing additional combat posts.

It is disappointing to hear the comments regarding the quality and standard of food. The Bastion 2 kitchen, like all cookhouses in theatre, allows opportunities for personnel using it to give feedback on the standard of service being provided via monthly messing meetings and a comments book.

It should also be noted that the governance and measurement of catering standards remains an MoD obligation and both military and contractor chefs are subject to Logistic Support Inspections conducted by HQ Land Forces.

The laundry service at Bastion is provided as part of the Op Herrick soft facilities management multi-activity contract, run by KBR.

It was decided that contractors would be used for this service rather than military personnel for two main reasons.

Firstly, the Armed Forces lack the resources to provide a laundry capability for a main operating base of the size and population of Bastion.

Secondly, as with military chef posts, the priority to provide combat posts in theatre within a manning limit means it is unlikely that additional posts will be allocated to generate a military laundry service when a suitable contractor solution can provide this.



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

1 SECOND TO CHANGE YOUR MIND

13,500 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND

120 MILES PER HOUR

4,000+ SOLDIERS TO HELP EVERY YEAR

0845 034 7966 THE NUMBER TO CALL

Challenge yourself with the thrill of a lifetime by skydiving for ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Help us raise money for soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. Email kirvine@soldierscharity.org

FOR SOLDIERS ► FOR LIFE ► soldierscharity.org

Registered Charity No: 211645 Scottish Registered Charity No: SC039189

PANNONE
THE COMPLETE LAW FIRM

Specialist Military Legal Advice

Pannone LLP is a leading law firm and is recognised as the Number One firm for Personal Injury work in the North West by The Legal 500 and Chambers UK Guide independent directories, a position we have held for over 10 years.

Our specialist teams handle all aspects of personal injury law – from major disaster work and catastrophic injury claims both in the UK and abroad, to accidents at work.

We specialise in claims on behalf of members of the armed forces who have been injured in the course of military service. In 2005, in a landmark judgement in the case of *New v MOD*, Pannone LLP secured the first ever court award against the MOD in respect of their failure to identify and treat post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

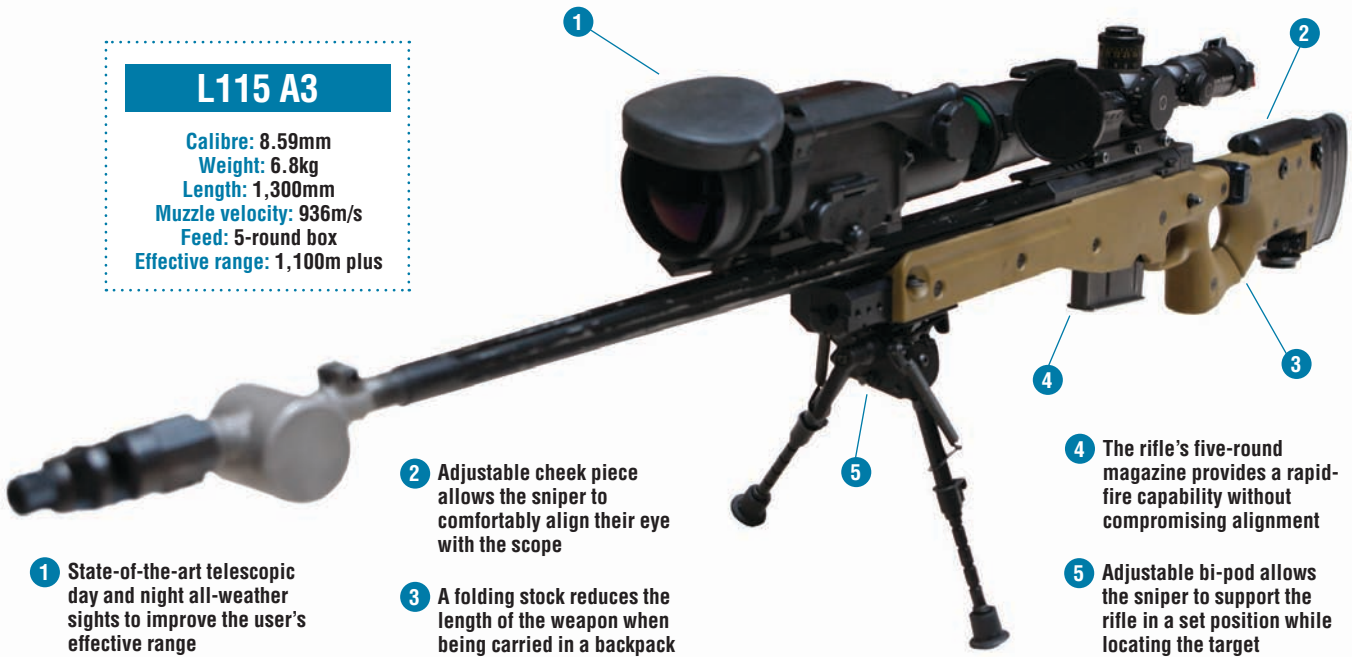
www.pannone.com
law@pannone.co.uk

To find out how we can help, please contact:
Richard Scorer on freephone 08000 384 384

military injuries | brain injury | spinal injury | amputation injury | deafness / asbestos | psychiatric injuries eg PTSD

L115 A3

Calibre: 8.59mm
 Weight: 6.8kg
 Length: 1,300mm
 Muzzle velocity: 936m/s
 Feed: 5-round box
 Effective range: 1,100m plus



1 State-of-the-art telescopic day and night all-weather sights to improve the user's effective range

2 Adjustable cheek piece allows the sniper to comfortably align their eye with the scope

3 A folding stock reduces the length of the weapon when being carried in a backpack

4 The rifle's five-round magazine provides a rapid-fire capability without compromising alignment

5 Adjustable bi-pod allows the sniper to support the rifle in a set position while locating the target

Splitting hairs over arsenal argument

I HAVE been following the recent articles and letters on small arms with much interest and was amused by Mr Erik Blakeley's suggestion that the British Army would have been better off finding some old SLRs [self-loading rifles] than buying the Sharpshooter (*Talkback*, March).

We tried that here in New Zealand a year or two ago and nobody could hit the broadside of a barn.

SLRs have not been produced for so long that any still on-hand are likely to be as clapped out as the weapons we were given.

Adapting optical sights to the SLR always was less-than-successful and the replacement body covers never really had the necessary rigidity.

Let's face it, the SLR design is never going to produce sniper-grade accuracy even when new, let alone after years of hard use and decades spent in a storage depot.

Finally, I note the reference to the L115 A3 rifle in 8.9mm calibre, "Top guns" (March). I am assuming that this is the ammunition that everybody else is referring to as .338 Lapua Magnum (LM).

If this is the case, I would suggest that the Army is not asking much.

First round hits at 600m and harassing fire to 1,100m is very nearly what we were asked to provide 30 years ago with the 7.62mm. The performance envelope of the .338 LM extends beyond 1,100m and I would have thought that the requirement

would have been updated in light of this much more potent cartridge.

Regardless, I very much enjoyed the feature and would like to see more articles on what are, after all, soldiers' primary tools. — Maj David Buck, New Zealand Defence Force.

The editor, who is infinitely more knowledgeable about bullet points than he is bullets, writes: You say tomato, I say tomahto... but yes, we're talking the same ammunition here. Glad to hear you enjoyed our tour of the British Army's updated arsenal – we will endeavour to bring you a steady salvo of kit copy over the coming months.

Inch perfect

IN your recent "Top guns" feature the data given for the British Army's combat shotgun states that it can fire 2.75in ammunition, which is quite a large missile to be shot from a hand-held weapon. I certainly wouldn't want to fire it from the shoulder as I imagine that I would suffer more damage than my target. I would like you to know that I bought my first copy of this magazine as a boy soldier in 1949. — Colin Long, Essex.

The editor, flexing his anterior deltoids, types: The team at *Soldier HQ* may have made the odd error over the past 61 years but on this occasion there is no case to answer – the semi-automatic Bernelli shotgun (below) can fire 2.75in shells. This measurement does, however, represent the shells' length and not diameter. Sincere thanks for your continued attention and support.



I WOULD like to add my input to the lament from Tony Levy about the lack of films focused on the British Army of the Rhine, "Celluloid cold shoulder" (March).

G.I. Blues gives a light-hearted view of life in post-war Germany during the 1960s, albeit not quite what the average British soldier experienced.

My nomination for a realistic picture of what soldiering was like in Germany for many British troops during the 1950s and early 60s goes to a little-known gem of a film, *The Bofors Gun*. The movie features Tom Courtenay as a lance bombardier and Nicol Williamson as a psychopathic gunner trying to wreck his promotion.

Shot in black and white, you can hear the steel-shod boots on the cobbles and feel the loneliness and damp cold of staggering on in a gun park in the early hours. A word of warning to those who have not yet seen *The Bofors Gun*, the end of the film is quite shocking. — Mal Tanner (ex-REME), Reigate.



"...and now Sgt Harrison will show some of his films depicting life in the British Army of the Rhine during the 1960s."

The editor, rubbing his square eyes and fast-forwarding his VHS copy of *The Bofors Gun* to the end credits, replies: A good shout for a Cold War classic, but I'm afraid I'm going to have to deduct a point for a cast clanger. It was David Warner, and not Sir Tom "Billy Liar" Courtenay, who co-starred alongside Williamson as Terry Evans.

Family left oceans apart

I AM the wife of a major in the British Army and am currently posted overseas in Canada. We have a daughter who is married to a British soldier based in Cyprus but currently serving in Afghanistan.

My issue regards our daughter's welfare while her husband is at war. We all understand that partners are entitled to a flight "home" to the UK at public expense during this period.

However, due to the regiment returning from operations later than expected, my daughter has been told that family members are entitled to a second flight.

With her father posted abroad, she has no family to visit in the UK.

Is it possible for her to visit her parents in Canada instead?

Surely under these circumstances our daughter should be entitled to visit her family. – *A frustrated Army wife and mother.*

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), responds: Concessionary Travel for Families (CTF) enables a Service person's dependants to benefit from the support of close family during extended periods of deployment and entitlements are based on expected tour lengths.

CTF is designed to fund return travel to the UK as this is considered to be the "home base" for UK Forces.

For those deployed on operations from an overseas assignment, such as Cyprus, the entitlement is based on one return journey to the UK where there is an expectation for the Service person to be deployed for four months (121 days) or more. If the deployment is expected to last for six months (182 days) or more then there is an entitlement to a second CTF journey.

In the case of non-British passport holders serving overseas, such as Fijians, a concession in the regulations allows them to claim the capped rate of £367 for the journey to UK towards their journey to their country of domicile. They do not, however, have the full costs of their journey paid for.

My staff has investigated your daughter and her husband's specific circumstances.

Your son-in-law is currently serving with the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB).

In this role they operate in a unique manner, with the battalion held at readiness to deploy for a protracted period of time yet actual deployments are for frequent short periods which can last from a few weeks to several months.

Work has been in hand between Headquarters British Forces Cyprus, my staff and the MoD to allow the TRB to add these short deployments together and I am pleased to be able to inform you that authority to do just this was granted at the beginning of this year.

Your son-in-law will still need to have an overall expectation to serve in theatre for at least four months but personnel within the TRB can now aggregate their various short deployments towards this collective total.

If and when your son-in-law's combined predicted total for his deployments passes the four-month point he will become entitled to CTF.

Should this happen then his unit should submit a case to the Pay and Allowances Casework and Complaints Cell asking for exceptional authority to allow the capped rate from Cyprus to UK to be claimed towards the cost of travelling to visit you in Canada.



By invitation only, please

IT has come to my attention that on several occasions contractors and members of the quartermaster's staff have entered my Single Living Accommodation (SLA) without any prior warning.

Nowadays a single soldier has a great deal of expensive kit – be it a computer or stereo equipment – in their bed space. Personal security is made all the more difficult if unknown persons can enter rooms.

The rules and barrack regime in the relevant Joint Services Publication seem archaic.

Do single soldiers have any rights to the bed space they pay for? SLA is recognised as an address by TV Licensing and insurance and telephone companies, so why doesn't the Army recognise a soldier's living space as a home and respect it accordingly?

I have nothing against routine inspections but do take exception to people entering my room without the courtesy of asking. – *Name and address supplied.*

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), replies: I do not agree that the regulations (AGAI 53) are archaic; indeed they are very liberal compared to the rules of only a few years ago.

However, the guidelines are clear that individuals should be allowed the maximum degree of privacy which local circumstances reasonably permit.

Intrusions into that privacy must be proportionate to their declared purpose. Legitimate purposes include public safety, prevention of disorder or crime, protection of health and the rights and freedoms of others.

I consider visits by contractors and quartermaster staff as reasonable, but that they should have been announced to you beforehand.

If this has not happened, it is very much a matter for you to take up with your immediate chain of command.

Wild Geese fall 'fowl' of rules

WHAT are the regulations regarding the wearing of one's old unit beret after leaving the Service and while working for a private security firm overseas? Since leaving the British Army I have seen several ex-officers adopting such a state of dress. – *Douglas McGibbon, LGI Consultants, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), writes: While it has become de facto tradition for individuals to wear their old berets and regimental cap badges during Remembrance events, there is no blanket permission for ex-Service personnel to wear uniform.

To wear berets and cap badges as part of a uniform when employed by a civilian contractor is wrong bordering on bizarre, akin to the film *The Wild Geese*.

We do not condone the wearing of



"I understand this is all new to you, Jenkins, but can't you be a trifle more low profile?"

a part of the British Army uniform for security employment and would not issue permission to do so.

Allowance frozen by cold snap?

THE airbridge to Afghanistan suffered a bit as a result of the bad weather at the turn of the year and consequently I and several hundred others spent many days enjoying the hospitality of the Gateway at Brize Norton. The food was a bit dire – three airline meals a day without getting on a plane – but the civilians who run the place were superb.

I was, however, surprised to be told on arrival at Kandahar that my Longer Separation Allowance (LSA) would only start from the date I arrived in theatre, some three days after leaving home in Edinburgh. Surely it should commence from my date of departure. – Lt Col K Marlin, AGC(RMP), Camp Eggers, Kabul.

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), responds: The regulations are quite clear in that qualifying separation is defined as seven consecutive days or more of involuntary separation at a location that precludes return to the duty station, family home or permanent residence.

As you were unable to return to one of these locations while waiting for your flight it is appropriate that your LSA be started on the day you left your home and not on the day you arrived in Afghanistan.

This is slightly different to the rules for Operational Allowance which cannot be started until you arrive in a qualifying location, such as Afghanistan.



Big freeze: Soldiers from 25 Training Regiment RLC braved arctic temperatures to clear access routes to Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey after severe snowstorms swept across Britain in early January. Picture: Graeme Main

PS...

THE topic of the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) is one which just won't die. To quote Brig Mike Griffiths, *Talkback* (December), "great care is given to the formulation of medal policy" and "medal policy is approved at the highest levels".

Given those statements, how was the decision arrived at to exclude Borneo, South Arabia, Malay Peninsula and other campaigns (which qualified for the General Service Medal (GSM) 1962) from inclusion in the criteria for the award of the ACSM [pictured below]?



The GSM 1962 was in place for duty in Northern Ireland and multiple tours generated an ACSM – as will be the case for more recent operational campaigns. It would have been logical to begin the ACSM from the date of introduction of the GSM 1962. There are numbers of ex-Servicemen still alive who feel aggrieved at having their campaigns (some multiple) relegated as they have been. Should this not be reconsidered, an omission acknowledged and action taken to correct it? – J Campbell, Malacca, Malaysia.

Lt Col (Retd) Peter Lockyer, S01 Medal Office, responds: The ACSM was introduced to take account of multiple tours of duty in Northern Ireland.

