

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



INSIDE » MILITARY MOVIE SPECIAL

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Fiction meets reality

SN'T it intriguing how life can imitate art?

When the *Soldier* team began compiling this issue we set out to discover whether military-based movies can ever do justice to the harsh realities of war-fighting (page 38).

Experts and film fans provided various insights as to how well this task is undertaken by directors and screenwriters (page 90).

But what also became clear during the course of our research was exactly how much life as a serving soldier in 2013 can feel like its own drama – and often an incredibly difficult one.

Those facing extended Op Herrick tours (page 7), the outcome of this month's painful redundancy announcement (page 11) or any of the other problems that have become part and parcel of Service life (pages 24-25) appear to remain confident that today's strains are a price worth paying for the many highs of a military career.

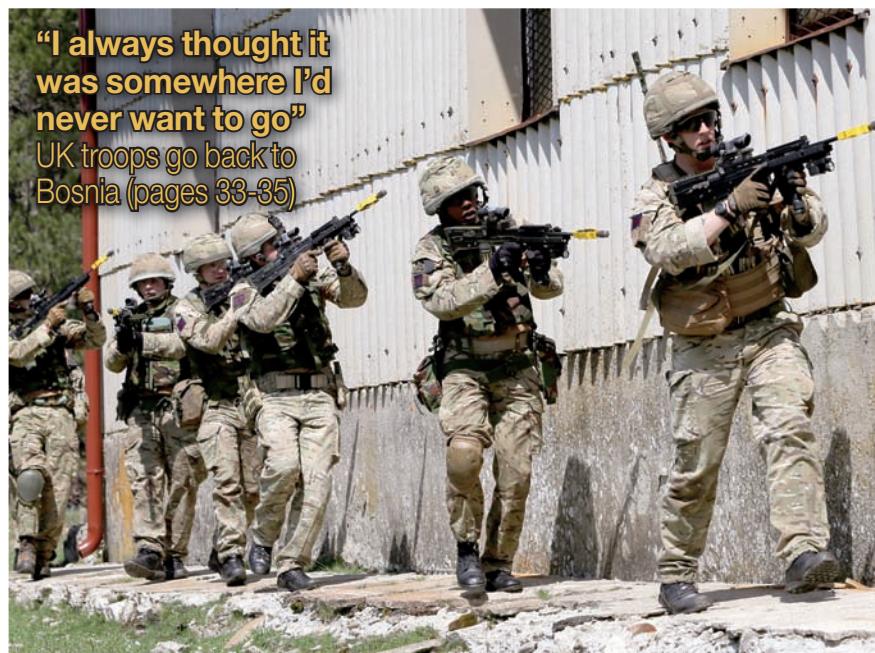
But when the mass media's glaring headlines shift away from the challenges faced by UK troops, the silence can seem even more unsettling.

That is where *Soldier* comes in. We can get direct answers to your most pressing questions (pages 47-52). Please use us. But most importantly, enjoy the issue. ■



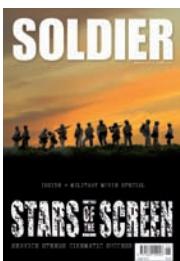
Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

S. Goldthorpe.



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THE **informer...**

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Picture: Opl Jamie Peters, RLC

Security support: Increasing the deployment time for some personnel on Herrick 19 and 20 will ease the transition to Afghan forces

Service set for longer tours

THE length of time for which some troops deploy to Afghanistan is set to increase, the defence secretary has announced.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Philip Hammond said that soldiers undertaking Op Herrick 19 in October will spend eight months in Helmand province instead of six.

The following formation will then deploy for six months until the campaign concludes in December 2014, with some personnel remaining in the country for a further three months to provide support in a non-combat role.

The politician explained that longer operational tours would prevent another brigade from deploying, ensure better force protection and mean greater continuity in the handover process.

"This will minimise the total number of Servicemen and women who deploy to Helmand over the next 18 months," Mr Hammond added.

"It will allow personnel to focus on post-Afghanistan training, improving the general readiness of the Army as it reverts to a contingent posture."

While the exact number of troops to be affected has not been confirmed, the defence secretary said that between 2,200 and 3,700 were likely to undertake tours longer than the usual six to six-and-a-half months.

The soldiers involved have been informed by their chain of command.

The Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Maj Gen Patrick Sanders, said: "Those who serve longer will be in roles where their relationship with Afghans is a crucial part of the job, or where their particular expertise is needed to deliver greater continuity.

"In keeping with the many British

troops who have served with such courage, commitment and distinction – often repeatedly – I know they will approach their extended final tours with professionalism and dedication."

The Treasury has agreed a new Herrick drawdown allowance to compensate soldiers in addition to the standard operational payment.

The money will be available from Herrick 19 onwards at a rate of £50 per day before tax and will begin after the seven-and-a-half month point.

Regulars, volunteers and those undertaking full-time Reserve service (full commitment) are all eligible for the cash, meaning the average soldier conducting an eight-month tour will receive an extra £750 before tax.

Mr Hammond added the MoD would be "sensitive" to the views of Reservists and their employers when making decisions about extended missions.

Personnel who serve for increased amounts of time will continue to receive one period of rest and recuperation.

For more information about the changes read **ABN 36/13**.



On a mission: Military bosses say that troops will show dedication to final tours



THE ARMY IS REALLY PROACTIVE WHEN IT COMES TO SPORT AND MY UNIT, MDHU FRIMLEY PARK, HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE

— MARATHON MAN PRAISES BRITISH ARMY BACKING, PAGE 88

Picture: Graeme Main



Dragoons adopt new role

THE Light Dragoons have bid a fond farewell to the vehicles that have served them for almost three decades as they prepare for a new role as a light cavalry regiment.

With Army 2020 plans taking hold, the unit saw its remaining Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)) platforms leave their home in Swanton Morley last month as wheeled replacements started to arrive.

The assets have been a firm fixture with The Light Dragoons since 1976 and accompanied soldiers on eight deployments in the Balkans, two tours of Iraq and four Herrick campaigns.

Under the new plans, they are expected to be replaced with Jackals and Coyotes.

Work to deliver the new capability in the shortest possible timeframe is ongoing and in the interim the RWMIK will be used,

with the unit deploying to Batus later this year to exercise with it.

"We have had the CVR(T) vehicles since 1976 so it was a poignant moment for the guys as the last one was wheeled out of camp," said Maj John Godfrey, the regimental second in command.

"With its latest sights system and modifications for Afghanistan it has remained a very capable recce platform."

The change in role means The Light Dragoons will be without armoured assets for the first time since the 1920s and Maj Godfrey believes troops will adapt well to the alterations.

"Our new job has a much more dismounted focus," the officer added. "We're working with a completely new weapon system and will have to get used to deploying with wheeled vehicles.

"We are looking forward to it."

'Step up', say Service recruiters

THE Army has launched a new campaign aimed at bringing 10,000 new soldiers and officers into the ranks over the coming year.

Step Up comprises a series of television adverts that show the audience – through the perspective of a pair of iconic military boots – the journey that personnel may take, while highlighting what life in the Service can offer newcomers.

The initiative will be supported by recruitment drives across the UK, which will include clinics in nearly 400 Jobcentre Plus locations.

It hopes to dispel the widespread

misconception that the Army is no longer hiring.

Brig Andrew Jackson, Director of Recruiting and Training, said: "No matter what its size, the Army is always recruiting to ensure we have enough quality junior ranks and young officers to sustain the organisation and keep it ready for the challenges of the future.

"We pride ourselves on taking individuals who demonstrate talent and promise and then provide them with all the training and development opportunities they need."

● **Talkback – page 52**

MESS CHARGE CHANGE

TROOPS staying overnight in mess accommodation on duty visits will no longer be charged daily subscriptions.

Personnel will still have to meet food and beverage expenses under pay as you dine arrangements and other costs relating directly to their stay.

Jeff Kaye from the Army's directorate of personal services said the change had been brought about to correct inconsistencies in the system.

"This is trying to bring fairness to the table," he said.

A wider review of Queen's Regulations regarding messing is due to be completed before the end of the year.



Picture: ESA

MAJOR SPACE MISSION

A FORMER Army Air Corps officer has been selected for a six-month mission to the International Space Station.

Astronaut Tim Peake (pictured above) will lift off on-board a Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan in November 2015, making him the first UK citizen to live and work on the satellite.

Speaking about his upcoming involvement in Expedition 46, the veteran of tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Afghanistan said he was delighted to be put forward.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for European science, industry and education to benefit from microgravity research," he added.

PRIVATE FOR A DAY

SOLDIERS from 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment gained an unlikely new colleague for the day in the shape of a senior commander.



Maj Gen James Chiswell, General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division, became an infantry private to learn first hand about the concerns of those under his charge.

Kitted out in a helmet and body armour, "Pte Chiswell" followed orders to help extract a casualty.

“IT WASN’T UNTIL MY GIRLFRIEND SAID ‘YOU’VE GOT A LUMP THERE, YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR’ THAT I WENT TO GET CHECKED OUT”

SOLDIER REVEALS HIS BATTLE TO CONQUER TESTICULAR CANCER, PAGE 37



Picture: Cpl SJ Longworth, RLC

Handover: Troops load a vehicle at Checkpoint Abpashak East, now under Afghan control

Province progress

TROOPS deployed on Op Herrick 18 got the tour off to a promising start with the destruction of a significant insurgent weapons stash.

Working alongside their counterparts from the Afghan National Army, soldiers from The Queen's Royal Lancers, The Rifles and The Household Cavalry Regiment uncovered a bomb cache in the Nad-e Ali region of Helmand.

The task was conducted by personnel from 1st and 4th Mechanized Brigades as part of a careful handover between the formations.

Acting on intelligence, they were inserted into a compound by helicopter at first light.

Once inside, the soldiers discovered more than 200 kilograms of home-made explosives and a large quantity of remote controls and pressure plates used for triggering IEDs.

They also found a motorbike packed with explosives.

Commenting on the successful mission, Cpl Dominic Purcell-Lee

(4 Rifles) said: "This was a great opportunity to put our training into practice out on the ground.

"We are very well prepared and felt confident moving from the pre-deployment training to actual operations with our Afghan partners."

Maj Adam Foden, officer commanding 4th Mechanized Brigade Reconnaissance Force, added: "We have remained at high readiness for seven months and deployed 40 times, seizing 1,700 kilograms of insurgent explosives in all.

"This mission enabled my soldiers to hand over responsibility for our task and make sure the new team are ready for their role."

British Forces are now responsible for a total of 12 operating bases in Afghanistan, a figure which dropped from 37 during Op Herrick 17.

Members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were some of the

“The Afghans have a large network of checkpoints”

latest troops to transfer security in a key part of Helmand province.

Following a site inspection by members of the Royal Engineers last month, Checkpoint Abpashak East in Nahr-e Saraj was left in the control of the Afghan Uniform Police.

"The Afghans have a large network of checkpoints spread all along the major routes, predominantly on Highway One," explained Maj Chris Head, officer commanding Y Company, 1 RRF.

"They fully understand the importance of this particular location; they have resourced it well and there is more building work going on to reinforce the area."

Lt Col Jon Swift, commanding officer of the formation's Transition Support Unit, said the milestone had demonstrated the "growing ability" of Afghan troops to take charge of security.

"They are very comfortable in doing so," the senior officer added.



SOLDIERS from the Household Division were among more than 1,000 Armed Forces personnel to play a role in the state opening of Parliament.

Members of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards and Welsh Guards lined the streets as the Household Cavalry escorted the Queen's procession from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords.

Musicians from the Royal Artillery and Honourable Artillery Company joined the bands of the guards battalions in providing entertainment for the occasion, which was watched by thousands of onlookers waving Union flags.

Picture: Sgt Adrian Harlen, RLC

OP HERRICK IN NUMBERS

8

TOUR LENGTH, IN MONTHS, FOR TROOPS DEPLOYING ON OP HERRICK 19 IN OCTOBER (PAGE 7)

12

NUMBER OF BASES, INCLUDING CAMP BASTION, NOW HELD BY BRITISH FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

18

MONTHS UNTIL UK COMBAT OPERATIONS COME TO AN END IN THE COUNTRY



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The course opened doors for me that I never thought possible as I gained confidence, it led to employment with better pay.

Roz Lambert, OU Graduate



Housing ‘biggest worry’

ACCOMMODATION continues to be the major cause of stress for British personnel and their loved ones, according to a recent survey from the Army Families Federation.

The organisation's 2012 Families' Concerns report found that worries over repairs and maintenance had increased compared with previous years, with mould in Service families accommodation cited as a particular source of angst.

