

# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



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ARMY

# United front

**T**HE word "interoperability" is not that easy to say and for sophisticated military forces from different nations it's also pretty difficult to achieve.

Perhaps that's why an increasing number of exercises on the calendar, such as Eagles Amarante (page 23), now involve some form of integration or cooperation with our Nato allies.

But like most things, the demands that many young British soldiers are facing in this realm, such as establishing a common language and agreed protocols on the battlefield, are nothing new.

The Service has long relied on assimilating foreign troops into its ranks in order to beef up its potency, with the Gurkhas being a prime example.

During the First World War, for instance, a huge number of personnel from Commonwealth nations slotted into formations managed by British Army generals and their presence proved absolutely vital, as our special remembrance section, which starts on page 29, recalls.

Thousands of Indian troops plugged gaping holes in our lines on the Western Front in 1914 and helped reinforce a depleted British Expeditionary Force at a critical time.

Units from India and many other former colonies also deployed to the Middle East and Africa, stretching the German and Turkish ranks to the absolute limit.

Without the help of this international force fighting under British command the war would almost certainly have been more drawn out and costly in terms of lives lost.

This was, surely, interoperability at its finest. ■



Steve Muncey • Managing Editor

Turn to pages 80-81 to read about the latest barnstormer from the Reds in the IDRC...



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'Technology may change but people don't'

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**"Soldiers weren't taught how to look after themselves"**

Historian charts the horrors of Gallipoli

p30

**"These images remind people of what we went through"**

Photographer shares thoughts on Herrick portfolio

p47



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Picture: SAC Dek Taylor, RAF



## African assistance on rise

Service likely to step up training and support for Nigerian forces

**N**IGERIA is set to become a more regular destination for British Army soldiers as the Service expands its commitment to the troubled West African nation.

Terrorist organisation Boko Haram remains highly active in certain regions of the country and short-term training teams consisting of troops from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) are among the latest to be deployed to help bolster the skills of Nigeria's armed forces.

More than 100 UK military personnel have been sent there already this year to conduct training tasks ranging from one to eight weeks in duration.

In the main this has seen them provide advice and mentoring in several niche areas such as countering improvised explosive devices, infantry patrolling skills, civil-military cooperation and command and leadership.

There is also a resident British advisory and training team that works closely with the country's defence academies to build longer term capacity.

However, on a recent visit to the country, Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton, strongly hinted that the number of UK personnel delivering pre-deployment preparation for counter-

insurgency operations could increase substantially in the near future.

During meetings with President Muhammadu Buhari and senior military officials, he praised the "remarkable progress" made by home-grown soldiers.

And he also offered to intensify the British Army's help and support.

"I was extremely pleased to see our training team in action and witness, first-hand, the excellent work being carried out by our troops with the country's armed forces," the senior officer said.

"This visit has also provided an opportunity to discuss the security challenges this nation faces with senior members of the administration and military and we are committed to strengthening our long-standing defence relationship with Nigeria."

“  
I was  
pleased  
to see the  
excellent  
work being  
carried out  
”

### ARMY'S GLOBAL FOOTPRINT IN 2015

**67,745**

Soldiers deployed overseas so far

**2,502**

Number sent on 21 overseas operations

**64**

Nations visited on ops, exercises and engagements

## Army medics recognised

■ THE recent Pride of Britain ceremony saw a special recognition award given to Army personnel and healthcare workers who deployed to Sierra Leone to help stem the Ebola epidemic.

British soldiers were involved in setting up training facilities and teaching more than 4,000 professionals how to tackle the deadly disease.

An award for bravery also went to Army doctor Maj David Cooper (RAMC, pictured below) for helping to rescue the Alton Towers rollercoaster crash victims.

He was on duty with the Midlands Air Ambulance when he and fellow responders Tom Waters and Dr Ben Clark climbed up to reach those injured on the "Smiler" ride.

Another winner was the Walking With The Wounded charity, which received a special recognition prize.



■ COL David Bates, Director of Army Nursing Services, has been named as one of the country's "most inspirational nursing leaders". He received the accolade from the Nursing Times after being selected by a panel of experts endorsed by the chief nurses of all four countries in the UK.

■ THE Royal College of Nursing has appointed Army Reservist Capt Anna Crossley (QARANC) to one of its most important positions – the professional lead for acute, emergency and critical care.

In her role, that will draw on her wide-ranging experience of military and public health, the officer will analyse safe staffing levels as a key part of a major long-term overhaul of the NHS' healthcare systems.

# GLOBAL SITREP



## FRENCH FRIENDS

Airborne personnel learn from their cross-Channel allies – pages 23-28

5  
British Army Training Unit Suffield



### 1 GIBRALTAR

#### TUNNEL TEST

THE Rock of Gibraltar formed a gruelling training ground for Reservists from 202 and 203 Field Hospitals on Exercise Barbary Star.

Designed to take the troops out of their comfort zone, the package focused on infantry skills and included a village attack and a complex clearance operation in the territory's six-mile tunnel network.

Pte Jack Townsend said: "While we are not infantry soldiers, we could easily end up patrolling with them in the field and you have to be prepared for any eventuality."

“  
You have to  
be prepared  
for any  
eventuality  
”

British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

The Falkland Islands

4  
Germany

2  
Gibraltar

3

Cyprus

Sierra Leone

British Army Training Unit Kenya

### 3 ITALY

#### LANCERS LOOK BACK

A GROUP of 50 troops from The Royal Lancers deployed on Exercise Argenta Lancer to study the Italian campaign at the end of the Second World War.

Personnel retraced the steps of their antecedent regiments, which included the 9th Lancers' assault on the German "Gothic Line" in September 1944, the corps-level push through the Argenta Gap and the 12th Lancers' liberation of Venice.

Maj Chris Kierstead, officer commanding A squadron, said: "The latter stages of the Italian campaign offer a genuinely in-depth look at manoeuvre combat, with amphibious, mountain and trench warfare all being waged within six months."



### 2 SPAIN

#### PARAS TRAIN ON THE PLAIN

RESERVISTS from 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment have been training alongside their Regular Spanish counterparts on the dusty plains of Chinchilla.

Exercise Iberian Star saw UK personnel earn the host nation's jump wings as they dropped onto the area from a CH-47 Chinook before swapping weaponry and tactics on the ground.

Pte Tom Emsley said: "We've worked on basic skills like patrolling and setting up harbour areas with the Spanish paratroopers. This training is important because, if we were to go on operations with the Spanish, we already know about them and how they operate."





## IN NUMBERS:

# 52

Years of distinguished service in Germany by 7 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps. The loggies were recently presented with the prestigious Fahnenband honour in recognition of their efforts. The unit relocated to Cottesmore in 2013.



Afghanistan

Brunei



### 4 GERMANY

#### TANKS ON TOUR

THE Royal Wessex Yeomanry deployed to Sennelager Training Area for an armoured test alongside their paired regiment The Queen's Royal Hussars.

Troops operated primarily on the Challenger 2 main battle tank but they conducted a wheeled vehicle phase along with a series of drills on the combined arms tactical trainer simulator.

Capt Michael Adams (R WxY) said: "Relations were also forged with a visit to 203 Panzer Battalion, whose Leopard 6A proved an interesting comparison to our Challenger 2."

“  
I am  
extremely  
proud of  
what our  
soldiers  
have  
achieved  
”



### 5 CANADA

#### HOT SHOTS HIT THE MARK

THE British Army combat shooting team has returned from a successful tour to Canada with a record haul of 66 medals.

A 12-strong contingent was selected from the Service's top 50 shots for the trip and they embarked on a variety of matches against military rivals from Canada, the USA and the Royal Air Force.

"The focus was on long-range, rural engagements at more than 500 metres," said team captain Lt David Seaton (QG Signals).

"We had a three-week training package before we deployed so we could practise different distances and firing positions.

"It was a challenging competition and gave a good representation of the operational side of things. The guys really enjoyed it."

One of the biggest tests for the troops was the increase in range from the 300-metre targets found at Bisley.

They also faced a dynamic pistol match featuring a 270-degree arc of fire and a military biathlon event comprised of a seven-kilometre run, casualty drag and jerrycan lift.

The team return to action in the new year with a training camp in the USA and a competition in Australia.



## VIKINGS FIND HOME COMFORTS

FOLLOWING a busy year of global operations and exercises, troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment have been reunited with their families and comrades.

Personnel descended on the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich for a medal parade that acknowledged their efforts in **Afghanistan, Mali, the Pyrenees, Bulgaria, Canada and Italy.**

"I am extremely proud of what our soldiers have achieved and I hope the people in the battalion's counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire are too," said commanding officer Lt Col Dominic Biddick.

Can your unit compete with the Vikings' worldwide exploits? Email us at [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



## "IT IS A FOCAL POINT TO THINK ABOUT THE SACRIFICE"

– REMEMBRANCE REFLECTIONS, PAGE 86

### FIELD HOSPITAL FIRST

■ NEW and improved medical facilities have been trialled by 33 Field Hospital on Exercise Jorvik Look in Hampshire.

A fresh layout features better treatment areas and environment control capabilities.

It holds 48 ward beds and emergency, surgical and intensive care facilities plus improved flooring for delicate equipment.

33 Field Hospital's commanding officer, Lt Col David Woodward, said: "As we are the vanguard field hospital, which supports UK contingency operations worldwide at short notice, we have great expertise in deploying a hospital capability to austere environments.

"This ensures we can continue to deliver ever-improving standards of medical care."



### BFG REFUGEE RESCUE

■ FORMER British bases in Germany are being used to house refugees fleeing to Europe from Africa and the Middle East.

According to media reports, more than 700 asylum seekers are already in Harewood Barracks in Herford while authorities in Fallingbommel and Elmpt are planning to house 3,000 and 2,500 migrants respectively in empty facilities once they are formally handed back.

The JHQ site in Rheindahlen (above) is also being prepared as a reception centre.

**Secure future:**  
The new centre near Loughborough will ensure world-leading treatment for another 50 years



## Rehab facility is on track

CONSTRUCTION of the £300 million Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at Stanford Hall near Loughborough has begun.

It marks the start of a three-year programme of building work leading to handover to the Ministry of Defence in 2018.

The complex will become the operational site for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, which will relocate from its current home at Headley Court in Surrey.

A larger facility is required to provide the infrastructure to accommodate advances in technology and clinical research.

DNRC is located in 358 acres of parkland and will provide care for Britain's wounded and injured personnel for the next 50 years.

And there is space to extend its provision to thousands of civilians whose lives are affected every year by catastrophic injuries.

The site was donated by Britain's wealthiest man, the Duke of Westminster, who once served as a senior Reservist officer.

He commented: "We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women of our Armed Forces who are in the front line of the defence of the nation.

"I wanted to help create a state-of-the-art clinical rehabilitation centre that would offer those who have been injured in the course of their service, either in combat or during training, the best possible chance of being repaired so that they can continue to lead productive and enjoyable lives."

“  
We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women of our Armed Forces  
”

## ON THE COVER...



● THE image used on the cover of this special remembrance issue was created by accomplished artist SSgt Richard Salter (R Signals).

You may recognise him from the small screen, where he beat 6,500 rivals to one of the ten places on the BBC prime time show *The Big Painting Challenge 2015*. He went on to finish runner-up.

He told *Soldier*: "I feel very humbled and privileged to have the opportunity to paint the front cover for a magazine I've read every month for the past 19 years, especially for the November issue with Remembrance Day in mind.

"It makes a fitting end to what has been a great year."

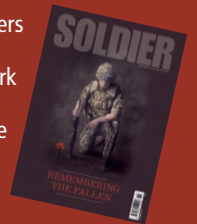
SSgt Salter, who is currently serving with 10 Signal Regiment at

Army headquarters in Andover, has exhibited his work at Tate Britain and also won the National Army Museum Award in 2015.

"Since the BBC's *Big Painting Challenge* I've had two solo exhibitions, mentored art students with a local school project and the British Forces Philatelic Service is producing a remembrance stamp using an image of mine," he added.

"I'm also preparing for the Army Art Society exhibition this month and my next solo show is at Gallery 21 in Salisbury next February."

To view SSgt Salter's portfolio of work go to [www.armyartist.co.uk](http://www.armyartist.co.uk)





# More than 40% of those serving are dissatisfied with their pension\*; good reason to join the Forces Pension Society



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## Rising dissatisfaction with Pension Benefits. 5 years: 2011 - 2015

TRI-SERVICE

19%

42%

2011

2015

\* 2015 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey

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## “MY UNIT SUPPORTS ME AND THAT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE” - CYCLING SUPREMOS, PAGES 76-77

### RACE AWARD VICTORY

■ THE Armed Forces secured double success at the UK Race Equality Awards with wins for the Armed Forces Muslim Association (AFMA) and the Royal Air Force.

The former scooped the Race for Opportunity Employee Network Public Sector Award while the RAF won the Future Workforce Award for their leadership in creating equal and inclusive workplaces for black, Asian and ethnic minority employees.

Capt Naveed Muhammad, chairman of the AFMA, said: “We are delighted to have received this award in recognition of all that we are doing, and all that we wish to do in the future, to support the Muslims within the Royal Navy, Army and RAF.”



### ARMY MEETS MUSLIMS

■ SOLDIERS from the Army Engagement Group have pledged to enhance their relationship with Muslim communities across the North West following a successful visit to a mosque.

In the first trip of its kind, personnel explained the Service’s role to those attending evening prayers at the Minhaj ul Quran Mosque in Nelson, Lancashire.

After a briefing there was a question and answer session which dealt with subjects such as the effects of conflict on civilians and careers within the Army.

Col Philip Harrison, Deputy Commander of 42nd Infantry Brigade, said: “It’s important that we talk with communities so that we better understand their perspectives and they have a better idea about our role.”

The team also visited the Tauheedul Islam Girls’ High School and Sixth Form College and the Tauheedul Islam Boys’ School, both in Blackburn.

### LOOS TRAIL LAUNCHED

■ THE Commonwealth War Graves Commission has launched a remembrance trail to commemorate the sacrifices made at the Battle of Loos during the First World War.

Visiting key points and cemeteries, the route aims to increase the public’s understanding of the campaign, which took place in 1915.

The trail leaflet can be downloaded at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

## HOME TRUTHS



A personal view from Catherine Spencer, chief executive at the Army Families Federation...



## It’s back to business

**R**ECENTLY I took my first step to running my own business when I attended the Wolverhampton Start-Up Business course for spouses.

I am leaving the AFF after a seven-year stint – including more than three as chief executive – to reluctantly follow the flag to our next posting and am wondering what on earth I do next.

Fortunately, there are now more possibilities of working or studying online during an overseas posting but when I calculate how much my husband’s move is costing me in lost earnings, potential income and pension I see red.

So I am really grateful to have the possibility of doing something constructive as the drop in my soldier’s package means I can’t afford not to work.

Like most of the spouses on the course, starting a business offers flexibility and independence that could help solve employment issues for our mobile community.

There’s always been an impressive array of professional experience among our families.

I sat next to a qualified architect now running her own business as an artist and there were at least three other would-be entrepreneurs with a Forces background.

There were a wide variety of future enterprises, from my own communications consultancy to an

impressive future sandwich van and bar owner, a wedding planner and even a chimney sweep.

Wolverhampton University should be applauded for the dedication it has shown to the Armed Forces Covenant in designing a course aimed specifically at the military community that is free to delegates and provides an exceptionally high standard of training, information and aftercare.

The course combines face-to-face training with virtual learning and gives students time to develop their business ideas while providing continued mentoring support.

The team running it is approachable and professional and has a great deal of experience of working with the military.

If the idea of starting your own venture appeals to you there is also plenty of support for Service leavers through X-Forces, which offers advice on business plans and can help with access to funding through its relationship with the Start-Up Loan Company.

This has already helped 450 businesses through the lending of nearly £5 million.

So the good news is, if you think you’re the next Alan Sugar or Michelle Mone, there is plenty of help out there that could lead to you becoming your own boss.

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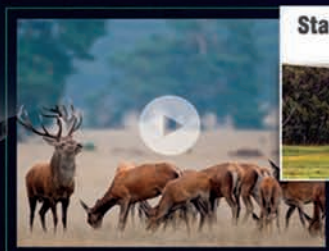
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## Bino - **X** S HD Smart HD Optics



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## THE OBSIDIAN CORE UI



\*menu screens may vary from images



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180m

### M-Force 630



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Lumens

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Li-ion battery 3.7v 200mAh  
4 h 30 min / 8 100 cd



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## “THE SERVICE HAS TO GO DOWN THIS ROUTE”

- TALKING INTEROPERABILITY, PAGES 23-28



### IMPROVED TRANSITION

■ THE Career Transition Partnership (CTP) contract has been reformed in order to provide a single integrated package for all Service leavers regardless of their circumstances.

As part of the revamped arrangement it will also deliver two trials providing employment support for spouses and Reservists.

Entitlement to the various CTP benefits is based on length of service but can include training grants, allowances, travel warrants, resettlement absence, transition workshops, one-to-one career guidance, subsidised vocational training, housing advice, financial briefs and help finding jobs.

Further information can be found in JSP 534 or via [www.ctp.org.uk](http://www.ctp.org.uk)



### MOBILE APP IS ONLINE

■ MOD Ice, a mobile app to assist Service personnel and their families in dealing with a casualty or compassionate situation, has been launched.

It provides a click and call facility directing the user to the most appropriate organisation that can help the soldier or loved one deal with a crisis.

Once it has been downloaded from the Defence Gateway website your Service details need to be entered to set the app up – and family members will have to repeat the process.

Two films have also been launched to guide users on the casualty support process. More information is available at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

A NEW website has recently been launched to serve the Salisbury Plain garrison churches.

The portal aims to keep the military and wider community informed of the many events and services of the six churches, as well as comprehensive contact details for unit padres.

Go to [www.spchurches.org.uk](http://www.spchurches.org.uk)



Picture: Cpl Michael Strachan, RLC

## Vikings find their peak form

UNITS from 7 Infantry Brigade battled it out against each other in the Peak District during Exercise Jerboa Patrol.

The inaugural competition saw teams from 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment and 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards tested in combat fitness, military and leadership skills.

The event included a speed march across the Peak District with soldiers carrying 30-pound packs, a river crossing without boats or bridges and a medical stand.

With points awarded for the time it took to complete the route, military tactics, situational awareness and command and leadership The Royal Anglians swept the board as the Vikings (1st Battalion) clinched the gold and silver medals, the Poachers (2nd Battalion) took bronze and the Steelbacks (3rd Battalion) were named the best Reserves.