It was instituted in January 1994 to recognise aggregated service since August 14, 1969 in those theatres where the GSM 1962 with clasp had been awarded. The start date for the award, which would have been chosen by the then chiefs of staff, being the date Op Banner began.

'Solo soldiers disadvantaged'

I WILL soon be leaving my current unit as a transferred phase three soldier and have been advised that personnel in my position no longer get ten days relocation leave, even if moving between theatres.

Is this true? And if so, why has it been decided that it is possible to pack up, sort out any admin, move hundreds of miles and be back at work all in one day? Just because single soldiers do not have a family with them does not mean that there are not things to be done before we move our lives.

Unlike married accompanied personnel, who have their kit packed, moved by truck, unpacked and are given £1,000 for the inconvenience, single soldiers have to use the Military Freight Organisation service which can take months.

Why do single soldiers lose out on benefits? – Name and address supplied.

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), replies:

You have been incorrectly informed. Those moving between theatres are still entitled to ten days of relocation leave and, although the standard allowance for moves within theatres has been reduced to five days, it can be extended up to ten days at your CO's discretion.

I do not agree with your comment that single soldiers lose out on allowances (not benefits).

In terms of removals, allowances are driven by the accommodation entitlement which reflects that married soldiers with families need larger living quarters than single soldiers.

The relatively small volume of each single soldier's personal effects makes it more cost effective to move these possessions in consignments.

Brits better off in benefits stakes?

ORIGINALLY from Zimbabwe and now based in Germany, I recently asked the admin staff at my regiment whether I was entitled to claim back the costs involved in renewing a passport.

My wife's passport recently expired and my own needs changing soon, but I have been told that Commonwealth soldiers are not eligible for any refund.

I was under the impression that all those serving in the Army could recoup these costs and am disappointed that I am not being afforded the same benefits as British soldiers. We are all one Army and do the same job. – LCpl Mushangew, 2 Med Regt.

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), writes: All Service personnel – irrespective of their nationality – are entitled to have the costs for an initial issue or the renewal of a passport refunded at public expense

as long as they are required to hold a passport for Service reasons.

A requirement to travel or live overseas for Service reasons are examples where such a refund is deemed reasonable. Cost of an initial issue or renewal of a passport required to travel for personal reasons, such as for a holiday, will not be reimbursed.

Dependants who accompany Service personnel overseas for Service reasons, for example on a married accompanied assignment, are also eligible to reclaim the costs for the initial issue or renewal of their passport at public expense.

However, if there is not a Service reason for travel then passport costs cannot be reclaimed either by Service personnel or their dependants. Those losing their passport would be expected to pay for a replacement.

[my profile](#)[my friends](#)[my network](#)[login](#)[settings](#)**Joe Dope****[ONLINE]****CURRENT STATUS:**

Unemployed, Single & Bored

friends online

0

new messages

0

recent messages

<empty>

<empty>

<empty>

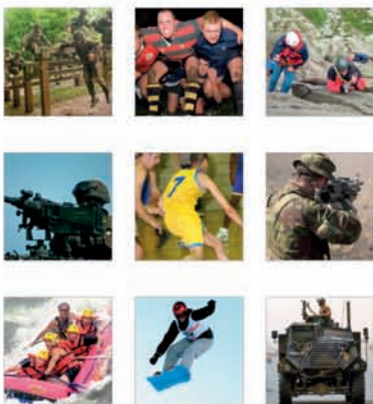
<empty>

<empty>

recent photos



archived photos



search

**Joe Dope**

Tom, Life has been garbage since I was booted out. No job, no reference, living with mum and dad and every one in street is talking about me. Have you heard from the other lads who got kicked out with me??? Are you on leave soon, be good to see a friendly face...

Tues 20th Aug, 12:45 pm**Tom [OFFLINE]***Tues 20th Aug, 12:45 pm***Joe Dope**

He's winding us up, even if we do get tested they only test 10% of the p**s, so out of the unit only some will get caught --- that's if they CDT us at all!!! Come on mate, play the numbers game. The gear is top notch loads of my mates use the same gear.

Fri 13th Jan, 7:52 pm**Tom**

Joe, are you stupid????? The CO said on parade that when we get back we are going to get CDT. The last 4 lads caught all got booted out

Fri 13th Jan, 7:47 pm**Joe Dope**

Tom, Found a cracking joint that sells coke & special k cheap as chips :) Going on stand down are U coming?

Fri 13th Jan, 7:45 pm

CDT test every sample, every time. Only a fool plays the numbers game and they always lose.



PS...

CONTRARY to a letter published in April's issue, Service personnel stationed overseas with a BFPO address do not have an automatic right/entitlement to buy goods without payment of Value Added Tax (VAT).

Procedures for relief vary depending on the agreement British Forces have with each host nation under the Nato Status of Forces Agreement. Some host nations do not allow VAT relief at all and Service personnel should check with their relevant admin office prior to obtaining any tax relief to ensure it is allowed.

In British Forces Germany (BFG), in accordance with the agreements with the German authorities, no individual is entitled to VAT/tax relief.

However, a correctly-appointed Official Procurement Agency may purchase goods for individual members of the Force, both in Germany and from other EU states, if the correct procedures are followed.

The process for doing so is contained in Standing Orders British Forces Germany and was the subject of a BFG-wide information campaign on the lead up to Christmas 2009.

Anyone who is unsure about entitlement should contact their local customs and immigration officer who can advise. — Maj John Fradley, HQ UKSC.

I AM writing after reading LCpl McKinney's moan about the current rate of Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) in March's issue, "Army's long service payout and property prices are streets apart".

What does he expect the Army to do? The £8,500 is supposed to be a helping hand for homebuyers and not a full deposit for someone who clearly hasn't saved any money.

Personally, I can't thank the Army enough for LSAP which, when combined with my own savings, meant I got a mortgage without any hassle and was able to buy a house at the age of 20. — LCpl Price, 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn.

I WOULD like to add some additional guidance to the responses given by Brig Mike Griffiths in May's issue to the soldier asking for a refund of daily food charges, "Roadside refreshments", and the Serviceman enquiring about the UK rate of Incidental Expenses (IE), "Counting the cost of British break".

Service personnel based at non-PAYD (Pay As You Dine) units should book themselves on leave at weekends to initiate a food refund. This action will not see any days being taken off their leave cards but will stop them being charged for food on a Saturday and Sunday.

Soldiers cannot make a claim on JPA [Joint Personnel Administration] for food costs unless they have been away on duty and unable to purchase meals at a Service unit.

In regards to IE, as of April 1 a flat rate of £5 was introduced and applies regardless of which country you are in or going to. Personnel can claim for a maximum of 30 nights. — Jill Irvine, HR admin, 1 RSME.



Picture: Graeme Main

Streakers' bare-faced cheek

HAVING served from 1970 until 1994, I attended last month's Army vs Navy rugby match at Twickenham.

It was a great fixture which was spoilt by the numerous guys and girls streaking (albeit semi-clothed in the majority of cases) round the stadium or delaying play by venturing onto the pitch.

Once or twice could be considered as a bit of high spirits, but in my mind it got out of hand.

I imagine that many people attend the event as a social occasion rather than for

a purely sporting spectacle, but I wonder what other *Soldier* readers think should be done by the organisers to ensure an enjoyable day for all. — Tony Reynolds.

Chris Fowke, secretary of Army Rugby Union (ARU), responds: The ARU take very seriously the issue of pitch invasion and have already spoken to the Rugby Football Union and the Provost Marshal in London District. We will know more once the military individuals have appeared in front of their chains of command.

Lack of clothes, lack of respect

IN the aftermath of some of the idiotic and frankly mindless behaviour at Twickenham, I hope Service personnel take a long, hard look at themselves.

It is not unreasonable to expect that the crowd would have been able to exercise a little more self-discipline than was evident on the day. The lack of respect for the stewards, players and other supporters was hugely disappointing.

Yes, the event is a celebration, supposed to be fun and has become a wonderful social occasion, but sadly it is in danger of becoming an embarrassment.

The farcical scenes that marred the last

30 minutes of this year's match will have done the Services no credit at all.

Before we hear the cries that the offenders were a tiny minority and may not have been military personnel, there was enough support of these mindless and selfish actions from large sections of a predominantly Service crowd to make them complicit by their encouragement. — Name and address supplied.



www.tinyurl.com/soldiermag

NEVER seen so many streakers at a rugby match, bust my sides laughing. Zorro was a star. — Pete Millns.

WHAT a fab day, roll on next year. — Tess Gibson.

THE streakers would have been in the nick and straight to the Military Corrective Training Centre in my day. — Tim Wade.



BOARDING SCHOOL

Girls & Boys 5 to 20 years

20% Forces Discount for Years 4 to 11 and 27.5% Forces Discount for Sixth Form plus Childcare Vouchers accepted

We understand the needs of service families and have staff who are married to serving members of the Forces with years of experience in ensuring children settle well, are confident and highly successful. Our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. Every bedroom has telephone, voice mail, music centre, TV/DVD player (on timer), and hot drinks facilities. Many are ensuite. House staff are friendly and caring. "The Times" rates the College as the UK's top co-ed, northern, Independent School. £45m in new facilities. A very successful CCF unit. A huge range of sports, music and horse activities. 98% of A-Level students go on to University. We are easy to get to by road, rail and air. 10 minutes from A1M. Please contact us for prospectus and DVD. We offer our Junior School and two Senior Schools all on the one campus.

CHAPTER HOUSE (Junior)

Tender loving care and common sense. UK's best quality boarding accommodation. Exam results well above average. Children are happy and well looked after. Small classes, caring dedicated staff. First class sport and activities. The UK's premier Junior School for Forces. We care and are not embarrassed to say so!

QE COLLEGE (Senior)

Offers traditional route to GCSE's, A-Levels or the world renowned International Baccalaureate. Superb facilities, dedicated, caring, friendly and professional staff. We have a history of enabling the average child to achieve success beyond what you would have thought possible. Happy, successful and confident students.

QE FACULTY (Senior)

An alternative to A-Levels. Vibrant and innovative BTEC qualifications directly related to your future: Sport Development and Fitness, Performing Arts, Music Technology, Business and Fashion. You can combine BTEC + A-Levels. We design an individual course programme for you so you achieve your full potential.

QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGE

Thorpe Underwood Hall, York. YO26 9SS. England. Tel: 01423 33 33 30

Web: www.QE.org
Email: info@QE.org

Specialist legal advice to forces personnel

- **Arrested?**
- **Need assistance for Police Interview/Court Martial?**
- **Suffered a Military Injury?**
- **Have you a medical negligence claim?**

- We deal with all types of injury claim involving the military.

We can assist you with your claim under the new AFCS and advise you on whether to pursue your claim in the civil courts under our 'no win no fee' specialist military legal advice scheme.



We can also advise on:
Employment Issues, Family Problems,
House Purchases and Wills

contact

Nigel Burn, Gilbert Blades, Tean Butcher
Bank Street, Lincoln LN2 1DR

Tel: 01522 512345 between 9am - 5.15pm
or for Military Discipline Matters only contact
Nigel Burn Mob: 07775 860608 after 6pm

www.wilkinchapman.co.uk

**wilkin chapman
epton blades
solicitors**



Picture: Mike Weston

Time at the bar: Julie McCarthy explores the role of alcohol in the ranks and encourages anyone affected by drinking problems to seek professional support

Stopping drinking takes bottle

A RECENT study by the Centre for Military Health Research at London's King's College stated that, contrary to popular belief, the prevalence of symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) were low among UK Service personnel.

There was, however, a report of alcohol misuse as an effect of deployment.

This perhaps shouldn't come as too much of a surprise as the Army employs a high number of young men and women who, as acknowledged by the centre's paper, are of an age group in the general population which is prone to heavy drinking.

My husband was once told by a fellow Dutch officer that "we [the Dutch] drink because we like the taste". What does that say about us, the British?

The Army community is a naturally social one and the socialising is frequently based around alcohol. Why? One theory is that we move so often and are meeting new people all the time, and doing so with a glass in hand is much easier.

So am I suggesting that the Army doesn't have a drink problem? No, most certainly not. But the study certainly raised more questions than it answered.

Asking around AFF staff prompted an interesting array of opinions and anecdotes.

One talked about the regimental "good-time guy" – one of the lads who liked to portray his drinking as a bit of fun and who took the mick out of everybody else if they didn't get as drunk as he did. The sad thing was that the individual did have a drink problem and that despite being part

of a "very strong and supportive regiment" nothing was ever said to him.

Another talked of how people who don't get drunk at every opportunity and instead put their families first are criticised. This criticism may be in jest but to some soldiers, especially junior personnel, pressure to be accepted into the group will make them stay and drink and deal with the consequences later.

For spouses, it's not that much easier. A friend gave up drinking for a year and was perplexed by people's attitude to her self-imposed sobriety. Many seemed to take it as an affront to their own alcohol intake; others repeatedly tried to persuade her to have "just one". Personally, I found her willpower admirable.

I wonder what results a study into the alcohol consumption of spouses during deployment would look like? I am full of good intentions during my hubby's tour, setting myself the rules of no wine on a school night and definitely not on my own.

I'm not optimistic about how long I will stick to those rules and my husband has no faith that I will stick to them at all.

When I experienced my first op tour as an Army wife I was living in London and had few responsibilities other than getting to work and walking the dog.

My friends took pity on this newly "single" bride of 12 months and set up a

rota to look after me. Not only was I hugely overdrawn at the end of the six months, but my liver needed a rest too.

Now with three children to look after (and still walking the dog, albeit a different one), I certainly won't be out on the town every night. But after a stressful day at work, when the kids have played up over tea, why shouldn't I reward myself with a glass of wine? And there lies the key point – a glass of wine is fine, but not a whole bottle.

When there is a dependency on alcohol to get through the day for a soldier or for a spouse then there is a sign of a real problem.

Whoever is affected, either by alcohol misuse or a mental disorder, they and their family must have somewhere to go for support and advice.

Too many people tell us that they simply don't know where to turn.

Many charities offering specialist advice and assistance deal only with veterans, but waiting until someone is a veteran could be too late.

The Army has made significant steps in treating mental illnesses and in offering health advice around alcohol, but people have to acknowledge that they have a problem and for some that is a difficult step to take.

Drinkline is the national alcohol helpline. If you're worried about your own or someone else's drinking, you can call 0800 917 8282 in complete confidence, 24-hours a day. ■

‘Not only was I overdrawn at the end of the six months, but my liver needed a rest too’

THE informer...

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET

news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Main picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC; Inset: Sgt Andy Malthouse, RAF

Forces first: New Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox (inset) has pledged to give soldiers everything they need to succeed in Afghanistan

Dr Fox: Op Herrick vital to UK security

BRTAIN'S ongoing mission in Afghanistan is one of "necessity, not choice" according to the new Defence Secretary.

Speaking shortly after replacing Labour's Bob Ainsworth in the post, Dr Liam Fox insisted that continuing with Op Herrick was imperative to national security.

The Conservative MP said: "I am determined that, alongside our International Security Assistance Force partners, we will succeed.

"We will ensure that our Forces have the equipment and support they need to do what we ask of them."

The new coalition Government has pledged to create a covenant outlining its lasting commitment to the nation's Armed Forces.

Former GP Dr Fox said the move would ensure that soldiers, sailors and airmen continue to be "rightly respected" at home and abroad.

He explained: "As a nation we have a responsibility to ensure that [the Armed Forces] have our full support in return for the selfless service and sacrifice they are prepared to make in our name.

"The new Government will honour that duty with a tri-Service covenant that will set our obligations and commitments to the men and women of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans."

In addition to creating the covenant, the Government will carry out a Strategic Defence and Security Review to ensure that "every penny" spent on the military is made to count.

Dr Fox said: "Resources will be tight for the country as a whole and Defence is no exception.