“Modern Housing Solutions’ stock answer to this issue is to tell the occupier that this is a ‘lifestyle problem’, which families often take to be a personal

criticism,” the report said.

A Facebook page called Mouldy Married Quarters has been set up by Armed Forces personnel to draw attention to the issue.

In addition, the AFF has created a database to record addresses where mould has been reported.

The second biggest problem identified in the survey was unease among foreign and Commonwealth troops over settlement in the UK.

“It is frustrating that concerns about the route to settlement continue to rise,” the report said.

Other issues highlighted included cuts to child benefit, payday loans and childcare.

Defence estate overhaul

A CHANGE in the way the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) does business is set to provide personnel with the same level of service they receive in the high street, its chief executive has said.

In an interview with *Soldier*, Andrew Manley (pictured below) explained that a new way of operating would see more consistency in catering provision, accommodation standards and opportunities to utilise the UK training estate.

“Dealing with the DIO should be like dealing with a bank,” he added. “You should be able to go into a branch anywhere and get the same service.”

Under the wide-ranging changes, an online preference system for Service families accommodation has

already been set up.

Mr Manley said that it would be followed by a review of single living accommodation along with new agreements demanding quicker response times and better communication levels from maintenance contractors.

“We want even greater service and more transparency for troops,” he said. “We can only deliver what the government is prepared to fund but being clear with people about what they are entitled to is part of that.”

Other developments are likely to include a central booking portal for training areas and a tracking system to help Servicemen and women find out what stage their housing maintenance requests are at.



Close protection tested

MILITARY police saw their close protection skills tested during a training exercise on the streets of Colchester.

Personnel from 156 Provost Company had to react to a simulated ambush in which a blast from a roadside bomb and heavy machine-gun fire stopped a vehicle carrying Brig Giles Hill, commander of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

The serials were designed to challenge the Colchester-based unit in

their role providing policing support to the formation.

Maj Dougie Hutchinson, officer commanding 156 Pro Coy, said: “It’s important that the training is as realistic as possible for soldiers to gain the most benefit.”

“The exercise was about both demonstrating our close protection capability to the brigade commander and keeping the skills of our troops sharp.”



Picture: Steve Dack

TERRIER UNLEASHED

THE latest platform to join the British Army fold has been showcased to a select number of troops ahead of it entering service this month.

The Terrier light armoured vehicle will replace the combat engineer tractor and is set to revamp the way front-line soldiers work.

The 30-tonne piece of kit, developed by BAE Systems, is able to remove obstacles and mines, dig pits and clear routes in conflict zones.

Fully digitised, it can be driven manually or remotely at distances of up to 1,000 metres.

Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, said the Service had “high expectations” for the platform.

“It has a broad range of utilities and has been described as a vehicle version of the Swiss Army knife,” he added.

Read next month's *Soldier* for the full story on the new machine.



Picture: Cpl Lu Scott, RLC

PRAISE FOR MALI MISSION

MEMBERS of 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment have been praised for their work helping to train Malian forces.

On a visit to the country Secretary of State for Defence, Philip Hammond, commended the “professionalism” of UK troops who are assisting the nation’s army in its bid to tackle insurgents.

“This demonstrates the adaptability of our military, being able to quickly deploy in support of international partners,” the politician said.

REDUNDANCY SUPPORT

WITH redundancy looming large for many this month, troops with connections to Wiltshire or Wales are being invited to attend resettlement fairs.

The events will take place at Cardiff City Hall on June 25 and Tidworth Leisure Centre on June 26. Read the careers section on page 54 for details.



“IT WAS A FITTING END FOR CERI. IT WAS HIS LAST CHANCE TO PULL ON THAT RED JERSEY AND HIS EFFORTS WITH THE BOOT MADE THE SCORELINE SO CONVINCING”
— ARMY STARS SECURE INTER-SERVICES CROWN IN FRONT OF RECORD CROWD, PAGES 78-79

Picture: Steve Dock



Replenishment: Regular use in Helmand means the helicopter needs new Hellfire stocks

Apache ammo boost

THE Ministry of Defence has signed a £15 million contract to replenish the Army's stock of supersonic Hellfire missiles for the Apache.

Used by crews in Afghanistan, the precision weapon also proved itself repeatedly during the Libya campaign when personnel flew from the deck of HMS Ocean on missions against Col Gaddafi's forces.

Its successful use in Helmand province and in training has reduced stock levels, meaning an order for further missiles was necessary.

Col Andy Cash, commander of the

Apache force, said: “The Hellfire has undoubtedly saved the lives of British and Afghan soldiers in theatre and played an important role in the air campaign in Libya.

“It is an extremely reliable missile and without doubt the weapon of choice for the pilot and ground force commander.”

Each Apache can carry up to 16 Hellfires that are mounted in sets of four beneath the stub-wing pylons.

It can accelerate at up to 425 metres per second – meaning it takes less than 20 seconds to reach a target at its maximum range of five miles.

Bright horizon for job schemes

PILOT projects that help departing troops find work in civvy street have reported high demand for their services.

The North Yorkshire-based Future Horizons programme, which offers training and work opportunities to those who do not qualify for resettlement assistance, reported a 99 per cent uptake in its first year.

Since it was established a total of 777 troops from the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick have made contact with its staff.

Programme Manager Darren Bickerstaffe said he hoped the positive results would lead to the initiative being adopted elsewhere.

A placement scheme run by Skills for Logistics has also been extended.

Due to end in March, the programme proved so successful that it will now run until August. For more details visit www.logisticsguild.net



SERVICE LOOKS AHEAD

■ A NEW department has been established within Army HQ to assess the impact of future threats and opportunities on land operations.

Known as Army horizon scanning, the capability will consider technological advances, socio-cultural developments and political factors.

CARVERY KINDNESS

■ RESTAURANT group Crown Carveries is supporting this year's Armed Forces Day by offering a free roast dinner or breakfast to all past and present Service personnel between June 24 and 29.

Visit www.crowncarveries.co.uk to download a voucher, which must be presented with military or veteran ID.

GOOD DRILLS

CADETS' CROWNING GLORY

BRITISH officer cadets claimed victory in an international contest held at the US Military Academy at West Point. Two squads from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst saw off competition from 56 teams from across ten countries including the US, Chile, South Korea, Qatar, Australia, Canada, Germany, Brazil and China. The gruelling two-day event involved physical challenges, shooting and military knowledge tests.

AFGHANISTAN-INSPIRED APP

A FORMER soldier has developed a smartphone app to increase understanding of bombs and IEDs. Richard Stevens, who previously trained troops in how to clear routes in Afghanistan as a Royal Engineers warrant officer, has launched the Collective Awareness to Improvised Explosive Devices programme.



CANOPY CATASTROPHE

AN American paratrooper got a shock when his parachute opened accidentally, sucking him out of a military aircraft.

The soldier was on an open ramp at the time but nevertheless managed to land unharmed.



BOMB DETECTOR FRAUD

A MAN who funded a millionaire lifestyle by peddling bogus bomb detectors to countries at war has been jailed for fraud for ten years. James McCormick, 57, of Langport, Somerset, sold the majority of the devices, which were based on novelty golf ball finders, to the Iraqi government in a deal worth almost £50 million. A court heard that the fake kit had probably cost lives by failing to pick up explosives at checkpoints in Baghdad.

BAD DRILLS



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Are they aged 9 - 16 years old?

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The Royal British Legion and Decca Records are looking to give a group of talented young people the opportunity to perform a new song at this year's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in front of The Queen.

In addition, the group will have the opportunity to record a single and shoot a music video – all in aid of The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

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They MUST have a parent or guardian's permission before entering

For more details and full terms and conditions visit
www.poppyappealsingle2013.co.uk



Reg. Charity No. 219279





Picture: Mark Owens and Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

International undertaking: The package saw almost 13,000 troops descend on northern England and Scotland from across Europe

Warriors unite on northern serial

BRITISH troops and their international allies have tested their ability to conduct cooperative missions during the largest military training event in Europe this year.

Exercise Joint Warrior took place in locations across Scotland and northern England and saw almost 13,000 personnel from nine countries rehearsing for operations by land, sea and air.

The biannual serial is designed to examine the way all three UK Services work together and integrate with forces from other nations in areas such as disaster relief, counter-insurgency, anti-piracy and interstate warfare.

Testing procedures at strategic and tactical levels, the package involved air assault and amphibious landings by thousands of ground troops, maritime missions featuring 49 ships and aerial manoeuvres by more than 65 aircraft.

Among the countries to take part were the US, Sweden, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Brazil and Canada.

For soldiers from 16 Air Assault

Brigade and their French counterparts from the 11e Brigade Parachutiste, the serial was an opportunity to further develop their partnership as the Intermediate Combined Joint Expeditionary Force.

Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the French 1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes dropped in to capture Castle Kennedy airfield while a second group secured West Freugh airfield in a helicopter assault.

Escorting the latter attack were Apaches from 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps and Gazelles from the French armed forces.

Crews flew two joint missions under each other's command, taking turns to identify and hit ground targets ahead of an infantry attack.

Maj Piers Lewis, officer commanding 656 Squadron (AAC), said: “This is the first time we have worked

“This has put us in a good place if we are called on to do a joint operation”

alongside French Gazelles and to fly side-by-side and exchange targets between us on our first attempt at joint operations is a fantastic achievement.

“There's a natural affinity between pilots and we speak the same vocabulary in the air, which has really enabled us to work together fluently.

“This has put us in a good place if we are called on to do a joint operation.”

Medics from both brigades were also put through their paces.

A key task saw personnel from 16 Medical Regiment provide life-saving treatment to a mock casualty.

A French Puma helicopter evacuated the soldier to 22 Field Hospital, which had deployed for the first time in an air-portable format to simulate how it would set up a medical station close to operations, such as in a neighbouring friendly country.

French officer Maj Sami Saliba said working alongside British medical units had been “excellent”.

“We have been able to build familiarity with each other's kit and procedures and identify how we can work together more closely,” added the doctor.

Col Jacko Jackson, Deputy Commander 16 Air Assault Brigade, said Joint Warrior had enabled the Air Assault Task Force to show it was capable of successfully functioning in an uncertain world.

“We are held in very high readiness so as to be able to conduct forcible theatre entry worldwide at short notice,” explained the officer.

“With our sister French brigade we have quickly developed a credible and progressively validated capability. We share common values and purpose.”



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Battlefield expertise: Resus South West employees share their first aid skills with clients

Business booms for Reserves

AN Army medic has used his military expertise to establish a thriving firm staffed by several colleagues from his unit.

Cpl Marc Luscombe (RAMC) set up first aid company Resus South West on his return from Afghanistan, where he served in a force protection role alongside the Medical Emergency Response Team.

Drawing on techniques the Serviceman learnt during Op Herrick and over nine years as a Reservist, the Plymouth-based business has now become a leading provider of medical training in the South West.

"I realised that many of the skills that are so valued in the Armed Forces were exactly what were needed to set up my own company," explained Cpl Luscombe, who is attached to 6th Battalion, The Rifles.

"Qualities like good communication, leadership and a strong work ethic are exactly what are required.

"Combine that with technical knowledge, practical medical experience and a huge pool of like-minded people and you have all the conditions for the strong foundation of a business."

Resus South West currently employs six members of 6 Rifles and around the same number of veterans.

Among the high-profile customers paying to take advantage of the firm's military know-how are McDonald's and the Salvation Army.

"With the skills to provide medical cover at military exercises, it seemed only natural for us to expand into first aid provision for public occasions as well," added Lt Andrew Pooley (6 Rifles, above left), the company's events manager.

"It is made so much easier knowing the staff are knowledgeable, calm in stressful situations, smart, friendly and willing to muck in and work hard.

"We now attend several sporting events and festivals across the south west and are expanding all the time."

Employee incentive extended

SMALL firms are to receive extra cash to encourage them to employ part-time soldiers.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said the bonuses would form part of a range of measures to be detailed in the government's forthcoming white paper on reforming the Territorial Army.

Speaking on the BBC's *Sunday Politics* programme, Mr Hammond explained that while larger companies hired volunteers as part of their corporate social

responsibility, smaller businesses found it harder to lose staff to military commitments.

"I would like to look at financial incentivisation for those employers for whom it matters," he said.

"It means cash when their employees get called out on Reserve service."

Mr Hammond added the amount was likely to be in the "hundreds".

"By the time we publish the white paper we will have a concrete offer on the table," he revealed.



SERVICES SHOWDOWN

■ ARMED Forces volunteers from across the world travelled to the UK last month to test themselves in an annual military skills competition.