Maj Andy Watson, 7 Infantry Brigade's Chief of Staff, said: "It was an arduous but really rewarding competition and a thorough test of the troops' stamina, determination and character."

Feeling buoyant: Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers beat two other units on Exercise Jerboa Patrol

“It was a thorough test of stamina”

## WOMEN SET FOR EPIC TREK

SELECTION has begun for an all-female Army team that will attempt to cross the Antarctic in 2017.

If successful, Exercise Ice Maiden will see the first female military outfit traverse the landmass under their own power.

Out of more than 200 applicants 20 Servicewomen have been chosen to move onto the next phase, a winter camp in Norway, which will prepare them to work in a remote, cold environment.

"The aim of the exercise is to get more women doing adventurous training and undertaking tough physical tests," said organiser Maj Nat Taylor (RAMC).

"We're looking for people who have the physical potential to take on the challenge.

"They don't have to be fit now – we have a two-year training programme in place.

"But we're also looking for mental determination, which is something we can't teach."

The final team of six will be chosen over the course of three training packages, ensuring that the most suitable candidates go forward to tackle the daunting feat in October 2017.

● Turn to **page 43** to read about Sir Ernest Shackleton's hellish Antarctic expedition





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Decades later, Les needed the support of The Soldiers' Charity. Following surgery for knee and

hip replacements, he struggled to get in and out of the bath safely. Without the installation of a walk-in shower, Les feared that he and his wife Jeanette would have to leave their home of 30 years. After an initial contribution by local authorities, The Soldiers' Charity stepped in with a grant that allowed for the completion of the work and the provision of a safer living environment for this delightful couple.

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# "ANYONE LEADING PEOPLE CAN LEARN FROM HIM" - SHACKLETON INSPIRES, PAGES 43-45



Deal: Personnel who transfer will get a bright boost to their bank accounts

Picture: Graeme Main

## Golden hello for troops

New cash offer to boost admin branch

**A** £4,000 financial incentive has been introduced to encourage more serving soldiers to join the ranks of the Adjutant General's Corps' Staff and Personnel Support branch.

The transfer bonus will be paid to those who start phase two training between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017 upon completing the course and being assigned to their first unit.

In order to qualify Servicemen and women must be ranked sergeant or below and be able to pass all military annual training tests and possess basic skills level one for standards in literacy and numeracy.

The arrangement requires a minimum of four years' return of service and a similar "golden hello" is also being offered to

new recruits to the corps.

"Service in the AGC (SPS) offers incredible variety with soldiers located in 359 units across 46 countries," said Lt Col Terry Robson of the Directorate of Personnel Administration.

According to the officer the branch needs to attract more than 200 recruits per year.

"It also offers very competitive promotion prospects," Lt Col Robson added.

"One-third of these soldiers are likely to promote to sergeant and one in six have the opportunity to reach WO1.

"All trade courses provide a series of credible, recognised civilian qualifications."

For more details read **ABN 133/15** or speak to a regimental administrative officer.

### IN NUMBERS: Transfer bonus

**4,000**

Boost, in pounds, to the bank balance of each soldier who receives the cash incentive.

**4**

The minimum number of years personnel must serve with the branch to qualify.

## MORE HELP TO BUY

■ THE MoD wants to double the number of troops who get a foot on the property ladder using the Forces Help to Buy scheme.

The initiative has already assisted 5,000 military personnel since it was launched in April 2014. It allows soldiers to borrow a deposit of up to half of their annual salary (capped at £25,000), interest-free towards buying a home.

Around £76 million has been loaned out to Servicemen and women so far and 1,900 individuals have had their applications approved and are awaiting completion of their purchases.

The scheme is halfway through its three-year trial and Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said he wanted it to reach ten thousand "homes for heroes".



Picture: Shutterstock

## BIG BANKING BOOST

■ THE Treasury is to provide £500,000 to help Armed Forces personnel access three major credit unions.

The organisations differ from other financial institutions in that members are also owners, which means they receive account services and loans at competitive rates.

The project is being funded by fines levied on banks for attempting to manipulate Libor.

It will see a payroll deduction system developed which will allow serving soldiers and veterans to save and pay off debt more easily.

## CATTERICK GROWTH PLEASES SHOPPERS

■ A £25 MILLION retail and shopping centre has been completed on former wasteland in Catterick Garrison.

More than 700 civilian jobs have been created with the opening of Princes Gate, which houses many well-known high street stores, restaurants, a Premier Inn and a seven-screen cinema.

With more undeveloped MoD land available in the area there are still opportunities for further expansion.

## Somme ballot continues

MEMBERS of the public can still apply for tickets to attend the Battle of the Somme centenary event in France next year.

Commemorations will take place at Thiepval on July 1.

The ballot is open until November 18 – the day the battle ended 99 years ago, having cost more than one million casualties on all sides.

Tickets will be allocated in pairs,

free of charge and more details can be found at [www.somme2016.org](http://www.somme2016.org)

Plans for UK events will be announced in the coming months.





## “WAVES OF MEN WERE CUT DOWN BUT THEY WERE TOLD TO CONTINUE” – GALLIPOLI REMEMBERED, PAGE 30

### WELSH WARN DONORS

■ **SERVICE** families based in Wales are being urged to take note of the new policy for the process of organ donation in the country.

Wales will become the first nation in the UK to introduce a soft opt-out system on December 1.

This means that people will be deemed as having no objection to being a donor unless they have registered to leave the scheme.

Serving military personnel are exempt from the measure but those who have moved to Wales to live with soldiers could be affected.

A spokesman for Organ Donation Wales said: “The new law will apply to you, and any of your children aged over 18, if your family has lived in Wales for more than 12 months.

“If people have not registered a decision to become an organ donor they will be considered as having no objection to being one – this is known as deemed consent.”

For more details on the initiative visit [www.organdonationwales.org](http://www.organdonationwales.org) or call 0300 123 23 23.



### NEW TRIBUTE UNVEILED

■ A £60,000 bronze statue has been unveiled in Folkestone's Garden of Remembrance to commemorate more than 46,000 Gurkha soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the UK.

Troops from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles were on parade as actress Joanna Lumley revealed the two-metre tall sculpture of a Nepalese soldier dressed in combat uniform carrying an SA80 rifle and wearing a Kukri knife.

Former Gurkha Serviceman, Dhan Gurung, from The Gurkha Memorial Fund, who coordinated the effort, commented: “This is not only a statue, it's about education of both communities and for forthcoming generations.”

**Vulture culture:** A British soldier has been getting to grips with a unique conservation project located in South Africa



Picture: Shutterstock

## Wildlife project takes off

**A**N injured Serviceman has been helping to save vulnerable and endangered birds of prey at a South African wildlife centre.

Bdr John MacLeod (RA) spent three weeks at the Vulture Conservation Programme near Pretoria, where he assisted with recovering injured birds from the bush, treating them and preparing them to be set free again.

The only project of its kind in Africa, the centre has also put in place a monitoring and captive breeding programme to halt the decline of the Cape Vulture.

Bdr MacLeod said the experience had fulfilled his life-long dream of working

with animals in the outdoors.

“I’m extremely proud of the part I have played in helping to save such an amazing bird,” commented the 36-year-old. “One of the vultures that was being treated couldn’t walk and I gave it physiotherapy on its legs and hydrotherapy treatment.

“The good news is that I had a message on my return to the UK saying it had started walking again and, although it needs more rehabilitation, it will hopefully be released back into the wild soon.”

Bdr MacLeod’s trip to Africa was organised by HighGround, a charity that helps Service leavers and veterans find interesting new careers.



## spine line competition



LAST month’s spine line clues would have been a cinch for those with an eye on Army recruitment. York, Bolton and Coventry are all locations for the new generation of high-tech Army centres.

And this month we’re offering a gadget that wouldn’t look out of place in any of them – the Groov-e Solar Bank ([www.groov-e.co.uk](http://www.groov-e.co.uk)).

It is a great tool for your rucksack that can charge an iPhone up to four times before going flat and can recharge itself via sunlight.

It also features an integrated flashlight and USB cable. There are three Groov-e Solar Banks on offer and to be in with a chance of winning one tell us what links the clues on the side of this issue. Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by November 30.

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# THE BIG PICTURE

> LULWORTH RANGES, DORSET

## CHALLENGING TIMES

THIS striking picture, taken by Ocdt Adam Webb (UOTC), won the online image award at the recent Army Photographic Competition. The Challenger 2, manned by personnel of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, was participating in a live firing exercise. Turn to pages 47-50 to see more of this year's winning images.







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# RURAL RENDEZVOUS

**UK troops welcome  
French allies to  
Norfolk proving  
ground in the latest  
leg of their joint  
training adventure**

**W**HEN it comes to pondering Army buzzwords there are few that hold greater sway at present than the much-championed concept of "interoperability".

While the art of executing front-line operations alongside foreign forces is nothing new the Service is now placing greater emphasis on partnered training exercises to ensure UK troops can effortlessly transition to a joint role as and when required.

The personnel of 16 Air Assault Brigade are the pioneers of this novel approach and 2015 has featured a busy schedule of international action for the Colchester-based formation.

In April, a 950-strong battlegroup from 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment descended on the Fort Bragg training area for a gruelling package hosted by their counterparts from the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

The partnership was further strengthened in southern Germany in September, when Apache attack helicopters and paratroopers were engaged in the largest multinational airborne test since the end of the Cold War.

The latest chapter in this evolving story saw the brigade host their French equivalents on Exercise Eagles Amarante – a two-week challenge that saw more than 1,800 troops converge on Norfolk's Stanford Training Area (Stanta).

Having arrived on the ground via jumps and road moves, the joint force – comprised of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes – were tasked with restoring stability in a troubled fictitious region. >>



>> But the challenge expanded much further than the skills of the airborne infantry.

The gunners of 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery were on hand to lend support via the versatile 105mm light gun.

And once again, the Army's key mantra came into play as mortar specialists from 11e Brigade Parachutiste worked alongside the UK contingent to form a joint fires cell that played a vital role in the exercise's final assault.

"It is all about integrating the assets that both forces have with them," Maj Jonathan Oates, battery commander for G Parachute Battery, told *Soldier*.

"We worked with the French in July so this is a chance to refine the skills from that exercise while utilising different capabilities.

"Here, we have fired guns and mortars and have also incorporated unmanned aerial vehicles as well as weapons locating radars.

"Electronic warfare teams from the Royal Signals have been involved too, meaning everything has been brought together to create a potent and realistic joint effects package.

"The scenarios are similar to what we would normally do but working with different nations offers complexity and variety."

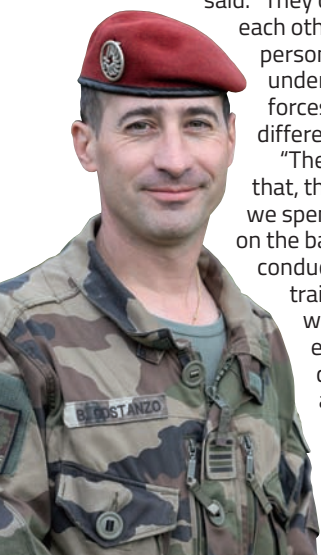
This opportunity paid off for a small UK contingent who earned their French wings when they jumped into the area from a French C160 transport aircraft using French parachutes.

The additional aviation assets offered further prospects when troops took to the skies to perform observation tasks from their ally's Gazelle helicopters.

While the chance to get "hands on" with a foreign nation's kit offered valuable experience, there was also plenty to absorb away from the sharp end of the exercise, as Maj Oates explained.

"The guys learn a lot during their down time," the officer said. "They can chat to each other, listen to personal stories and understand why both forces do things in different ways.

"The more we do that, the less time we spend focusing on the basics when we conduct the actual training. The things we were doing early on are now commonplace and that means





# It is all about integrating the assets that both forces have with them



we usually train. We have discovered new geography and conditions and that is great experience for our soldiers."

Lt Col Costanzo returned from a six-month mission to Mali in the summer and with his troops facing the prospect of regular sentry postings to major cities in France the opportunity to train in England offered a welcome break from the norm.

He said: "This is a chance to do something else. It is always a pleasure to discover a new country and share our methods.

"Our soldiers have learnt that we can work together with the British but for many this isn't a surprise as it is what we have done on operations.

"They have fired British weapons, received a demonstration of the light gun and we've been able to judge satisfaction levels by the amount of pictures they have taken."

Maj Josh Head (7 Para, RHA, pictured below) echoed the comments regarding the benefits garnered by the visitors.

As the British exchange officer with 11e Brigade Parachutiste he has a deep knowledge of how the French do business and said the Stanta experience adds another string to their bow.

"The language is a barrier but that is easily overcome as French officers and soldiers learn English during training," he added.

"There is also a similar ethos between the brigades.

They are both agile, they operate at a high tempo and they have a willingness to go anywhere in the world. >>



we are able to focus on more complex missions."

French officer Lt Col Bruno Costanzo, deputy commander of the joint effects cell (pictured far left), was keen to underline the importance of the learning element for those involved.

With the hosts also offering the opportunity to gain foreign jump wings he was one of a number of French personnel to parachute in from a British C130 Hercules.

"That was really different," he explained. "Usually we only fly for half-an-hour but in the UK the flights are longer – they are never less than 40 minutes.

"We also enter the aircraft fully equipped, whereas here it is done inflight, and this is a good opportunity to see how the British Army does things.

"The ground is different to where

**Clockwise from left: Troops get their briefing; French 120mm mortars in action; Apache and Gazelles at the ready; observing French UAV ops; the 105mm light gun lends a hand; mortar shells arrive**





>> "The French have absolutely loved this. At home their sentinel work takes up a lot of time so the chance to come and do green soldiering and parachute jumps is something they've enjoyed."

"They are particularly interested in our orders and planning process. There are certain elements they will take back to see how they can be incorporated into the way they do things. It has been really beneficial from that point of view."

With another exercise ticked off the troops of 16 Air Assault Brigade have bid farewell to their international counterparts, for now at least.

The who, what, when and where of the next training mission are questions that are already on the lips and, given the fast-paced nature of this alliance, the answers will not be far away. ■

**The French have absolutely loved this**



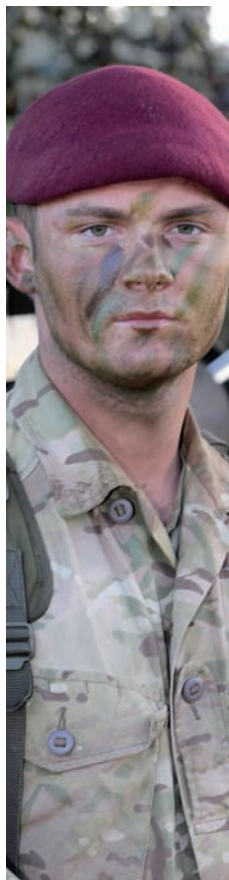
# Talking training

**Personnel from 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery discuss the benefits and challenges of multinational training...**



**Sgt Colin Humphreys:**

The French do things slightly differently but the basic level of soldiering is the same. They are very keen and on the ranges they proved to be good shots. The hardest thing is the language barrier but once you start learning things, it is fine.



**Gnr Nathaniel Butler:**

Joint exercises such as this are very important. If we do not do the training and then go to theatre together there could be some issues. It is a chance to get to know one another and find a balance.



**Sgt Steven Nyanga:**

People join the Army to travel the world. We no longer have combat operations in Afghanistan so to go to places like France and America to train is appealing to the young guys. In camp we do maintenance tasks every day so getting out and using the weapon system is much better. This is also the first live fire exercise for some of our newcomers and it is a great opportunity to get out in the field.



**Lt Jack Moxley:**

The Service has to go down this route. There are gaps in every army and being part of a Nato or coalition force allows us to fill those gaps and support ourselves effectively. This is a chance to iron out some of the smaller issues, such as radio communications between the two armies, and once we get that right the bigger picture will work better.





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# Cavalry call

Another key feature of Exercise Eagles Amarante was the involvement of Reservists from The Honourable Artillery Company

**A**NINE-STRONG contingent travelled from London to Norfolk for the closing stages of the package with a view to gaining valuable experience on the 105mm light gun.

The unit is now affiliated with 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery and having recently received a light gun of its own its personnel have been keen to take up any opportunity to practise.

"For the last year we have gone through the numerous stages of forming a troop and getting everything signed off," explained CSgt Steve Martin.

"We are extremely keen to utilise the Regulars as much as we can to get on different exercises and learn from their experience and knowledge.

"Of the guys we have here, two or three have been on operations in Afghanistan or Iraq but a lot of young lads have come on-board and they have already completed the first step in their training.

"They have all taken time off work to travel up the A12 to be here and as a regiment we are pleased to have soldiers who want to come and do this.

"It is all about building relationships. We want to see how 7 Para, RHA work so we can emulate that at the HAC.

"We want to integrate with them on as many exercises as possible so if they deploy to theatre and the call comes our way we will know how they go about their business."