"We will have to look again at all that we currently do, including the organisation and structure of the department, each of the Services and the support area to ensure that we can undertake confidently and effectively the key tasks for which the MoD is responsible.

"We need to confront those issues head on and ensure that we emerge from the review with a clear way ahead for Defence that meets the needs of the current counter-insurgency campaign in Afghanistan, but also ensures that we are well prepared for whatever the future may bring."

Admitting that Defence faced "major challenges" in the coming years, Dr Fox concluded: "In today's uncertain world, it is essential that we maintain a highly-dedicated and professional body of Servicemen and women with the capability to defend our national interest whenever called upon to do so."

126

THE NUMBER OF EVENTS ORGANISED THIS MONTH TO MARK ARMED FORCES DAY, WHICH FALLS ON JUNE 26. VISIT WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK/LISTINGS

ALT-BERG



ALT-BERG Desert MicroLite

Ultra lightweight - £124.99

ALT-BERG Aqua Warrior MK2

Sympatex lining &

Vibram sole - £149.99

ALT-BERG

ALT-BERG Sneaker MicroLite

Ultra lightweight - £134.99

ALT-BERG Aqua

Sneaker MK2

Sympatex lining &

Vibram sole - £149.99



LOWA



LOWA Desert Elite

Achilles flex panel in heel
for extreme comfort - £135.00

LOWA Combat Gore-Tex

Extremely rough terrain &
high leg Protection - £160.00

MEINDL



MEINDL GORE-TEX Army

Demanding conditions,
perfect All-round Boot - £155.00

MEINDL Desert Safari

Clima Dry lining enhances
Comfort - £135.00



KEVLAR SHOOTING Gloves

Kevlar on back
of hand, leather
on palm S - XXL
£24.99



UK ISSUE ESS ADVANCER GOGGLES

High impact lenses,
Adjustable ventilation system,
seals out sand, dust & debris.
Incl. clear, smoke & yellow lenses.
£79.99 Other Styles instock



GERBER RECON

4 Colour torch
change from
White, Red,
Green or Blue
1xAA. L: 3.2" £19.99

10% Discount with Military I.D. in the Store
& Orders Delivered to Service Addresses



Silvermans Ltd. 2 Harford St, Mile End, London E1 4PS

Tel: 020 77 900 900 www.silvermans.co.uk

Phone for A FREE Catalogue quoting Soldier



www.primus.se

WORLD WISE COOKING

At Primus we have engineered our award winning Eta stoves to give you fast boil times with minimal fuel consumption.

Our latest addition is the EtaSolo, a compact cookset that's stable in windy conditions, lightweight at 365g, and extremely compact. Includes:-

- LPgas burner with integral windshield & auto ignition
- 900ml hard anodized heat exchanger pot with a heat resistant wrap-around cover with sure-grip handle
- Sipper lid
- Cartridge stabiliser footrest
- Detachable pot supports for large sized pans
- Hanging device



Setting up is fast and easy with a quick-click locking mechanism. Also available is the EtaSolo Tactical in dark colours.

**NO WONDER NATURE
LOVES US!**



Primus
was here!

Primus stoves are available through leading outdoor retailers nationwide
Stockist info: 023 9252 8711 • Online: www.primus.se

NO. 823

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN £100

Picture: Graeme Main



TEN details have been changed on this photograph of Pte Alex Wright (RAVC) and Rocky patrolling the Contingency Operating Base in Basra during Op Telic 10. Circle the differences in the left-hand image and send the panel to **HOAY 823, Soldier**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by June 30.

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 August issue.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

April competition: First correct entry drawn at random and winner of the £100 was **Sgt D Billington**, 156 Pro Coy RMP, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester. Runners-up **Mr N A Holland**, Gillingham, Kent and **Mr W Rimmer**, CCF Pocklington School, York, each win a £25 gift voucher.

The ten differences were: RAF roundel; skid wheel; number on airframe; badge on red bus; information stand; pattern on missile; museum shop sign; number on tank; bolt on turret; wing mirror.



THE prospect of being “sent to the Tower” was clearly on the minds of all those who entered last month’s caption competition (below right), with Prince Harry surviving his *Freeze Frame* debut unscathed.

Usually renowned for taking no prisoners and with “Basra Bob” Ainsworth, John “The Hutch” Hutton and David “Millsy” Milliband among their past scalps, *Soldier*’s army of sharp-tongued satirists were far more restrained in the company of royalty.

Indeed, the closest our ranks came to poking fun at the prince was a very mild effort from Mr Simon Harrison (Trenchard Lines, Upavon), who penned “**He looks taller in *Hello* magazine**”.

With hopeful eyes trained on the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, the majority of entries politely side-stepped the Apache pilot-in-training and targeted the Army Cadet pictured instead.

“**Quick, before he starts talking to me.**”



“Unshackled from the responsibilities of being Defence Secretary and keen to escape the public eye for a bit of peace and quiet, Bob Ainsworth considers donning a hi-tech disguise.”

WIN A BOOK: Write your own caption for the photo above and send it to us by June 28. The best, in our opinion, will win a copy of *The Battle of Waterloo* by Jeremy Black.

Have I got anything in my teeth? from Sgt Ross Martin (24 Regt RLC) was the pick of such offerings and wins a copy of Martin Middlebrook’s *Arnhem 1944*.

The big question is whether readers will extend the goodwill shown to Prince Harry to this month’s star, dethroned Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth.



Picture: Stuart Bingham

Picture: Stuart Bingham

The Army's radio station with the UK audience can now be heard in..

Afghanistan, Germany, Belize, Cyprus...

WHEREVER YOU'VE GOT INTERNET,
YOU'VE GOT THE REAL ARMY RADIO!

Garrison FM

Worldwide at
www.garrisonfm.com

 JOINT HELICOPTER FORCE (AFGHANISTAN) OP HERRICK 11 2009/2010	 AVN SUP GP Where's My Durka-Durka Statue? OP HERRICK	 1 REGT AAC WKSP REME OP HERRICK 11 AFGHANISTAN SEPTEMBER 09 - FEBRUARY 10	 OP HERRICK 10 Mar-Oct 09 FOB DELHI RAP BG (S)	 INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OP HERRICK 10B CAMP BASTION 2009	 IEDD 5 REST 5 OP HERRICK 10 THE FAMOUS 5 EOD UNDER CONTACT
 THE DIRTY HALF DOZEN "The three can rule!" OP HERRICK 11 TOUR	<h2>Printed or Embroidered Leisurewear to your <u>Own</u> Design</h2> <h3>Minimum Order only 8 shirts</h3> <p>For A FREE Colour Brochure and H.M. Forces discounted Price List including details of our FREE Sample Garment Offer contact : TEES TOTAL , 153 High Street , Wootton Bassett , Swindon , Wilts SN4 7AB Tel : + 44 (0) 1793 849888 Fax : + 44 (0)1793 849890 Email : sales@teestotal.co.uk To view the full Range of Garment styles available visit our web site at www.teestotal.co.uk</p>				 OP HERRICK 11 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM HELMAND PROVINCE AFGHANISTAN
 9 BUCKFAST TP ATR WINCHESTER 29 Mar-28 Aug 09	 				 HERRICK 10 NAD-E-ALI FOB SHAWQAT
 CAMP BASTION BG INU Demand-Distance-Duration-Destruction OP HERRICK 10 MAR-OCT 09	 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT AIR SUPPORT 220 SIGNAL SQUADRON OP TELIC 13	 FORCE PROTECTION AFGHANISTAN AUG-DEC 09	 EGYPT FTR SECT 2BTR VIKING GP BORN SURVIVORS OP HERRICK 10/11	 FP & TPT COY ISAF XI(5) KABUL AUG'08 - FEB'09	 PANTHERS CLAW PANCHAI PALANG THE BLACK WATCH LAD
<p>Tel: +44 (0)1793 849888 Email: sales@teestotal.co.uk</p>					

BULLETIN BOARD

DEFENCE DIRECTORY

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

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

Army Benevolent Fund: 0845 241 4820

Army Welfare Service: 01722 436569; www.army.mod.uk/soldierwelfare/supportagencies/aws

Army Families Federation: 01980 615525

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

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 766 8020

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

Confidential support lines: 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. Lines open 1030-2230 (UK) every day.

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

Family Escort Service: 0207 463 9249

Forces Pension Society: 0207 820 9988

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office: 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group): 07962 023654; www.mutualsupport.org.uk

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office: (0900-1700); 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; www.ngvfa.org.uk

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

Royal British Legion: 0845 7725 725

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

St Dunstan's charity for blind and visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women: 0207 723 5021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

South Atlantic Medal Association: 01495 227577

Services Cotswold Centre: 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help: 0207 403 8783; Western Europe 02161 472 3392

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); Medical Assessment: 0800 169 5401

Victim Support: Germany 02161 472 2272; UK 0845 3030900; www.victimsupport.org

WRVS: 02920 232668

DEFENCE DIARY

Until January 2011: The Ministry of Food Exhibition. The story of food from farms and gardens, to shops and canteens. Imperial War Museum, London. Tel: 0207 416 5000.

Until September: Camouflage exhibition.

Free entry at Imperial War Museum in Manchester. The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1TZ. Contact 0161 836 4000.

June 16, 23 & 30: Royal Military School of Music Concerts in the Park. Three or more bands at every concert. Bring your own blankets, chairs, picnics and wine. Refreshments available on site. Gates open at 1800, concert starts at 1950. Adult tickets £10, concessions (under 16s, OAPs, students, MoD 90 holders and TW2 residents) £8. Season, group and family tickets available. Payment in advance by credit or debit card or on the gate. Cheques payable to the Accounting Officer MoD, Concert Secretary, Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middlesex. Tel: 0208 744 8633.

July 7, 14, 21 & 28: Royal Military School of Music Concerts in the Park. Details as above.

July 17 & 18: Cholmondeley Pageant of Power. Grounds of Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire. Event for all the family in support of Help for Heroes. Contact 0845 0941 007 for tickets.

REUNIONS

City of London & North East Sector ACF: Reunion for past and present members for Cadet 150th Anniversary at the TA Centre, Gordon Road, Ilford on June 12. Contact Maj L Horton by email for invitation lj.horton@hotmail.co.uk

147 Field Company REME, Scunthorpe: Holding a charity ball in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and Help for Heroes at the Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort, Broughton on June 13 starting at 1830. Tickets are £25 including a two course meal and can be purchased from 147 Fd Coy, TA Centre, Cottage Beck Road, Scunthorpe, N Lincs.

The Gordon Highlanders: Waterloo lunch will be held at the The London Scottish HQ on June 19. Ladies welcome. Further details from Bob Harman on 0208 642 7192 or John Spoor on 01634 231070, email jspoorerwigmores@tinyonline.co.uk

RAMC Open Day: To be held at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ on June 19. All enquiries to RAMC RHQ on 01276 412789 or email RHQ_AMS@hotmail.com or AMS-RHQ-EventsandFunctions@mod.uk

7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery RA: Celebrating Sphinx Day on June 19. Family day at RM Condor and an evening function at Arbroath Royal British Legion. All past and present members and families are welcome. Details from Stephen Templeton or Mrs M Jack on 01241 822156 or 93387 2156.

Yeomanry Association: AGM will be held on June 19 at the TA Centre, Marsh Road, Luton LU3 2RX. Supper will be served at 2000, cost £7. Partners also welcome. Contact Kate Chapman on k8puthekettleon@hotmail.co.uk or 01582 482643 or write to 82 Princess Street, Luton LU1 5AT.

South Atlantic Medal Association (Wales Branch). Reunion to be held in Cardiff on June 26. Raffle/auction to raise funds. Details from Chris Duggan, 1 Penderry Road, Swansea SA5 7EA or visit www.samawales.com or www.sama82.org

Royal Pioneer Corps: Reunion at St David's Barracks, Bicester on July 2-4. Contact Norman Brown, Controller RPC Association on 01869 360694 or email royalpioneer corps@gmail.com

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters

Regimental Association: Pre-Crich supper at the Foresters House, Chilwell, Nottingham on July 3. Admission by ticket only, price £12.50. For details contact RHQ Mercian on 0115 9465415.

The Mercian Regiment. Annual pilgrimage to the Regimental War Memorial, Crich, Derbyshire will be held on July 4. Service starts at 1500 and all those wishing to attend should be at the Memorial grounds at 1430. Refreshment tent opens at 1200. All welcome. Further details from RHQ Mercian on 0115 9465415.

Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association:

Annual veterans' day at ATR (W), Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on July 10. Contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger, TSU, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 or phone 01962 887916 or email oicpsvcs-wdsu@dcppa-wd.mod.uk

Airborne Logistic Offrs Club (TALOC): Dinner on July 23 for all Para-trained serving and ex-serving officers, Regular and TA, of the RLC, RAOC, RCT, RASC, ACC and The Royal Pioneers. The following day is the 16 Air Assault Bde Open Day in Colchester. Contact Maj Ash Loudon, 63 CS Sqn, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt RLC, Merville Bks, Colchester CO2 7SW or Capt Will Ross, AO 63 CS Sqn, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt RLC or email ashloudon@gmail.com or william.ross824@mod.uk

Light Infantry Golf Day: Reunion to be held at Breadsall Priory Golf Club on July 30, arrive for 1000. Further details from CSjt Ron Owen on 94451 2172 or 0115 957 2173.

53 (Louisburg) Battery Royal Artillery: Reunion to be held at 5 Regt RA, Marne Bks, Catterick, DL10 7NP on July 30-31. Contact SSgt Bennett on 01748 875746 or email 5ra-53bty-atism@mod.uk or Sgt Burtenshaw on 01748 875855 or email 5ra-rhq-rcmoasst@mod.uk

COMPETITIONS

Wasps vs Bath tickets winners: D Richardson, Spalding; Mrs Jean Hales, HQ Land Forces.

Lakeland 50 winners: Capt M Clarke, 1 RRF, Tidworth; Capt M Rodger, SO3 G7 Trg Pol, HQ Infantry.

Bad Company 2 winner: WO1 (GSM) C Brown, HQ Land Forces. **Runners-up:** K McMurtrie, 224 MI Section, Edinburgh; Cpl P Wilkes, 1 Log Sp Regt, BFPO 47.

Law Abiding Citizen winners: Cpl N Bould, DCRE, RAF Marham; WO1 (SSM) P Storrs, JE&D Trg Centre, Shrivenham; Cpl R Hood, 4 MI Bn, Hull; G Butler, BOWTAG(G), BFPO 16.

1 Day winners: N Swales, Catterick; D Myatt, Defence Estates, Sutton Coldfield; WO2 (CSM Inf) P Yates, Minley; SSgt Muff, 72 Engr Regt, Bradford; M Ward, Stoke.

ROADSHOW DATES

The Army Presentation Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to attend its dynamic roadshow, which begins with a reception, is followed by a presentation and question-and-answer session and finishes with a finger buffet.

Military personnel will answer all your questions about the British Army. Call 01276 417000 or email your name and address to apt.mod@btinternet.com

June: 8, Manchester, 9, Preston; 10, Liverpool; 28, Inverness; 30, Dumbarton.