Exercise Altcar Challenge saw Reservists from the three home Services take on their military counterparts from Poland, the Netherlands, Estonia, France, Germany and South Africa.

A total of 46 teams of four soldiers took part in the event, which was staged in the coastal dunes of Merseyside.

The volunteers faced a variety of tests including an assault course, a vehicle-winch exercise, march and shoot skills, vehicle checkpoint drills, mine clearance techniques and combat medical assistance procedures.



Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

TEN TORS TRIUMPH

■ RESERVISTS from the South West have taken part in one of the biggest civil contingency exercises in Britain.

More than 1,000 military personnel from all three Services were deployed in support of Ten Tors, a youth challenge held annually on Dartmoor.

Despite poor weather, some 2,700 youngsters tackled the event, which saw them trek unaided over 35, 45 or 55 miles of tough terrain, carrying all their food, water, bedding, tents and other essentials as they travelled.

Teams remained entirely self-sufficient during the expedition, including navigating their route and camping overnight on the moor.

Dubbed Exercise Wyvern Tor, the Army-led support mission is an opportunity for the military to practise its emergency contingency responsibilities with civilian agencies.



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Large pavings will be dedicated to Corps and Regiments (main image) but the smaller stones are available to be engraved with the name of someone who has served and who you wish to honour.

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IN MEMORIAM



CPL WILLIAM SAVAGE (30)
2ND BATTALION,
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND
KIA APRIL 30 – AFGHANISTAN

THE commander of Task Force Helmand has spoken of the “great blow” to his troops following the death of three British soldiers in a vehicle explosion in southern Afghanistan.

Cpl William Savage, Fus Samuel Flint and Pte Robert Hetherington, all of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, died of injuries sustained when their Mastiff armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand.

“The loss of these three brave Scottish soldiers comes as a great blow to everyone in the task force but leaves us all the more determined in our mission to do justice to their memory,” Brig Rupert Jones commented.

Cpl Savage joined 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers in November 2003 before deploying to Iraq in 2004 and serving on two tours of Afghanistan in 2008 and 2010 with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The 30-year-old deployed on Op Herrick 18 as commander of 3 Section, 1 Platoon in a district enabling company based at FOB Ouellette.

Lt Col Robin Lindsay, commanding officer of 2 Scots, said: “We will remember Cpl Savage as an exceptional soldier, a dedicated leader and a gentleman in the truest sense of the word.

“He was a classic example of a Scottish infantryman; robust, committed and blessed with a fine line in banter.”

Reflecting on the keen sportsman – who was also a talented kayak instructor – Fus James O’Brien (2 Scots) added: “Cpl Savage had some amazing advice which helped me so much and made me a better person and I will always be grateful for the time we spent together out in the desert, in camp or on courses.

“I will never forget him or the time we had together; he was the perfect man.”

Cpl Savage leaves behind his wife, Lyndsey, who is expecting their first child.

In a statement his spouse commented: “I am completely devastated by this news but extremely proud of ‘Sav’ and everything that he has achieved.”

“I have lost the love of my life and the father of our son.”

Fus Flint joined 2 Scots in June last year and deployed to southern Afghanistan as part of 3 Section, 1 Platoon.

Maj Stephen Dallard, officer commanding B Company, said: “A gregarious character, Fus Flint was often found to be at the centre of a prank and

had the ability to make people laugh at any time with his keen sense of humour.

“He was the epitome of the selfless commitment and dedication that is expected of our young soldiers today.”

A statement from the family of the 21-year-old said: “Sam loved his job and made his whole family and everyone that knew him very proud.

“He was always the life and soul of the party; a real ladies’ man, witty, funny and a cheeky chappy as well.”

Fus Flint was a motorsport enthusiast who enjoyed spending any spare time at home in Blackpool or with friends in Edinburgh.

Remembering the avid Manchester City fan, Lt Robin Hold (2 Scots) commented: “He intended to make a career in the British Army and I have no doubt that his acute sense of judgement, determination and willingness to involve himself in every aspect of Service life would have ensured the greatest of successes.”

Pte Hetherington was born in the United States but raised and educated in Scotland, where he achieved a bachelor of science degree in environmental geography.

While at university he became heavily involved in the Officer Training Corps, which spurred him on to join the Territorial Army in October 2006.

On tour the 25-year-old served as a rifleman in 1 Section, 1 Platoon – part of the First Fusiliers Battlegroup – and outside of the military he represented Scotland at lacrosse.

“Pte Hetherington epitomised everything that is excellent about the Reserve Forces,” Lt Col Lindsay said.

“He was never daunted by complex situations and was praised by his chain of command for his impressive performance throughout the battalion’s build-up training.

“Pte Hetherington aspired to complete the commissioning course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and I have no doubt that he would have excelled.”

“Our best wishes and thoughts are with his family, especially his parents, at this most difficult of times.”

WO2 Stevie Main (2 Scots) added: “Pte Hetherington was a Reservist of pure quality.

“Very confident with outstanding ability and enthusiastic in everything he did, his willingness to learn was second to none.”

“It was a pleasure to have him in my company.”



FUS SAMUEL FLINT (21)
2ND BATTALION,
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND
KIA APRIL 30 – AFGHANISTAN



PTE ROBERT HETHERINGTON (25)
7TH BATTALION,
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND
KIA APRIL 30 – AFGHANISTAN

TWO soldiers who were killed during the First World War have been re-interred in a military cemetery in France almost 100 years after they fell in battle.

Lt John Harold Pritchard and Pte Christopher Douglas Elphick of 2nd Battalion, The Honourable Artillery Company died during an enemy attack in Bullecourt in 1917.

Their remains were discovered by a farmer in a nearby field in 2009.

They were buried with full military honours in the HAC cemetery at Ecoust St Mein.

The service was attended by Prince Michael of Kent, the regiment’s royal honorary colonel, and some of the soldiers’ living relatives who were traced through the personal effects found on the bodies.

Among them was Martin Elphick, Pte Elphick’s grandson.

“We were never expecting him to be found, so coming here has brought back a lot of emotions and sadness that my grandmother and father aren’t here to feel the honour that is being given to my grandfather,” he commented.





“FOR EUROPEAN ARMIES TO BE ABLE TO OPERATE ALONGSIDE THESE VETERANS OF HELMAND WITH THEIR QUALITY AND CAPABILITY WILL BE OF HUGE VALUE”

— BRITISH TROOPS GO BACK TO BOSNIA TO SHARE EXPERTISE, PAGES 33-35

Warrant officers take it to the top

TROOPS from all three Services have taken their latest opportunity to tell the head of the Armed Forces about the concerns of front-line personnel.

Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir David Richards, hosted his fourth meeting with senior non-commissioned ranks at MoD Main Building in London.

On the agenda were topics such as the new employment model, training, rebasing and accommodation, as well as pay, pensions and allowances.

Among those attending was WO1 Chris Burrows (2 Para), who said the forum meant Gen Richards could compare the views of his senior staff to those of “boys and girls in the barrack rooms”.

“What we tell him aren’t our personal opinions,” he added.

“It’s not staffed by the chain of command or diluted by any one stars, it’s how the lads and lasses really feel.”

Describing the rationale behind the discussions, Gen Richards said: “They are a unique opportunity to get the raw detail on the current issues which are causing our people most angst in the here and now.”

WO1 Alistair McGill (RM) explained that each Service representative would pass feedback on to their colleagues.

“They have questions and want to know the answers,” said the corps regimental sergeant major.

“This meeting allows us to respond and means we can say ‘this is from CDS’. It really doesn’t get any better than that.”



RESCUE EFFORT PRAISE

BRITISH troops have been thanked for helping farmers in Northern Ireland during March’s severe weather.

Military helicopters were used to get much-needed food supplies to livestock cut off by deep snow.

In a statement, Sinn Fein Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Michelle O’Neill said the support had been “fantastic”.

“I am grateful to the MoD and the Irish Air Corps,” the politician added.



...Tickets to watch Travis and the Happy Mondays

THE answer to last month’s spine lines competition was a little tricky, we admit.

Inspired by our feature on Gurkha soldiers hitting Australia’s searing outback, (Quentin) Bryce, (Leneen) Forde, (Col Sir Henry Abel) Smith and (the current Penelope) Wensley have all held the important political title of governor of Queensland.

This month we have teamed up with Sandown Park (www.sandown.co.uk) to offer two readers the chance to enjoy an evening of top music along with three guests of their choice.

Brit Award-winning Scottish act Travis (pictured above left) will perform at the Surrey-based racecourse on July 24 and we have got our hands on four passes to see the show.

For those who prefer their music with a distinctly Mancunian flavour, we have a set of tickets to see rock sensations Happy Mondays the following week on July 31.

To be in with a chance of winning, tell us what links the words on the side of this issue. Send your answers, preferred concert and postal address to the usual place or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by June 21.

LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

SWAG	FORCE FOR GOOD	QUIDS IN
£10,000	<p>CASH FOR THE CROSS</p> <p>Cadets and instructors from Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force (The Rifles) joined forces with the local council to restore Tewkesbury’s war memorial. The rods supporting the stone cross had corroded but thanks to the youngsters’ fund-raising efforts the monument can now be repaired in time for the 100th anniversary of the First World War in 2014.</p>	Tewkesbury Town Council Memorial Fund
£2,445	<p>CANOEING CAPTAINS</p> <p>Two officers from The Rifles completed the gruelling Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race to raise funds for wounded comrades. Capts Richard Huish and Max Goldsmith had just returned from Afghanistan when they paddled the 125-mile course, which they described as a “severe test of stamina and skill”.</p>	Care for Casualties
£700	<p>FOOTBALL FUNDING KICK</p> <p>Members of 251 Signal Squadron staged a 24-hour football match to raise money for the Defence Medical Welfare Service after it provided support to their colleague while he was a patient at Frimley Park Hospital. “We were delighted to be able to do something in return as recognition for the wonderful work they do,” said event organiser Capt Tom Collins.</p>	Defence Medical Welfare Service

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF YOUR ARMED FORCES PENSION?



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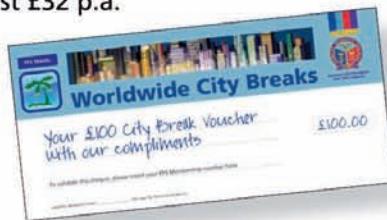


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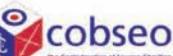


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THE BIGGER PICTURE

ROY Hodgson steered his FA Legends team to a 4-2 victory over Stuart Pearce's Army XI in a match to celebrate 125 years of Army football. The showpiece featured the likes of Gary Neville, Gareth Southgate (pictured), Matt Le Tissier and Paul Merson and raised funds for The Royal British Legion and the Team Army Sports Foundation.

Picture: Graeme Main







WITH widespread changes coming into force across the British Army, it has never been more important for the chain of command to discover what issues are affecting personnel. Following feedback from the ranks via his briefing team, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, addresses the latest woes of UK warriors...

“THE standard of cleanliness of Service families accommodation is not good enough, particularly where contractors are concerned. A lack of Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) housing officers is causing us long delays in property handovers.”

CGS says...

“SERVICE families accommodation is a major source of comment both to the Army Families Federation and my briefing team. We are in continued contact with DIO to ensure that service improves.”

“SERVING in Germany has become less attractive because of cuts to the local overseas allowance and travel subsidies. Surely it is going to become harder to access the services we need over there.”

CGS says...

“WE have added back the get you home (overseas) allowance in light of people's concerns. We must sustain quality of life and support to families until they depart.”

“SOME of us are living in sub-standard transit housing rather than the modernised single living accommodation. Those of us in temporary facilities want to be able to cook for ourselves.”

CGS says...

“SINGLE living accommodation modernisation is being rolled out but not as fast or as widely as I would like. There will continue to be a disparity between the best and worst housing.”