## In Numbers

### Exercise Eagles Amarante



# 1,800

British and French troops took part in the training package



# 300

Vehicles and helicopters involved

# 8

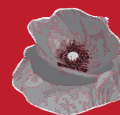
the range, in kilometres, of the French 120mm mortars



# 2010

the year the Lancaster House Treaty was signed – an agreement aimed at improving the joint defence capability of France and the UK





# REMEMBRANCE SPECIAL

2015



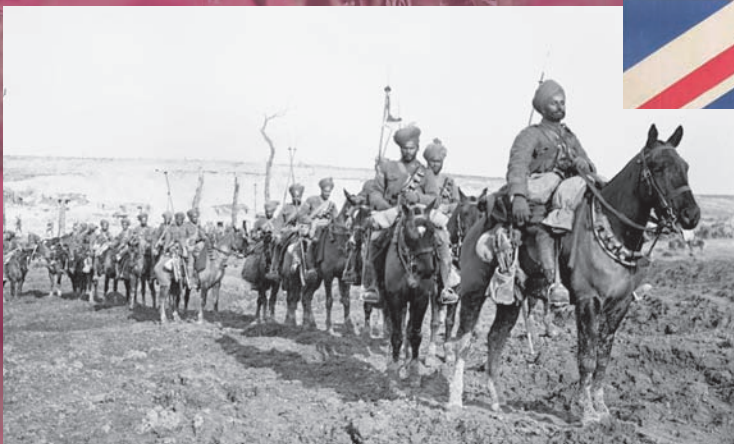
Serving personnel  
learn the lessons of  
Gallipoli tragedy  
– page 30



Photographer  
recreates stirring  
portraits taken by  
his grandfather  
– page 35



How Commonwealth  
nations proved vital  
in the First World War  
– page 38

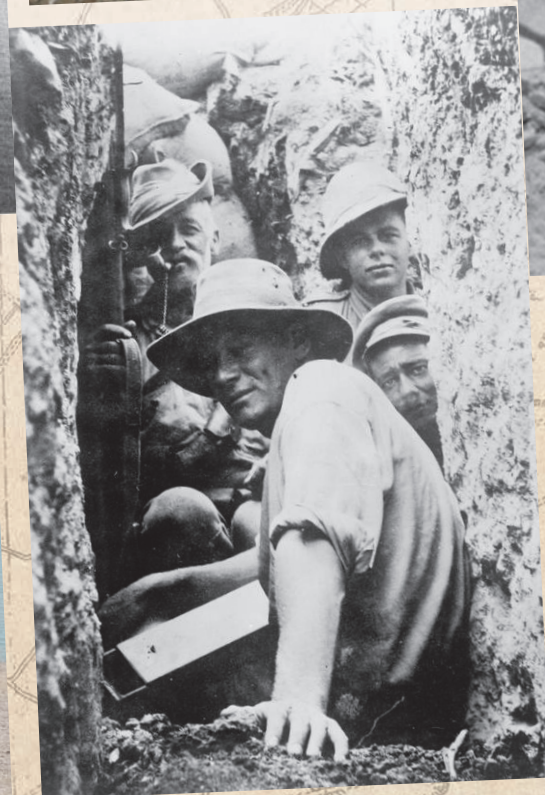
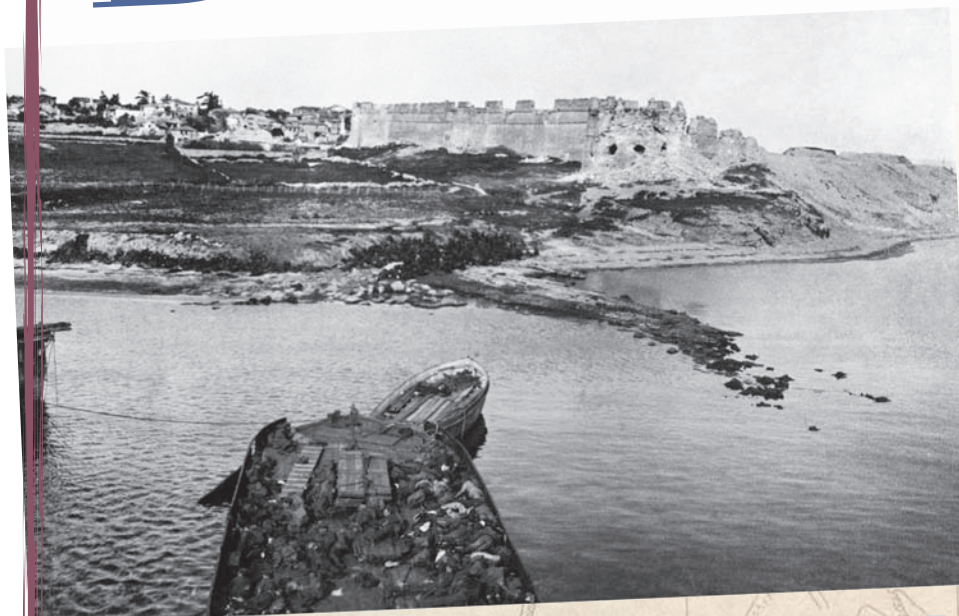






Remembrance 2015

# Deconstruct



Pictures from left: Sedd el Bahr fort overlooks wounded men of the Munster Fusiliers on-board a lighter during the Gallipoli campaign; a similar view today during the battlefield tour; Cpl Suman in a preserved trench; Australian forces; 4th Gurkha Rifles moving through Gully Ravine in 1915





# ting disaster

Serving personnel learn the lessons of Gallipoli tragedy



Words: Becky Clark Images: Imperial War Museum, Graeme Main

**O**NE hundred years ago this month, Service chiefs were planning the retreat from one of the greatest disasters in British military history. Ironically, the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915 to January 1916 would prove to be the only success of the entire Dardanelles campaign – not a single life was lost during the Allied evacuation, in stark contrast to the estimated 450,000 killed or wounded on both sides throughout nine months of fighting.

What began the previous February as a naval mission to break the deadlock on the Western Front by securing the strategically important waters between Europe and Asia, quickly descended into a second stalemate of epic proportions that would eventually draw in nearly 500,000 British, Commonwealth and French troops.

Hampered by poor planning, difficult terrain and rampant disease – not to mention an unexpectedly determined Turkish foe – the operation is known for the immense selfless sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand personnel.

Some 10,000 Anzac troops did lose their lives, but it is sometimes overlooked that almost three times that number of Frenchmen died, while deaths among the British, Irish, Indian and Newfoundland armies totalled 120,000.

Today, only pristine gravestones and imposing memorials attest to the slaughter that took place on the peninsula a century ago.

A restricted military training area until the 90s, the region is largely unchanged and as a result, visitors

are offered an unusually clear window to the past.

Among several groups of British personnel to make the pilgrimage to the Dardanelles during this year's centenary were soldiers from B (Gallipoli) Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

For Sgt Surendra Tamang, visiting the namesake of his unit and walking in the footsteps of the Nepalese troops who fought there was a profound experience.

"I've been on lots of battlefield tours but Gallipoli is significant because of what Gurkha soldiers did there," said the 35-year-old.

"The terrain was horrible, with steep hills to climb. I'm from the hilly part of Nepal but even I found it hard to get to the top of Gurkha Bluff – and they did it all without modern equipment."

Gurkha Bluff was the name given to the sheer cliff above Y Beach, one of the allocated landing sites, after Nepalese Servicemen became the only personnel in the whole operation to successfully take the ridge line, though ultimately their efforts would be in vain.

Evidence of the fighting there and throughout the peninsula still exists – some trenches remain largely intact and it is not uncommon for farmers or tourists to unearth artefacts from the war.

"We found a few shell casings and bits of shrapnel," added Sgt Tamang.

"Walking in the trenches does make you think about how you would have acted in the same situation.

"They had problems with command and control. British officers serving in Gurkha regiments could speak Nepalese but many of them were killed and the officers who replaced them couldn't communicate with the men. →







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→ "Today it's different. Even our junior soldiers speak English and we have better equipment and training."

"But even though Gallipoli wasn't a success in terms of the overall mission, we can still learn from their experience."

As well as battling the foe, troops had to contend with horrendous conditions, especially during the summer months. Diseases such as dysentery decimated the ranks.

First-hand accounts from survivors report comrades falling unconscious into latrines and literally drowning in their own filth before they could be pulled out.

"One of the most distressing aspects of the campaign is that so many people died from causes that had nothing to do with Turkish bombs or bullets," said battlefield historian and former Reservist Peter Caddick-Adams (ex-MOG(V)).

"What you have is a very warm climate and the fact that personal hygiene was almost unknown in that era – soldiers certainly weren't taught how to look after themselves."

"There were a huge number of men in a confined area, in very hot conditions with flies everywhere and of course dead bodies and animals, so the Allies began to suffer almost as many casualties from disease as from combat."

"It was a complete nightmare – there were no drugs or penicillin like in the Second World War and all you could do was evacuate people offshore to field hospitals many days sailing away, by which time a lot of men died."

Commanders' willingness a century ago to sacrifice so many for so little gain seems an alien concept in the modern era.

Lt Col Naomi Wakelin (RLC, pictured below) was part of a group of officers from the Army's manning directorate who travelled to Gallipoli to analyse the mistakes made by their predecessors.

The 47-year-old said she and her colleagues had been struck by the contrasting attitudes towards casualty levels.

"Waves of men were being cut down and yet they were told to continue," she commented.



**Pictures from left:** Australians landing at Anzac Cove in 1915; a Royal Irish Fusilier attempts to draw the fire of a Turkish sniper to reveal the enemy position; an Australian infantryman gives water to a wounded Turkish soldier; the remains of a barge on the beach today

"If you compare that to one man being hit by an IED in Afghanistan – where everyone would be fixed straight away trying to save that guy – it's the total opposite. There's no way you'd leave him and carry on with the patrol."

"It's a different campaign of course, but it's interesting because everyone is still a little bit concerned that the lessons brought back from Helmand only fit one theatre."

"Would we be as good as we think we are in the event of another world war-type conflict?"

"That's one of the reasons battlefield tours are such a valuable resource – they remind you of that bigger global picture."

The week-long study, organised by tour operator Battle Honours, also identified the weak logistical chain, poor intelligence and a lack of accurate mapping that plagued the offensive.

"It's hard to judge the thought processes of commanders in 1915," continued Lt Col Wakelin.

"Doctrine has changed since then but you do look at things and wonder: 'Why didn't they think about that, where was their contingency plan?'"

"And there are so many 'if only's'. Gallipoli was such a close campaign – every little decision or operation could have gone either way and you just see that a lot of the time, it all came down to drastically bad decision making."

Such was the scale of the disaster in the Dardanelles that a commission was set up to examine the failings of the offensive.

Published in 1916, its report was a scathing indictment of those involved.

"Gallipoli is a real condemnation of British planning, of senior commanders, of lack of preparation and of underestimating a determined opponent," commented Caddick-Adams.

"It was the only campaign in the war that had a court of enquiry afterwards – and there hasn't been a similar one until the Chilcot report into Iraq."

Gallipoli may have been a failure of epic proportions but its legacy would eventually bring about some good.

The mistakes of the offensive were thoroughly analysed after the First World War and the lessons learnt helped ensure the success of later operations such as the D-Day landings in 1944.

Proof, if proof were needed, that even 100 years later, the past can help today's generation of Servicemen and women prepare for the future. ■

“They remind you of the bigger global picture”





# A “whiff of cordite”

## Ex-soldiers lead the charge as battlefield guides

● MILITARY history buffs leaving the Army are bringing their own brand of authenticity to the battlefield tour industry.

With first-hand knowledge of operations, former Forces personnel provide a direct link to the previous generations of soldiers who fought in iconic clashes.

Mike Peters, an ex-major in the Army Air Corps, began leading informal visits while based in Germany as a young corporal.

By the time he left the Service 18 months ago he had built up some 25 years' experience as a guide, so decided to set up his own company to teach others about the sector.

"When I was establishing myself it was hard to find a direct path into the industry – it was all about knowing the right people," the former officer explained.

"There was no formal training programme so I started one.

"As a soldier you can add what they call the 'whiff of cordite' to the story.

"You're trying to paint a picture of the battle from the inside out and as a former Serviceman or woman you have that edge.

"It's also one of the few industries in which you can take your existing skill set and not have to adjust it much.

"Yes, you need to know about history but you also need the ability to problem solve.

"As a tour manager you're responsible for the group, the drivers, accommodation, timings and making the programme roll, which is essentially what people do in the Army day in day out."

So far Peters has put more than 50 former officers and NCOs through his course.

There is classroom-based introductory training followed by two three-day modules at the Somme or Ypres, where students are taught how to structure and

manage a tour. Successful guides usually work on a freelance basis and can expect to travel frequently around the battlefields of Europe with different operators.

Among those to have completed the course is Rob Deere (ex-Scots).

Having left the Army as a major in 2013 and found the corporate world "soulless" he decided to look for a role that would allow him to pursue his interest in history and fit around his work as a leadership and personal development coach.

"My first tour was in March this year and I've done ten since then," explained the 49-year-old.

"They've been a mixture of adult and school groups and I've also done a few family pilgrimages.

"Recently I took a father and son to France. The father's grandfather served in the Regular Army in 1914 and survived the whole war.

"He had fought on the first day of The Somme and we were able to trace his likely movements.

"No one from the family had walked across that ground in 99 years, which was very poignant.

"While researching the grandfather, I also discovered three of his brothers had been in the war as well, one of whom was killed at the third Battle of Ypres.

"His body wasn't found but we visited the memorial at Tyne Cot where his name is inscribed.

"Something like that really does give you goosebumps and can be quite emotional.

"I was looking for a career that could give me the same sense of meaning that I had in the Army and I think battlefield guiding has provided that." ■



**Telling tales:** Mike Peters shares his knowledge on location in Gallipoli





“  
**A photograph  
can be so simple  
but say so much**  
”

Words: Joe Clapson Images: Graeme Main, Royal British Legion

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**Evocative images bring Service into focus for  
The Royal British Legion**







**A** CHANCE uncovering of some photographic negatives featuring troops from the First World War has led to a stirring campaign from The Royal British Legion.

The simple series of images, captured by photographer Tom Reeves, shows modern-day soldiers adjacent to their counterparts from a century ago holding the same poses.

On first look the pictures are striking, but coupled with a provenance made in the dreams of any history buff, they provide powerful viewing.

Reeves uncovered the original portraits in his cavernous "negative room" at his studio in Lewes, East Sussex, which was founded by his great-grandfather Edward in 1858.

In 1915 troops commissioned his grandfather, Benjamin, to take their photographs before heading off to the Great War.

"As far as we know the soldiers in the pictures are all local blokes who came in to have their portraits taken before travelling to the front lines," explained Reeves, standing in what is thought to be the oldest photography studio in the world.

"This family doesn't tend to throw things away and on this occasion it worked in our favour so we were able to picture troops from today using the same backdrop and posing chair that was used 100 years ago.

"We also used the very same ten-inch by eight-inch camera – made in 1890 – that captured the photographs of those First World War soldiers."

It is hoped that the evocative images will answer any questions regarding the Legion's Poppy Appeal.

It is true that personnel and civilians alike pin the iconic paper poppy proudly to their chest as a mark of respect, but some may wonder whom the respect is for.

Are we remembering soldiers of a bygone era or reflecting on the admirable actions of troops who served in Afghanistan?

Where do the funds raised for the Legion go?

The series of posed shots are intended to highlight the fact that sacrifices were made in history just as they are today and that the organisation exists to support to the Armed Forces past and present, as well as their families.

The campaign also emphasises that the charity's funds are used to help serving personnel of the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Reservists, veterans and their loved ones all year round.



Pte Matt, Calvary riding instructor (FWW)



Corie Mapp (ex-HCR) was hit by an IED explosion in Afghanistan and is a double amputee.

“THESE PICTURES HIGHLIGHT HOW THE RBL HAS HELPED THE FORCES COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE CONFLICTS SINCE THE FIRST WORLD WAR”

Charles Byrne, the Legion's director of fundraising, said: "We're proud to reveal these striking images and hope people across the nation will take a moment to reflect, give generously to the appeal and help us raise £4.1 million towards our vital work.

"This year's Poppy Appeal provides us with a poignant reminder that the flower is a powerful symbol, worn to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces whilst providing us with a way to support today's military community."

Service personnel with links to the charity, either as beneficiaries or fundraisers, were invited to the unique photo shoot in the 158-year-old premises with the aim of creating a connection between the present and the past.

"We asked the subjects to hold the same poses as those in the 100-year-old pictures," explained the 54-year-old.

"As a visual these people embody the fact that the nature of conflict may have changed but its impact has not.

"It is remarkable to think that these individuals from different eras all sat in the same space."

And when it came to taking the poignant images, while not dismissing the requirement of modern-day photography, the job demanded more than clicking a button and checking a digital screen.

"Having to get under the black cloth, focus the lens and use a two-second exposure certainly got the brain working," admitted Reeves.







Pte Nash,  
Infantry (FWW)



Cpl Linda Noble AGC (SPS) has  
been in the Army for 15 years  
and is married to ex-Royal  
Engineer, Alexander, who was  
medically discharged in 2010.



Sgt Howard,  
Cavalry (FWW)



Mark Stonelake (ex-29 Cdo Regt,  
RA) had his left leg amputated in  
December 2008 after his vehicle hit  
a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

“

IT WAS EMOTIONAL SEEING MY PICTURE NEXT TO THE  
IMAGE FROM 1915 – IT SHOWED THAT SO MUCH HAS  
CHANGED AT THE SAME TIME AS NOTHING CHANGED.  
THE UNIFORM IS DIFFERENT BUT THE ATTITUDE THAT WE  
ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THE COUNTRY IS THE SAME

”

“

LOOKING AT THESE FANTASTIC OLD IMAGES HAS  
BEEN LIKE A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME.  
THE POINT IS THAT WARS HAVE BEEN GOING ON  
BEYOND AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ AND THE LEGION  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR THE FORCES

”

“Arranging a sitter, using an exposure meter,  
checking the aperture and remembering to stop it  
down are all things we don’t do now but needed to do  
for this shoot.”

The humbled photographer, who has been taking  
professional images since the 1980s, added: “Looking  
through the old lens was like going back in time.

“In our mind the First World War is in black and  
white and we imagine the troops as almost different  
kinds of people to us.

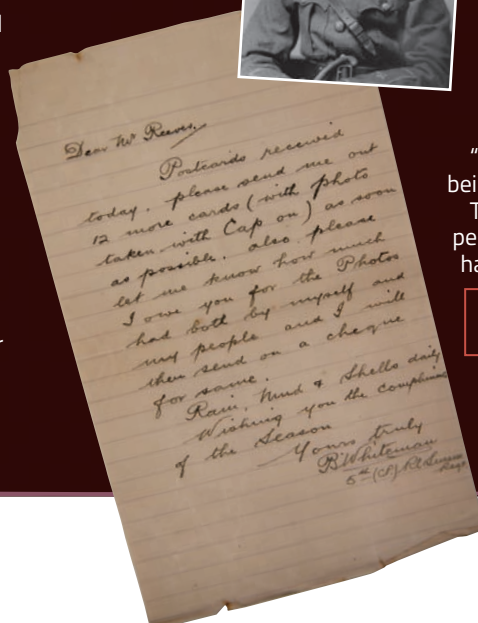
“But viewing these modern soldiers through the  
same camera as their military ancestors makes you  
realise that they are just the same.

“A photograph can be so simple but say so much.”

Every single portrait taken by Benjamin  
Reeves between 1914 and 1918 was specially  
commissioned by the soldiers  
themselves, with each individual  
having their own story.

The Servicemen arrived  
at the high street location  
in full uniform, armed with  
their rifle and ready to pose  
proudly for the camera.

Letters received by the  
Reeves residence are still kept  
in bundles at the premises and  
document where the troops  
found themselves fighting, the  
conditions and their requests for



more copies of the pictures.