July: 1, Kilmarnock; 20, Wembley; 21, Waltham Forest; 26, Roehampton; tbc Sunderland, Rotherham, Dewsbury.



www.military-supplies.co.uk
0844 561 1403



www.LansdaleLtd.com
Order Online or at your PRI



www.cgaengraving.co.uk
for special Armed Forces discount quote MOD10
email sales@classyglass.co.uk



Buy award winning Morello Ammo boot polish on ebay



PLEASE VISIT HELP FOR HEROES AND SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED
www.shop.helpforheroes.org.uk



10k & 5k run
CHALLENGE FOR HELP FOR HEROES:
10K & 5K Run in support of Help For Heroes that is taking place on Sunday 26th September 2010 at Moors Valley Country Park, Ringwood, Dorset.
www.10ksupportinghelpforheroes.com

SERVICES

www.armylibraries.mod.uk

Access to full-text online information resources including Jane's, the ALIS catalogue to search for articles, books, CDs, DVDs and request items online, details of specialised information services and locations of all Army Library and Information Centres.

www.recoverypnp.niceboard.com

A site where REME recovery mechanics and friends, serving and retired, meet for chat and banter.

www.forceshomes.co.uk

Finding homes for military personnel. We organise your mortgage, search for your ideal property, manage the complete purchase, arrange the letting if required, and we pay all your professional and legal fees.

www.army.mod.uk

The Army's public facing website with news, features and information on all aspects of Army work and life.

www.baff.org.uk

British Armed Forces Federation, an association aimed at representing staff in the three Services.

www.armedforces.co.uk

Over 2,000 pages of Defence information, including defence projects and equipment, technology information, military books and defence supplier's details.

www.armywivesunited.co.uk

Free community site with message boards on a vast array of subjects that affect Army wives. Offering advice, friendship and support. Army Wives United has been online for three years and has around 1,000 active members.

www.sftf.mod.uk

The Service Families Task Force website contains useful tri-Service information.

www.aff.org.uk

The Army Families Federation (AFF) is the independent voice of Army families and works hard to improve the quality of life for Army families around the world - on any aspect that is affected by the Army lifestyle.

www.bitecard.co.uk

Get a BITE card and enjoy 20 per cent off food and drink everytime you travel. Register online and save 20 per cent off Upper Crust, Burger King, Millie's Cookies and Caffè Ritazza in stations across UK.

www.hmforces.co.uk

New unofficial online HQ for the British Army. Free - featuring active forums, benefit updates, military news and videos. Plus civilian jobs by Monster.co.uk

www.starandgarter.org

The Royal Star and Garter Homes caring for the ex-Service community since 1916.

www.youtube.com/britisharmy

The Army's official video channel with lots of videos ranging from training to equipment.

www.forcesequine.co.uk

Welcome to Forces Equine.co.uk the online Equine site dedicated to Combined and Individual Services Equestrian. Here you will be able to find the information and links you need to keep you up-to-date with what's going on.

www.nfassociation.org

The "Not Forgotten" Association for disabled ex-Service personnel aims to provide entertainment and recreation for war-wounded personnel to alleviate the tedium of their lives and give them something they can look forward to.

www2.armynet.mod.uk/armysafety

This Chief Environment and Safety Officer (Army) website provides up-to-date advice on safety and environmental issues affecting the Army.

www.facebook.com/britisharmy

The Army's official Facebook fan page

www.twitter.com/britisharmy

The Army's official Twitter channel for the distribution of news and information

www.squaddiewives.co.uk

Squaddie wives, British Army wives and girlfriends site for women only.

www.armycadets.com

We offer fun, exciting and challenging activities on a military theme to 12-18 year olds. Pass on your skills and knowledge to the next generation. Go online to find your nearest detachment and request an information pack.

www.facebook.com/armycadetforce

The Army Cadet Force's official Facebook page.

www.honour-our-troops.org.uk

Honour our Troops is a non-profit charity, comprising a dedicated team of volunteers committed to giving knowledge, expertise, time and effort in realising our vision - Staging a National Concert in honour and support of our British Forces.



The Bismarck Challenge
Are You Tough Enough To Take The Challenge?
The Herford and Bad Salzungen Bismarck challenge
Saturday 26th June 2010
For more information visit:
www.bismarckchallenge.com
Tel: Mil (948)82 3572 or 05221 9953572

CLOTHING AND KIT

www.shopagc.co.uk

Superior new website. Supplying all ranks of the AGC worldwide (Regular and Reserve Forces).

www.globalmilitarysupplies.co.uk

We give 10% of our profit to the Royal British Legion, so get the **BEST** Military Kit sent to your door by us. Quote SM5 for a 5% **DISCOUNT** on your order.

www.army-surplus.org.uk

One of the cheapest Army Surplus and camping equipment shops online. Visit us now and quote **FORCE** for a 10% discount!

www.forcespride.co.uk

The best designed pro Army t-shirts and merchandise on the web, wear our famous Brits With Balls tee and more. Our gear is perfect for squaddies, family members and friends too. Designed for YOU. No need to camouflage, wear it with **PRIDE**.

www.cadetdirect.com

Supplying the UK's Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces. Next-day delivery on all in-stock items.

OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS

www.forcesreunited.org.uk

The largest British Armed Forces Community online with over 400,000 members! Video chat, forums, discounts and more. Join now!

MARKET PLACE

www.chathamilitariafairs.co.uk

UKMS2000 manage a series of Militaria, Arms and Armour Fairs in the UK – see you at the next event.

BOOKS

www.militaryhistorybooks.com

Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website, or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.

MOD LINKS

www.armyrugbyunion.mod.uk

The latest information on match reports, fixtures, ticket and equipment sales, and contact details for all Army Rugby Union teams. See how the most popular and successful sports team in the Army is doing.

www.hive-bfg.co.uk

HIVE Information centres for the Tri-service communities.

www.hive.mod.uk

Provision of information to Services communities within UK and overseas

www.army.mod.uk

The Army's public facing website, carrying information ranging from corps and regiments, news, features, operations and deployment to kit, welfare and training.

www.doing-alright.army.mod.uk

A website for soldiers, do you know about the benefits you're entitled to? Are you Doing Alright?

www.armyaviation.co.uk

A privately-run forum dedicated to Army aviation. The forum is for ALL cap badges associated with Army aviation and all are welcome. Membership is comprised of mainly AAC personnel but we would like to see more REME faces on the site.

HELPING HANDS

www.wrvs.org.uk

Supporting thousands of young single soldiers in the British Army. Offering a listening ear and practical help 24 hours a day.

www.tnauk.org.uk

National talking newspapers and magazines. Difficulty reading the printed word? *Soldier* can still be enjoyed in audio format. To receive a free audio sample of *Soldier* contact the National Talking Newspaper Service on 01435 866102 or email info@tnauk.org.uk

www.starandgarter.org

The Royal Star and Garter Homes caring for the ex-Service Community since 1916.

www.erskine.org.uk

Erskine, caring for ex-Servicemen and women. The charity is currently caring for more than 1,000 veterans, young and old, throughout Scotland.

www.oswaldstoll.org.uk

Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation provides appropriate housing with support to vulnerable and disabled ex-service personnel, including those who have been homeless.

www.blesma.org

National charity for limbless ex-Servicemen and women, their dependants and widows.

www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/family/default.aspx

The Army Welfare Service provides confidential, comprehensive and professional support to Service personnel and their families

www.nivets.org.uk

The Northern Ireland Veterans' Association, providing advice, support and assistance to veterans and families of those affected by the Troubles.

www.veterans-aid.net

Tel: 020 7828 2468, info@veterans-aid.net

www.veterans-uk.info

A wealth of information about pay, pension and support services to both military personnel and the veterans community

MUSEUMS

www.remuseum.org.uk

REME Museum of Technology.

www.armymuseums.org.uk

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust website, approved by the MoD as the definitive guide to regimental and corps museums.

www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com

King's Own Royal Regiment Museum, Lancaster.

www.remuseum.org.uk

Royal Engineers Museum, Library & Archive

The explosive history of the Royal Engineers is on display for all the family to enjoy.

Forces Children's Trust
To help a child is an honour

FORCES CHILDREN'S TRUST

PLEASE HELP DEPENDENT CHILDREN THAT HAVE A LOST PARENT WHILST SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES BY HELPING TO SUPPORT THE FORCES CHILDREN'S TRUST.

WWW.FORCESCHILDRENSTRUST.ORG


CYCLE CHALLENGE 150

JULY 23RD – 25TH 2010

www.cyclechallenge150.weebly.com

This event will be based in Surrey, however it will be covered both locally and nationally through press, television and our own websites such as www.armycadets.com and www.cadet150.org

 **defence Learning Portal**



www.dlp.mod.uk

ArmyNET
www.armynet.mod.uk

- > Secure e-mail
- > Pay Statements
- > Sports Lottery Results

To advertise in *Soldier's* WEB WATCH
Telephone: 01252 347352 or
email advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

PEN PAL

To advertise for Pen Pal

Please send for details enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to:

Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

Or visit **Soldier Magazine** online at **www.soldiermagazine.co.uk/ad/class-ppen1.htm**

Email: **hshekyts@soldiermagazine.co.uk**

All pen pal adverts must be prepaid

ONLY UK OR BFPO RESIDENT CAN APPLY.

37 year old and a bit, 5'5", blonde not skinny, just a little curvy. Lives in a lovely village with her daughter, has two jobs both of which she loves. Enjoys walking only a nice stroll, mountain hikes, eating out, staying in with a good film, a nice bottle of wine and a take away, attempts tap and modern dance but it's not exactly her forte. Seeking pen pals the traditional snail mail way, any age group. P019

Karyn, tall fit blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys all sports and travelling. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P020

Nikki, (40), fit petite blonde with green eyes, slim build, divorced, honest, GSOH, non-smoker and an occasional drinker. Enjoys running, travelling, walking, weekends away, pubs, reading and laughing. Professional single female, own house, teeth and car, Children grown up with plenty of free time to enjoy her life. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P021

Janice, (43), 5'4", non-smoker, no children but has three pets, cat, tortoise and a rabbit. Enjoys clubs, pubbing with friends, traveling, the theatre, live bands, scuba diving (only done this in Tenerife). Likes to try new things whenever possible. Warning - like a lot of women she talks a lot but she has been told she talks more than most. Outgoing and up for a laugh, seeking pen pals, any age group. Has written to soldiers before, will reply to all letters. P022

Pen Pal replies

To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to: **Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU**

* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.

* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.

* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

BUSINESS OPPS

Entrepreneurs or high calibre individuals required for rapidly expanding UK financial services company. Work from home, plan your day. Visit www.lifeukfinancial.com/income-opportunity.aspx then contact marc@lifeukbiz.com for further details.

FOR SALE

BRITISH ARMY CAP BADGES. Many scarce. 01797362216.

LARGE RANGE OF MILITARY WATCHES: 01797363761. Phone: Enquiries: Catalogues. www.webbmilitary.co.uk

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer Badges, medals, insignia. Send £2.00 For list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU. Email address george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk

Long established decorating business for sale T/O 30k+ Dorset/Wilts area £25,000 negotiable. Tel: 07880948828 Email: decoratingservice@gmail.com

ARMY FLAGS COUNTIES, ie: Lancashire, Yorkshire **OFFICIAL FOOTBALL FLAGS**

I WILL TRY TO GET ANY FLAG YOU NEED! RING: 07973 491964

WORLD CUP 2010

ALL TEAM FLAGS AVAILABLE FOR WORLD CUP AND WORLD CUP BUNTING

5ft x 3ft flags £6.99
9ft x 6ft flags £15 (giant flag)
St George bunting £4 a length
Badges, scarfs and so much more. All countries flags available

www.stantheflag.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST ARMY NEWS, FEATURES, LETTERS, SPORT AND MUCH MUCH MORE.
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

HOLIDAYS

R & R THAILAND. Based on the paradise island of Koh Samui Thailand. Owned and run by soldiers for soldiers. We know what you require. We build your R&R around your budget, timings and any activities you would like to do. Email for details r-and-r-thailand@hotmail.com

Zambrone, Southern Italy. Self catering apartments close to beach and local amenities. Equipped for up to seven people, from £225 per week. Tel. 01904 490203.

La Gomera Canaries. Stunning apartment enjoying uninterrupted sea views. Peaceful location overlooking Tecina Golf course. Email: lagomera01@googlemail.com Tel. 01691 661991 07974402802

Orlando, three bed/two bath villa, private solar heated pool, 15 minutes from Disney/Universal. Close to golf courses. Tel. 01440 707176 ladypea200@aol.com

ORLANDO, luxury five bedroom villa, Disney six miles, heated pool, spa, two master en-suites and games room. Contact Derek Williams 07967937443 or www.kellyw.demon.co.uk

Riding holiday in Spain. 20 per cent discount off advertised prices to serving soldiers and their immediate family members in 2010.

Web: www.horseridingspain.com

Crete – Vamos Village. Traditional village house (detached) sleeps four. Minutes walk to amenities. 10 minutes to beach. Email: vamoshouse@googlemail.com Tel. 01691 661991 07974402802

SERVICES

Leaving the Army? Get your CV crafted 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: <http://www.ArmedForcesCVs.com> Email: CVMaster@ArmedForcesCVs.com

Lyndale Cottage near Catterick Garrison sleeps five, ideal location for visiting relatives attending Pass out parades. Forces discount available. Tel. 07970074495. Web: www.scortoncottage.co.uk

Ex-drummer – want to play again? The Cinque Ports Corps of drums based near Croydon is a civilian Corps with several ex-Service members. We play at ABF and other events across S.E. England. Find out more at www.cinqueportsdrums.co.uk

Looking for that hot date when you next come home on leave? Sign up to www.dateahero.co.uk. You deserve it!

FREE £10

LOVE2SHOP VOUCHER

Available to all serving members of the Armed Forces in recognition of your courage, and just to say thanks.

Just email your name and address to:

info@oursoldiers.co.uk

* Terms and conditions apply KMC Marketing



WANTED

Got a story to tell? Artist/Film-maker seeks participants in an independent film project. Call 07530126832.

Wanted for events, security, SIA and non SIA positions available, stewards/marshals, safety, logistics and transport positions available, go to www.fullforceevents.com fill in the recruitment form or for more information contact richard@fullforceevents.com

SAVILE ROW SUIT TAILOR

Henry Herbert offers a visiting service available to **UK military personnel**. English made suits with finest English fabrics, from **£595**. We will visit soldiers, wherever they are in the world.

Just call 020 77272485

or visit: www.henryherbert.com

Soldier Archives

Appeared in a recent issue of Soldier Magazine? Remember the good old days when you served in the Army? Writing a regimental history or researching a thesis? Then contact the *Soldier Magazine* archive. We can produce copies of images and articles, provide back issues or perform research on subjects covered since we first went to print in 1945. Just contact Ruth Kusionowicz, our Archive Manager, on 01252 355056 or by email at rkusionowicz@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Notice to readers

The publishers of *Soldier Magazine* 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.

Classified ADVERTISEMENTS ORDER FORM

NAME: ADDRESS:

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

POSTCODE:

CLASSIFICATION:

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

If you need more space, please write clearly on plain paper.

*** COST: 75p PER WORD, MINIMUM CHARGE £13.00. EMAIL/WEB ADDRESS: £2.50 VAT AT 17.5% MUST BE ADDED**

*** NB:** NAME AND ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN COST AND ONLY **ONE** WORD SHOULD BE INSERTED IN EACH BOX.

CALCULATE COST OF CLASSIFIED ADVERT: x WORDS AT 75p = £

EMAIL/WEB ADDRESS = £ <input type="text"/>	xINSERTIONS = £ <input type="text"/>	VAT AT 17.5% = £ <input type="text"/>	BOX NUMBER (INC. VAT) = £ <input type="text"/>	TOTAL ENCLOSED = £ <input type="text"/>
---	---	--	---	--

IF YOU REQUIRE A CONFIDENTIAL BOX NUMBER ADD £3.00 (INC. VAT) PER INSERTION AND TICK BOX ☐

CHEQUE/PO Number (Payable to SOLDIER)

Send to: CLASSIFIED ADS, SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PREPAID AND WILL BE INSERTED IN THE FIRST AVAILABLE ISSUE

Need help with a Court Martial? Problems with the civilian police or Courts?

Please speak to the Courts Martial team at:

Julian Young & Co.
Solicitors and Higher Court
Advocates.