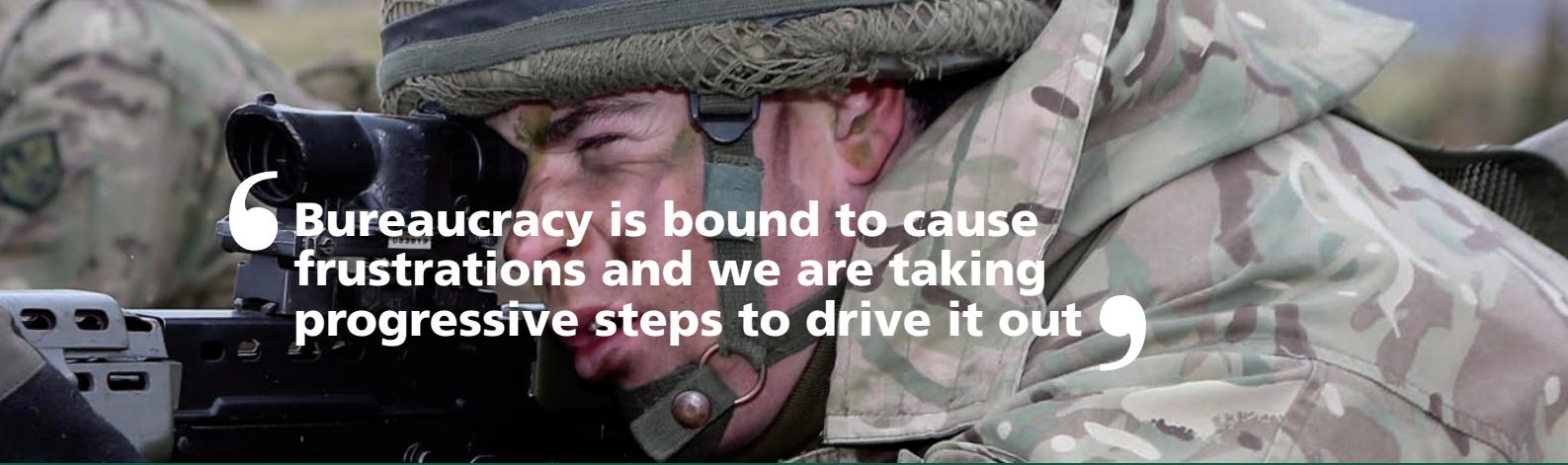
“FEW Regular soldiers are interested in transferring to the TA and for those who do, the process is still too difficult. Medical forms and occupational health processes are causing unnecessary delay and we are worried that recruiting efforts will break down.”

CGS says...

“REGULAR-Reservists will be vital to the future Army Reserve and there will be financial incentives to attract them. Procedures for transfer are being streamlined.”



GRIPES FROM TOP SOLDIER RESPONDS TO LEADING



6

Bureaucracy is bound to cause frustrations and we are taking progressive steps to drive it out

99

“**ELECTRONIC** working practices are stifling our productivity. We are worried about bypassing the chain of command by using forums and blogs on the Army Knowledge Exchange (AKX). Staff branches are not using them well to communicate issues either.”

CGS says...

“**ELECTRONIC** working and the AKX are important opportunities. I accept that our use of them is still maturing.”

“**TROOPS** are being weighed down by unnecessary bureaucracy. Letters of delegation can take months and it's very annoying that DIO charges us to use some facilities.”

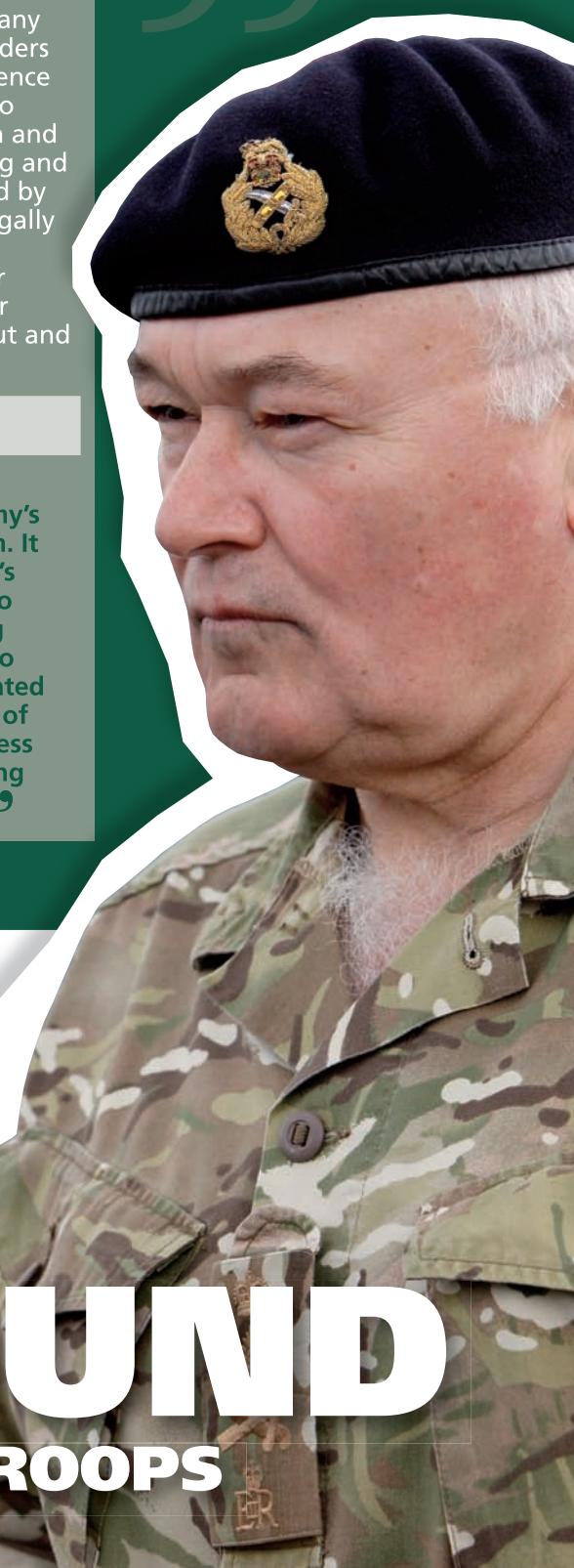
CGS says...

“**BUREAUCRACY** is bound to cause frustrations and we are taking progressive steps to drive it out. This is taking some time. Let's make sure we aren't creating any more over-elaborate procedures.”

“**ALTHOUGH** happy with overseas exercises, it is difficult to train at the lowest level. Many junior commanders lack the confidence and resources to conduct section and platoon training and feel constrained by having to be legally competent and accountable for packages rather than getting out and doing it.”

CGS says...

“**TRAINING** is vital to the Army's professionalism. It is every soldier's responsibility to exploit training opportunities to the full. Calculated risks are a part of command, no less so in the training environment.”



THE GROUND

CONCERN OF SERVING TROOPS

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Reclaims UK presenting the Winner's Trophy of the 'Reclaims UK Helping Soldiers Novice Hurdle' at the Royal Artillery Gold Cup Day

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Reclaims UK is also committed to helping Forces personnel with free debt advice if you are struggling to meet your monthly payments. New legislation is in place to freeze rising debt so give us a call now to find out more.

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Reclaims UK is a small family-run business that can guarantee you will only ever speak to one person throughout your claim. There is no waiting around listening to annoying hold music and being passed from pillar to post. You will also be given a direct mobile number so that you can contact the personal claims handler at any time. As we appreciate the busy lifestyle of Service personnel we offer a 24-hour service for anyone who is currently on tour.

Reclaims UK has visited several UK and Germany based regiments in the last 12 months and our campaign to raise awareness of mis-sold PPI and claim back money for soldiers has been an ever growing success. If you feel that you or someone you may know have paid PPI, please get in touch today. You can call our freephone number, email or fill out an online contact form. It's a hassle-free process that can only benefit you. This is the biggest financial scandal in history and we are here to help.

Reclaims UK has helped claim back over £800,000 for British Armed Forces. There are still thousands of personnel out there that do not know they have PPI and could be entitled to thousands of pounds in repayments and compensation. Call Reclaims UK today to see if you have a claim.

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YOUR CLAIM IN THE SAFEST HANDS



MISSION MEMOIRS

UNEDITED
DIARIES FROM
THE BATTLEFIELD
TELL THE TRUTH
BEHIND OP
HERRICK

EXTRACT

Ian Thornton
March 23, 2012

THE Chinooks came in and before long we were lifted out of PB Clifton, with the boys cheering and high-fiving one another, for one last time. Eventually we landed at Bastion, and the realisation we were bringing everyone home dawned. I went up to Coops and said 'we did it Coops', and he just nodded and replied 'we did it boss'.

Interview: Joe Clapson

It is often the simple facts and nuggets of nuanced description, rather than Hollywood-style hyperbole, which give the most accurate accounts of history.

And for a clear understanding of how Op Herrick has impacted on the lives of Service personnel, their families and Afghanistan as a nation, the vivid and frank depiction of the conflict in unedited troops' diaries represents a valuable source.

Such vital information, at times shocking and at others mundane, was jotted down by 22-year-old Royal Marine Lt John Thornton during his tour of Helmand province five years ago.

His last entry, which stated "nothing on patrols-wise, just tanning and fizz", came on March 19, 2008. Thirteen days later he was killed in an explosion.

Now the inspirational officer's journal has been published in *Helmand: Diaries of Front-Line Soldiers*, alongside the words of his brother Capt Ian Thornton (1 PWRR), who deployed to the war zone three years after his sibling died there.

Speaking exclusively to *Soldier*, the officer and his parents explained that rather than a gung-ho story of explosions and adrenalin-fuelled shootouts, the book "tells it as it is".

"It's not ghost-written, it's as it was," said proud mum Linda, sitting in a living room filled with photographs of her sons.

Standing by her side, perusing the paperback's pages, father Pete added: "Between the diaries we get a chance to see the progress that's been made in Afghanistan."

"It's actually a full historical document completely from the front line."

The journals of the brothers are combined with the musings of other troops in Helmand province and were never intended as pages for public consumption.

On receiving John's personal possessions, the family first thought of releasing the Marine's account via extracts in a newspaper to "keep his spirit alive" but from that initial idea the wider-ranging book was born.

"Initially I couldn't read it but then I went through it in bits and as I typed it up I actually enjoyed it and it's a comfort to have," explained Linda. "When you're at home you don't really think about the boring stuff and all the funny things that happen on tour."

"It's strange, we were actually more worried when he was in Iraq than Afghanistan because it seemed more dangerous from what we had heard and seen on the news."

The volume was written on the battlefield so dramatic details of Taliban attacks and tales of remarkable courage are featured, not for effect but because that is what happened.

However, it is the throwaway lines, such as Ian's "had a cigarette (my first of tour)" dated November 20, 2011 in the wake of Pte Tom Lake's (1 PWRR) death, that puts the different experiences of British Armed Forces personnel into perspective.

On December 8, 2007, John wrote: "Called my mum and discovered I had made the national press with Tangye the dog. A cigar, a hot wet, start the new Sharpe *Trafalgar* and then hopefully get a phone call to Ian, who I'm hanging out to speak to, which in civvy speak means that I miss the little scrot."

Small insertions such as that make the book an important educational tool, according to Mr and Mrs Thornton.

"From their writing we can see how important the short phone calls are and that it is very much a two-way process, that helps both sides," said Linda.

"I probably didn't realise how much a short chat or a parcel might make a difference to the lads," reflected Pete.

From the side of the soldier, Capt Thornton confirmed what the book spells out. "It's just nice to know people are thinking about you," he said.

A message that comes through clearly from the diaries of both brothers – and one that may surprise those on civvy street – is of fear.

This feeling does not stem from taking on insurgents in dangerous territory, but from leaving their loved ones worried at home.

"We both recognised that it's harder for the people left behind than those out on operations," said the officer, who is now a troop commander at Winchester.

"Guilt about being away and fear for those at home played a big part for me, especially knowing what would happen to my family after what happened to John."

"I think it will be nice for the loved ones of soldiers to be able to read the book because hopefully it gives a sense that we're not in constant danger and we do get to relax and enjoy ourselves."

The Thorntons hope the text can provide awareness to troops' nearest and dearest about what deploying on operations means.

Linda said: "There are lots of moments in the diaries which are poignant, especially in Ian's part which sounds just like John."

"It's very moving, particularly when Ian says to his mate Coops that they had 'done it' at the end of their tour. You really feel the emotion coming through there."

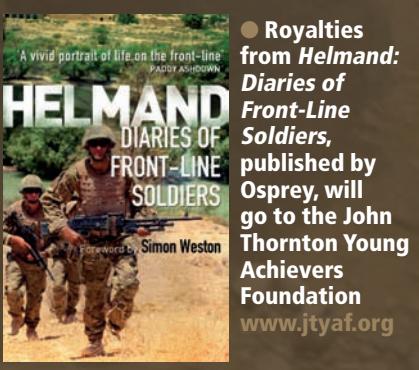
Her husband added: "It's the reality that jumps out from the pages which brings it to life; the little things that humanise it, that is what resonates the most."

"Instead of being full of bangs and explosions it's the bits like John talking about playing Risk with the commanders and poker with the lads that strike a chord."

From conducting patrols on IED-riddled routes and training Afghan forces to enjoying banter with colleagues or a phone call home, these diaries tell a very real story of the operation in Helmand province over the last ten years.