A transcript from a B. Whiteman (below) sent from  
France on December 27, 1915 is mounted on Reeves’  
wall. It reads: “Please let me know how much I owe  
you for the photos had both by myself and my people.

“Rain, mud and shells daily. Wishing you the  
compliments of the season”.

Of the hand-written message, Reeves added:  
“The soldiers who came in were clearly very  
pleased with their photographs because there  
are numerous letters to granddad.

“We don’t actually know what happened to  
Whiteman and that is quite stark.”

Although Reeves has no formal connection  
with the military he hopes that through his  
family’s photography he has been able to play a  
role within the Forces community.

“It’s been a pleasure and a real honour to work  
with the Legion and I feel like I’ve helped with a  
great cause,” he added.

“One thing I’ve taken from the project is that  
soldiers remain the same throughout the ages.  
“Ordinary men and women doing their duty and  
being extraordinary.”

These images bring the reality into sharp focus;  
personnel served their country in 1915 just as they  
have in the years since and do today in 2015. ■

For more information about the 2015 Poppy Appeal  
go to [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)



# The empire strikes back

Words: Becky Clark and Steve Muncey Images: Imperial War Museum

**The sacrifices made at Gallipoli are well documented but Commonwealth countries supported Britain in virtually every theatre of the First World War**

## India to the rescue

IN the early months of the First World War, the British Expeditionary Force consisted of just 150,000 personnel.

With the Territorial Force not yet mobilised and Lord Kitchener's volunteers still being recruited, urgent reinforcements were needed and the only ready source of support was the Indian Army.

Having expected the call, commanders in India began deploying the first soldiers just days after war was declared on August 4, 1914.

They arrived in Marseille in September still in their tropical uniforms and, as military historian Gordon Corrigan explained to *Soldier*, reached the Western Front not a moment too soon.

"Their contribution at the first Battle of Ypres in October was critical," said Corrigan, whose book *Sepoys in the Trenches* details many of the Indian troops' exploits in Belgium and France.

"The Germans were trying to break through to the ports, which would have been a disaster.

"We couldn't hold the line and the Indian formations arrived just

in time and just in enough numbers to fill the gaps."

Initially attached to British units, eventually the Indian Corps had its own 30-mile sector of the line, which it held for most of 1914/15.

Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Gurkhas fought courageously alongside each other in the face of massive casualties in places such as Festubert, Loos and Neuve Chapelle, where they lost some 20 per cent of their strength to death or injury.

According to Corrigan, one of the reasons they proved so resilient in terrible circumstances was the idea of "Izzat".

"The concept is very hard to translate but it's partly about honour, partly about self-perception," he explained.

"It was very important. Running away would mean a loss of Izzat.

"Indians and Gurkhas came from small communities where everyone knows everyone else so you wouldn't just be letting yourself down if you failed, you'd be letting the whole family down.

"It kept them going when anyone else would have refused to go any further. →

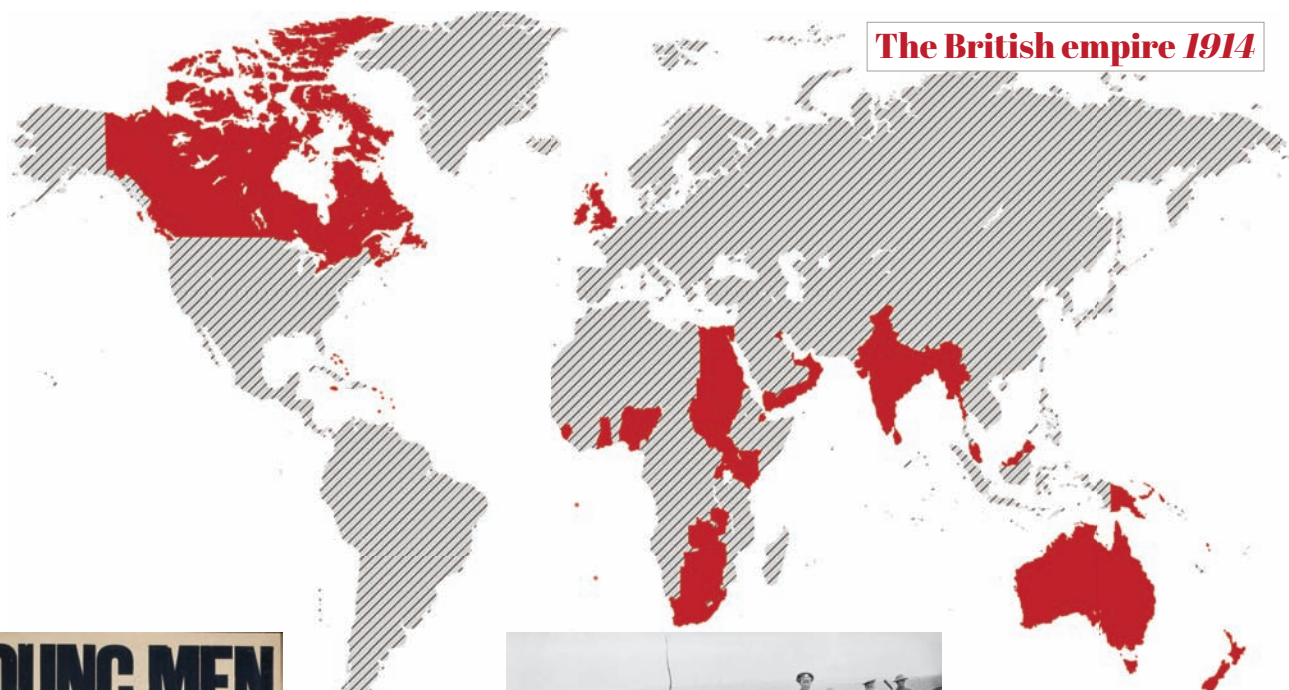


Image: Imperial War Museum: Q823





## The British empire 1914



### YOUNG MEN OF THE BAHAMAS

The British Empire is engaged in a Life and Death Struggle. Never in the History of England, never since the Misty Distant Past of 2,000 years ago, has our beloved Country been engaged in such a conflict as she is engaged in to-day.

To bring to nothing this mighty attack by an unscrupulous and well prepared foe, HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY KING GEORGE has called on the men of his Empire, MEN OF EVERY CLASS, CREED AND COLOUR, to

#### COME FORWARD TO FIGHT

that the Empire may be saved and the foe may be well beaten.

This call is to YOU, young man; not your neighbour, not your brother, not your cousin, but just YOU.

SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF YOUR MATES HAVE COME UP, HAVE BEEN MEDICALLY EXAMINED AND HAVE BEEN PASSED AS "FIT".

#### What is the matter with YOU?

Put yourself right with your King; put yourself right with your fellowmen; put yourself right with yourself and your conscience.

### ENLIST TO-DAY



**Clockwise from left:** Indian Army soldiers in Somme, 1917; troops of the West Indies Regiment in Somme, 1916; call to arms recruitment poster from the Bahamas; Indian cyclists in France; West Indian troops stacking eight-inch shells at Ypres, 1917





→ "There were occasions of people getting killed unnecessarily for the sake of Izzat."

In 1915, as the Territorials and the first Canadian troops began to arrive on the Western Front, some Indian personnel were redeployed to the Middle East.

They saw action at Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine and Gallipoli, where they came closer than any other Allied troops to breaking the Turkish defence.

By 1918, more than one million Indian soldiers had gone to war and at least 74,000 men had lost their lives.

They earned more than 9,200 decorations – including 11 Victoria Crosses. But despite their sacrifice, Corrigan believes their role, especially during the first months of the war, is overlooked.

"I think they've been rather forgotten about," he commented.

"They were the only Commonwealth group to begin with on the Western Front.

"There's still the belief they were all dragooned into it by the wicked colonial masters but if that was the case, why did they go on fighting in situations that must have seemed utterly hopeless?

"It's a shame that their contribution has been rather airbrushed out of history."

### Out of Africa

➤ But it wasn't just Indian personnel who bolstered the British Army on several fronts. The country's African colonies also supplied tens of thousands of men for the cause.

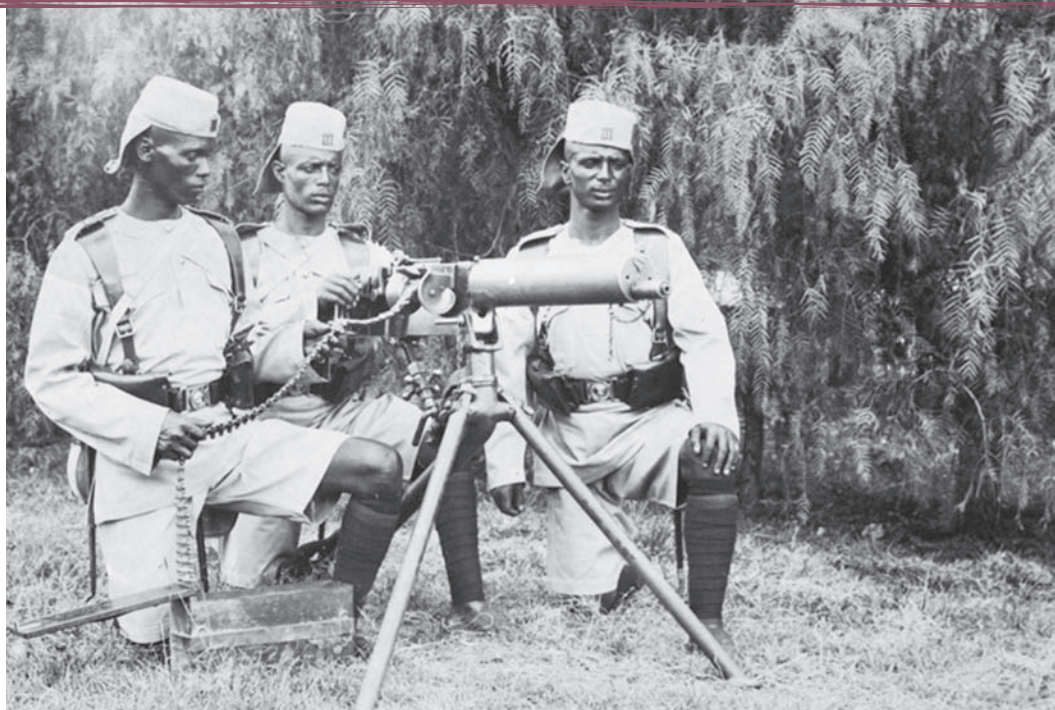
The South African Brigade, consisting primarily of white career soldiers and so-called "coloured" troops, saw active service at the Somme, Arras and the third Battle of Ypres, suffering 15,000 casualties in total.

In Africa itself numerous operations were carried out by formations such as The King's African Rifles as well as South African and Indian Army units.

The nature of the conflict here was the opposite of the European battles – it involved lots of mobility, with short raids and long marches across vast distances.

More than 10,000 personnel died in the cause of wresting control of German colonies in Togo, Cameroon, Namibia and Tanzania.

As the war progressed the South African and Indian forces were gradually supplemented by



**From top:**  
King's African Rifles from East Africa; Australian troops at Anzac cove in 1915; men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917

a growing number of troops from British territories in modern-day Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Sudan.

### Caribbean connection

➤ Even some of the smaller, far-flung outposts in the Caribbean sent men into the conflict.

Around 16,000 West Indian soldiers volunteered to fight for Britain, two thirds of them coming from Jamaica.

They were mainly employed to battle the Turkish Army in Palestine and Jordan but they also saw action in France and Belgium. Altogether, more than 1,200 men from the British West Indies Regiment lost their lives.

### Anzac action

➤ Casualty figures were high for many Commonwealth nations and Australia and New Zealand were among the worst affected.

More than 412,000 Australians – around one in ten of the adult male population – volunteered to fight for Britain during the First World War and 60,000 were killed in action.

New Zealand supplied around 100,000 troops and more than five per cent of its men aged 15-49

died in the war, creating a massive impact on the country's society at that time.

### Canuks answer call

➤ The effect on Canada was similar in magnitude.

Back in 1914 many Canadians were first or second generation British immigrants and, understandably, they answered the call to arms in droves.

Within weeks of the outbreak of war 30,000 men had joined up and over the next four years 630,000 volunteered to fight for the "mother country".

One in ten gave their lives for it.

The number of deaths suffered by Commonwealth forces in the First World War will always stir up controversy but there is little doubt that the massive contribution by these countries stretched Germany and her allies into a dispersed geographical war that, ultimately, helped Britain to finish on the winning side. ■





**Cpl Suman Sherpa (2 RGR)**  
From: Nepal



**Pte Ismaillah Anasoh (RLC)**  
From: Ghana



**Pte Richard Mutumba (RLC)**  
From: Uganda



**LCpl Pratheesh Vaniyan (AGC (SPS))**  
From: India

# Proud to serve

## Commonwealth nationals in the British Army tell us why they feel allegiance to the Crown

### Why did you join the British Army?

● **LCpl Vaniyan:** A friend of mine joined and told me how brilliant it is. I like travelling and it looked like a great opportunity to do that. So far I've been to Canada three times, I've been skiing in Austria and was based in Germany for three years so I've travelled around the continent. Britain is still much admired back home and I have a friend in the Indian Army who was amazed I managed to get in and told me he wanted to come over and join as well.

○ **Cpl Sherpa:** My service in the Army means a lot to me. It's an honour to maintain a tradition that goes back more than the 200 years that Gurkha soldiers have served with British Forces.

● **Pte Mutumba:** People in my country admire the lifestyle here and the British Army is also highly regarded – Ugandans consider it to be the best in the world. If something happens back home we know the British Army will be the first to come and help us out. I found out that if you come from a Commonwealth country you are allowed to serve and I wanted to be part of the best so I flew to the UK specifically to join up.

● **Pte Anasoh:** Everyone back home knows the British Army is the best in the world so I came over and went to a careers centre to see about it and signed

up. One thing I have always admired is how the Service does peacekeeping missions around the world and makes it a more stable place. In this respect I knew I could make more of a difference in the British Army rather than the Ghanaian one, which has the same overall aims but is much smaller.

### How do you feel about your countrymen fighting for Britain in past conflicts?

● **Pte Anasoh:** It makes me feel proud. It is quite unfortunate that the many African soldiers who have served and lost their lives for the UK haven't always been that widely recognised compared to some other Commonwealth nations, but it makes me happy that that is changing and I feel encouraged by the fact that any efforts or sacrifices Africans make in the future will be properly remembered.

○ **Cpl Sherpa:** It's very important to commemorate what Nepalese troops did during the First World War, especially on Remembrance Day. My unit is B (Gallipoli) Company and this year we visited the battlefield in Gallipoli, where Gurkha soldiers fought and I felt like I was following in their footsteps. They were fighting in different times and a difficult environment and it was good to learn about what

they experienced. Young soldiers in particular should know about the bravery they showed 100 years ago.

● **Pte Mutumba:** I am very aware of it and when I read about the past it gives me much courage, especially on Remembrance Day when we gather round and pray for those that died during past conflicts. I'm glad what my countrymen did in the past is appreciated and it gives me strong motivation to serve this country with a lot of pride.

● **LCpl Vaniyan:** I can say that Indians have fought and died for Britain and that fills me with pride.

I have a friend back home in Kerala who had a grandfather who served with the British in Burma in the Second World War and every time I saw him he always talked about the old days. He thought my joining the British Army was brilliant and he asked me to recall my experiences here.

However, the Indian contribution to the First World War really hit home to me when, during phase one training, I had the opportunity to go to Belgium and carry a wreath to the Menin Gate Memorial as part of a remembrance ceremony. I saw so many Indian names on its walls, I was literally amazed at how many of my countrymen had been fighting with the British Army at that time. It made me feel sad and emotional obviously, but also extremely proud.



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“We went to the cemetery and the first grave was one of our soldiers. It broke me up.”

Ernie Prior  
Resident of The Royal Star & Garter Homes

Monte Cassino was one of the Second World War's toughest and bloodiest battles in Western Europe. When ex-trooper Ernie Prior returned there to visit the Allied cemetery, the first grave he came across was a soldier from his regiment. The memories are still vivid in his mind all these years later.

Today, Ernie needs specialist nursing and therapeutic care so that he can remain independent and enjoy life. However, as a charity The Royal Star & Garter Homes can only continue to care for Ernie with your help.

At this time of Remembrance show your support for Ernie and others like him by making a donation to The Royal Star & Garter Homes.



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Text **support** to **70004** to donate £3  
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Caring for the nation's military family since 1916



# SHACKLETON: LESSONS FROM A LEGEND

It is arguably the greatest survival story of all time, but what can today's soldiers learn from an expedition that took place 100 years ago?

## THE STORY:

**E**RNEST Henry Shackleton earned his reputation between 1914 and 1916 when, along with 27 men, he embarked on a doomed expedition.

The team wanted to cross the Antarctic continent from Weddell to Ross Sea by way of the South Pole – a staggering total of 1,800 miles on foot.

But after setting sail from England on the dawn of the First World War, the challenge was a monumental failure.

The ship they were travelling in, *Endurance*, was beset in frozen pack ice before Shackleton and his fellow explorers even had chance to set foot on the ground.

However, what happened next reveals an epic tale of outstanding leadership and survival.

The explorer survived almost two years on an ice floe and open southern seas with the loss of not a single one of his men.







The disaster began on reaching the Antarctic island of South Georgia where he was told by Norwegian whalers that there was more pack ice than usual that year.

The *Endurance* ploughed through 1,000 miles of ice-encrusted waters until it finally became stuck, just a day's sail from the Antarctic coast.

The men were 1,200 miles from the remotest outposts of civilization. The *Endurance* drifted northwards, until eventually the team "abandoned ship" and watched as it was crushed before their eyes and sank to the bottom of the ocean.

Shackleton and his team then camped on the ice for almost five months before the spring thaw released them into the sea and, in three open boats, they rowed for seven days to Elephant Island – a jagged, uninhabited lump of rock, extremely remote from any shipping route.

Here they would surely have died but for his decisive action.

With five of his team, Shackleton took one of the lifeboats, *James Caird*, and made a bid for the island of South Georgia, a tiny dot in a massive sea, 800 miles north and east.

After 17 days and against the odds, they made it.

Of the six men, three were too weak and frostbitten to move but the remaining three – Shackleton, the navigator Frank Worsley, and second officer Tom Crean – crossed uncharted glaciers and a 3,000-metre mountain range to the far side of the island which was home to Grytviken whaling station and their Norwegian friends.