We can represent you at Courts-Martial, in all civilian criminal Courts and at military police and police station interviews both nationwide and internationally. We have extensive experience in all Courts in England, Wales and Internationally. This service is confidential and independent and our fees may be covered by Legal Aid.

57 Duke Street, Mayfair, London, W1K 5NR Tel: 0207 4932211
Emergency number: 07956 502069



- Accredited Mountain Bike Leader Training
- Personal Riding Skills Development
- Accredited by MIAS MTB maintenance courses
- Cannock Chase Midlands Afan Valley S. Wales

www.afanmtb.com

Tel: 01639 893661 07882 595694



Accredited MOD Supplier. Code 71568

LOST MEDALS

REPLACED IN RECORD TIME
FULL- SIZE & MINIATURE
3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE
RAYMOND D HOLDICH INTERNATIONAL
P.O. Box 2123, Hockley, SS5 9AG
TEL: 01702 200101
EMAIL: rdhmedals@aol.com
WEB: www.rdhmedals.com

CARICATURES

Now listen here men, and you Pike.
We have a reputation in the British Army
of producing soldiers of character
and nothing portrays that better than
a caricature by Rick. We'll show
Jerry we're not to be made fools of!



Judge for yourself - view the
new gallery of groups at

www.caricature.co.uk

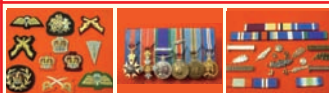
Call Rick Coleman

01707 69 52 96



Full size and Miniature medals.
Professionally court or swing mounted

LOST MEDALS? WE CAN REPLACE



We can also supply:

- Medal frames • Medal ribbon bars
- Medal emblems & rosettes • Medal brooches • Medal ribbons • MESS dress badges • Beret badges • Blazer badges • No1 & No2 dress badges

Ex Household Cavalry Ceremonial Tailor,
Master Tailor Qualified, 22 years experience.

TEL: 07786073060
or 01522 702254

3 WELLS COURT, Saxilby, LINCOLN LN1 2GY

Visits by appointment only

www.windsormedals.com

MICHAEL JAY CIVIL AND MILITARY TAILORS

Our unbeatable
MESS DRESS
offer

INCLUDES

- ✓ 14 day Make or 48hr EXPRESS
- ✓ Lowest prices
- ✓ Best Fit
- ✓ Highest quality
- ✓ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

Tel: 01449 614602/604:fax
Email: info@michaeltailoring.com

As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable

5 Tomo Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP



ADVERTISE IN SOLDIER'S SCHOOLS' FEATURE

To advertise in *Soldier's* schools' feature (August Issue)

Call Heather on Tel: 01252 347352 or
email: advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Goodalls Tailors

Mess Uniforms High Quality Made to Measure

Full range of Dress Accessories,
Badges and Miniature Medals



0% FINANCE
AVAILABLE
ON MESS
UNIFORMS

Discounts on accessories available when
purchased with your uniform

- Braces & Bow ties
- Medals & Badges
- Service Dress & Blues
- Regimental Ties • Gloves
- Dress Shirts • Boots & Spurs
- NCO & Officer Mess Uniforms

Tel: 0113 2889944

Goodalls Tailors, Butcher Lane, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0DB

www.messkitonline.co.uk

UK FLAGS

National Flags • Customised Flags • Flagpoles
Regimental Flags • Banners • Pennants • Cushions
Flags made to your own specifications for teams, regiments, events etc.



Flying Banners,
Standards & Ensigns www.flyingbannersuk.com Tel 01670 503503
email: sales@flyingbannersuk.com

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES £15.00

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES	£15.00	SWAGGER STICKS, CHROME & BLACK 24"	£17.00
CUFFLINKS AND TIE SLIDES FOR MOST		LAPEL BADGES FOR MOST REGTS AND CORPS:	
REGIMENTS AND CORPS	£12.50	PINGAT JASA	£3.00
BERETS: RED, GREEN, NAVY, BLACK, SAS,		SPECIAL FORCES SUPPORT GROUP	£3.00
LIGHT INFANTRY, MILITARY POLICE KHAKI,		COMMANDO TRAINED RED DAGGER	£3.00
DRAWCORD LEATHER HEADBAND	£8.00	PARA CAP BADGE	£3.00
GOLD DRESS CORDS FOR STANDARD	£29.00	REGIMENTAL WALL PLAQUES	£26.00
REGIMENTAL TIES & BOWS	£16.00	GILT PARA TIE SLIDES	£6.00
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS	£35.50	GILT 29 COMMANDO RA TIE SLIDES	£6.00
WHITE COTTON GLOVES	£7.00		
WHITE MASONIC GLOVES WITH LOGO	£8.50	P&P £3.00 UP TO THE VALUE OF £30.00	
LEATHER STANDARD CARRIERS	£36.50	£4.00 UP TO THE VALUE OF £50.00	
BRASS INSERTS	£17.00	£6.00 FOR ORDERS ABOVE THIS AMOUNT	

One off BLAZER BADGES a speciality at no extra charge. SEND FOR FREE LISTS

The Gold Wire Badge Co, 11 Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs OL2 8JT.

Telephone/Fax: 01706 846648 E-Mail: sales@thegoldwirebadge.co.uk www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk

COSTELLO

Civil & Military Bespoke Tailors
Ladies & Gents Uniform Specialists



For all your
requirements

**Interest
Free Credit**

For your local representative
contact the numbers below

UK Head Office: Tel: **020 8478 2780**

Fax: **020 8553 3336**

E-mail: info@costello.co.uk Website: www.costello.co.uk

Colchester: Tel: 01206 575 617 Germany: Tel: 01717 715 445

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES & HAND PAINTED WALL SHIELDS

(Select any Regiment or Corps)

PACE/RACING STICKS - 36" INDIAN ROSEWOOD

(SCREW FITTING) WITH CARRYING CASE, LEATHER

SWORD BAGS & KNOTS, TIES (REGIMENT or CORPS)

MILITARY MATTERS

7 WATERSIDE, GREENFIELD, SADDLEWORTH, OLDHAM OL3 7DP

TEL: 01457 877010 FAX: 01457 877010 EMAIL: military.matters@btopenworld.com

REGIMENTAL SIGNET RINGS & BROOCHES

J.M.BICKERTON

Manufacturing Jewellers

23 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LE

For list & prices

Tel: 0121 551 7366

HIGH QUALITY ASSURED

jmb@regimentalbrooches.co.uk

www.regimentalbrooches.co.uk



9ct gold Scots Guards Seal Style ring

Ties

from O. H. Hewett Ltd

Ties made to order in
silk or polyester.

For information regarding prices and
minimum quantities please contact:

O. H. Hewett Ltd at
21 Farncombe Street
Godalming, Surrey GU7 3AY
Telephone: 01483 426917
Fax: 01483 424810

Website: www.ohhewett.com
Email: enquiries@ohhewett.com

- 1 **IN TROUBLE!** Service Legal Aid available
- 2 **ARRESTED!** RMP/SIB interview in UK and Abroad
- 3 **CHARGED!** Court Martial anywhere
Magistrates Court
Crown Court

24 HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE 07074 431421

Howard Byrne
SOLICITORS

Chesnut Court • 148 Lawrence St. • York • YO10 3EB



Experienced solicitor and ex-Service practitioner
Call John Howard or Stephen Munro 01904 431421
or 24 hour emergency number 07074 431421

ensign MOTIFS **GET NOTICED!!!**
A huge selection of garments available embroidered
with YOUR personalised company or club motif.

EMBROIDERED GARMENTS
Ind: Polos, Sweats & Rugbys, Jackets,
Trousers, Overalls, Shorts & many more
Online catalogue available at:
www.ensignmotifs.info

EMBROIDERED PATCHES
Amazing quality. Min just 50
Free iron-on backing,
9 thread colours. Fast delivery.
www.badges-direct.co.uk

• **BASEBALL CAPS**
• **TIES**
• **PRINTED T-SHIRTS**
• **ENAMEL BADGES**
• **BLAZER BADGES**

Tel: 01436 842581 Fax: 01436 842854
www.ensignmotifs.co.uk
Email: sales@ensignmotifs.co.uk
FULL COLOUR BROCHURE ON REQUEST CALL FREEPHONE: 0800 328 4348
ENSIGN MOTIFS, Portkil Bay, Kilcreggan, Argyll, G84 0LF

AIRBORNE WEBBING
The original and best!
£124.99

HELMET HOOK
£2.99

HELMET NET
£4.99

HELMET BAND
£6.99

TAILORED BUSH HAT
£12.99

LOWA RECON GTX
£129.99

SPRINGBOK OPS VEST
£129.99

TROPICAL SHIRT & TROUSERS
£24.99 each

www.dragonsupplies.co.uk

MICHAEL JAY

UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

MESS DRESS

SERVICE DRESS

No.1 DRESS

S.B. BLAZERS

D.B. REGIMENTAL BLAZERS

SPORTS JACKETS AND TROUSERS

DINNER SUITS

LOUNGE SUITS

48hr or 2Week make up

MICHAEL JAY TAILORING

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK STOWMARKET
SUFFOLK IP14 5EP

TEL: 01449 614602/604 FAX:

Email: info@michaeljaytailoring.com

EMBROIDERED • WOVEN • ENAMELLED BADGES

TOLLEY
Badges

**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 45 years experience

MINIMUM ORDER QUANTITY 50 BADGES



WE GUARANTEE to give **YOU** the **BEST** value,
the **BEST** service, the **BEST** prices and the **BEST**
quality badges available in the UK.

51-55 ENVILLE ROAD, KINVER, STOURBRIDGE DY7 6BX

TELEPHONE: 01384 878550 FAX: 01384 877050

e-mail : info@tolleybadges.co.uk

www.tolleybadges.co.uk



COURT MARTIAL

LEGAL ADVICE AND
REPRESENTATION
FROM AN EXPERIENCED
DEFENCE SOLICITOR

MICHAEL GREEN

Baxter Brown McArthur Solicitors

150A Falcon Road, London SW11 2LW

TELEPHONE: 07843 277 413

Email: mgreen3@virginmedia.com

VISTA TIES

3 Hayling Gardens, High Salvington, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3AJ



We specialise in high quality polyester, silk/polyester and silk ties. The minimum quantity for a jacquard woven tie is 36. We can supply you with free artwork for a new design or copy an existing tie. Details on stripes, colours, textures, layouts, etc. on our website.

www.vista-ties.co.uk

Also large stock of regimental ties.

Ring Debbie for help: 01903 266883

TANDEM JUMPS £250
BOOK A DISPLAY £1600

**RED
DEVILS**
THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT FREEFALL TEAM

**THE OFFICIAL FREEFALL
DISPLAY TEAM OF THE
PARACHUTE REGIMENT
AND THE BRITISH ARMY**



WHY BOOK US?

JUMP NUMBERS
Over 20,000
descents
combined

EXPERIENCE
Jump with the UK's
premier Parachute
Display team

CHARITY FUNDRAISING
Over half-a-million
pounds raised each year

TANDEM LCPL JIMMY GRAHAM
tandems@reddevilsonline.com

DISPLAYS LCPL PHILLIP WEBLEY
displays@reddevilsonline.com

GENERAL ENQUIRIES
01980 628211 or our website

FIND ALL DETAILS AT

REDDEVILSONLINE.COM

The Mess Dress Ltd

Military Tailoring, Mess Dress, Service Dress, Blues Tunic

Competitive prices. Interest free credit available on all uniform orders.

- * Mess shirt (pure cotton) £25
- * George boots £49.99
- * Sanders George boots £85
- * Officers Dress sword by WKC Germany. **Please check our updated prices on our web site.**



- * Bespoke medal framing on site
- * Engraved gifts, plates, presentation medallions.
- * Discount on bulk orders.
- * Embroidery services on site.



Medal court mounting £4 per medal. Mini medals from £4.
FULL SIZE OP TELIC & OSM AFGHANISTAN MEDALS @ £20
Extensive range of miniature and replacement medals and ribbons.
Medal naming, engraving on site @ £6 per medal. Very fast turn around.
99% of medal mounting is done the same day. Very large stock
available for next day delivery. Much more on our website.



Our shop is open 6 days a week. Regular visits on Wednesday to Minley, Aldershot and Sandhurst areas. All our prices includes VAT, tax free sales available for BFPO overseas.

www.messdress.com

88 Stewart Road, Bournemouth BH8 8NU

Tel: 01202 302846 Fax: 01202 383874 sales@messdress.com

NOTICE TO READERS

The publishers of *Soldier* Magazine 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.

TOUR SHIRTS

EVEN LOWER PRICES FOR 2010

T-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, rugby shirts, jackets & much, much more

FREE Colour Brochure **LOW** Minimum Order

Any genuine competitive price beaten

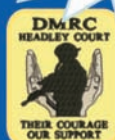
Embroidered polos & t-shirts from £3.75 each

Embroidered sweatshirts from £5.95 each

Quick Delivery

*We ship **WORLDWIDE**. VAT free to BFPO overseas

**FREE
PRE-PRODUCTION
PROOF**



**SPECIAL OFFERS TO HM
FORCES (INC. FREE T-SHIRTS)**



www.bananamoon.co.uk

BANANA MOON WORKSHOP

Unit 8, Springwell 27, Dark Lane, Birstall WF17 9LN

Tel: 01924 420022 Fax: 01924 472238

e-mail: sales@bananamoon.co.uk



MILITARY MEDALS



Prepare your medals for parade or display!

Professional medal cleaning, remounting
and engraving service

Suppliers of MoD Approved Full Size & Miniature Medals

World War I, World War II and current issue medals

We stock a full range of Commemorative Medals

★ Women's Service Medal available now

Call for advice & free brochure

Bigbury Mint 01548 830717

Bigbury Mint, River Park, Ermington, Devon PL21 9NT

Frontline Legal Advice and Guidance You Can Trust

Forces Law Network members offer legal
services to serving and retired personnel
throughout the world (including Reservists,
the Civil Service and their families).



- Courts Martial ● Disciplinary Procedures ● Employment and Reinstatement of Reserve Forces Personnel ● Service Investigations ● Crime ● House and Business Purchase or Sale including LSAP's ● Divorce, Children, Pensions and Terminal Grants ● Accidents and Compensation
- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Preview
- Wills or Death of a Relative

**Remember - initial advice and guidance is
FREE of charge and our reputation is
well supported with
over 60 years' experience in
legal assistance
to the Armed
Forces.**

0845 6011260
www.forceslaw.com

Samuel Brothers
(8th PAUL'S)

MILITARY & CIVILIAN BESPOKE TAILORS



Ladies & Gentlemen's Mess Dress



Tel: (01252) 838140

www.samuelbrothers.co.uk

Email: info@samuelbrothers.co.uk

RHQ THE RLC, DETTINGEN HOUSE, PRINCESS ROYAL
BARRACKS, DEEPCUT, CAMBERLEY, SURREY GU16 6RW

INJURED ON DUTY IN THE LAST 3 YEARS? YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO **COMPENSATION**

***NOTHING
TO PAY
WIN OR
LOSE**

**Did you know. . .
MoD Personnel have
almost the same rights
as civilian employees**

**Subject to taking full instructions*

**CALL PETHERBRIDGE
BASSRA SOLICITORS
0044 1274 727 190**

**email: jagtar@petherbridgebassra.com
email: stuart@petherbridgebassra.com**



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/IPR/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 hand-made 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 on-line shop
www.worcmadals.com

Unit bulk enquiries welcome

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: wms@worcmadals.com



TIMS TAGS Military Identity Discs

Issue I.D Disks Marked To MOD
Specifications Or As Required £10 plus £1 P&P

TIMS TAGS

PO BOX 81
PE25 2WU

01754 761004

info@timstags.co.uk

www.timstags.co.uk



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
SHIELD CLOCKS: £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

soldier REVIEWS

A SELECTION OF WORLD CUP WINNERS

reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk

JUNE'S SUPERSTAR LINE-UP

P84 MOVIES **PEAK PERFORMANCE**

P86 GAMES **TOP OF THE PODIUM**

P88 MUSIC **TANNOY TUNES**

P90 BOOKS **YOUNG GUNS**

P92 TOP GEAR **ATMOSPHERIC APPLIANCE**

Brawl stars: Ultimate Fighting Championship competitors James McSweeney, Roy Nelson and Marcus Jones all feature in Xbox 360 game *UFC Undisputed 2010*

Picture: THQ





Legendary footsteps: 21st century climbers follow the ill-fated lead of George Mallory in this enjoyable Altitude Films epic

Praise from up high

Stunning documentary depicts the fearlessness of George Mallory on Everest

Review: Joe Clapson

THIS film is a perfect example of how real life, when expertly captured, cannot be beaten by multi-million-dollar special effects or an A-list Hollywood cast.