"Reading Ian's diary after John's gives you the impression that being in Afghanistan has been worth it," remarked one humbled father. ■

I PROBABLY DIDN'T REALISE HOW MUCH A SHORT CHAT OR PARCEL MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LADS!



Royalties from *Helmand: Diaries of Front-Line Soldiers*, published by Osprey, will go to the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation www.jtyaf.org

Book reviews – pages 72-73

EXPLOSIVE EXPERTS

EUROPE'S BIGGEST AMMUNITION STORE PREPARES TO RECEIVE AFGHANISTAN ITEMS

REPORT: JOE CLAPSON

PICTURES: STEVE DOCK

THE fact that a mass grave dating back to the first English Civil War lies beneath the village of Temple Herdewyke is common knowledge among many visitors to the rolling Warwickshire countryside.

But what may be more surprising to those passing through this peaceful region is that it is also home to the largest ammunition depot in Europe.

Defence Munitions Kineton is located on the site of the 1642 Battle of Edgehill and is one of eight such facilities supporting exercises and operations around the world.

Today, 60 per cent of the Ministry of Defence's stock of armaments is kept at high readiness within the remarkably secure station, which sprawls over 2,500 acres.

With Op Herrick scheduled to be complete by the end of next year, the base and its 250 military and civilian staff are already preparing to deal with unused ammunition from Helmand province.

Lt Col Simon Hirst, commanding officer of the Ammunition Technical Support Group (ATSG) and head of the Warwickshire site, explained: "DM Kineton's mission is to receive, store, maintain and issue munitions to the Armed Forces.

"We don't know the exact number of items from Herrick that we'll be working on yet but it will be a considerable amount and the bulk of it will be dealt with by the end of 2014."

He added: "Most people know Kineton for the counter-IED training that takes place here but there is a lot more going on than that.

"Our role behind the scenes in dealing with large quantities of ammunition is enduring."

Since its creation in 1942 the depot has supported most operations including Afghanistan and Libya, during which time its staff have worked around the clock to ensure that stock arrived with its requestors in a matter of hours.

So far, the amount of bombs, bullets, grenades and other articles to have been sent from Kineton to troops fighting the Taliban stands at several thousands of tonnes.

"It's a complex operation because we have 820 different sorts of weapons, from a .2-inch round to a Paveway IV missile," added the senior officer.

"And we don't just deal with Army ammunition, we store, receive and distribute to all three Services."

A team of ATSG technicians and suppliers are currently busy on the ground in



A DEMOLITION TEAM PREPARE AN 81MM MORTAR FOR DISPOSAL AT DM KINETON

Afghanistan helping to dispose of items that cannot be reconditioned.

While this takes place, their colleagues at DM Kineton are playing an integral role in the complex logistics mission of transporting goods back to the Midlands site.

"Our personnel are sent to Helmand province on a regular basis to help conduct demolition surges and inspect returned ammunition from forward operating bases," said Lt Col Hirst. "It is a big challenge but our troops are ready for it and well trained, and it's fundamental to the success of people out on operations."

Maj Pete Patrick (RLC), officer commanding 121 Ammunition Squadron, ATSG, explained: "The troops in theatre work on similar tasks to those at Kineton but the jobs are just being done on the ground rather than at home.

"Items that are of higher value, such as guided weapons, will be sent back while smaller munitions like rifle rounds will be safely disposed of."

Most ammunition that is returned from

taskings with the Field Army will arrive at DM Kineton by road or its own private train spur, which links to the main rail network via the Stratford-upon-Avon line, before being inspected and made safe for storage.

But although drawdown is at the forefront of many minds, there can be no let-up in the effectiveness of delivering new stock to those who require it on Op Herrick and contingency mission preparations elsewhere.

Boarding one of the site's locomotives for a trip along the 28-mile track, *Soldier* witnessed crates being readied for shipping to the front line.

Overseeing the loads was Sgt Gary Joyce (RLC).

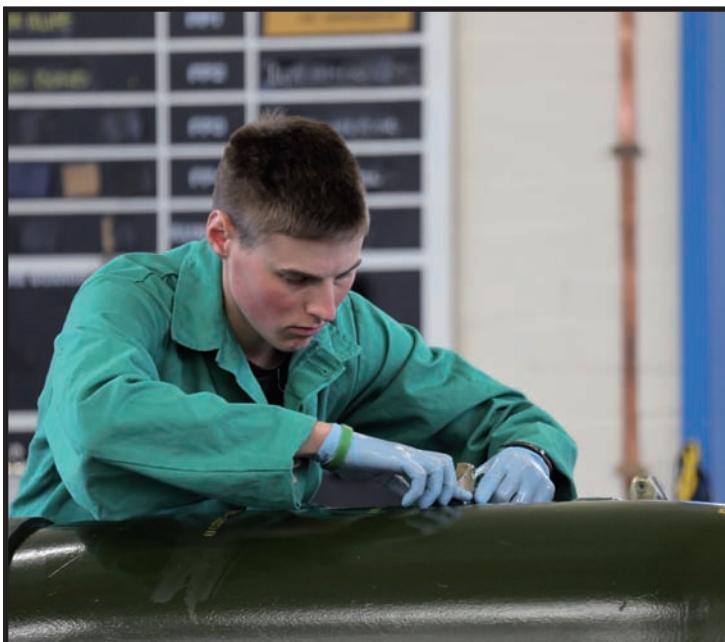
"We receive ammo, select items for operational issues and collate it for transport," he explained.

"There might be an urgent telephone call from theatre requesting ammunition and we could have it packed and out there within a 24-hour timeframe."

Taking time out from nailing a cargo box in place, LCpl Seru Niubasaga (RLC) added: "Once we have loaded and sent out materials, we track them through our



LEFT, ON TRACK: A DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE IS USED TO TRANSPORT HEAVY LOADS. RIGHT, CRATE JOB: A MEMBER OF THE DEPOT TROOP MOVES AND SECURES 155MM ILLUMINATING ROUNDS BOUND FOR GERMANY



ABOVE AND LEFT, TAKING STOCK: LCPL MICHELLE MCCREAVEY CHECKS A BOMB CASING FOR ANY SIGNS OF INTERNAL DAMAGE AND LCPL ALEX NAYLOR CAREFULLY INSPECTS A 100LB WEAPON

computer system wherever they go between here and southern Afghanistan.

"If there are any problems we are the first to know because without ammunition the Army can't do anything."

Further along the private railway tracks, the other side of the defence munitions operation deals with the controlled explosion of material marked for disposal.

A hefty bang and plume of smoke signals the successful and safe detonation of an 81mm mortar round.

Overseeing the task, Sgt Ed Clinton (RLC) said: "The procedures here are just the same as for ordnance disposal, which is the career path lots of the lads involved will follow, so it's very useful to them.

"This is the smallest scale explosion they can conduct but the principles learnt here will be taken out on operations."

Anything that lands at DM Kineton's door passes through meticulous checks before a decision is made on whether it should be stored or destroyed.

Such tests take place in the ammunition processing buildings, inhabited by personnel whose hushed tones belie the nature of their various responsibilities.

If fit for storage, items are taken to one of the site's 239 bizarre-looking earth-covered igloos or a surface explosive storehouse.

Chris Spark, a civilian technician in charge

of an ammunition processing building, explained: "We're currently working on some 1,000lb bombs, which are certainly the most explosive items on our books.

"Ammunition put into storage remains there until requested and some items inside our walls easily date back to the Second World War.

"It's a massive data-entry task to collate the exact details of everything but it is a vital job for the Army."

On a site that houses some of the most destructive materials ever created, to say those in charge of health and safety have a significant role to play would be an understatement.

Capt Dougie Searle (RLC), who works in the centre's integrated safety cell, said: "If health and safety rules need to be applied anywhere, it's at this place.

"If you drop a pallet here there will be a major problem.

"Clearly, smoking on-site is a massive no-no which brings a severe punishment, as does carrying a mobile phone because

electronically-triggered explosives could be set off. We do have almost archaic rules but without them lives could be in danger."

Over the coming months, DM Kineton's specialist personnel will play a crucial role in the Afghan drawdown and ensuring that important weapons are properly preserved for future use.

"Not many people realise what it takes for ammunition to arrive safely from the factory box into operational theatres and then back again," admitted LCpl Michael Boxall (RLC), from the integrated safety cell. "Essentially we make sure that happens."

Lt Col Hirst added: "You cannot compare our work to that of infantrymen fighting on the front line but the job is still vital."

The men and women of the defence munitions community provide a 24/7 service to ensure their comrades are sent to Afghanistan fully loaded with ammunition.

Now they relish the equally mighty task of ensuring that the country's desert is left free from British bullets. ■

NOT MANY PEOPLE REALISE WHAT IT TAKES FOR AMMUNITION TO GET SAFELY FROM THE FACTORY BOX INTO THEATRE AND THEN BACK AGAIN ▶

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Back to the Balkans

British troops return to Bosnia and Herzegovina for peace support exercise

Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock

TWENTY years after UK personnel first deployed to Bosnia as part of the United Nations Protection Force, members of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards have taken part in a multinational peacekeeping serial near the capital Sarajevo.

Some 85 soldiers from Number 1 Company travelled to the country to rehearse their potential call-up as one of the intermediate reserve units of the European Military Force (Eufor).

Restructured in 2012 as a result of improving security in the region, the formation's primary role is to build the capacity of the Bosnian armed forces.

A 600-strong contingent is based permanently in theatre, with 600 additional troops held on standby in six EU nations to react to potential unrest.

Exercise Quick Response was the first test of the emergency troop surge and saw the guardsmen training alongside their counterparts from the Austrian, Turkish and Hungarian armies.

Commander of No 1 Coy, Maj Tom Oakley, explained that because his soldiers were already part of the UK Operations Battalion, they were well prepared for the European mission.

"We were committed to British contingency ops last June and that has an

element of public order and disaster relief so a lot of the tasks overlap with the job here," the officer said.

"We also had the equipment and the vehicles so it seemed an obvious choice that we should take on this role.

"This serial is a good opportunity to do something different and there seems to be a real appetite among the countries to do multinational operations, which is encouraging.

"Given the way the British Army is going in the future, exercises like this will become more common so this provides a good test bed for us, for Eufor and for the Service as a whole."

For Gdsm Warren Myles, one of the Irish Guards' newest members, the prospect of similar missions in the years to come was welcome news.

"It's a great experience working with different nations and seeing how their armies roll," said the 18-year-old.

"We've been doing riot control and fighting in built-up areas, as well as vehicle checkpoints and rehearsing different scenarios.

"Everyone has their different approaches and perspectives so it's a good way to learn."

The final phase of the training exercise culminated in an assault on a collection of buildings, with each nation responsible for a separate objective. >

>> Along with the obvious language barrier, one of the main challenges to integration was the distinctive operating procedures of each army.

"We're completely different forces," said 31-year-old Sgt Andy Devlin.

"The pace is slower than we are used to and they think of us as being too aggressive, while we would just class that as being firm.

"We've done it for years on all the tours we've been on and it's worked.

"But everyone has stayed professional and has put 100 per cent into the tasks they've been given."

Collectively known as the Eufor Multinational Battalion, the standby formations and two companies permanently stationed in Bosnia are commanded by Lt Col Alfred Steingressz of the Austrian Army.

Speaking after a crowd control demonstration to show how the international elements would conduct a joint operation, the officer said he was impressed by the way the troops had pulled together.

"I was confident that the challenges could be overcome," he added.

"At company level the units function a little differently but they can cooperate very well, especially at battalion level.

"The biggest hurdle during the exercise phase was communications because of the language but, as we demonstrated, if the orders are clear then it works, regardless of which companies are involved in the task."

Having witnessed the display, operation commander Gen Sir Richard Shirreff said it was clear what all sides would gain from the package.

"Functioning successfully in any multinational environment is an enriching experience from a military perspective," he explained.

"The Irish Guards will pick up tactics, tricks and procedures from the other forces but I have to say I think most of the learning effect will probably go in the other direction.

"For European armies to be able to operate alongside these veterans of Helmand with their quality and capability will be of huge value."

The senior officer was also in no doubt as to the long-term benefit of such serials as the mission in Afghanistan begins to draw down.

"Security is not only about being able to respond to the unexpected in a contingent capability but about reaching out to parts of the world that are inherently unstable in order to try and prevent a problem becoming a crisis," he commented.

"This kind of exercise is genuine conflict and crisis prevention and that is what the British Army is so well-suited to deal with.