Several weeks later, Shackleton sailed to Elephant Island to rescue his remaining crew who were patiently awaiting his return.

## THE INTERVIEW:

### Secrets of a sea disaster

Rebecca Stephens, the first British woman to climb Mount Everest who has also traced the final leg of the explorer's route across South Georgia in 2001, tells *Soldier* what is so special about this story...

#### ● So how did Shackleton do it?

Every man in his team played his part, and two in particular deserve a special mention: Harry McNeish, the carpenter who shored up the small boat to make it seaworthy for the crossing to South Georgia, and the navigator extraordinaire Frank Worsley, who successfully steered an 800-mile course through heaving seas and icebergs with nothing more than a sextant.

Their leader galvanised the collective skills of his team and kept up morale in conditions of extreme discomfort, doubtless disappointment at their failed mission, boredom, and unspoken fear that they might never make it home.

Shackleton's talent lay in something that we now call "emotional intelligence".

For him, teamwork was crucial. And he had great compassion for his men.

Frank Worsley said of him: "He was a Viking with a mother's heart."



### LEARN MORE

Rebecca Stephens presents talks and workshops on the story of Shackleton and what lessons can be learnt.

For details contact Natalie Pascoe-Watson at Kirby Jones on [natalie@kirbyjones.co.uk](mailto:natalie@kirbyjones.co.uk) or 020 3713 7290.



#### ● What can today's Army explorers learn from him?

Anyone working with and leading people can learn from Shackleton; and the most important lesson must surely be to focus on the team and the growth of each individual within that line-up, not just oneself.

Shackleton's most remarkable characteristic – particularly considering the hierarchical culture of the time – was his deep understanding and respect for all of his men.

They were a mixed bag on the *Endurance*: professor, doctors, cooks and seamen, who in the normal pattern of life might never have shared their time together.

But each man scrubbed floors or took scientific readings alongside one another so they became utterly at ease in one another's company.

Long months on the ice were regulated with set meal times and broken with Saturday evening singalongs.

Birthdays were also acknowledged with thought and individuality.

#### ● What inspires you most about his expedition?

In the early 20th century undertakings like this often resulted in scurvy, crevasse fall, exposure, depression, madness, suicide – and even cannibalism.

But Shackleton rejected the thinking of the day, which dictated that to win the prize, some loss of life

**Team player:** The *Endurance*'s second officer Tom Crean, who accompanied Shackleton and Frank Worsley from Elephant Island to South Georgia







## SHACKLETON'S TALENT LAY IN SOMETHING THAT WE NOW CALL "EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE"

Rebecca Stephens

was inevitable.

"Better a live donkey than a dead lion," he once told his wife.

On the *Endurance* expedition the welfare of his colleagues was everything to him.

He paid a heavy price with his health, but read the diaries of the men on his ship and they reveal that when their morale should have been in their boots, they weren't only at peace, but happy – all because of the "boss".

### ● Tell us a little known fact about Ernest Shackleton.

He suffered chronic sciatica.

But as was typical of the man, he turned this to his advantage in empathising with one of his men, the storekeeper Thomas Orde-Lees, who was regarded as a tricky

**Bid for freedom:**  
**The *Endurance*'s crew on Elephant Island launch the lifeboat *James Caird* for its journey to South Georgia in April 1916**

and selfish character and was something of an outcast.

But when his condition struck and he was flat on his back, full of pain and self-pity, Shackleton invited him into his cabin to look after him for two weeks.

### ● Where can we find out more about him?

Recommended reading includes *South* by Sir Ernest Shackleton, *Shackleton* by Roland Huntford and *Shackleton's Way* by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell.

### ● Can any modern-day expeditions be compared to this? Are we ever likely to see another Shackleton?

Possibly in space.

The massive change in

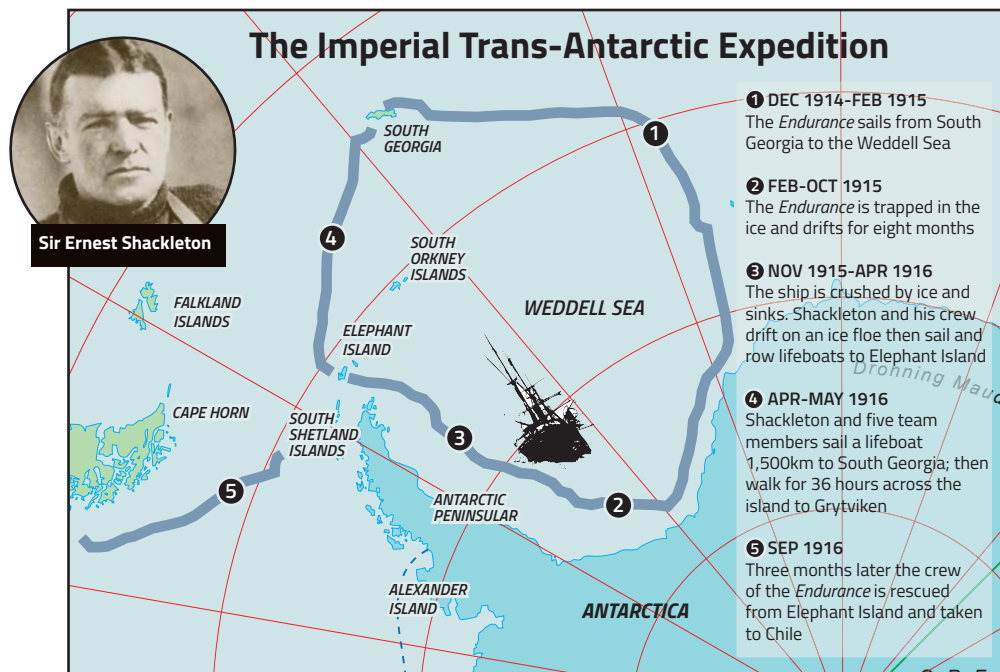
exploration in the last 100 years is the advance in communication.

Today, it is virtually impossible to be in a place so remote that contact cannot be made with the outside world.

It can be experienced, but it is contrived in that a deliberate choice needs to be made to leave behind mobiles, satellite phones and suchlike.

There are occasions when contact with the outside world can be made but help not delivered – at extreme altitude, for example or even in the Southern Ocean.

But it is difficult to imagine an expedition extending over a period of months or years without intervention – except perhaps a mission to Mars. ■



## ON SHOW:

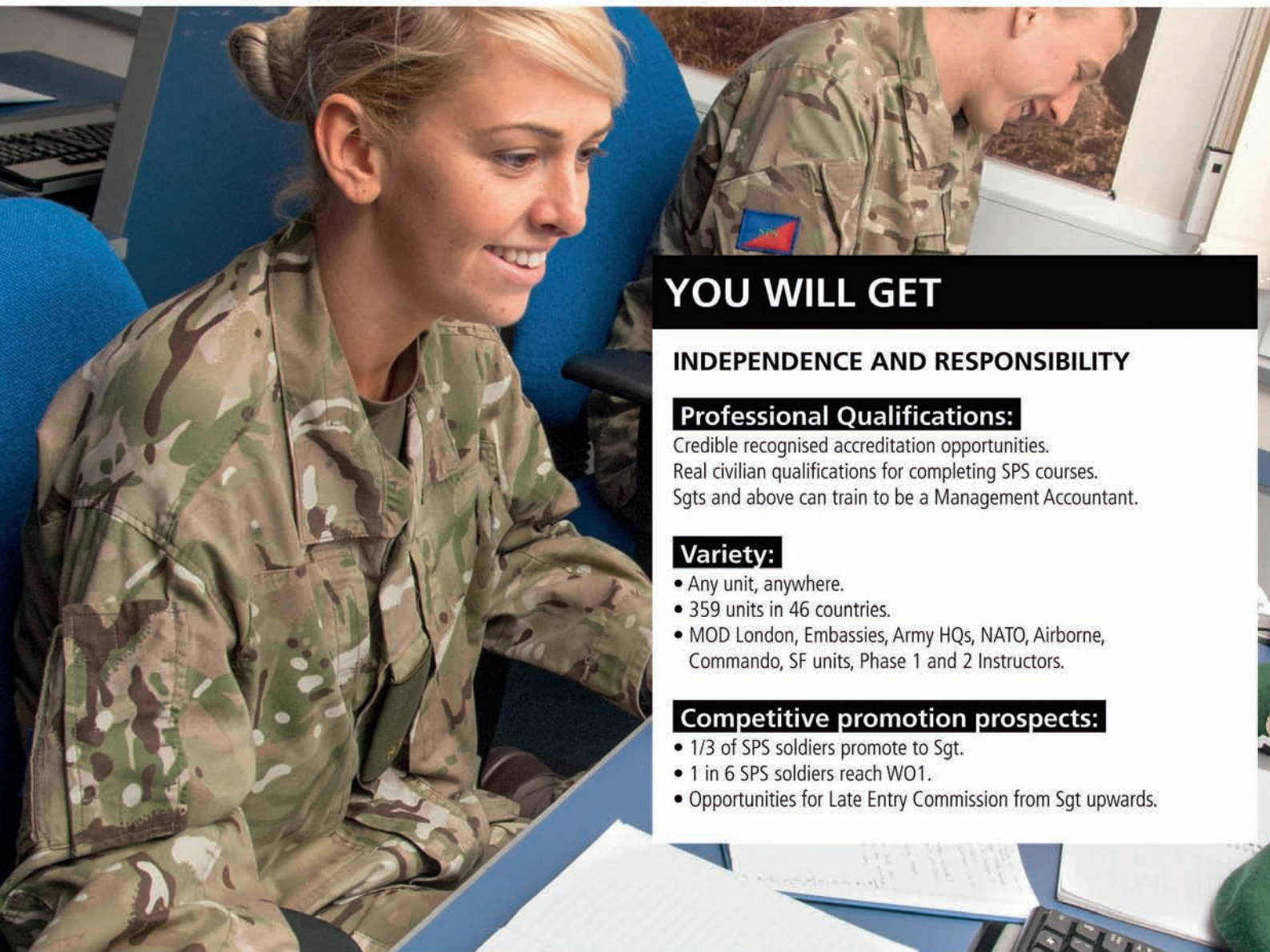
***The Enduring Eye: The Antarctic Legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Frank Hurley*** – An innovative new exhibition celebrating the centenary of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-17) led by Sir Ernest Shackleton – better known today as the *Endurance* expedition.

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# Shoot to win

## Winners of annual Army photographic competition display extraordinary skills

Words: Melissa Terry

**F**ROM Aldershot to Afghanistan, Service photographers have been on hand to capture the essence of military life during 2015.

And as is the case every year, their efforts have been recognised alongside amateur hopefuls at the Army Photographic Competition awards.

More than 500 entries were put before the judges for consideration and much deliberation ensued in picking out winners and runners-up in every category.

The Army's command master photographer WO1 Will Craig (RLC) commented: "We've had more amateur submissions than ever before and the standard of entry has been very high so, hopefully, these winning images will inspire even more people to enter next year.

"This competition is a great way to get seriously involved in photography and we're always looking to recruit the most talented individuals into the profession."

Sgt Rupert Frere (RLC) is certainly one of those, winning no less than five of the 15 awards on offer this year and finishing runner-up in two categories.

The chief photographer at HQ London District transferred to his current role in 2007 from 621 EOD bomb disposal and hasn't looked back since.

"It's pretty amazing to win these awards," he said.

"I'm gobsmacked by it, especially with the Herrick images. >>

**I don't really have a favourite because they all mean different things**





>> "I did three tours in Afghanistan from 2009 to 2013 and had lots of friends there – unfortunately I lost some of them too."

"Having these images recognised reminds people of what we went through – and it means a lot to me, personally, that they've picked my photos."

"Out of all the ones I submitted, I don't really have a favourite because they all mean different things to me."

"However, I'm happy with everything I've done."

So does he have any advice for those with ambitions to join the Service's line-up of professional photographers?

"You've got to love learning because that's the best thing about this job. You don't ever stop discovering new things." ■



[4]

Professional sport/adventure training | Steve Dock | *Up and over*



**Eye on the prizes:** The quality of Sgt Rupert Frere's photographic work led to an extraordinary six awards in this year's competition



**'You don't ever stop discovering new things'**

[11]

Best overall professional Army PR image | Sgt Rupert Frere | *How can you forget to shave?*



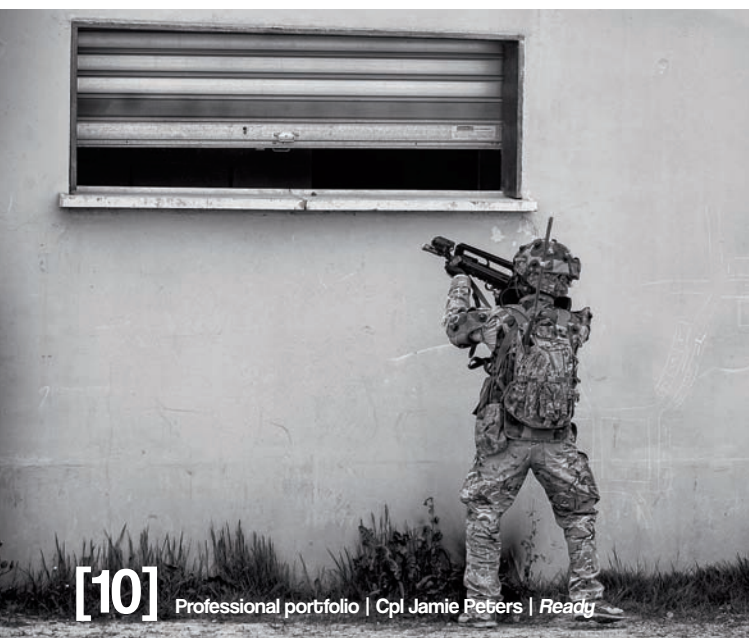
[14]

Professional Op Herrick portfolio | Sgt Rupert Frere | *Air assault, Covering fire, Prepare for landing, Coalition, Ghetto blaster and Black Watch*





**[5]** Professional category Soldiering | Cpl Tom Evans | *Shamrock*



**[10]** Professional portfolio | Cpl Jamie Peters | *Ready*



**[13]** Best overall professional Op Herrick image | Sgt Rupert Frere | *Black Watch*





**[7]** Amateur sport /adventure training |  
Maj Andrew Whitehead-Hughes | *Tug of war*



**[6]** Amateur portrait | Pte  
Rebecca Brown | *Me and my boys*

## British Army Photographic Competition 2015

### **[1] Professional Video**

**Winner:** Cpl Tom Evans, RLC  
*Snipers*

**Runner-up:** Sgt Russ Nolan, RLC  
*Mountain bike*

### **[2] Multimedia**

**Winner:** Melissa Terry  
*Battle of Plaman Mapu*

**Runner-up:** Melissa Terry  
*Trooper Furminger*

### **[3] Professional Portrait**

**Winner:** Cpl Paul Shaw, RLC  
*Sgt John S Kabia*

**Runner-up:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*How can you forget to shave?*

### **[4] Professional Sport/Adv Trg**

**Winner:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*Surf's up*

**Runner-up:** Mr Steve Dock  
*Up and over*



**[4]**

### **[5] Professional Category Soldiering**

**Winner:** Cpl Tom Evans, RLC  
*Shamrock*

**Runner-up:** Cpl James McAllister, RLC  
*Mortar at night*

### **[6] Amateur Portrait**

**Winner:** Pte Rebecca Brown, RAMC  
*Me and my boys*

**Runner-up:** LCpl Paul-Rui Penu, RLC  
*Pte Thaman*

### **[7] Amateur Sport/Adv Trg**

**Winner:** Maj Andrew Whitehead-Hughes, Para  
*Tug of war*

**Runner-up:** Cpl Ian Chapman, RE  
*Skye rider*

### **[8] Amateur Category Soldiering**

**Winner:** LCpl Paul-Rui Penu, RLC  
*Take cover*

**2nd -** LCpl Paul-Rui Penu, RLC  
*Sitrep*

### **[9] Amateur Portfolio**

**Winner:** Bdr Murray Kerr, RA  
Portrait: *The old guard*, Army  
Sport/Adv Trg: *The passback*, Ops  
and Trg: *Horns of Jericho*, Black and  
White: *Single mindedness*

**Runner-up:** Maj Andrew  
Whitehead-Hughes, Para  
Portrait: *Afghan stare*, Army  
Sport/Adv Trg: *Waiting game*, Ops  
and Trg: *Stand four*, Black and  
White: *Long march*

### **[10] Professional Portfolio**

**Winner:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
Portrait: *Knobbly knees*, Army  
Sport/Adv Trg: *Sword dance*  
Equipment: *Gun team*, Ops and  
Trg: *Bombs away*, Black and  
White: *Senior service*, Military PR  
Image: *Royal salute*

**Runner-up:** Cpl Jamie Peters, RLC  
Portrait: *Tigers in the jungle*, Army  
Sport/Adv Trg: *The last heave*,  
Equipment: *Flash, bang, wallop*,  
Ops and Trg: *Light on the lookout*,  
Black and White: *Ready*, Military  
PR Image: *Ceremonial selfie*

To view all  
winning  
imagery  
go to  
[www.army.  
mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

**[9]**



### **[11] Best Overall Professional Army PR Image**

**Winner:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*How can you forget to shave?*

### **[12] Best Online Image (voted by the public)**

**Winner:** OCdt Adam Webb, UOTC  
*Tank on the range*

### **[13] Best Overall Professional Op Herrick Image**

**Winner:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*Black Watch*  
**Highly Commended:** Sgt Rupert  
Frere, RLC  
*Toy soldier*



**[14]**

### **[14] Professional Op Herrick Portfolio**

**Winner:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*Ghetto blaster*, *Air assault*, *Prepare for landing*, *Covering fire*, *Coalition*, *Black Watch*

**Runner-up:** Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC  
*Kids*, *Here I go again*, *Flower power*, *The general is talking to you*, *Re-supply*, *Toy soldier*

### **[15] Pro Op Herrick Video**

**Winner:** Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC  
*Op Totalise*  
**Runner-up:** Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC  
*Long walk*



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All information is correct at time of print and is subject to change without notice. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers end 30th September 2015. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Military customers only and proof of employment will be required. All other sales categories are excluded. Test drive subject to applicant status and availability. For full details on this offer, please visit Evans Halshaw Ford St Albans. Retail customers only. Some far reaching exclusions may apply. Stripstar Limited, Loxley House, 2 Oakwood Court, Little Oak Drive, Annesley, Nottingham, NG15 0DR. Company number 3786959. Stripstar Ltd is a credit broker/intermediary that can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to provide funding for your vehicle. They may incentivise us for introducing you to them.