The Wildest Dream is the story of one man's obsession with retracing the ill-fated steps of British explorer George Mallory, who disappeared on Mount Everest in 1924.

Mallory's body had remained unfound until 1999 when renowned mountaineer Conrad Anker discovered the climber's corpse high in Everest's notorious "death zone".

Emmy Award-winning Anthony Geffen's breathtaking piece of cinema captures Anker's journey to answer questions that have plagued the mountaineering fraternity for more than 70 years.

The film shows how Mallory's belongings, including unsent letters, were found on his body.

The only item missing was a photograph of his wife, Ruth, which Mallory had promised to place on the summit if he succeeded.

We see Anker strive to prove that Mallory could have died on his return from the summit rather

than on the way up to it, as previously believed.

Told through the poignant and evocative letters between Mallory and his beloved Ruth, the movie combines previously-unseen photographs and restored film footage with the present-day story of Anker's expedition.

The narration of Liam Neeson (*Schindler's List*) guides the audience up the deadly mountain while intertwining Mallory's emotional letters, read by Ralph Fiennes (*The English Patient*), and the talking heads of family members connected to this remarkable story.

Aside from the awe-inspiring images from the highest point on the globe, the film is about far more than conquering a mountain.

It shows the astonishing lengths Mallory went to in pursuit of a dream, as well as the passionate link between Anker, the modern-day climber and his predecessors.

Geffen explained that he was especially drawn to the parallels between Mallory and Anker.

"Both were risking everything, both had wives and children at home and their lives intersected on the mountain," he said.

"The real story is about a human journey and its consequences."

With the idea to mirror Mallory's attempt to

take on the 8,848m Himalayan peak as accurately as possible, Anker chose young British climbing prodigy Leo Houlding as his partner.

"The main thing was the parallel between us and Mallory and Andrew Irvine [Mallory's partner]," Anker said.

"There was the same age spread, the same difference in experience levels."

At certain points in *The Wildest Dream*, the fearless pair even swap their state-of-the-art kit for much lower-tech, 1920s'-style attire.

Dressed in gabardine and wearing hobnailed boots, Mallory had frozen to death in the snow. But still, Anker and Houlding wanted to replicate the journey as closely as possible.

Nearing the end of their mission Anker and Houlding attempt to free-climb the infamous second step, which nowadays is overcome via a metal ladder.

Anker insists on removing the aid to stay true to 1920s' conditions, in the knowledge that one misstep would mean death. Whether you are a mountaineer or not, this is compulsory viewing for anyone looking for intense, emotional action coupled with stunning backdrops.

● *The Wildest Dream* is out in cinemas across the UK on August 6. ■

From a resurrected cartoon superhero to a grumpy grizzly, *Soldier* checks out the latest DVD releases...

Astro Boy out now

METRO City is the home of our hero who is killed by a botched experimental weapons demo. Using his DNA, he is resurrected by his scientist father as an identical replacement robot. The good-versus-evil plot revolves around a garbage-filled land where kids run free and live on pizza (who said home economics is dead?). Don't write it off, though, as there are plenty of humorous moments that could be missed by the target audience and a stellar cast of voices provided by a host of A-list celebs. An unashamedly-retro cartoon that is not aimed at the readership of this magazine but would no doubt be enjoyable to youngsters everywhere.



Capt Neil Johnson, AAC

Bear out on June 28

THE camera work and script leave much to be desired and the acting is reminiscent of a cheap American soap opera (aside from the bear, who does a very good line in both "angry" and "vengeful"). The plot is thinner than a size zero celebrity, but follows brothers and girlfriends who get lost in the woods when their car breaks down. Someone shoots a bear before another bear spends the rest of the night ripping them to shreds. Don't buy this – just learn the valuable lesson that if you go down to the woods today... don't unload a magazine of rounds into mummy bear if daddy bear is just round the corner.



Tpr Alistair Campbell-Grieve, RY

Win... City of War: The Story of John Rabe

WHEN we asked *Empire's* editor-at-large Nev Pierce to tell us his greatest war movies, *The Story of John Rabe* was noticeable only by its absence from his selection and of those who continue to share their favourite flicks with us (Page 63). The true-story of a German businessman who saved more than 200,000 Chinese during the Nanjing massacre in 1937-38 did, however, scoop four German Film Awards. A sad indictment of the German film industry or a little-known gem? Metrodome has given us five copies to give away, so why not tell us which *Sopranos* star features and find out for yourself. Email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Closing date June 30



White stuff: Renowned mountaineering master Conrad Anker joins British climbing phenomenon Leo Houlding to scale Everest with 1920s' equipment

Win... WWII Lost Films on DVD

THE story of the Second World War as viewed through the eyes of 12 American Servicemen, journalists and medical personnel, *WWII Lost Films* sets the standard for other history series to aim at and draws on more than 3,000 hours of original footage. Well-known actors such as **Rob Lowe**, **Amy Smart** and **LL Cool J** provide the narration for compelling stories of triumph and tragedy. The History Channel have given us five copies of the three-DVD pack to give away. To enter, tell us what LL Cool J stands for. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date June 30



Brothers out on June 7

THIS is a touching drama inspired by the Afghanistan war. Family man Capt Sam Cahill (**Toby Maguire**) is a marine preparing for another tour of duty, leaving his wife Grace at home. Tommy (**Jack Gyllenhaal**), his charismatic brother, has just been released from jail. When Sam is presumed missing Tommy comforts Grace but the relationship threatens the family's stability. Lionsgate has given *Soldier* five copies of the DVD to give away. To have a chance of winning, tell us what military rank Sam Cahill is. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date June 30



Winter in Wartime out now

CO-STARRING **Jamie Campbell Bower** (*Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows*), *Winter in Wartime* does a decent job at portraying the massive human cost of the Second World War. Nazi-hating teenager, Michiel, finds a crashed Royal Air Force pilot badly injured. Michiel decides to help the pilot escape, undertaking a perilous journey that could cost him everything. The kind people at Kaleidoscope are offering five readers the chance to win a copy of the DVD. To enter, tell us which war the film portrays. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date June 30





Revved up: Developer Codemasters Studios has gone for a blend of power and precision in their latest Formula One release

Racer keeps it real

Life-like handling system moves new Formula One title to the front of the grid

Review: Stephen Tyler

AS A youngster, I spent several years nonplussed at the fuss grown-ups made over driving.

Try as they might to explain the difficulties they had overcome in learning how to master a car, their words fell on the deaf ears of an *Outrun* arcade machine veteran.

To my naive mind, driving involved two pedals, a steering wheel, a gear lever with "forward" and "reverse" modes and a car that could smash into all and sundry with the worst outcome being a spot of dizziness from a harmless spin.

By the time I was old enough to get behind the wheel of a real vehicle, my attitudes had changed but the gaming world had not.

While I now realised that gunning the accelerator around a hairpin bend would not end well, console titles still fuelled the myth that gung-ho driving held no negative consequences.

The early releases of Formula One games on the original Playstation tried to break the mould, but it was still possible to fly round corners using other cars as brakes without so much as

scratching the paint on your vehicle.

But fast forward 14 years from the hi-octane sport's 1996 debut and things have changed. *Formula One 2010*, due out this September, shuns the pedal-to-the-metal approach of its predecessors in favour of an altogether more life-like experience.

"The preference has always been to go down the simulation path," said Codemasters Studios' chief games designer Stephen Hood. "You can make a realistic sim easier to play for somebody but it's very difficult to take an arcade handling system and make that appeal to people who prefer simulation handling."

Unlike racing games featuring everyday road vehicles, recreating the unique driving dynamic of a Formula One car is a tricky task as only a privileged few have experienced life in the grand prix fast lane.

Codemasters overcame this problem by recruiting former F1 test driver Anthony Hamilton to guide the designers down the right path.

The race ace has been working alongside the developers to ensure that the finished product delivers a realistic handling experience.

"When you are inside the cars it's twitchy and nervous and that's hard to get right unless you

have someone who has driven one of them," he explained. "For example, in slow speed corners you have no down force, but as soon as you get them up to any kind of speed it's a completely different experience."

"You want to make the game to the point where it's playable enough to enjoy but also reasonably difficult as well."

Aside from delivering what promises to be the most-realistic handling system ever created for an F1 game, *Formula One 2010* benefits from a full licence which allows players to choose any of the teams or drivers – including pace-setting Brits Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton – from the current season.

Each of the 19 tracks on the grand prix circuit have been lovingly recreated and a dynamic weather system has been introduced to test motorists' skills in a variety of conditions.

Intriguingly, a new career mode should add further depth to the title. Rather than racing through just one season, players can now sign up for three, five or seven-year sessions, switching teams as they go or building a dynasty.

Throw the expected online multiplayer mode into the mix and you are left with a package to make motorheads' mouths water. ■

From the crime-ridden streets of 1940's USA to punch-ups in the Octagon, we check out the latest games...

Mafia II for Xbox 360, PS3 and PC

STYLISH and expansive, the original *Mafia* game attracted a mob of fans when it was released in 2002. Luckily for admirers of the free-roaming crime simulation, publisher 2K Games is now putting the finishing touches to a sequel. *Mafia II* draws on the Americana era of the 1940s and 1950s to immerse players in the dark and unforgiving world of mobster life. Featuring cars, clothes and music from the time, the game plays out in a ten-square-mile city that offers intricately-designed interior and exterior locations. Undoubtedly one of the most-anticipated titles of recent years, this could actually live up to the hype.

Out on August 27



Tiger Woods PGA Tour 11 for Xbox 360

MARITAL indiscretions aside, Tiger Woods remains pretty handy with a set of golf clubs and the EA Sports simulation bearing the sportsman's name has earned a place in gaming folklore for its intuitive gameplay and all-star line-up. Alongside the usual gamut of features – you can choose anything from playing a short round with an established pro to creating your own golfer and embarking on a full career – this year's offering includes the option to represent Europe or the United States in the Ryder Cup. An online element makes a return and this will be one of the first titles to use the Playstation 3's new motion controller.

Out on June 8



Splinter Cell Conviction for Xbox 360

TOM Clancy's sneaky secret agent Sam Fisher makes his latest appearance in this shadowy sequel. A fast-paced storyline sees Fisher cast out as a renegade agent following the death of his daughter and desperately trying to stop a terrorist plot that threatens to kill millions. The gameplay is an exciting mix of stealth and action, with players now able to use items in the game world against their opponents during interrogation sessions. The main mission is slightly short and seasoned campaigners should rattle through it without too much trouble, but it is fun while it lasts.

Out now





Pole position: Dynamic weather, licensed vehicles and drivers and accurate recreations of grand prix circuits add to the realism of *Formula One 2010*

Dead to Rights Retribution for Xbox 360

OUT now, *Dead to Rights Retribution* is a classically-styled third-person shooter and beat-'em-up packed full of ultra violence from the word go. The player takes charge of Officer Jack Slate with his trusty husky Shadow at his side in order to save a ruined metropolis from the ominously-growing grips of corruption, greed and crime. Each level is packed full of goons just waiting to be punched, kicked, shot, blown up and mauled, often with the added bonus of a slow motion, special move, gangster-style execution. The storyline is actually quite cheesy, but that is more than made up for in aggression and excitement.

Cpl Paul Calvert, RE



Halo Reach for Xbox 360

FOLLOWING on from the unparalleled success of *Halo 3* and its expansion *Halo: ODST*, *Reach* is Microsoft's latest stab at console domination. And from the early multiplayer demo, it looks like the computer giant has succeeded. Set in the future – 2552 to be precise – players take on the mantle of Noble Six, an elite super soldier serving with the United Nations Space Command in a battle with alien forces. The graphics have been rebuilt from the ground up so the game looks jaw-droppingly good and the multiplayer mode has been further improved from previous incarnations. A sure-fire hit.

Out this autumn



UFC Undisputed 2010 for Xbox 360

ANYONE familiar with the Ultimate Fighting Championship will have a fair idea of what to expect from this title. Featuring a host of licensed stars – more than 100 lovingly-recreated fighters are included – and venues from the world of mixed martial arts, *UFC Undisputed 2010* takes players into the octagon for bouts that are as brutal as they are skilful. The variety of fighting styles, which range from Greco-Roman wrestling and karate through to the lesser-known sambo, ensure that contests always require tactical thought. For such a violent sport, this game offers surprising depth and is a worthy purchase.

Out now





Sibling star: Kid Sister combines hip-hop, house, pop and dance in the energy-fuelled *Ultraviolet*, which is out now

Youthful exuberance

New kid on the block recalls early dance floor memories to inspire debut album

Review: Richard Long

WHEN rap heavyweight Kanye West lends his vocal talents to an aspiring artist, they can expect a first-class ticket to the top of the musical tree.

For Chicago MC Kid Sister that certainly proved the case as her debut single *Pro Nails* was met with critical acclaim and saw her branded the saviour of female hip-hop, a tag that carries a certain weight of expectation.

The release of *Ultraviolet* will give further indications of whether she can meet such high hopes, but with the likes of Estelle and Cee-Lo (of Gnarls Barkley fame) also lending a hand there is every chance she could be well on her way.

The album title refers to Kid Sister's pre-teen days and the hours spent in the underage club Jubilation, a venue that gave youngsters a taste of 1990s' house acts such as Reel II Reel.

"We'd just dance for hours and flirt with boys and listen to the newest house music," the American star recalled.

"I was looking in a window for a while until I shifted all my catholic school nerdiness by going

to these parties and hanging out with my new-found friends.

"It was a pivotal moment when I figured out what I like musically and what I liked as a person.

"That's why I called the album *Ultraviolet* because you'd walk into Jubilation and it was all UV. It was the first place I could go and get crazy and wild.

"I have been going to dance clubs since I was 11. It was cool my parents let me go and it helped me in everything I'm doing. You get your feet wet early and figure out what it's all about."

Like Amy Winehouse, Kid Sister studied musical theatre at school and is not ashamed of her background.

"It teaches you about showmanship and entertainment," she said.

"I am not embarrassed about it at all. I wear it proudly in my nerd costume."

As well as working with guest artists on the vocal side, Kid Sister also called in some of her favourite producers to help create the exact sound she wanted.

French hip-hop electro master Yusek, West's tour DJ A-Trak and Rusko – the brain behind Rhianna's *Disturbia* – were among the many who were only too willing to help.

And the end result could certainly be described as somewhat of a melting pot of an album.

Opening track *Right Hand Hi* has obvious house and dance influences and provides a great start before mixing effortlessly into *Life on TV*, which continues along similar lines.

The pop duet *Daydreaming*, which features Cee-Lo, is another standout track and will be electrifying dance floors up and down the country.

West collaboration *Pro Nails* points to the hip-hop direction and is a welcome change of pace but the early good work is undone courtesy of *Switch Board*, an horrific offering that makes you instantly reach for the skip button.