"It's the sort of thing we'll be doing in Afghanistan post 2014 and I can see it applying across other parts of the world as well." ■



Above and below, Euro exchange: Members of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards during Exercise Quick Response as the UK's Intermediate Response Company of the Eufor Multinational Battalion. **Inset right:** Soldiers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers provide the Sarajevo security force for the Balkans security summit in 1999 Picture: Mike Weston

IN AT THE DEEP END

A GROUP of guardsmen on Exercise Quick Response were only hours out of phase two training when they found themselves en route to Bosnia. They told Soldier what they made of the experience...

Gdsm Adam Swan, 19

"WE passed off the parade square at 1600 on the Friday, moved to battalion at 1800 and at 0300 on the Sunday we were on our way to the airport to come here. I joined up to see the world and you can't get a better opportunity than this. I was told I'd see places I had never been to before and it's already happened. Training builds you up to be ready for anything and I feel well prepared for any role." ■





EUFOR: THE FACTS

- Nato handed over its peacekeeping mission to the 7,000-strong European Union force in 2004, nine years after the war in the Western Balkans ended. Personnel were split between three main locations, Tuzla, Banja-Luka and Mostar, with the headquarters in Sarajevo
- In 2007 the security situation had improved sufficiently to allow troop levels to be reduced to 1,600
- Further restructuring in 2012 decreased this strength to a multinational battalion of 600 soldiers based permanently in Bosnia, with an additional 600 held at readiness in six contributing countries
- The EU mission is named Operation Althea, after the Greek goddess of healing. The British contribution is known as Op Elgin
- While neighbouring Croatia will join the EU this summer and Serbia and Kosovo have reached an accord that should make accession talks possible, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains politically stagnant. Considerable reforms are necessary before the country can join



Gdsm Aaron Ramsey, 21

“ COMING out here straight away was better than staying in camp because we've got to know how the company works a lot more quickly. It was straight into big boys' rules. This exercise is to try and find out if we could be deployed as a multinational battlegroup in the future and it seems to be going well, although there is a learning curve for both sides. ”



Gdsm Anthony McAvoy, 23

“ EXPERIENCES like this are always going to improve you as a soldier in the long run. I feel like I have a good understanding of why we are here. I remember seeing it on the news even though I was only very young. To be honest I'd always thought it was somewhere I'd never want to go but it's been nice to come here. I expected a lot more scars from the war. There are a few but it's a bustling place. ”



Gdsm Jonny Spence, 18

“ THIS is my first time abroad and I've been on top cover during the convoys so I got to see everything. It's been good to get to know the lads and it's positive to work with other nations – you get to see what they do differently. ”





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Tidworth:	02 - 13 Sept 13	Kinloss:	09 - 20 Sept 13
Hohne:	23 Sept - 04 Oct 13	Cyprus:	30 Sept - 11 Oct 13
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Paderborn:	11 - 15 Nov 13	Didcot:	13 - 17 Jan 14
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Defeat the disease

AN OFFICER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE OF CONQUERING TESTICULAR CANCER...

Interview: Joe Clapson

ASERVICEMAN who survived one of the most dreaded illnesses among the male population is urging his colleagues to face up to their fears by visiting a doctor.

Capt Ben Woollan (R Signals, pictured below) was diagnosed with testicular cancer in March 2010 and has been in remission for three years.

However, the officer now admits he was slow to accept there was a problem.

"While on a six-week attachment in Germany I felt a lump and didn't think anything of it so ignored it – I knew something was there but I was in denial," the 26-year-old explained.

"It wasn't until my girlfriend said 'you've got a lump, you really need to see a doctor' that I actually went to get checked out."

Like many others in his situation, the soldier did not relish the thought of baring all to a stranger.

"Going to your GP and pulling your trousers down is not something you enjoy doing but it's nothing to be ashamed or embarrassed about," Capt Woollan commented.

"Doctors have literally seen it all before and going through a bit of awkwardness is certainly better than failing to identify a potentially dangerous illness."

The Serviceman's words echo an ongoing campaign by the Army health promotion team to raise awareness of testicular cancer and promote open discussion of medical issues.

After a stern word from his other half and a visit to www.checkemlads.com – a website run by cancer survivors Phil Morris and WO2 Mick Riley (RLC) – the soldier realised he had to overcome his anxiety.

"I had thought

there couldn't possibly be anything wrong with me because I was too young," Capt Woollan continued.

"But once I looked at a few websites it was clear that I was very much in the age bracket for this disease."

Despite the fact that fewer than four per cent of testicular lumps turn out to be cancerous, the soldier had become one of the unlucky ones.

However, on being diagnosed the newly-commissioned lieutenant was informed he had caught the illness in its early stages and as a result was 99 per cent likely to recover.

"I went to the doctor, had an ultrasound scan and less than three weeks later had a testicle removed," Capt Woollan revealed.

Following his surgery the Serviceman – then aged 23 – went back to work on a special-to-arms course while also attending regular medical appointments to monitor his recuperation.

"It was during one of the check-ups that I was told the cancer had spread," the signaller added.

"I had nine weeks of chemotherapy but at the end of that the prognosis was good – the results were positive."

Since getting the all-clear Capt Woollan has continued life as normal, deploying to Afghanistan and even taking part in the gruelling Marathon des Sables – labelled the "toughest foot-race on Earth" – in Africa's Sahara Desert.

"I am definitely fighting fit now," said the member of 22 Signal Regiment, who is keen to make his colleagues aware of the importance of examining their bodies.

"I was worried about not being deployable as a result of the disease but there's no issue there."

"The best thing I ever did was accept I had a lump and visit the doctor – I would advise all lads to act on any concerns they have."



How to check for lumps

- The best time to examine your testicles is after a warm shower or bath because this is when your scrotal skin will be most relaxed
- Hold your scrotum in the palms of your hands and use your fingers and thumbs to examine your testicles
- You should first feel the size and weight of your testicles. A lot of men have one that is larger or hangs slightly lower than the other
- Gently examine each testicle individually. They should feel smooth with no lumps or swellings – a lot like a hard-boiled egg without a shell
- If you find a lump or any abnormalities visit your GP as soon as possible
- Do this test around the same time each month



FACT:
Most lumps are not a sign of cancer but they should never be ignored

Report: Becky Clark
and Joe Clapson

WITH a huge land portfolio and vast amounts of knowledge from high-risk environments, the Ministry of Defence represents an invaluable resource for movie and programme makers.

From Stanley Kubrick's 1987 Vietnam epic *Full Metal Jacket* to the latest James Bond instalments, eagle-eyed viewers will recognise aspects of the 600,000-acre estate that usually serves as a training ground for the British Army.

And with audiences demanding increased realism in their war-based features, the impact of military advisers is particularly evident in the small details that many civvies would not even think to include.

One recent example of close collaboration between the MoD and screenwriters is the BBC-produced drama *Our Girl*, shot at Army Training Regiment Pirbright and starring former *Eastenders* star Lacey Turner as a new recruit.

While the department's land and buildings are regularly used to generate income, when it comes to content such a partnership between government and the movie sector is rare.

Describing why his team wanted to work with the MoD, producer Ken Horn said: "We felt it was the kind of story anyone in the Army would feel connected to and we wanted to make it as authentic and up-to-date as possible.

"Pirbright is a vast, state-of-the-art facility so to replicate that

environment elsewhere would have been far too expensive."

When it came to the story, the department's main concern was ensuring the content reflected current practices.

"A lot of the writer's research was based on recruitment ten or 15 years ago and the MoD wanted to show that approaches to training have changed," added Horn.

"At the same time they understood we were making a drama, not a documentary, and that we needed some dramatic licence to develop the characters and heighten things."

Commenting on the MoD's approach to tempering entertainment with factual accuracy, Charles Heath-Saunders of the Army's media projects department explained that individual storylines determine the nature of any collaboration.

"A fine balance has to be struck on whether to have any involvement with fictional dramas because we have limited sway over the final product and risk being associated with a negative or inaccurate story," he said.

"For a drama

that is not based around the Armed Forces, the production company may use as much dramatic licence as they wish," the civil servant continued.

"An example would be the latest James Bond movie *Skyfall*, where the closing scenes showing the lead character's family home in the Highlands were filmed on the Aldershot training estate.

"For *Our Girl*, whilst we insisted upon changes to the script, a degree of artistic licence was also granted in order to provide entertainment for the BBC's audience."

Even without official assistance from the MoD, filmmakers still seek out the expertise of military advisers to ensure

storylines and characters are authentic.

I Am Soldier, an action-heavy title due for release this autumn, saw writer and director Ronnie Thompson pick the brains of retired colonel Richard Kemp, a former commander of British Forces in Afghanistan.

"The most important part of my job was helping to develop the screenplay as I was able to bring detailed knowledge of terrorism and military tactics," the former officer explained.

"With any military film it's essential that there are specialists involved to try to get realistic storylines and action on screen – if you are not a real expert then it can be very easy to make errors."

The ex-member of the joint intelligence committee added: "In a feature about the Special Forces there will be a large audience of current and former personnel and they will be very critical to say the least.

"Without military advisers there would be so many incorrect details that it would make the film unreliable and unbelievable."

Nevertheless, when a movie is not a documentary the overall aim of the game is to produce captivating scenes, so it is the job of the writer, director and subject matter experts to create a balance of accuracy and drama.

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"My approach is to say that the director must understand what is authentic and what is not, and from there he can make a decision on what to do," said the man who led UK troops in Helmand in 2003.

"I think you have got to have a long military service to understand the detail and I take this role very seriously because it represents the Armed Forces."

The Service background of Dave Goodman and Martin Gray, former members of The Royal Anglian Regiment, was called upon for *I Am Soldier*.

With both offering more than 22 years' soldiering experience, their insights proved invaluable for improving the aesthetics of the fast-paced movie.

"I've been of most use on personal skills such as tactics, weapon handling and firing positions," said Goodman, a former sergeant major.

"It's very important for actors to get things like posture and carrying a gun right because it sticks out when done badly."

As well as knocking actors into shape, Gray worked as the locations manager, suggesting realistic venues for filming.

"We needed to replicate Brecon, over-flights and all aspects of training so I scouted out the best areas that were accessible," said the retired warrant officer.

"Working with the actors was easier than training soldiers because they didn't already think they knew everything!"

Thompson, a former prison officer, had various reasons for enlisting the assistance of Army veterans in his film.

"The public don't really know very much about the SAS and I wanted to show the transformation of a Regular soldier into a Special Forces operator," he said.

"Although I can't show full military manoeuvres and tactics, the finished product has to look realistic; I want to do the Armed Forces justice."

"So on that basis military advisers have been fundamental to the movie and although I could have done it without their input it wouldn't have been anywhere near as good." ■

Army action: Military advisers Richard Kemp, Dave Goodman and Martin Gray provide expert assistance on the *I Am Soldier* film set in Catterick, North Yorkshire

Pictures: Graeme Main



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F YOU'RE a fan of military movies, chances are your favourite films owe their credibility to the work of Hollywood's go-to combat consultant, Dale Dye.

The former US marine is the man behind many of the genre's epic productions, including *Platoon*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers*.

Having retired from 20 years of armed service in 1984, the decorated Vietnam veteran began using his experiences to bring the harsh realities of war to the silver screen.

Through his company, Warriors Inc, the 68-year-old and a team of fellow ex-Servicemen provide military advice to big-budget films, TV series, books and even video games such as the *Medal of Honor* franchise.

Soldier spoke to the marine-turned-moviemaker about blockbusters, boot camps and bloopers.

● **YOU** are famous for turning actors into convincing soldiers. How do you go about this task?

IN essence, we do what the real military does: we tear them down and build them over again in the right mindset.

I'm far more interested in getting to a performer's heart and mind than I am his body. Sure, we teach them to look and act like a field soldier to make them convincing on-screen, but I want them to understand how real soldiers rely on each other, how a unit functions above and beyond the concerns of any one member and to understand the concepts of comradeship, service and sacrifice.

● **HOW** do the clients respond to your boot camps?

ANYONE who has served knows the shock of that first military experience and the impact of a bunch of screaming sergeants on a raw mob of civilians who can't walk away from it.

It's a bit more difficult for pampered young actors who might be full of ego and

self-importance.

I understand that from experience and it's one of the reasons we make our training so physically rugged and mentally demanding.

I'm gratified to say there are very few, probably two or three at most, who didn't get it. But I am not about to tell you who they were!