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

**Ex Military Recruitment** assists former Service personnel from specialist technical regiments trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, logistics and telecommunications in finding similar civilian careers. For more details visit [www.xmr.co.uk](http://www.xmr.co.uk)

**The Enterprise Network, Swindon and Wiltshire** will be running a series of nine workshops entitled "Be your own Boss" for military spouses and partners, offering advice on running a business. For further information and to book a free place visit [www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk/civvystreet](http://www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk/civvystreet)

**High Ground** is a charity providing land-based skills to serving and former Army personnel, helping them move into civilian life. For more details visit [www.highground-uk.org](http://www.highground-uk.org)

**Employment website TipTopJob** has created [www.exmilitaryjob.com](http://www.exmilitaryjob.com) to help former Service personnel find work in the civilian sector. Visit the website for more details.



## COMPETITIONS

**War Pigs DVD:** Colin Coull, Camberley, Surrey; Jane Hawkes, HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl Pauline Daniels, AFCO Redruth, Cornwall; Malcolm Hall, Tonbridge, Kent; Gordon Crandles, Edinburgh.



## DIARY

**November 7-21:** The Army Arts Society annual exhibition at The Young Gallery, Salisbury Library SP1 1BL. Monday to Saturday, from 1000 to 1700. Artworks by serving and ex-serving Army personnel. Free entry. For more information visit [www.armyartssociety.org](http://www.armyartssociety.org)

**November 8:** National service of remembrance at The Cenotaph, Whitehall. For information visit [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

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

**November 11:** Magic Lantern Tales

by Ian McMillan and Ian Beesley at the Imperial War Museum North. 1930 to 2115. Tickets £12, concessions £10. A story of the First World War from the point of view of men and women who survived it. For details visit [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

**December 12-13:** Christmas fair at the Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham, Kent. Recreating a wartime Christmas through living history displays, vintage stalls, Santa's grotto and dance demonstrations. For further information visit [www.re-museum.co.uk](http://www.re-museum.co.uk)

**Until February 2016:** Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits at the Imperial War Museum North. A free exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the Blitz. Objects, photographs, film and recordings from the centre's collections narrated with the words of *Horrible Histories* author Terry Deary. For details visit [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)



## DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:** 0845 241 4820

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

**Armed Forces Christian Union:** 01252 311221; [www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Humanist Association:** [www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk](http://www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:** Chaplain 020 7414 3252; [www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

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

**Army LGBT Forum:** [www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk); [chair@armylgbt.org.uk](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

**Army Libraries:** 01252 340094

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

**Army Welfare Service:** 01980 615975; [www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

**Big White Wall:** [www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com)

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

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:** 020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:** 020 7469 6661

**Children's Education Advisory Service:** 01980 618244; [enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk)

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

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

**Family Escort Service:** 020 7463 9249

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

**Forces Pension Society:** 020 7820 9988

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

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

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01722 436575

**Medal Office:** 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

**Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group):** [www.mutualsupport.org.uk](http://www.mutualsupport.org.uk)

**National Ex-Services Association:** [www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

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

**Poppyscotland:** 0131 557 2782; [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

**Regular Forces' Employment Association:** 0121 236 0058; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Stoll (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation):** 020 7385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk); [www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

**The Not Forgotten Association:** 020 7730 2400 [www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)

**The Poppy Factory:** 020 8940 3305; [www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star & Garter Homes:** 020 8481 7676; [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**The Veterans Charity:** 01753 653772; [info@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@veteranscharity.org.uk)

**uk4u Thanks!:** 01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)



## INTELLIGENCE

The following Army Briefing Notes, Defence Internal Briefs and Defence Information Notices can be found online at [www.armynet.mod.uk](http://www.armynet.mod.uk)

**ABN 126/15:** AGAI 77 – Revision of the Army hearing conservation policy publication

**ABN 125/15:** Light cavalry

**ABN 124/15:** Armed Forces continuous attitude survey 2016

**ABN 123/15:** Reserves voluntary training other duties, man training day management and annual limits

**ABN 122/15:** Army Reserve assured training

**ABN 121/15:** Renaming of Scout to Ajax

**ABN 120/15:** Financial incentives DM(A)

**DIN 2015DIN01-190:** Armed Forces Roman Catholic pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016, Krakow, Poland. Annex A: registration form

CONTINUED ON PAGE 55



# Boarding School - Girls & Boys - 5 to 19 years

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## Who comes where in the independent schools league tables?

All independent schools want to portray themselves as academically successful. So how do parents make a sensible comparison of the different claims made? The answer is to use the internationally recognised independent school league tables produced by the Sunday Times each year. It contains virtually all UK Independent Schools. Where does the school you might be thinking about come? **We are 7th and 9th.**

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

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



## Alphabetical Ranking All UK Independent Schools with boarding - 2014 Sunday Times % A\*/A A-Levels

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

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



## DIRECTORY CONTINUED

**DIN 2015DIN01-189:** Handling instructions for protected population data on Joint Personnel Administration

**DIN 2015DIN01-187:** Senior officers course, 128 Nato Defence College Rome, February to August 2016 (inclusive)

**DIN 2015DIN01-185:** Insurance for adventurous training activities

**DIN 2015DIN01-183:** Skills for the information age, version 6 roll-out

**DIN 2015DIN01-181:** Sikh moral leadership and development conference, October 16-18, 2015

**DIN 2015DIN02-006:** Policy for zoning MoD establishments for the use of portable electronic devices

**DIN 2015DIN03-025:** The process to request the provision of Army movement controller assistance in support of training, exercises and routine logistical tasks

**DIN 2015DIN03-024:** Full spectrum effects for defence operations

**DIN 2015DIN03-023:** JSP 510, parts 1 and 2: *International Defence Training: publication of version 6.0*

**DIN 2015DIN03-022:** Policy for personnel competent to conduct EOD

**DIN 2015DIN03-021:** Implementation of the cabinet office's consolidated guidance

**DIN 2015DIN03-020:** Guidance to policy officials on presenting the legal risks of Armed Forces activity overseas to ministers

**DIN 2015DIN04-194:** Declaration

of ALC obsolete equipment

**DIN 2015DIN04-193:** Unsupportable Doppler 71 navigation equipment

**DIN 2015DIN04-192:** Declaration of obsolete and deletion of all NSNs in DMC B1

**DIN 2015DIN04-191:** Declaration of obsolete and deletion of NSNs in DMC DECON, L96, M1, MGSS, W10, W18 & W2

**DIN 2015DIN04-190:** Declaration of confirmed out of service date for the pistol 9mm, L105A2 (P226A2), Sig Sauer

**DIN 2015DIN04-189:** The process and priorities for the provision of movements air combat service support units

**DIN 2015DIN04-188:** Declaration of obsolete and deletion of miscellaneous NSNs within DMC X5

**DIN 2015DIN04-187:** Notification of obsolescence – hydraulic servicing trolley Mk18

**DIN 2015DIN04-186:** Demand procedure for water detection capsules 6630-99-2241108 and water detection syringes 6630-99-2241107

**DIN 2015DIN04-185:** JOFS information

**DIN 2015DIN04-184:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents inclusion of medical ThinX RAD meter

**DIN 2015DIN04-183:** VHF radio 8.33kHz channelisation

**DIN 2015DIN04-182:** Obsolete airborne communications equipment

**DIN 2015DIN04-181:** Reformulation/discontinuation of OEP-30, OEP-70 and ROCOL Tufshield

**DIN 2015DIN04-180:** Declaration of obsolescence of tractor rough terrain JCB Fastrac wheeled industrial EAC 7737-3201 NSN 2420-99-893-9216 and EAC 7780-3202 NSN 2420-99-893-9217

**DIN 2015DIN05-028:** The Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Centre and the provision of electronic warfare operational support to operations

**DIN 2015DIN06-026:** JSP403, volume 1: *Range Safety Policy Letter 15-1 young person(s) using MoD ranges*

**DIN 2015DIN06-025:** Boat operating parameters to reduce maritime whole body vibration

**DIN 2015DIN06-024:** Health, safety and environmental protection responsibilities between defence primary healthcare facilities and host units

**DIN 2015DIN06-023:** Regulation of remotely piloted aircraft and remotely piloted air systems

**DIN 2015DIN06-022:** JSP403, volume 2: *Range Safety Notice 3-15 ballistic protection backslash materials*

**DIN 2015DIN06-021:** JSP403, volume 2: *Safety Notice 4-15 Lead in Air Assessments*

**DIN 2015DIN07-144:** Air Warfare School courses 2016/17

**DIN 2015DIN07-143:** Authority for Army orienteering 2015/16

**DIN 2015DIN07-141:** All-female transAntarctic crossing Exercise Ice Maiden 2017

**DIN 2015DIN07-140:** Qualified space instructor course 4 call for applications

**DIN 2015DIN07-139:** Defence information management passport

**DIN 2015DIN07-137:** Recording of foreign language skills (not obtained through Service training)

**DIN 2015DIN07-136:** Joint and single Service CI, intelligence, photographic, geo-spatial and navigation training courses for training year April 2015 to March 2016

**DIN 2015DIN08-11:** The financial skills certificate mandated policy

**DIN 2015DIN10-046:** Army Martial Arts Association winter competition 2015

**DIN 2015DIN10-045:** AGC Alpine Ski Championships 2016 – Exercise Alpine White Lion 16

**DIN 2015DIN10-043:** Army Telemark Ski Association Championships – Exercise Telemark Titan 2016

**DIB28/15:** Updates on media attendance and changing facilities at DSEI

**DIB26/15:** 2015 pay award and 2014/15 reporting year performance awards for MoD civilian staff below SCS

**DIB25/15:** PUS and CDP write to staff about the new whistleblowing and raising a concern policy and process

NO. 888

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# REVIEWS

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[reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



# MOVIES



PICK OF THE MONTH:  
TELL SPRING NOT TO COME THIS YEAR

OUT ON  
NOV 13

## **AFGHANISTAN AFTERMATH**

DOCUMENTARY SHOWS THE  
ONGOING BATTLE IN HELMAND



## Interview: Joe Clapson

WITH unprecedented access to troops, *Tell Spring Not To Come This Year* is a brave, eye-opening portrayal of the Afghan National Army's task in the aftermath of Nato's withdrawal from their country.

Directors Saeed Taji Farouky and Michael McEvoy followed the men of 3rd Battalion, 3/215 Corps during their first year of operations without foreign assistance and have captured a side of the story that hitherto has received little coverage.

Speaking to *Soldier*, Farouky said that the idea for the project came from ex-Serviceman McEvoy, a former British Army liaison officer in Afghanistan.

"In his role Mike got to see things that nobody else was witnessing and we decided that it would make a powerful film," he added.

"I like to look at the major events of our time using a different perspective to the one we see in the media. Given that we had no restrictions and the soldiers' cooperation, we were able to do that."

Unsurprisingly, the documentary is garnering much attention and has already picked up this year's Amnesty International Human Rights Film Award and Panorama Audience Choice Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, as well as the Grand Jury Prize at DocumentaMadrid

"My main hope is that the wider public sees it," emphasised Farouky.

"People had 14 years of news about a war in Afghanistan then it just stopped so I want this to fill that void."

The movie, released in cinemas this month, shows soldiers who are angry at their situation and who feel obligated to serve in order to protect their country.

There is no obvious agenda but the raw emotions of the troops gives a strong message that their nation's situation is hugely complex. Some profess their hatred towards the US for even entering Afghanistan, while others are grateful for the valiant assistance of foreign forces.

The film was largely shot with a single camera trained on ANA personnel going about their daily business; at the camp, on missions and in heated meetings with village leaders and disgruntled farmers.

"I have filmed in numerous hostile locations over the last decade but this was much more intense," said the co-founder of the Tourist With A Typewriter production company.

"I was surprised at how chaotic the firefights were – very different to anything in fictional movies.

"There was a strange kind of fear – that of a bullet going past your head is over in a second, but this was real fear, of not knowing if you would make it out of a compound alive when you've been penned in for four hours."

What is particularly striking is that the ANA soldiers are serving to bring change in spite of the deadly risks they face.

"I want to show that the war is not over, it's just that the foreign troops have left," exclaimed Farouky.

"The Afghans still face the Taliban and it's not as simple as bad versus good – sometimes it's not the Taliban shooting against the Army, it's just a farmer hoping to survive."

With the UK's combat contribution finished in Afghanistan and media coverage of the country much reduced this blunt insight serves to show that the story has not ended. ■

**VERDICT:** A remarkable portrayal of the Afghan Army's task without foreign help ★★★★★



### Escobar: Paradise Lost out now

*ESCOBAR: Paradise Lost* is a portrayal of Colombian cocaine king Pablo Escobar (Benicio Del Toro) seen through the eyes of a surfer. Therein lies the problem – it's not focused on the interesting drug lord character but centres on holidaymaker, Nick (Josh Hutcherson), who falls for Escobar's niece. The concept has potential but this flick misses the mark.

### Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

**VERDICT:** Not brilliant but Benicio del Toro certainly saves it ★★★★★



### Turbo Kid out now

THIS film is about "The Kid" who lives in an underground bunker obsessing over comic books and relics. Billed as *The BMX Bandits* meets *Mad Max* the movie pays homage to 1980s pop culture and has characters cruising around on bikes. With a distinct post-apocalyptic feel there is plenty of action, blood and gore but sadly the special effects let it down.

### Josh Main, civvy

**VERDICT:** Entertaining if you're a fan of post-apocalyptic bike films ★★★★★



### The Physician out now

ADAPTED from the book of the same name, this film follows orphan boy Rob Cole as he journeys to Persia to learn the art of healing from a famous physician. Visually stunning, the movie has the feel of a blockbuster and is an entertaining medieval adventure, not to mention a good reminder that falling ill in the 11th century was pretty rubbish.

### Becky Clark, Soldier

**VERDICT:** A decent rendering of the original novel ★★★★★



### Newsreel Years out now

MY snapshot of this 16-hour *British Movietone Newsreel Years Collector's Edition* was confined to the 1943 disc. Movietone was part of the West's propaganda effort and the naivety of the British audience is palpable as the upbeat dialogue reflects the war's turning point. If you're into military heritage then this tome may be for you.

### Maj Neil Johnson, AAC

**VERDICT:** Alright if you like this sort of archive thing ★★★★★



### Tinkerbell out now

GRANTED *Tinkerbell and the Legend of the Neverbeast* is not standard fare for a British soldier, but for a movie to watch with my girls, aged three and five years, it was perfect. A comet appears in the sky, the neverbeast arrives, the ever-caring Fawn befriends it despite mass disapproval and the former later saves the day. The kids were captivated.

### Cpl Adam Jackson, Para

**VERDICT:** Fairly good – will entertain the young 'uns for a while ★★★★★



### Terminator Genisys out Nov 2

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger returns in this latest chapter of the iconic franchise. There are several welcome throwbacks to *Terminator's* past, including screen-time with Kyle Reese and the liquid metal T-1000, but overall this should spell the end of the line for the 31-year-old series. Arnie, the ageing action man, stands out among a wooden cast.

### Rachel Dennis, civvy

**VERDICT:** A treat to see the ex-governor but ultimately a tired movie ★★★★★



# MUSIC



PICK OF THE MONTH: WE THE  
GENERATION

## HEADLINE ACT

DANCE OUTFIT MAINTAIN  
FRENETIC PACE



## Review: Richard Long

It seems as though dance collective Rudimental have been near ever-present since the release of their smash hit *Feel the Love* in 2012.

Debut album *Home* followed a year later and since then the band have embarked on a continuous cycle of live shows and festival appearances.

So, it is somewhat surprising to see them spurning the opportunity of some well-earned rest in favour of releasing the highly anticipated follow-up offering, *We The Generation*.

The track *I Will For Love*, featuring vocals from Will Heard, hinted at what was to follow and it appears as though Rudimental have maintained the formula that made them so successful the first time round.

Before, it was the charismatic tone of collaborator John Newman that brought the album to life and they will be hoping for more of the same from the lengthy list of guest stars found here.

On paper it shouldn't be a problem as the likes of Dizzee Rascal, Ella Eyre and Bobby Womack pack a mighty punch.

But assembling such a lengthy roll call, as well as writing and producing the 14 tracks listed on the record, did not happen overnight, as founding member Piers Agget recently explained.

"We've been working on this album for two years," the musician said.

"It's got a lot of blood, sweat and tears and I think *I Will For Love* is a really good representation of what we're about."

The new material was met with a warm reaction over the summer as the band embarked on headline slots at Glastonbury, Lovebox and their very own Wild Life Festival in Brighton.

A world tour including legs in the USA, Europe, Japan and Australia will follow and it appears there is no let-up for one of the hardest-working acts currently on the international circuit.

But how does the music actually fare?

Well, there is plenty to enjoy but it is hard to escape the feeling that the songs fall slightly short of those found on Rudimental's earlier offering.

The over-reliance on drum 'n' bass grooves means there is a lack of overall variety but when the formula works it strikes all the right notes.

The aforementioned single offers a triumphant start to proceedings with its energy-charged vibe and is followed by the equally impressive *Never Let You Go* – which has already proved to be a huge festival favourite.

On the occasions when they stray from the norm the change in pace proves to be a welcome break and highlights that diversity can be easily achieved.

The softer beats and simmering trumpets on *Rumour Mill* make it one of the standout tracks, while Womack adds some star quality to *New Day*.

However, not all collaborators enjoy such spectacular results and others struggle to mirror the impact made by Newman on the first record.

But this is only a minor irritation and on the whole *We The Generation* serves as a solid building block for what are some well-set foundations.

Judging by their schedule for the coming months it appears as though the Rudimental juggernaut is hitting top gear once more.

And with tracks ideally suited to radio play, nightclubs and live shows, as well as highlights packages on the likes of *Soccer AM* and *Match of the Day 2*, there really is no escaping their infectious sound. ■

**VERDICT:** Rudimental add to their growing reputation on an impressive follow-up ★★★★★

## Immortalized by Disturbed

FANS of **Disturbed** will know what to expect from this offering and are unlikely to be disappointed. For the rest of us, *Immortalized* is an example of how to make 12 songs sound very similar indeed. That said, being a one-trick pony is not necessarily a bad thing if the horse has a good race in it. The band still sound great; the album is melodic and heavy in exactly the right places and it has a high production quality.