With house, hip-hop, dance, pop and electro all crammed into 12 songs, *Ultraviolet* can certainly get confusing at times as there is simply too much going on.

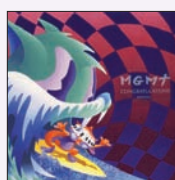
Scaling back the ambition would have been a better approach. When the songs work they produce terrific results but at times it is a hit-and-miss affair.

On this evidence it is still too early to say whether Kid Sister will be the saviour of female hip-hop – *Ultraviolet* is ultimately a far greater contribution to the pop market and should be celebrated as such. ■

From multi-national gypsy punks to a Paperboy full of passion and soul, we fire up the latest releases...

Congratulations by MGMT

ULTRA-cool New Yorkers **MGMT** shook up the music scene in 2008 with their genre-jumping debut *Oracular Spectacular*, which featured the likes of *Kids* and *Electric Feel*.



Following up on such a strong start was always going to be tough, but for the most part the band has achieved it with *Congratulations*. Much less accessible than their previous effort, this album goes heavy on psychedelic influences on a number of tracks, most notably *Flash Delirium*. *It's Working* is a lively opener, but it is obvious that the band have not made this record with chart success in mind – not that that's a bad thing. Stick with it and you'll be rewarded with an intelligent set of songs.

Stephen Tyler, Soldier

Women and Country by Jakob Dylan

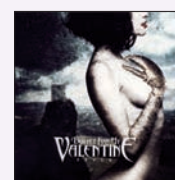
LONG-time **Bob Dylan** fans may think that here is a son basking in his father's glory. You might even be forgiven for thinking that the old man himself was singing, so similar is the style. But do not be put off, this is no **Miley Cyrus**; the music is good, the writing especially so. It would be interesting to see how much help from pops **Jakob** is getting. A mix of blues, country and jazz, the album has potential to be all of these things yet somehow falls short. Jakob Dylan doesn't fit the persona of a weather-beaten hobo, this is more *The Gambler* than *Times They Are A Changing*. Should you buy this album? Yes, even if it's just because you're a Dylan Senior fan.



SSgt Geordie Graham, 35 Engr Regt

Fever by Bullet For My Valentine

WELSH heavy metal outfit **Bullet For My Valentine** know exactly where their strengths lie and, thankfully for fans, they play up to them throughout their third studio album



Fever. From the moment the record bursts into life with the angry riffs of *Your Betrayal*, listeners are treated to 11 tracks of loud guitars, thumping drums and the band's well-rehearsed mix of ominous verses followed by catchy singalong choruses. The technique works brilliantly and is especially noticeable on *The Last Fight*. There are even sections where the tempo slows to an almost-pedestrian pace – see the melancholic *A Place Where You Belong* – but these serve only to provide greater balance. An unlikely winner.

Richard Long, Soldier



Different wavelength: Chicago MC Kid Sister offers a host of guest collaborations with some of music's biggest performers in her first album *Ultraviolet*

Trans-Continental Hustle

NOW in their eleventh year and championed by the likes of **Madonna**, the multi-national **Gogol Bordello** have certainly stepped up to the plate. This is a vibrant collection of songs with luminary producer **Rick Rubin** at the helm that encapsulates the energy reminiscent of their acclaimed live shows. The swirling accordions and violins blend with the frantic fusion of Spanish guitars to highlight their undoubted musical talent. The vocals are delivered with passion and while there are no grand electric guitar solos to contend with you still have the urge to turn it up loud. This album might take time to grow on you but it's well worth the wait.



Steve King, Soldier

Come And Get It by Eli Paperboy Reed

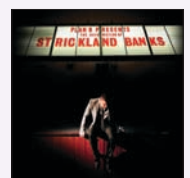
SOULFUL, exuberant, passionate, and with a touch of funk and occasional blues, **Eli Paperboy Reed** explodes into the mainstream with his major label debut, *Come And Get It*. Already popular on the north of England soul scene, Paperboy aims to break into the lucrative US market with this release. Like so many American-born singers before him, he has grown in popularity in the UK before being picked up by a big label back home. This record is set to rival the likes of **Duffy** and **Amy Winehouse** and with a sound harking back to the Motown and Stax movements of the 60s, Paperboy's Boston and Chicago roots stand out like his over-seasoned hair and shiny suit.



Capt Dan Knowles, 35 Engr Regt

The Defamation of Strickland Banks

THIS concept album from the musically- and vocally-talented **Ben Drew** – aka **Strickland Banks** – talks us through the fictional story of a wrongly-convicted soul singer. With an **Amy Winehouse**-esque band providing finger-clicking, head-nodding hooks along with intelligent, thought-provoking lyrics, the entire album is a pleasurable experience. *Stay Too Long* and *She Said* are well-known crowd pleasers but *The Recluse* and *Darkest Place* have the potential to become anthems. From high-pitched declarations of love to fast-paced rap about murder and prison, the 26-year-old from East London is in his element and the end product is a well-accomplished sound.



Joe Clapson, Soldier



150 not out: Mike Ryan's pictorial account chronicles the evolution of the Army Cadet Force over the past century-and-a-half

Cadets come of age

Celebratory salute to youth organisation which continues to serve with distinction

Review: Maj Mike Peters AAC

ALARGE number of *Soldier* readers will have worn a British uniform for the first time as a cadet – be it while serving in either the Army Cadet Force (ACF) or as a member of their school's Combined Cadet Force.

But beyond our own memories of junior service, what do we know about the make-up of an organisation which proved to be a military apprenticeship for so many of us?

Before reading *The Army Cadet Force: The 150th Anniversary Celebration* I would have answered not a lot, having not given the movement much thought after falling out for the final time as a 16-year-old.

As a consequence the opening chapters of Mike Ryan's book, which explore in detail the origins of cadet forces in Great Britain, were a welcome history lesson.

It was a mixture of a desire for social reform, military organisation and the threat of French invasion which triggered the creation of the first cadet units in 1860.

Boy service in the military was not a new

concept at that time, but the need for a home-based force that could play a role in defence, develop potential officers and NCOs and instil some self-discipline in the youth of the day was.

The formation of a 100,000-strong volunteer corps – the forerunner to today's Territorial Army – and the school volunteer corps heralded the beginning of the ACF story.

Plentiful photographs accompany the title's narrative and provide a chronological record of the changing role and training of British, Empire and Commonwealth cadets.

It is clear from the uniforms and equipment used by the ACF during the early years that the nature of their training was very closely linked to that of the Regular Army.

And while the separation between the mainstream military and volunteer organisations habitually narrows at times of conflict, Ryan touches on the skills and drills of wartime cadets being put to the test.

Although today's members of the ACF are given a taster of what the Services are all about, their forebears played a far more active role. The author cites examples of cadets assisting their adult counterparts during the two World Wars, which saw schoolboys drafted in to provide auxiliary

support to coastal defence batteries.

Modern milestones are also well charted by this pictorial history, with the impact of health and safety legislation and the introduction of females and weapons to the ranks examined.

What becomes abundantly clear as you leaf through the pages of this book is that throughout its evolution the ACF has given much to society. At a time when the young are so often seen as being out-of-control, hoodie-shrouded yobs, the cadet organisation is proof to the contrary.

The modern ACF continues to model itself on the values and standards of the British Army and to strive to instil the core values of self-discipline, teamwork and civic responsibility into its young members. It does so with distinction and the author has succeeded in capturing this spirit and ethos.

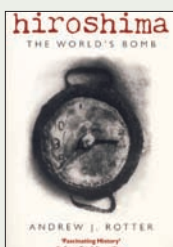
The adult instructors that make the ACF tick deserve credit for their efforts. Their overwhelming desire has always been to ensure that life as a cadet is fun and that those under their supervision are a credit to themselves and the organisation they have joined.

A befitting tribute to these unsung heroes, *The 150th Anniversary Celebration* is a must read for all those currently in the cadet ranks and the ACF's many graduates. ■

From weapons of mass destruction to military mythology, a flick through this month's literary releases...

Hiroshima: The World's Bomb

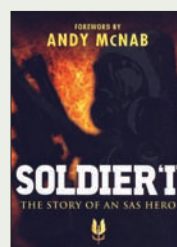
A MAGNIFICENTLY-written and comprehensive book which deals with a range of issues associated with nuclear weapons. The title focuses on the build up and scientific technology behind the dropping of the atomic bomb – nicknamed "Little Boy" – on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Author **Andrew Rotter** argues that the willingness to use such a horrific weapon was an inevitable result of the evolution of military strategy and morality throughout the Second World War. Rotter adopts a race-against-time narrative and ably explains complex scientific theories and technical practices, ensuring this historical account is both engaging and exciting.



Capt Jim Vincent, RLC

Soldier 'I' by P Winner and M Kennedy

THE forefather of all SAS accounts, I first read *Soldier 'I'* 20 years ago and was pleased to discover that this latest edition of the title remains both thought-provoking and inspirational. **Pete Winner** vividly captures the adrenalin-fuelled essence of his 18 years' service with the SAS as well as the vagueness of life after "the regiment". The high-water mark of modern military bibliographies, the book follows Winner's adventures from the Iranian Embassy to the Falklands and into the world of private security companies. *Soldier 'I'* has an ageless charm that captures the human side of the most challenging soldiering. Well worth reading.



Maj Eddie Elms, AGC

Alamein by Iain Gale

IN his thrilling new novel **Iain Gale** leads us through the 11 days that gave Britain and the Commonwealth a vital boost in their struggle against Rommel's legendary Afrika Corps and changed the course of the Second World War. Describing the stories of seven real men who took part, Gale offers a fresh and very personal perspective on the many actions which made up "the war without hate". Meticulously researched and told in gripping style, this book will enthral even the most reluctant military history reader. Gale is securing himself a place alongside **Cornwell** and **Iggulden** as a superb historical novelist.



Capt Dan Knowles, 35 Engr Regt

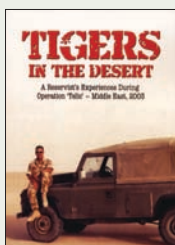


Birthday bash: Members of the Army Cadet Force pose outside 10 Downing Street at the beginning of a year of celebratory camps and expeditions

Tigers in the Desert by Ian Williams

A RESERVIST'S account of serving in the Theatre Information General Equipment Register (TIGER) team based in Kuwait, and later Iraq, during Op Telic. The author, who is donating a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of his book to Help for Heroes, describes his experiences from mobilisation and throughout the war-fighting stage of the operation. The title features some interesting anecdotes and **Williams'** writing style is easy to read. However, the book suffers in that it describes situations similar to dozens of other Telic offerings. Entertaining, but those who have read other operational accounts may find it repetitive.

Cpl Chris MacCullum, Int Corps



Operation Kronstadt by Harry Ferguson

MI6, undercover British agents, armed speedboats and shoot-outs with the Russians. An early James Bond script? Not even close. This true story takes us back to 1919 and follows the fate of two men, whose very different yet equally-heroic deeds contrast with the incompetence of those running the fledgling intelligence service. **Harry Ferguson** has dug deep into the MI6 archives and uncovered a real gem of a story. He writes in a way that contains plenty of detail for the history buffs but also allows the narrative to flow like a good spy thriller should, leading to an incredible ending that even Hollywood couldn't dream up.

Ian Merrington, civvy



The Mons Myth by Terence Zuber

THIS revisionist account by military academic **Terence Zuber** presents the German perspective of the Great War's opening campaign. Using comparative casualties, PoWs and ground taken, Zuber's clinical analysis is compelling; the retreat from Mons was less controlled than British accounts describe. The examination of mature German doctrine, tactics and training is superb and demonstrates why the enemy was so difficult to engage. When the British Expeditionary Force thought it was inflicting large casualties at 1,000 yards, it was actually watching the German use of cover, fire and movement. Recommended.

Lt Col Andy Gladen, RE





Here and now: Although not able to predict the weather, the Kestrel 3500 provides current readings according to SSgt Stephen Cooper

Uncertain forecast

Inability to predict incoming weather fails to dampen meteorological meter's appeal

Review: SSgt Stephen Cooper

FEW professions require workers to acquaint themselves with the great outdoors quite as much as soldiering.

Whether taking part in exercises, having a crack at adventurous training or serving on ops, military life is often played out under the open skies.

The subsequent opportunities to keep fit, get fresh air and see parts of the world civvies can only dream about are vast, but al fresco employment does have its drawbacks.

Chief among these is the exposure to Mother Nature's changing mood. A manageable tab can turn into a hellish slog in strong winds, for example, while rain can severely dampen the spirits of troops on exercise.

Being able to judge the conditions is an invaluable commodity and specialist meteorological company Kestrel is targeting the military market with the release of its 3500 portable meter.

The sleek hand-held device is no bigger than most mobile phones, but packs a raft of weather-predicting gizmos under its toughened case.

On top of the all-important temperature reading, the Kestrel 3500 can calculate heat index and relative humidity as well as wind chill.

Speaking of wind, the current, average and maximum gust speeds can all be discovered alongside more obscure readings including dew point, wet bulb temperature and even the current barometric pressure.

So far so good, but does the Kestrel 3500 pass muster in the hands of the British Army? To find out, we enlisted the help of SSgt Stephen Cooper (R Signals), an outdoor enthusiast serving as G3 systems warrant officer with HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany.

"This is a gadget from geek heaven," the senior soldier said after receiving the device. "You have nine weather measurements displayed on an easy-to-read digital LCD in a simple-to-use product."

Keen to discover just how practically useful the Kestrel is for Servicemen and women, SSgt Cooper canvassed the opinion of colleagues.

Although all agreed that the design was spot-on and the functions useful, there was a mixed reaction as to whether the unit would be of benefit in the field.

"We have a meteorological guy here who has his own professional kit and he was surprised that

the readings were always within or better than the accuracy range stated," said SSgt Cooper.

"For things like dew points it is great, but the concern was that it only tells you what the weather is like now – you can't really forecast what it will be like in the future."

For avoiding incoming inclement conditions – although the barometric pressure reading is of some use to those who know what they are doing – the Kestrel may lack the sophistication of other kit.

But for users who are concerned with the here and now – including physical training instructors (PTIs) – it comes into its own.

"The PTIs I spoke to said that if they could get one issued they would jump at the chance," explained SSgt Cooper. "They thought the heat stress indicator and wind chill factor meters were great additions."

"There are certain conditions that you can run PT sessions in and it would be easier for them to look at this meter rather than having to rely on thermometers stuck to the outside of buildings."

"I personally wouldn't rush out and buy one," he added. "But if you have a need for it then it is a great device. It is definitely a good gadget, but you have to find a use for it." ■

Soldier heads into the light to cast a closer eye over the latest generation of hi-tech goggles...