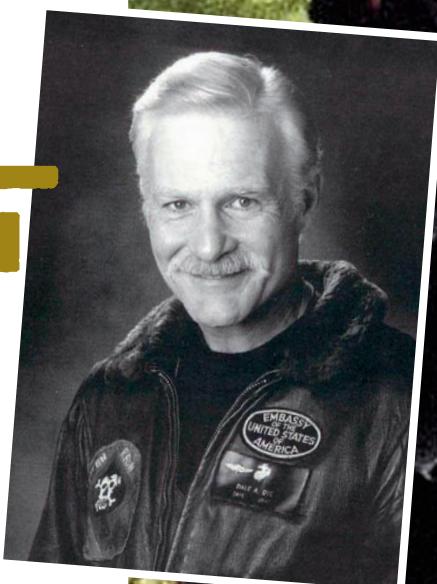
● **OF** the many iconic projects you have worked on as military adviser, which are you most proud of?

I'll always have a soft spot for *Platoon* as it kick-started my career and gave credibility to my methods.

I guess from the perspective of satisfaction derived as a military adviser, I'd have to single out *Band of Brothers*.

It took us a full year to get that done and because of the training we gave the guys we stayed in character as a Second World War airborne infantry company the whole time.

I was filling some mighty big boots following in the footsteps of Maj Dick Winters but it was nice to be the guy in command of a second Easy Company for an entire year. >>



DRILL-SERGEANT TO THE STARS

» ● HOW do you strike a balance between factual accuracy and entertainment?

THIS is at the very heart of my philosophy as a military adviser and filmmaker.

For years there was a sort of arrogance on the part of a lot of directors that audiences didn't know or care what was real about war or the military.

There is always a trade-off between reality and entertainment so what I try to do is find the compromise that is least objectionable to veteran audiences and still impressive to those who don't care as much about accuracy.

We ask ourselves "what's the message here?". If it's a valid point that couldn't otherwise be made without taking a little dramatic licence, we will generally let it through or suggest a more accurate way to make the point.



● SOLDIERS will immediately spot mistakes in military movies – where do some films go wrong?

AS any combat veteran knows, hand grenades do not create miniature nuclear explosions but filmmakers want a bigger blast so grenades go off like atom bombs.

And then there are the bottomless ammo magazines – no one ever seems to need to reload in some films.

The effect of gunshots or shrapnel hits on human beings is always overdone too when what really happens is people simply crumple and drop, which is so much more telling and dramatic.

The appearance of military uniforms is another area that makes most of us who have worn those uniforms want to vomit.

Ribbons and decorations worn wrong, bad haircuts and sloppy salutes are all likely to annoy veterans.

● YOU'VE also had your fair share of acting roles – what are the highlights?

I NEVER started out to be an actor but Oliver Stone had a different view.

He watched me training troops and decided it would be effective if I could bring that sort of professional military persona to the screen.

So I became Capt Harris, the Bravo Company commander in *Platoon*.

That was the start of it all and now I really enjoy it. I love the challenge of bringing real characters to life as an actor.

Opportunities to portray men like Col Leonard Wood in *The Rough Riders* or Col Bob Sink in *Band of Brothers* were an honour that few actors get.

SOLDIER asked readers to rate their all-time favourite and least-liked war films...

» TOP FIVE FEATURES:
Proving that the oldies still have it

1. *Zulu*
2. *A Bridge Too Far*
3. *Saving Private Ryan*
4. *Platoon*
5. *The Longest Day*



» MOST AUTHENTIC:
Saving Private Ryan

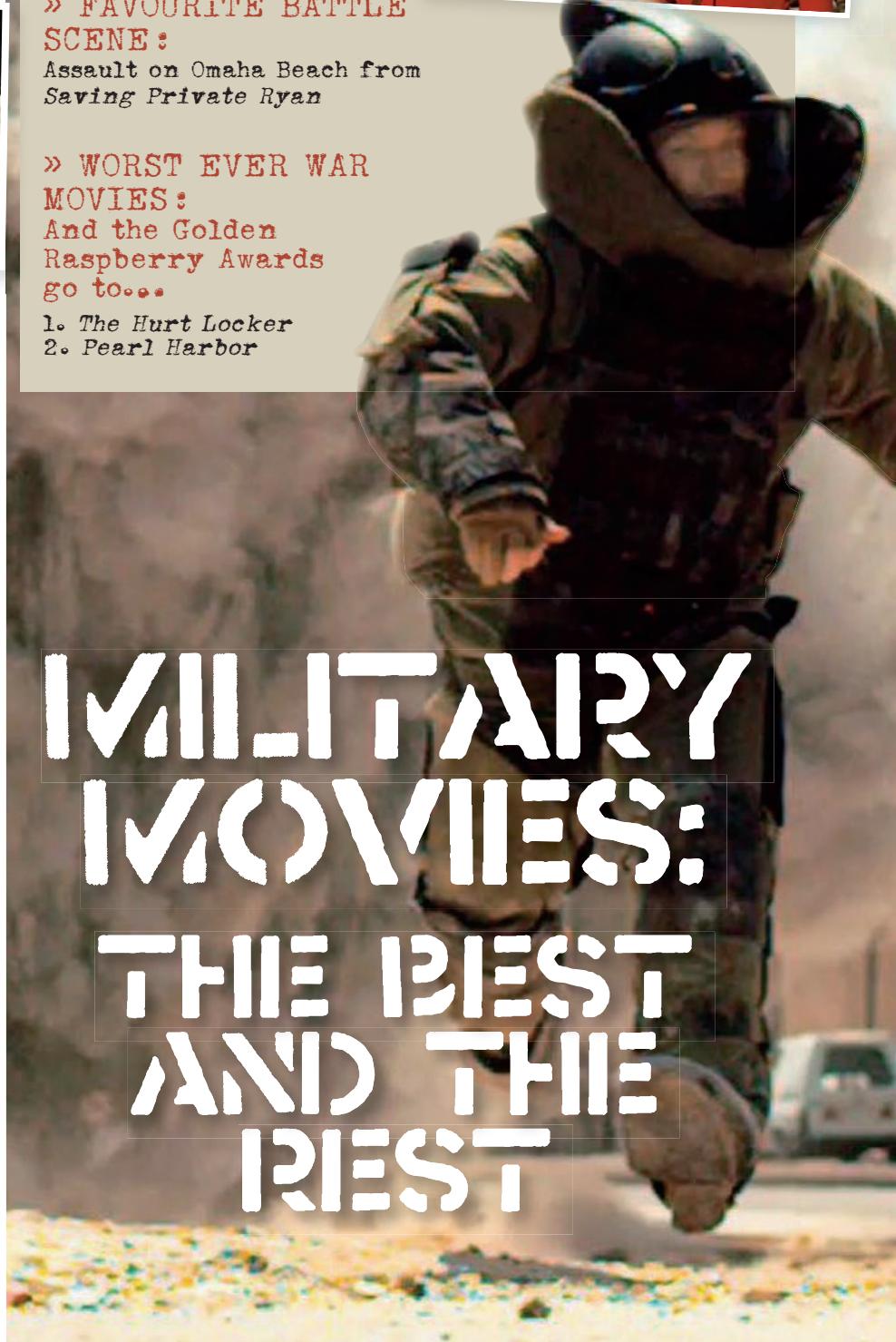
» FAVOURITE BATTLE SCENE:

Assault on Omaha Beach from *Saving Private Ryan*

» WORST EVER WAR MOVIES:
And the Golden Raspberry Awards go to...

1. *The Hurt Locker*
2. *Pearl Harbor*

MILITARY MOVIES: THE BEST AND THE REST



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1 PENICILLIN

DURING the First World War infected wounds could cause gas gangrene, which could lead to amputations and even death. However, the development of this drug in the early years of the Second World War meant wound infection became less of a threat. It was discovered by Alexander Fleming (pictured right) in 1928 but was only developed on a mass scale several years later. Used to combat infection in everything from battle wounds to sexually-transmitted diseases, it is still found in the antibiotics prescribed by doctors today.



2 BLOOD TRANSFUSION

EARLY in the First World War, transfusions meant passing blood directly from the donor to the casualty. But storage methods were quickly developed, enabling the process to take place indirectly. By the Second World War, Britain had a highly-organised Army blood transfusion service that supplied fighting theatres across the globe. Today, the Field Hospital at Camp Bastion is stocked with vast quantities of blood.



3 OPERATIONS

IN times of war, surgical techniques have developed rapidly and become increasingly specialised. Artillery shells, bullets and explosions can break bones, cut through muscles and nerves and damage internal organs. The complex injuries caused by modern weaponry have led to developments in orthopaedic and abdominal surgery, among others. Anaesthetics have also improved, allowing more precise management of pain.



4 PLASTIC SURGERY

AMONG other surgical developments, improvements in plastic surgery over both world wars were particularly significant. During the Great War, Harold Gillies was at the forefront of performing innovative plastic surgery on Servicemen who had sustained often severe facial wounds. By the Second World War, techniques like skin grafting were further refined by surgeons including Gillies and his cousin Archibald McIndoe, who became well known for his treatment of burns patients.

5 AIRCRAFT

IN a situation where speed can be the difference between life and death, the use of aircraft has been a major factor in increasing survival rates. Helicopters were first used to evacuate wounded personnel from the front line on a significant scale during the Korean War in 1950-53 and have become vital in getting casualties to specialist treatment. Today, a British soldier injured in Afghanistan can be back in the UK within around 24 hours. During the First World War, it would generally take several days for those injured on the Western Front to get home.



MEDICAL

MARVELS

Imperial War Museum
historian Matt Brosnan

lists the ten biggest
breakthroughs in battlefield
care over the last 100 years



6 FIRST AID

THE conditions of war have often added impetus to the accelerated development of medical equipment. The basic first aid kit carried by Service personnel in Afghanistan – from effective tourniquets to blood-clotting gauze dressings – has developed rapidly over the last five-to-ten years based on practical experience.

7 TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY behind the lines has often been developed at speed in times of conflict. For example, at the start of the First World War X-ray machines were rare, large and cumbersome. By the end of the struggle they were far more common. Today, the Field Hospital at Camp Bastion is equipped with mobile, digital X-ray equipment that can be moved to the patient.

8 VACCINATIONS

DISEASE used to kill more soldiers than battlefield injuries so was often a huge drain on manpower. However, the First World War saw the first major use of vaccinations. Times of conflict have seen significant developments in preventing and treating disease. For example, during the Second World War the powerful insecticide DDT was developed to combat typhus and malaria.

9 TRAINING

A STRETCHER-bearer of the First World War would have been taught to use bandages and provide basic dressings for injuries. Today in Afghanistan, every soldier is thoroughly trained in emergency first aid and front-line patrol medics have the skills to treat serious injuries before evacuation and specialist care. Such thorough teaching is often cited as a significant factor in improved battlefield survival rates.

10 MENTAL HEALTH

WAR can have a destructive effect on the mind as well as the body. Over the last 100 years of conflict, psychological trauma has been referred to as shellshock, battle exhaustion and more recently as post-traumatic stress disorder. These changes show an increased awareness of the complexity of non-physical injury in a war zone. Today, mental health professionals form a specialised part of the Defence Medical Services.

● **Keen to know more? The free exhibition *Saving Lives: Frontline Medicine in a Century of Conflict* runs at the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester until September 1**

Health service: Soldiers from 16 Medical Regiment practise their patient care pathway and casualty transfer drills during Exercise Joint Warrior

Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC



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TALKBACK

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



HEADRESS HEADACHE

■ AM I correct in assuming that Service personnel no longer need to don their regimental headdress when wearing uniform in public places?

Is there now a defence information notice that gives a list of places where soldiers do not have to display their headwear (for example, in supermarkets and petrol stations)?

Do serving troops who refrain from wearing their headdress assume that by doing so, no-one will notice them and they will therefore be protected by some sort of cloaking device?

I am sure there must be a good explanation. – Alasdair Halford-MacLeod, Ponteland, Tyne.

Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, responds: Army personnel must wear appropriate headdress in public at all times with only three exceptions: when they are on an extended journey, when taking a static smoke break during activities and when indoors.

Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



Flummoxed by female sizing

HAVING spent the last two years serving within 3 Commando Brigade, I've had to conform to commandant general Royal Marines' dress directive and wear my personal clothing system (PCS) with sleeves rolled up and shirt tucked in.

Whilst I understand that this does not adhere to British Army rules, I have yet to wear the shirt in the correct manner.

I went on a course recently and initially rolled my sleeves down so I could be dressed in accordance with the Service.

However, the shirt that I have been issued is almost two sizes too big for me and there was no way I could wear it correctly.

On visiting the clothing store I discovered that this is the smallest garment available on the Nato stock list (160/88).

But how can this be? There are other women in my unit who are smaller than me.

When I wear the sleeves down they reach my fingertips and, coupled with the length of the shirt, I look like Stig of the Dump.

I am due to leave on assignment very soon and as such have had to get a shirt tailored so that it fits.