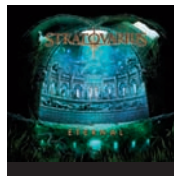


Maj Fraser Dowling, AGC (ETS)

**VERDICT:** Hardly genre defining but solid and worth a flutter ★★★★★

## Eternal by Stratovarius

A SPORTING performance that against all odds dodges common criticisms of power metal – namely, that there is a lot to hear but little to feel – **Stratovarius** have surprised us with the fluid, shape-shifting but sincere *Eternal*. Instead of stripping back the band explores epic theatrics, giving the guitars a chance to breathe and soak up any loose symphonics without it seeming like a move in another musical direction.

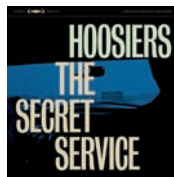


LCpl Lindsay Whyte, Int Corps

**VERDICT:** Energy without the overemphasis ★★★★★

## The Secret Service by The Hoosiers

APPARENTLY, **The Hoosiers** have been away for a few years, but if like me you'd not noticed, then this album is unlikely to make you happy they're back. Everything on *The Secret Service* is a long way from the relatively catchy *Goodbye Mr A* and *Cops and Robbers* of the late 2000s. It's all a bit soft and boring, perfectly summed up on the dull (*Don't Make*) *Eye Contact*. The only saving grace comes in the form of *Wearing Down the Carpet*.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

**VERDICT:** A weary and uninspiring attempt at indie rock ★★★★★

## Cradle to the Grave by Squeeze

THIS is the 14th studio album from **Squeeze**, South London's enduring purveyors of pure pop magic. The tracks feature in the recent Peter Kay sitcom of the same name and it is a cracking record that boasts a distinctly 70s feel. At the same time, it fits perfectly with anything around today and is a breath of fresh air. Very easy listening; it is the sort of thing you put on and leave and as it plays away you'll soon be humming along.



Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

**VERDICT:** Fresh material that does not disappoint ★★★★★

## Revolve by John Newman

WITH his highly distinctive vocal style **John Newman** made a spectacular arrival on the music scene thanks to his work with **Rudimental** and the hit single *Love Me Again*. So, it's fair to say big things were expected from second album *Revolve*. The **Calvin Harris** collaboration *Blame* underlines his mainstream appeal and hints of the star's soul roots litter the other tracks – it's just a shame this sound isn't given greater prevalence.



Richard Long, *Soldier*

**VERDICT:** Decent, but Newman fails to reach his true potential ★★★★★

## Confident by Demi Lovato

POP princess **Demi Lovato** is the latest star to roll off the Disney conveyor belt and judging by her predecessors' efforts it is fairly easy to predict the tone of this offering. Lead single *Cool for the Summer* showcases the singer's fun side but overall there is little in the way of surprise or intrigue. The disappointing *Kingdom Come* dampens proceedings but tracks such as *Lionheart* and *Yes* reaffirm the pop-by-numbers formula of the mass market.



Joe Clapson, *Soldier*

**VERDICT:** Middle of the road but far from offensive ★★★★★



# BOOKS



*Aftershock* by Matthew Green is out now, priced £20

PICK OF THE MONTH:  
AFTERSHOCK

## BATTLE SCARRED

JOURNALIST EXPLORES THE  
DEVASTATING IMPACT OF PTSD



## Interview: Becky Clark

**I**n the past 30 years tens of thousands of British soldiers have deployed to places such as the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most return from combat physically unscathed but for some the mental scars are profound.

How the UK deals with traumatised troops is the subject of a compelling new book, *Aftershock*, by journalist Matthew Green.

Attitudes towards mental health have come a long way since the First World War, when stigma was actively used to maintain discipline, but Green thinks more can still be done to assist those suffering from what we now recognise as post traumatic stress disorder.

"I'm not setting out to make arbitrary criticisms," he told *Soldier*.

"I wanted to understand this complex problem, to look at what's being done and what could be the next steps to help serving and former personnel not only cope with their problems but find a route to true healing."

During two years of research the Reuters and *Financial Times* correspondent spoke to mental health experts, charities and military clinicians as well as dozens of combat veterans, whose candid descriptions of inner turmoil make for powerful reading.

Royal Air Force nurse Hilary was followed day and night by the ghosts of six dead comrades.

Joe was so disturbed by his experiences in Northern Ireland that he once tried to chop off his trigger hand with a kitchen knife.

"Even people within the medical profession struggle to understand the sheer level of distress that PTSD can cause," said Green.

"When the sufferer is in the middle of an episode they're not in this time and space, they're back in combat – they can smell the smell of battle, feel the heat of the sun, hear their colleagues shouting.

"It's an incredibly visceral experience."

Though military and civilian support structures exist, Green likens the situation to the aftermath of an earthquake, with "disparate teams of rescuers digging with varying degrees of urgency, tenacity and skill to reach unknown numbers trapped beneath the rubble."

He acknowledges the MoD has done much to reduce the stigma and that personnel have access to tried and tested treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy and eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing.

But he argues that by considering some of the lesser-known approaches in the field the military could tailor its services for the most seriously affected.

One of Green's interviewees found relief in equine therapy, others through meditation and neurobiological reprogramming.

It might sound unorthodox but the author says a shift in mind-set is needed, not just in the MoD but the wider medical profession too.

"We need to open the door to a whole new set of tools," he continued.

"The Armed Forces have so much experience with PTSD and I think they have an opportunity here to innovate and really lead the field.

"This isn't solving climate change or launching a mission to Mars.

"We can help these people – it just requires a bit more imagination and coordination." ■

## Cameron at 10

by Anthony Seldon and Peter Snowdon

THIS weighty but worthy read charts David Cameron's time at Downing Street, from the halcyon days of the rose garden partnership with the Lib Dems to the surprise Tory general election victory in 2015. Full of revelations and rich in texture – though lacking historical distance – it captures the unrelenting pace of events, the focus on economic recovery and offers insights into the prime minister's leadership style.



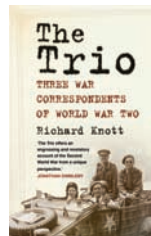
Maj Duncan Brown, RE

**VERDICT:** A superb and enormously readable expose ★★★★★

## The Trio

by Richard Knott

JOURNALISTS Alan Moorehead, Alexander Clifford and Christopher Buckley worked together in Africa and Europe during the Second World War. Armed with their typewriters, they had to find their own food and transport and often defied the chain of command to deliver the news. This is an absorbing account of how three men carved a path for future war correspondents and how they were affected by their work later on.



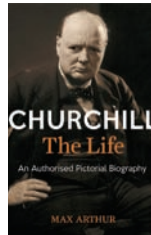
WO1 Mick Latter, CAMUS

**VERDICT:** A compelling insight into a pioneering threesome ★★★★★

## Churchill: The Life

by Max Arthur

PICTORIAL biographies don't tend to hold my attention because once you've flicked through the numerous photos, that's normally it. But this isn't just any old book. Love him or hate him, Winston Churchill's story has many varied chapters, all of which are covered here – from his childhood to his exploits as a soldier, war correspondent and politician – and ultimately to his funeral. A fascinating and enthralling journey.



Tony David, ex-RE

**VERDICT:** One of the best pictorial biographies I've ever read ★★★★★

## The Real X-Men

by Robert Lyman

FROM human torpedoes to midget submarines and underwater canoes, this is a gripping account of the many failures and occasional successes of the Special Boat Section. The author painstakingly details the sacrifice of a rare breed of men – men more likely to meet their fate in training accidents than in battle but who pressed on and earned more gallantry medals per head than any other unit in the Second World War.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

**VERDICT:** A real boys' own story of men and their machines ★★★★★

## The Secret History of The Blitz

by Joshua Levine

THIS fascinating book about "The Blitz" details how British civilians behaved during the German bombings. It does not always make easy reading for those raised on stories of a stoic and virtuous public. Some elements of the population had no qualms about using the veil of the attacks to undertake less than heroic criminal activities. Interesting and entertaining first-hand anecdotes illustrate the author's narrative.



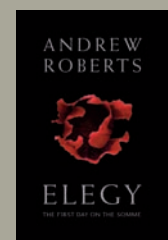
Maj Andrew Banks, AGC (RMP)

**VERDICT:** Brings a different perspective to the events of 1940-41 ★★★★★

## WIN.... Elegy

by Andrew Roberts

IN this latest release from historian and journalist Andrew Roberts the pity and horror of the first day of the Somme offensive is evoked. The title depicts a summer's day turned to hell-on-earth by modern technology in the words of casualties, survivors and the bereaved. *Soldier* has teamed up with publisher, Head of Zeus, to give away three copies of the title. For a chance to win one, name the book that won Roberts the Wolfson History Prize. Answers to the usual postal address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



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# SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

## Leading the charge:

Cyclists from the Royal Army Physical Training Corps set the pace at the Inter-Corps Road Race Championship. Read about their success on pages 76-77...





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## COURT APPEAL CONTINUES

A RECORD number of teams took to the court for both the Inter-Unit and Inter-Corps competitions as the Army netball set-up maintained its rapid upward trajectory last month.

The sport is enjoying a boom period as more and more players look to get involved and with a new coaching structure in place at senior level the clamour for representative honours has never been greater.

A total of 19 sides challenged for the unit title and it was the soldiers from Army Headquarters who lifted the silverware after they beat 9 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps in the final.

"We had teams turning up on the day looking to take part but unfortunately we had to turn them away," Keith Donkin, secretary of the Army Netball Association (ANA), told *SoldierSport*.

"Players from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst were not here due to their commitments on exercise so

next year's competition could be even stronger.

"The sport is just booming at the moment. Word is getting out and the buzz is there from people who want to play."

The same number of teams entered the corps championships and Maj Charlie Winship (RADC), the ANA's fixture secretary, said the standard of play is rising.

She added: "The level of talent is the highest I've seen for a number of years now.

"A lot of players who have been out injured are now coming back and we've had a good influx of newcomers.

"The competition is bigger and better than ever."

In a further sign of progression, ex-England

coach Maggie Jackson has now taken the reigns of the Army team, with Capt Jo Vann (AAC) – a former

England international – named as her assistant and Capt Steph Novak (AGC (RMP)) as skipper.

"She will come in and look at the players with fresh eyes," Winship added. "Everyone will be fighting for their positions and Maggie will be making various assessments

in order to select the right squad. It will be interesting to see what she puts together.

"She has been impressed with our competitive nature."

The Inter-Corps final was being played as this issue went to press. ■



**"The buzz is there from people who want to play"**

Keith Donkin – ANA

## SPORT SHORTS



Stanning on the list

» WORLD champion Capt Heather Stanning (RA) is in the running for another major honour after she and partner Helen Glover were named as female crew of the year finalists at the World Rowing Awards.

The duo finished the season unbeaten and were crowned European champions and World Cup winners.



Thomas takes title

» FLYFISHING ace Capt Jamie Thomas (RE) took top honours in his first major final – the Lexus Individual contest at Grafham Water.

The officer only qualified for the event after another competitor dropped out but he took full advantage to land a 12th fish in the dying minutes to claim the title.

"This is the absolute pinnacle of my angling career," he proudly said afterwards.

Thomas is a former Army game angling team captain and was part of the squad that narrowly missed out on Inter-Services glory this year.



# MONTH in sport

November's key fixtures...



**WHAT:** Army v Southern Counties boxing

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 4 (1930 start)

**WHERE:** ATC Pirbright

**COMMENTS:** The Reds enjoyed a 6-2 victory in this fixture last season and with a strong line-up taking to the ring they will be hoping for more of the same



**WHAT:** Combined Services v Bath President's XV

**WHEN:** November 9

**WHERE:** The Recreation Ground, Bath

**COMMENTS:** Annual remembrance rugby union match in aid of The Royal British Legion. For ticket details visit [www.bathrugby.com/tickets](http://www.bathrugby.com/tickets)



**WHAT:** Army v Amateur Football Alliance

**WHEN:** November 11 (1930 kick-off)

**WHERE:** Corinthian Casuals FC

**COMMENTS:** The soldiers beat the Prison Service 4-0 last month and they'll be looking to continue their form in this Southern Counties Cup clash



Picture: Shaun Lewis

## Redmayne steps up a gear

**S**PEED sensation LCpl Billy Redmayne (Para) heads to New Zealand next month to continue his rapid ascent in motorcycling's road race scene.

The 24-year-old has just completed an encouraging debut campaign in the UK and is hoping that a strong showing down under will earn him a place in one of the sport's top teams for the 2016 season.

Competing in the 600cc division, the soldier achieved a raft of top-ten finishes and with three races scheduled for his upcoming trip the rider has the ideal opportunity to build on his growing reputation.

"It has gone really well,"

Redmayne told *SoldierSport*. "This is my first year of road racing so I have been the newcomer on the circuit.

"But I've only finished outside the top ten once – at the North West 200 – and I won the junior Manx Grand Prix.

"It has now got to the point where I have to work out what I'm going to do next season. I've been doing things off my own back but that makes it hard work."

Redmayne hails from a motocross background and his road racing ambitions were initially hampered by the expense associated with his new sport.

However, on completing his first Afghan tour he had the

necessary money available and his elevation to the grid gathered pace.

The Churchill Lines Charitable Fund supported this year's efforts but the rider believes a team environment is now needed.

"It is difficult to do this by myself at the top level as I don't have the budget," the Serviceman explained.

"I'm now looking for a team but it is the same for everyone at this time of year.

"In the meantime, I'm going to do three races in the Suzuki Tri Series in New Zealand. It is a chance for me to get more experience and if I didn't do that I wouldn't be back on the bike until March." ■

## SIMPSON SUCCESS

» THE UK's injured Servicemen regained golf's Simpson Cup following a battling performance against their American rivals at Royal St George's.

A tense round of fourball matches saw the sides locked at 3-3 at the end of the opening day as heavy rain and harsh autumnal weather made life difficult on the course.

"The way all the guys fought and scrapped was fantastic," said Team GB captain Jason Evans, a below-the-knee amputee who served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

"Conditions like these are particularly challenging for all of us and every point was a real battle."

The singles matches proved a happy hunting ground for the hosts and after claiming four of the first seven matches they went on to secure a 9.5-8.5 victory.



Picture: On Course Foundation





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# RULING THE ROAD

» PT Corps return to the saddle to defend team title

» Sappers duo Carr and Royle set the pace out front



## Inter-Corps Road Race Championship

1. Royal Army Physical Training Corps
2. Royal Engineers
3. Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

THE Royal Army Physical Training Corps held off the challenge of a determined Royal Engineers outfit to claim the Inter-Corps Road Race Championship for a second successive year.

Sappers' ace Spr Alex Royle showcased his talent at the front of the field but with the defending champions holding a dominant presence in the peloton they were able to secure the points needed to retain their crown.

Royle signalled his intent with an early break that was matched by teammate Cpl Iain Carr and the duo maintained a strong pace in the wind and

rain of Redbridge.

But the PT Corps stuck to their game plan and with 11 riders working together in the chasing pack the outcome was never in doubt.

The team was also indebted to its support staff, who worked tirelessly on an afternoon that saw a high number of punctures and mechanical problems.

"We knew we had strength in numbers," victorious skipper WO2 Dan Boulby told *SoldierSport* on reaching the finish line.

"The engineers had two strong guys at the front and I went with them initially before shedding a chain.

"Our plan was to ride strongly and keep the gap to a minimum. Once those two had gone it was about controlling the race as we still had 11 cyclists in the field.

"It was nice to come back and win again this year. We have a lot of strong guys in the corps who didn't race today and we've got some great





## PORTER'S VICTORY PUSH

» SUCCESS in the women's race formed the ideal end to a promising debut season for Pte Charmaine Porter (RLC).

The newcomer is already a firm fixture on the Army women's road race team and after heading the field with a rival from the Royal Army Physical Training Corps she broke clear with three laps remaining to seal an impressive win.

"I was expecting her to be up there with me," Porter said. "But I didn't know if the other girls would tag on."

"We worked together and as we got towards the end I put my foot down."

"I'm used to long road races so it was enjoyable to come to a track like this. It is not too technical but there are a few climbs with a really good hill at the end."

Porter entered the sport as a novice 12 months ago and has risen from category four to category two status.

She has also helped the Army to victory in the

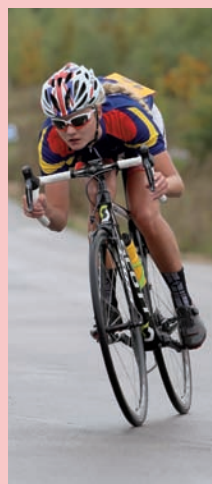
Women's Team Series organised by the Coalville Wheelers.

The squad had been in contention throughout the season and were sitting in third position ahead of the final two races.

Porter added: "We knew we had moved up the rankings as we headed into the last round so we decided to go for it."

"We showed great teamwork and everyone pulled together."

"For me, this year was all about getting some experience of big group riding. I was a novice at the start of the season so I wasn't expecting any of this."



“  
Our plan was to ride strongly as a team and keep the gap to a minimum  
”

WO2 Dan Boulty (RAPTC)

youngsters coming through so next season we should be even better off."

After missing out on collective honours Carr was able to reflect on winning the individual title as fellow sapper Royle guided him home.

However, his victory hopes were nearly scuppered on the penultimate lap when he became the latest victim of the puncture curse.

"I did almost a full lap on a flat tyre," he explained. "Alex got to the front and told the guys on the sidelines that I needed a new wheel."

"I managed to hang on and it made for an exciting finish."

"It is great to have someone like Alex in the team as you know he will help you throughout the race."

Despite finishing second on the day the Royal Engineers were able to celebrate a successful season following their victory in the Inter-Corps Road Race Series, where SSgt Graham Rogerson was crowned top rider. ■

» CYCLING sensation Spr Alex Royle (RE) has added to his growing list of accolades by setting new Inter-Services records in the ten- and 25-mile time trials.

Reaching the landmark was a key goal for this season and the Army ace continued his form to claim seven successive victories on the civilian circuit.

"I knew I had it in me," the sapper told *SoldierSport*. "I broke the 25-mile record by a minute-and-a-half and I will be going again next year."

"I will also be looking for a place at the national time trial championships and I want to win a premier calendar road race in the elite series."

"Hopefully I will be part of a civilian team who can help with transport, resources and back-up on the day."

"My unit – 42 Engineer Regiment – is happy to support me and that makes a real difference."