Revision Sawfly

WEIGHING in at just 28g, the Sawfly protective goggles still manage to pack a lot of features into their slender frames. The polycarbonate, interchangeable lenses are available in a range of colours for different situations and are made from optical-grade material which, so the manufacturer promises, offers "distortion-free vision". They are also coated in a scratch-resistant covering and have been proven to be able to withstand a shotgun blast from 16ft. Ensuring that comfort is as well-considered as safety, Revision have fitted the Sawfly with adjustable arms to suit different face shapes and a retention strap can be added to keep the goggles in place.

www.revisioneyewear.com



Revision Hellfly

THESE Terminator-style sunglasses certainly look the part, but their ballistic lenses ensure that they serve a vital task as well. Crafted out of high-impact polycarbonate and available in five frame colours, the Hellfly glasses are more than capable of withstanding any number of scrapes and the lenses passed Revision's shotgun test with flying colours. The protection is complemented by a series of features designed to offer a perfect fit. The frames sport over-moulded temples to keep the glasses in place, while the wrap-around style keeps light, wind and dust away from the eyes and provides wearers with a wide field of view.

www.revisioneyewear.com



Revision Bullet Ant

DESIGNED with high-speed operations in mind, the Bullet Ant goggles are at the serious end of Revision's product line. Assuming that owners will probably be wearing them with a helmet, the company has fitted an easily-adjustable strap that can be fitted over or under any head covering. The foam-lined frames ensure a comfortable fit and feature ventilation holes to prevent the lenses from fogging up. If that fails to do the trick, the goggles are also coated in OcuMax material that stops them steaming up or scratching. Adding to the military feel, the low-profile design was dreamt up to make the Bullet Ant compatible with night-vision systems.

www.revisioneyewear.com





Picture: Kestrel

Take the weather with you: Kestrel's 3500 meter offers users easy access to a host of meteorological functions in a toughened case designed for outdoor use

ESS Crossbow 3LS

CUSTOMISATION is the key word for ESS's military-specification Crossbow eyeshields. The angular frames come complete with clear-, smoke- and yellow-coloured lenses which offer increased performance in different light conditions. Fitting the lenses is a doddle thanks to ESS's Deobolt quick-release lever which locks or unlocks in an instant. The one-size-fits-all design works well and provides good comfort and stability, ensuring the eyeshields stay in place even during frenetic activity. An interesting innovation with the lenses is a dual coating which provides an anti-scratch capability on the outside and an anti-fog one on the inside.



www.esseyepro.com

ESS Flyby Ballistic Sunglasses

AS undeniably cool as a pair of Oakleys or Ray Bans might make you look, they offer very little in terms of protection. ESS has spotted the gap in the market and attempted to fill it with the ballistic Flyby sunglasses. The sleek design would not look out of place on a beach this summer, but the real benefit comes from the high-impact polycarbonate lenses which provide military-standard protection. The frame itself feels slightly flimsy, but once the arms are extended the glasses – which come in a range of sizes – fit comfortably in place. They also do a good job of keeping light out in even the brightest conditions while providing 100 per cent UV protection.



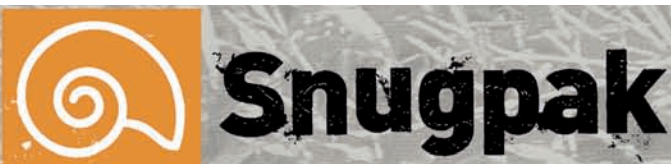
www.esseyepro.com

Win... Goggles galore

AS the reviews on these pages have shown, Revision Eyewear and ESS are the leaders of the pack when it comes to eye protection fit for the most demanding conditions. Whether it's a beefed-up pair of ballistic goggles or a slightly less-intimidating set of sunglasses, the duo have products to meet most needs. Both companies have kindly donated one pair of each of the goggles featured to give away to *Soldier* readers. To be in with a chance of winning one, answer this question: What material are Revision Eyewear's Bullet Ant goggles coated in? Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Closing date: June 30



Snugpak

SLEEKA ORIGINAL



Comfort at -5°C
Softie® insulation
Weighs from 650 grams
The original military jacket

SOFTIE® 3 SLEEPING BAG

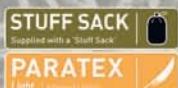


Weighs only 900 grams
The international best seller
Features heat reflective fabric



MADE IN THE UK

PILE SHIRT



Large front pocket
Weighs from 850 grams
With side venting zips
Thick pile for greater warmth

SLEEKA REVERSIBLE



Comfort at -5°C
Fully reversible
Softie® insulation
Weighs from 650 grams



THE BEST OF UK MANUFACTURING

www.snugpak.com
01535 654479



The world's most concealable
tactical flashlight.

SUREFIRE

A dope buy. A rat infested flop house. A weird glance. The hairs stand up on the back of your neck. Are you burned? ■ The SureFire® E1B Backup™ was designed for serious undercover concealment. Depress the two-stage tailcap fully and it puts out 80 blinding lumens. The low setting offers 5 lumens; for reading a map, writing notes, or navigating for a staggering 37 hours. Reversible clip for bezel up or down carry. Cover your back.

Get SureFire in UK: mike@edgar-brothers.co.uk

www.hive.mod.uk



You ask
We answer



HIVE
information
For the Service Community

SOLDIERSPORT

SITTING PRETTY: VOLLEYBALL
OFFERS BATTLE BACK STARS
RETURN TO ACTION

ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...



P96 **RUGBY**
NAVY SINK
ARMY RECORD



P100 **CRICKET**
SERVICE'S
SEASON GUIDE



P104 **SHOOTING**
OPERATIONAL
HOT SHOTS



P105 **BOXING**
NIGHT OF
CHAMPIONS



ARMY 22 - 24 NAVY

Army: Cummings; Magnus; Wessels; Nacamavuto; Qasevakatini; Prasad; Martin; Lewis; Dwyer; Budgen; Scarf; Ball; Satala; Lee; Hughes.

Subs: Silvester; Dowding; Bates; Kava; Parry; Coetzer; Ferguson.

Tries: Prasad; Cummings; Nacamavuto.

Conversions: Cummings (2).

Penalty: Cummings.

Royal Navy: Lloyd; Vance; MacRae; Sleeman; Drauniniu; John; Pascoe; Mason; Laity; Evans; McLaren; Cormack; Egglestone; Barden; Chambers.

Subs: Priddey; Roberts; Morton; Dennis; Cairns; Llewellyn; Stephen.

Tries: Priddey; Evans.

Conversions: Pascoe.

Penalties: Pascoe (4).

Attendance: 56,184.

FORM GUIDE

THE Army came into the match as strong favourites with eight successive titles behind them.

Preparations for Twickenham had gone well. The Reds beat Oxford and Cambridge Universities and produced strong performances against A teams from Premiership sides Northampton, Worcester and Saracens.

A two-week training camp in South Africa brought further wins over Hamilton and Durbanville-Belleville and the Reds returned to the UK with high hopes of Inter-Services success.

But their homeward flight was delayed due to the volcanic ash cloud crisis and their pre-Twickenham fixture with the Royal Air Force was cancelled.



Reds relinquish Services crown

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

A SUICIDAL final ten minutes shattered the Army's dominance of the Inter-Services Rugby Union Babcock Trophy match as the Royal Navy snatched a dramatic win on a pulsating afternoon at Twickenham.

With a record 56,184 crowd cheering the sides on the Reds looked set for a ninth successive title as they entered the final quarter in total control.

But instead of capitalising on their advantage the defending champions inexplicably handed the momentum to their Senior Service rivals.

They conceded a string of penalties and had two players sin-binned for unnecessary acts of ill-discipline.

The Navy ruthlessly piled on the points in the closing stages and when burly prop Cpl Gareth Evans crossed for a contentious score in the dying seconds the final nail was hammered in the Army coffin as they slipped to an agonising 24-22 defeat.

"I am certainly disappointed," coach WO2 Andy Price (WG) told *SoldierSport* at the end of a heartbreaking afternoon.

"It has been a tough season. We have worked hard and prepared well but in the end we came up short.

"We certainly weren't over confident coming into the match. The boys are level-headed and they kept their feet on the ground. They wanted to do a professional job.

"You cannot give away 13 penalties and two yellow cards and expect to win – we committed suicide."

Despite seeing his side's stranglehold on the competition broken, Price

was able to take some positives from the game, with his star Fijians at the forefront of his mind.

"Pte Apo Satala (1 Scots, pictured below left) was immense, he put in some great hits and fantastic runs, while Pte Jack Prasad (1 Scots) was an attacking threat throughout," he said.

"On the plus side we blooded five new caps today and those players will play a big part in our future.

"A wounded lion bites back hard and we will come back to win next year. We will prepare equally well, if not better than before."

After a blood-and-thunder opening, the Army took the lead through the boot of Cpl Ceri Cummings (REME) before Navy skipper POAET Dave Pascoe restored parity with a penalty of his own just moments after the restart.

With the game settling into a steady rhythm the Reds were able to stamp their attacking flair on the contest.

Prasad provided the creative spark in midfield and the fly half showed his immense class with a superb dummy that

fooled the Navy defence and created the space for him to accelerate to the line for the opening try.

Cummings had the simple task of adding the extras and the fullback was in the thick of the action again just minutes before half-time as he crashed through would-be tacklers to establish a 15-3 interval lead.

The trusted boot of the outstanding Pascoe kept the Navy in touch with a penalty shortly after the break but the Army came storming back courtesy of Spr Peceli Nacamavuto (RE).

The powerful centre collected an inside pass from Prasad to charge to

'A WOUNDED LION BITES BACK HARD AND WE WILL COME BACK TO WIN NEXT YEAR'

HIGH HOPES

THE Army took to the field at Twickenham hoping to add to their record-breaking run of victories in the Inter-Services Rugby Union championships. The Reds had triumphed in each of the previous eight clashes with the Navy



KICK OFF

THE trusted boot of Cpl Ceri Cummings (REME) opened the scoring for the Army with a 12th minute penalty. The fullback was in fine form and added a try and two conversions to his personal points tally for the afternoon



TRY TIME

CENTRE Spr Peceli Nacamavuto (RE) gave the Army what appeared to be an unassailable 22-6 lead when he crashed through to score in the 55th minute. Few could predict what was to happen in the final quarter





Driving force: LCpl Joe Kava (RLC) fires the Army pack forward during the second half of the Reds' disappointing defeat to the Royal Navy at Twickenham

the line from a well-worked scrum and, with Cummings again slotting the extras, the result looked secure.

But Pascoe kicked two further penalties to reduce the arrears and when the experienced LCpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) was given a ten-minute spell in the sin bin the Navy could sense a comeback.

Replacement forward Cpl Dave Bates (R Signals) followed Budgen to the bench just moments later, leaving 13 Army players to cope with the mounting pressure.

NA Ben Priddey was the first to capitalise, crashing over after some strong forward play leaving Pascoe to add the conversion.

And with just seconds remaining prop Evans bundled his way to the line to complete a stunning fightback.

The video referee took an eternity to confirm the score and with the final whistle looming there was no time for an Army response.

Man of the match Satala was outstanding once again while Spr Gus Qasevakatini (RE) was a constant threat on the left wing and scrum half Capt Ian Martin (Yorks) fed the backs with a constant supply of quick ball.

"We knew it was going to be hard and to lose it at the death was very disappointing," a dejected Satala told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"They were immense. The Navy pressed us from the first whistle to the last and they never gave up.

"Every year the Inter-Services competition is getting tougher, the standard is improving in every match.

"They were some silly penalties to give away. We had 13 players against 15 and that is where they capitalised. Our most important players were off the field and that really hurt us.

"Sometimes it is good to lose as it makes you realise where you are. You get that feeling of losing and you want to come back stronger." ■

**"EVER YEAR
THE INTER-
SERVICES
COMPETITION
IS GETTING
TOUGHER"**

**– PTE APOLOSI
SATALA, SCOTS**



SINNER

EXPERIENCED prop LCpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) was one of two Army players who were sin-binned late on. The Royal Navy ruthlessly capitalised on the numerical advantage to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat



WOUNDED

CPL Ben Hughes (RE) leads the procession of crestfallen Army players as they collect their runners-up medals. The Reds have vowed to come back stronger and reclaim the title at next year's Twickenham clash



STAR MAN

FIJIAN ace Pte Jack Prasad (1 Scots, pictured right) was at the heart of the Army's best moves. The fly half left the Navy flat-footed to score the game's opening try and was a close contender for man of the match



Returning

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

SITTING volleyball has rapidly emerged as one of the more exciting Paralympic events due to the fast and furious nature of the action on court.

With London 2012 acting as a beacon for potential athletes, the Combined Services squad is hoping for a strong presence at the Games as its players continue to go from strength to strength.

The team only formed late last year, but in its first full season it finished fifth in the national Grand Prix Series and is about to embark on a tour to the United States of America.

While overseas the Service stars will compete in the Endeavour Games, a four-day multi-sport event for disabled athletes.

SoldierSport visited the Battle Back players at their training base in Dorking to learn more about the game and the benefits it offers to wounded personnel.

"This is the first sport that able-bodied and disabled people can compete in together. It is also the first team sport for disabled soldiers," explained Sqn Ldr Sol Masawi, the officer in charge of Combined Services sitting volleyball.

"When competing in the national league you can have a mix of able-bodied and disabled players but at international level it has to be disabled athletes and we are trying to push these guys for the Paralympic Games in 2012."

The squad has a

strong representation from the Army and the Royal Marines and organisers are now appealing for more people to get involved and boost the ranks ahead of the new season.

"We have ten regular disabled players but they are going through their rehabilitation so they are not always available," Masawi said. "At the moment it is mainly Army guys, but we have got two Royal Marines who are in the early stages of their recovery."

"The great thing about this sport is that there is no advantage to being able-bodied. Volleyball is very quick to learn. This gives them a sense of team spirit and togetherness and they are competing at a high level straight away."

"These players are young and fit and they have that fighting spirit."

"In the early stages of the grand prix our skill levels were nowhere near the others, but because of their energy and commitment they pulled through."

"We want to get more people involved and if we do that I think we can dominate the national league."

Since its formation the team has been working closely with coaches from

'These players are young and fit and they have that fighting spirit'

SOLDIERSPORT'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL GUIDE



SITTING volleyball has enjoyed full Paralympic status since 1980 and has been included on the schedule for the 2012 Games in London



BATTLE Back players have been competing in the Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix Series and they finished fifth in the 2009-10 season

to service

Volleyball England, who are looking to recruit new talent for the Great Britain national squad.

They have also received tremendous backing and support from the Army Volleyball Association.

Tom Middleton, a coach with the British women's disabled squad, has been helping to run the Combined Services training sessions and said the motivation to get involved was simple.

"Like most civvies I have a great desire to help these guys out," he added. "I think they have the ideal attributes for top level sport.

"What is really good about this sport is the fact it is physically demanding, you get a great upper-body workout.

"When you look at the court you do not know who is able-bodied or not. They talk about sport being all-inclusive and this certainly is the case.

"This is all about building team spirit and it is a good way to get these soldiers integrating with civvy street and getting them off the base [Headley Court]."

The game is similar to the standard format but the court is smaller and has a lower net.

For Tpr Corie Mapp (HCR), the transition into the sport was simple as he had played for the Army volleyball team prior to being injured while

serving in Afghanistan.

"I asked about this when I first went to Headley Court," he explained.

"They said there was a sitting version of the game and I was able to play in the grand prix series with Battle Back.

"I enjoy playing. I don't know if I'll be good enough for the Paralympics but I will certainly give it a go.

"For me, as a double amputee, it is about going out and getting involved in sport again. Just because you have lost your legs it doesn't mean that you have to sit down and do nothing.

"This is a chance to keep your body fit and it helps mentally as well. Sitting at home with nothing to do you can easily get down on yourself. For me it is important to keep your mind occupied.

"It is also good to represent my regiment. They have been very supportive of me playing volleyball and with my injuries."

Teammate LCpl Netra Rana (1 RGR) was injured in an IED blast in Afghanistan in January 2008 and got involved after watching matches on the television.

"It looked like a good sport for the Paralympics and for disabled people," he said.

"This has given us a chance to make new friends and build on the rehabilitation work.

"I'm really enjoying it. I love playing volleyball and it is something I am very interested in. I am now targeting the Paralympics in 2012."

● Anyone who is interested in taking up sitting volleyball should contact Sqn Ldr Masawi on 07901 513455. ■

"AS A DOUBLE AMPUTEE, IT IS ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN SPORT AGAIN"

– TPR CORIE MAPP, HCR



SITTING volleyball is played on a smaller 10x6m court and also has a lower net set at a height of 1.15m for men and 1.05m for women



WHEN hitting or attacking the ball, the player must have one buttock or an extension of the torso in contact with the floor at all times