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Picture: Mark Kariya

## POWERS OF ENDURANCE

**T**HE Army's off-road racers faced a stern test of their credentials when they tackled the International Six Days of Enduro event in Slovakia.

A field of world-class riders took to the start line and Service stars Sgt Kev Murray (REME, pictured), Sgt Kalem Hicks (RLC) and LCpl Tom Ellwood (RE) were well placed to mount a strong charge.

All three compete at national expert level but torrential rain and some minor mechanical issues saw the trio reach 13th place at the end of the opening day.

The race sees competitors carrying their own spares and tools and the rules state they must complete any repairs without assistance.

Ellwood and Hicks both suffered complications early on but managed to stay in the race, with the latter also battling the after effects of a bout of gastroenteritis.

Treacherous climbs and gruelling conditions saw more than 100 riders bow out but the soldiers held firm to move up to tenth spot.

However, the rain and mud took their toll on day four as Ellwood and Murray both experienced difficulties and the former was forced to retire following a heavy crash.

The remaining members maintained the charge and Murray finished tenth overall, with Hicks claiming 23rd place.

Ellwood's departure saw the team drop to 46th but the outfit is already planning to return next year and challenge once again.

## SPORT SHORTS



### Sponsors sign up

» SUPACAT have been named as the new sponsors of the Army endurance motorcycle race team.

The relationship was confirmed at the Donington Park circuit, where the Service's number one outfit secured second place in the national championship.

"We are proud to be involved in such a fantastic venture," said Jamie Clarke (pictured), of Supacat.



### Ready to row

» ARMY officer Capt Olivia Wilson (RA) has been included in a four-woman crew that will attempt to row the Atlantic Ocean unaided.

The team will depart from Gran Canaria in January on a 2,994-mile journey to Barbados.

They hope to finish the route in less than 45 days to break the world record for the fastest all-female crew to complete the crossing.

They are raising money for Barnardo's and the Forces Children's Trust.

To donate visit [www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/femaleatlanticrow2016](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/femaleatlanticrow2016)

## Downhill's triple crown

**A DOMINANT** display in challenging Welsh conditions saw the Army downhill mountain bike team crowned Inter-Services champions for an impressive third successive season.

Lt Tom Humphrey (R Signals) took the individual honours after he set a blistering time at the midway point – an effort that stood until the end of the day despite the best efforts of teammate Cpl Chris Borrowdale (RE).

The Royal Air Force claimed third and fourth spots but with the Reds dominating the top 15 the team result was never in doubt.

Downhill secretary Maj Justin Revell (RLC) said: "The RAF and Royal Navy have some of the top riders in the Services. They are dangerously fast and have beaten our best on a couple of occasions this year.

"The weather closed in and that levelled the field. It could have been anyone's day."



Picture: Marcin Bialas



# Game brief

**Date:** October 19, 2015

**Competition:** International Defence Rugby Competition quarter-final

**Venue:** Army Rugby Stadium

## Army

Reeves 1	Dwyer 2	Dowding 3
Jones 4	Llewellyn 5	
Boladau 6	Koroiyadi 8	Nayacavou 7
Chennell 9	Prasad 10	
Wessels 12	Nacamavuto 13	
Bulumakau 11	Davies 15	Watkins 14

**Subs:** Fillier, Bates, Ross-Allen, Richardson, Laqekoro, Vata, Farrell, O'Reilly

**Army tries:** Bulumakau (3), Watkins, Dwyer, Llewellyn, Ross-Allen, Jones, Laqekoro

**Conversions:** Davies, Dwyer (2)

**Penalty:** Davies

## Headline makers

» With first-choice kicker Bdr Owain Davies (RA) off the field injured hooker LSgt Matty Dwyer (WG) slotted two conversions as the points total grew



» Winger Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots) has been one of the Army's most potent attacking weapons and he underlined his class with a hat-trick against South Africa. The Glasgow Warriors star also scored a brace against Australia and will be a key man in the latter stages



**Pushing on:** Cpl Peceli Nacamavuto (RE) takes the fight to the South Africans in the Army's quarter-final clash

# Reds mount title charge

## IDRC Quarter-final

**Army 54  
South Africa 17**

**A** THUMPING 54-17 victory over their South African rivals saw defending champions the Army surge into the latter stages of the International Defence Rugby Competition.

The win set up the mouth-watering prospect of a semi-final clash with New Zealand at The Stoop as the Reds emphatically returned to form following a shock defeat to France in their final fixture in the pool stages.

Winger Pte Junior Bulumakau (Scots) was the star of the show with a hat-trick but the hosts showcased their attacking threat across the park as they crossed for nine tries.

An early penalty from Bdr Owain Davies (RA) settled the nerves and the Army took control as Bulumakau rounded

off a flowing cross-field move in the tenth minute.

The impressive LCpl Joe Nayacavou (Scots) laid the foundations for his side's second score as a storming run through the South African lines sparked a fluent attacking phase that allowed LCpl Scott Watkins (R Signals) to touch down in the corner.

Having seized the initiative through their backs the home side then used the power in their pack to add to the points haul as LSgt Matty Dwyer (WG) crashed home from a well-worked line-out.

The soldiers repeated the move moments later as CSgt Paul Llewellyn (R Welsh) stretched the lead to 25-3 at the interval.

The line-out continued to fire after the break as a long throw found the marauding Nayacavou, who gained valuable yards in South African territory. Bdr Ken Dowding (RA) maintained the momentum before Bulumakau burst through two would-be tacklers for a simple score under the posts.

However, the visitors regrouped to launch a counter-attack through their exciting backs division.

A sustained spell of pressure resulted in Lt Will Jones (R Welsh) being sin binned following a misdemeanour at the breakdown and with numbers on their side winger Devin Grootboom was able to find the corner.

Centre Cheslin Jafta then crossed as the attacking impetus continued but hopes of a comeback were dashed as replacement forward Cpl Warren Ross-Allen (AAC) profited from some slick handling by Cpl Gerhard Wessels (RE) to score.

Jones pounced on a loose pass from Keanin Esau to sprint home under the posts before late tries from Spr Knoxy Laqekoro (RE) and Bulumakau sealed a comfortable win.

The Army were in action against New Zealand as this issue went to press.

Fiji and France were due to contest the other semi-final. ■



## SoldierSport looks at the campaign so far



» THE Reds made a storming start to the International Defence Rugby Competition as they smashed their Australian rivals 62-0 in their opening pool match.

Bath flier LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG, pictured) grabbed the headlines with a hat-trick of tries but it was the dynamic play of the Army's back row that laid the foundations for a comfortable win.

**Tries:** Bulumakau (2), Rokoduguni (3), Koroiyadi, Vata (2).

**Penalties:** Davies (4).

**Conversions:** Davies (4), Farrell.

**SoldierSport man of the match:** LCpl Joe Nayacavou (Scots) – piercing runs and strong carries from the flanker set the Army on the front foot.



» RECORDS tumbled in the Army's second fixture as they ran in a staggering 20 tries on their way to a 128-6 win over the Canadian Armed Forces.

The scoreline proved to be a record victory for the soldiers, who also saw Rgr Chris Leatham (R Irish, pictured) set a new individual landmark as he crossed eight times in a distinctly one-sided affair.

**Tries:** Leatham (8), Davies (2), Ross-Allen (2), Llewellyn (2), Naulago (2), O'Reilly, Watkins, Vata, Koroiyadi.

**Conversions:** Davies (12), Leatham, Prasad.

**SoldierSport man of the match:** With a spectacular eight-try haul it was hard to look beyond the efforts of winger Rgr Chris Leatham (R Irish).



» THE home side's 100 per cent record was shattered by the French, who battled their way to a 24-23 victory in what was one of the tournament's biggest upsets.

A healthy crowd expected another emphatic Army win but the defending champions failed to hit top gear. Tries from front-row duo Cpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) and LSgt Matty Dwyer (WG) helped the cause but the visitors held firm.

**Tries:** Dwyer, Leatham, Budgen.

**Penalties:** Davies (2).

**Conversions:** Davies.

### IDRC

### IN NUMBERS



# 40

Tries scored by the Army in four matches



# 30

Players won by head coach Maj Andy Sanger (RE) in the tournament



# 57

Points from the boot of Bdr Owain Davies (RA)



## Head coach's comments

Maj Andy Sanger (RE) speaks about the quarter-final victory...

» Today was all about the win and we achieved that emphatically without really hitting our straps.

Once we got three or four scores ahead we found it tough to maintain our structure.

There is definitely work to do but I'm happy with our set piece and when we reach top gear we look really dangerous.

We've done a fair amount of analysis on our next opponents but any team from New Zealand will be strong.





## → Team of the month

### Army Cross-Country Mountain Bike Team



Pictures: SAC Matt Aherne, RAF

**A** RMY riders capped another superb season of cross-country mountain bike action by dominating the field at the Inter-Services Championships.

The off-road stars blitzed their rivals on the challenging terrain of the Olympic venue at Hadleigh Park as Capt James Sanford (RLC) took the individual honours ahead of teammate SSgt "Taff" Rogerson (RE).

In a major upset, Reds' number one Capt Bruce Spilsbury (RLC) finished down the field in fourth position after a puncture hampered his progress on the second lap.

Army champion Maj Angela Laycock (RE) scored further points for the squad by claiming second spot in the women's race – where she trailed the Royal Air Force's top rider.

Victory sealed a clean sweep of Inter-Services cycling titles for the Reds in 2015 and Capt "Tiny"

Simmonds (RE), secretary of cross-country mountain biking, believes the outfit is well placed to continue the winning run.

"It is an outstanding result," he told *SoldierSport*. "We destroyed the opposition to take the team prize and we got all our guys round to the finish."

"There are eight riders per team and every place has a points value. If you have a non-finisher you are looking at lost points but as we were running a pit lane we were able to get people up and running again."

"Whether it was fixing punctures or throwing water on chains to wash away the dirt, we got them through to the end."

Despite seeing Spilsbury finish outside the podium places, Simmonds praised the rider's determination and effort for the team.

The officer added: "He did a superb job. He saw the red mist and he blitzed anyone in his way."

"We got him back on the

bike after his puncture and he was fantastic."

"It was a great course but the weather was terrible with constant rain from the off. It was a superb performance."

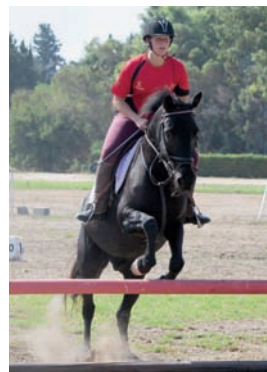
With the season now complete the riders will have some well-earned time off before returning to the saddle for a winter schedule. The team is also looking at the possibility of a training camp in Mallorca in the new year.



**Inter-Services Cross-Country Championships**

**Team title – Army  
Individual title – Capt James Sanford (RLC)**

## SPORT SHORTS



**Cyprus trip pays off**

**» MEMBERS** of the Army modern pentathlon team have completed a ten-day training camp in Cyprus as part of their preparations for the upcoming international invitational competition at Sandhurst.

The soldiers were able to hone their skills in fencing, shooting, running, horse riding and swimming in a trip that was supported by the host nation's Olympic committee.

Although still a minority sport organisers believe the potential for growth is enormous given the fact it enjoys Olympic status.

"Cyprus has great facilities and the climate is obviously outstanding," said team member Lt Rob Willis.

"We have been swimming in the sea, fencing on the beach and running along the coastline. It is a great advantage to come here for our training."



Pictures: SAC Helen Rimmer, RAF



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## Nominees set for Guildhall glitz

**A** SUPERB season of action on two wheels has seen the Service's cyclists head the list of nominations for this year's Army Sports Awards.

Time trial sensation Capt Ryan Perry (REME) will compete with distance runner Maj Ady Whitwam and Welsh international boxer Cpl Kyle Morrison (both RLC) in the sportsman category.

The officer is a national champion in the 25-mile discipline but faces stiff competition from his rivals, who have excelled in their fields this season.

Teammate WO2 Chanel Mason (RAPTC) – part of the victorious ladies squad at this year's Inter-Services road race – has been shortlisted in the sportswoman category along with rugby union star

Capt Gemma Rowland (RA), who was capped by Wales in this year's Six Nations, and powerlifter Spr Leonora Brajshori (RE).

The women's road cycling outfit (pictured above) are in contention for the team of the year accolade and the ceremony also includes sports official, rising star, adaptive athlete and lifetime achievement categories. ■



» **ENDURANCE** athlete CSjt Mark Holloway (Rifles) is bracing himself for another attempt at the World's Toughest Mudder this month.

Undulating terrain, water obstacles and a 38-foot cliff jump were among the many challenges faced by the soldier last year as he finished in 29th place.

"I've had a full 12 months of uninterrupted training to prepare for this event and I've also picked up some new sponsors," the 31-year-old, who is aiming for a top-ten spot, said.

"I have a pit crew of two people to support me for the 24 hours, they will help with clothing and gear changes, feeding and generally motivating me – that alone will have a massive impact on my performance so I'm hoping for a really good result."

Holloway – who is raising money for Help for Heroes – has performed well in Tough Mudder events this year and achieved podium finishes in other obstacle course races.

To donate money to the cause visit [www.justgiving.com/wtm](http://www.justgiving.com/wtm)

## SPORT SHORTS



Navy at the front

### Inter-Services sprint racing

1. Royal Navy
2. Royal Air Force
3. Army

» **THE** Army race team have vowed to regroup and come back stronger next year after a disappointing Inter-Services campaign.

A powerful Royal Navy outfit took top spot for 2015 as work commitments and overseas exercises dented the soldiers' track ambitions.

"A few of our solid riders have been unavailable at times and that has left us short," manager SSgt Andy Kewley (RAPTC) told *SoldierSport*.

"We have been fielding three or four guys but the Navy have had eight, nine or ten – that makes all the difference."

"It is disappointing and we need to get more people involved."

For more details email SSgt Kewley via [29RLC-TrgAPTCL@mod.uk](mailto:29RLC-TrgAPTCL@mod.uk)



Pictures: Garry Fox



# Final word

We asked troops from 22 Field Hospital and 4th Battalion, The Rifles what Remembrance Day means to them and why it is important to reflect on history



**Cpl Sean Maloney (RAMC)**

It is important for us to remember because people have laid down their lives for their country. I visited the Commonwealth war graves out in Sierra Leone while on the Ebola deployment and it was a good feeling to be part of the same group. Those fallen soldiers might have been combat medical technicians like me, just from a different era using different methods and equipment.



**Rfn Neil Cordy (4 Rifles)**

I have lost about 25 mates and they are always in my thoughts, especially around the battalion when someone else is doing their jobs. To the wider public soldiers are the protectors of the country, so it's really nice to see people wearing a poppy – I see it as a sign of support for personnel past and present. The Legion does a good job in giving our wounded a chance of healing and reintegrating.



**Pte Conor Lewis (RAMC)**

You learn from those that have gone before you. It's a good idea to look back at the past with a view to the future. It's nice to know that once we are gone our service won't be forgotten. Nobody is more deserving of being remembered than the veterans of the world wars – what they did means that you and I are able to live the lives we do. The Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day keeps the Forces in people's minds.



**LCpl David Morgan (RLC)**

Remembrance means a lot, especially with your own corps history. Looking back at what your guys have achieved and learning about battle honours is humbling. November 11 in particular is a time for younger generations to think about what they need to become to live up to those from history. I will be watching my dad march past the Cenotaph at Whitehall this month and it will be a very proud moment.

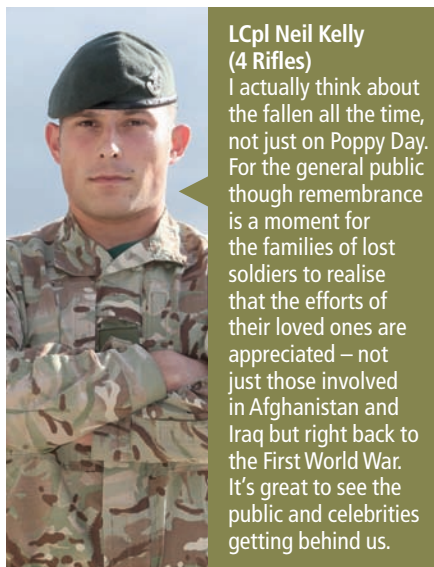
**SSgt Gary Adamson (RLC)**

I have served on four operational tours and having lost two friends on those deployments it is pertinent that we give time to remember them. Also, the least we owe those that have fought for and defended the country is to pay our respects with a moment of silence one day a year. The whole country should come together and support the Legion's efforts, especially on Armistice Day.



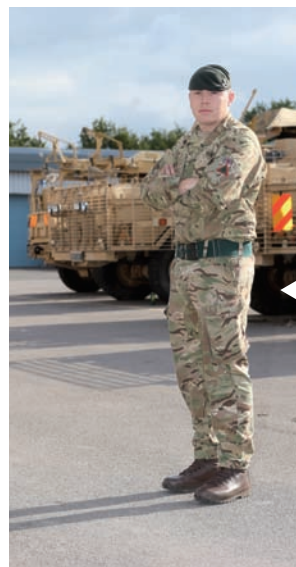
**Lt Chris Cathcart (4 Rifles)**

You see in documentaries about what happened in Afghanistan and you realise the mental and physical impact it had. It is vital that we remember and look after these people and those who fought before them. It is understandable that civilians and troops who haven't been on tour don't realise what veterans have been through but November 11 is a focal point for everyone to think about the sacrifices that have been made.



**LCpl Neil Kelly (4 Rifles)**

I actually think about the fallen all the time, not just on Poppy Day. For the general public though remembrance is a moment for the families of lost soldiers to realise that the efforts of their loved ones are appreciated – not just those involved in Afghanistan and Iraq but right back to the First World War. It's great to see the public and celebrities getting behind us.



**Rfn Ross Williams (4 Rifles)**

My great-grandad, Silas Jack Williams, was killed at Ypres in 1916 so Remembrance Day has always been important to me. To come together and pay our respects to everyone from the First World War up to Op Herrick means a lot. We must remember our ancestors and what they did because it has shaped the world we have now.



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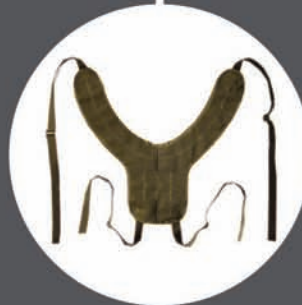
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