However, it does not look right or indeed smart as this clothing is not designed to be adjusted in such a way.

Women have been in the military for some considerable time and you would think that this would be taken into account

when it comes to sizing uniforms.

Surely we cannot be the only ones with this issue?

There are some smaller males who I am confident this shirt would be too big for as well. – WO2 Claire Buchanan, AGC(SPS).

Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies: Defence clothing team ranges are based on Nato-standard sizes that are designed to fit 95 per cent of the adult population aged 18-55.

The measurements used go from a height/chest size of 160/88cm up to 200/128cm.

This equates to 5'2" tall with a 34" chest, to 6'5" tall with a 50" chest.

You already have the smallest jacket but as you are outside the standard range an item made to your specifications can be obtained using the special measures option, which is available for the majority of garments across the clothing line.

By doing this, you will be provided with a PCS uniform tailored to meet your own personal requirements.

Your QM clothing store staff will know the relevant special measures national stock number for the items you need as well as the process for placing demands.

As this kit is manufactured specially there will be a few weeks' delay getting it.

ANNOYED BY AMERICANISM USE

■ HAS *Soldier* now decided to go American in its use of the English language?

In the article "Soldiers support Thatcher funeral" (May) you refer to an "honour guard". The same use of this Americanism appears on page 20.

Surely it should read "guard of honour"? If you insist on using the US phrase, why not spell it "honor" accordingly? – P Williams, Sticklepath.

The editor responds: Alright already! Sorry for the irritation caused.



Community support in Cornwall

I HAVE recently moved to Cornwall after retiring from the police and have found the communities down here to be really behind our Armed Forces.

A local man is cycling to Paris to raise money for Help for Heroes and there are people letting injured personnel stay in their holiday cottages for free.

In 2009 my son was a serving soldier and I wore a Union flag on my police uniform.

My colleagues and I at Heathrow Airport thought this was a good way to show our

support for troops but we were branded racist and told to remove them.

When we refused we were threatened with disciplinary action. But we stood firm.

After a long battle we were allowed to wear them. Any personnel passing through Heathrow that heard the story thanked us; some were really surprised they were supported by police officers.

I think troops should know that members of the public are behind them. – Mark Humphreys, Cornwall at War Museum.

DIGITAL DOSSIER

THIS MONTH'S ELITE TWEETS

#TEN TORS (P 17)

@tbrewer95

55 miles, torrential rain, heavy fog, gale-force winds, helicopters... Standard weekend on Dartmoor #TenTors #Epic

@LouiseSearle2

@ArmyMediaCommSW Huge thanks to everybody who has given their time and effort to #tentors #muchappreciated #veryproudum

#ARMY V NAVY (P 78-79)

@AndreaSpooner

#OOPS... I may have left my voice at Twickenham – amazing time

@TallySparkle

Friends past present and future - this is what @ArmyvNavyRugby is all about

@willcarling

Great atmosphere at Twickenham. Hell of a game. Well played the #Army, after a great start from Navy. Safe to say people enjoyed the day!

#FA LEGENDS (P 22-23)

@GraemeMurty

Back home now. Still can't believe I got to play in that team today #honoured! Much respect to @ArmyFA125 #toplads

@ArmyFA125

Thank you to all involved, especially the legends who gave up their time to play in the match, especially Mr Roy Hodgson and Mr Stuart Pearce

@LinoLeary2012

Massive thanks to the @FA Legends players for giving up their time for the @ArmyFA125 game yesterday at Reading. Great spectacle!

@benshephard

Brilliant day hope the evening was as good as my goal!!! Haha

@soldiermagazine

ARCTIC STAR APPRECIATION

I RECENTLY applied to the MoD medal office for the newly-approved Arctic Star on behalf of my uncle who is suffering from terminal lung cancer.

I highlighted this fact in my covering letter and was very grateful when staff there contacted me by telephone to provide an update on the progress of the application.

They assured me they would be despatching his decoration as soon as the first batch was

'Food charge fall is foolish'

As a contract supervising officer responsible for ensuring soldiers receive the very best service from a catering, retail and leisure provider, I am amazed the authority has reduced the daily food charge by three pence.

I cannot understand this decision.

Do those in control not know that the price of food across the country has increased by at least three per cent?

Now all we are asking is for the provider to find more cunning ways to cut back the quality of food, forcing it to serve up the cheapest option menu cycle.

I cannot believe it will even register with our soldiers that they have the potential to be a massive 93 pence a month better off – and only then if they eat three meals a day for four weeks.

Unfortunately, gratitude for this amount of extra money will not be felt and soon our troops will have even more reason to complain they are being ripped off by civilian contractors and that pay as you dine and the core meal are a con because the same cheap options are on the hotplate.

In direct contradiction to this decision, the personnel in my garrison have stated they would be happy to pay more (up to 50 pence per meal) for better quality food.

I know changes are being reconsidered for pay as you dine and feeding.

However, until we get there – which is at least two years off – all I can hear are soldiers and officers complaining about the standard of food and how they are getting ripped off and all we have done as the authority is make it worse.

I would increase the cost of the daily food charge by 30 pence, which may seem a large amount but would make a considerable difference to the standard and variety of items available under the core meal selection.

This would deter personnel from having to buy the retail option at 50 per cent more just so they get better quality items.

For me it would be win-win: improved food quality, greater selection, cheaper than retail options and fewer complaints.

Don't mention "gain share" or "contractors' profit" for this should be about quality. – Name and address supplied.

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies: Your

frustration with the reduction in the 2013 level of the daily food charge (DFC) is understandable but outside the control of the Army or MoD.

The Armed Forces' pay review body provides independent advice to the prime minister and secretary of state for defence on the remuneration and charges for members of the naval, military and air forces of the crown.

Amongst its range of recommendations is the setting of the DFC based on evidence supplied by the MoD.

Details provided for 2013 were based on the agreed methodology applied since 2009 using the department's food supply contract data averaged over the most recent 12 months.

This evidence did recommend the decrease you outline but was balanced with the MoD intent to leave the price of the core meal unchanged in April 2013.

The comment about the quality of the core meal is accepted but soldiers are at liberty to opt for more expensive choices if they are willing to spend extra money, as you suggest.

It remains an aspiration to disassociate the DFC from the cost of the core meal and allow the price of VAT to be included.

This approach was incorporated in the evidence sent to the pay review body for it to note, but its members were not inclined to agree on this occasion.

Both the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Army HQ will continue to work to improve the service and quality of food delivered despite the setback which this decrease in the DFC brings.



received from the manufacturer.

I am pleased to say that the honour arrived the following week and I had it framed alongside his existing 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star with France and Germany bar, Italy Star, Pacific Star and 1939-45 War Medal.

He received the newly-displayed group very soon thereafter.

Thank you to those at the MoD medal office and also to former sergeant Paul Quinn who quickly mounted the honours to ensure that my

uncle would receive them in time. – Maj K Belam, 253 (NI) Med Regt.



Sniper exchange causes a stir

I HAVE just seen the letter "Service snipers fail to make the cap fit" in your April issue.

Whilst I can sympathise, having been a sharpshooter myself, with the writer's frustration at the difficulty of adopting low-profile positions encumbered by helmets and Osprey, I disagree with his assertion that alternatives such as the GenTex range are "considerably better than our current line of issued headwear".

The sniper is at his most vulnerable during the infiltration and exfiltration phases of his task.

In Afghanistan the threat of direct engagement is coupled with the widespread use of IEDs – a factor likely to be present in future theatres.

Low-profile helmets may well be more comfortable but they also cover rather less of one's head and having seen first-hand soldiers (including snipers) saved by the protection of the Mk 7 variant, both from gunshots and IED blasts, I am convinced of their effectiveness.

Talking of safety in this context is disingenuous. What we do is not safe, regardless of the kit we wear.

Instead, we are – or should be – in the business of understanding risk and using



pragmatic judgement to reduce it where at all possible.

The threat to a sniper who is not properly protected when moving is greater than that posed by undoing his chinstrap or even removing his helmet once he is static in a properly-chosen fire position.

In this case it seems the issued kit protects against a greater proportion of the whole risk rather than the solution the writer proposes.

Whilst it is encouraging to know better-integrated personal protection equipment is under development, a degree of pragmatism from users will probably always be required.

– Maj C Foinette, Coldrm Gds.

■ AS a long-retired warrant officer I am very glad there was no *Talkback* in the *Soldier* of the 1960s and 1970s.

If there had been, I am sure I'd have said or done something to the detriment of my career when reading some of the sanctimonious responses by desk-bound warriors to matters of concern.

The reply in April's edition about the fit of the Mk 6 or 7 helmet is a case in point.

If a professional soldier in the field says that their helmet is not suitable then the suggestion that the writer is not wearing it or their clothing correctly is condescending to the extreme.

I know who I believe.

The respondent obviously knows there is a problem otherwise there would be no need for a DVD or a "subject matter expert" (aka personal dresser) to do one-to-one fittings.

So why doesn't he just say so and admit that this equipment is not as good as it could be? – M Hopkins.



Gurkha gets the runaround

MY wife and I were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK (ILR) after I retired from the Brigade of Gurkhas in 2011.

Since departing the formation I have been serving as a member of the Military Provost Guard Service.

Although I started my Forces career in 1989, I entered Britain for the first time in 1994 on assignment to a UK-based unit.

My wife joined me in 1998 when she was officially allowed to accompany me.

Obviously we were not based only in the UK but had to move around the world as required by the Army.

On completion of 36 months abroad I was finally assigned back here in 2009, where my family have been continuously living for just over three years now.

During my retirement process I was informed by my chain of command that I would be able to apply for naturalisation as a British citizen immediately after getting ILR and by using my previous service period – in this case 22 years – towards the residential requirement.

However, my wife had to wait for a year from the date of the grant of her ILR.

We are now applying, having waited 12 months to undertake the process together.

We contacted the Nationality Checking Service but to our surprise were told that we are ineligible to apply now as we were not present in the UK at the start of our five-year residential qualifying period. As a

result, we must wait until 2014.

Not satisfied with the advice given, I contacted PS4 (Army), the Army Families Federation and the UK Border Agency to ask if I could use my whole military service towards qualification.

Unfortunately, they all gave me different answers, which confused me even more.

Clarification would help not only me but many more serving and former Gurkhas. – LCpl Gunja Shah.

Margaret Gilmour, AD (MS&E), Army HQ Secretariat, replies: All Gurkhas are recruited in Nepal and must remain Nepalese whilst serving.

If they were allowed to become British, we would not be able to maintain a wholly Nepalese Brigade of Gurkhas serving as a formed unit.

Others could also argue they were being discriminated against by not being allowed to join the formation.

Those in the UK who want to become British must have at least five years' residency and been in the country on day one of this qualifying period when they make their application.

Therefore, Gurkhas on discharge must apply for settlement first (also called indefinite leave to remain) which has a four years' service qualifying period.

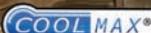
After one further year they can then apply for citizenship.



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'PR must pack some punch'

AS a long-serving Reservist, I read with interest the press coverage given to the Army 2020 plans.

My main concern is on the potential contrast between the image created by glossy PR and what is happening at the grassroots level in Territorial Army units.

The average Reservist trains for two hours midweek and one or two weekends per month.

In addition, the vast majority will be expected to attend a fortnight camp.

All of this is salaried and, providing the soldier accumulates enough attendance, there is an additional bonus of the annual bounty which can rise to more than £1,600 after five years.

Several of my colleagues were students or in relatively low-paid jobs when they joined and their TA earnings offered an invaluable source of income.

The Reserves also provide a unique opportunity for interaction with men and women from different walks of life.

I have been on annual camps in Germany and Gibraltar, while other colleagues have been to Canada and the Channel Islands.

According to the Army 2020 plan, the role of part-time soldiers will be afforded a higher profile – especially given the disbanding and merging of so many Regular units and job losses which could leave a gap to fill.

The objective of such swathing cuts is clearly a money-saving exercise so how does this gel with increased opportunities?

This is not the first time that the enhancement of the role of the Territorial Army has coincided with efficiency measures in the Regular Army; less than three years ago the previous government followed up such self-esteem bolstering and talk of professionalism with the less-than-welcome six-month TA stand-down in order to save £20 million.

It was even suggested that we turn up and train for free.

As a nine-year veteran with a recent operational tour under my belt, I saw this as an insult that clearly reflected the real attitude towards the Reserves.

After all, working for nothing is not something the Regular Army would ever be asked to do.

Although we have since had a change of administration, this experience has contributed directly to my mistrust of government actions regarding the TA – specifically regarding the generation of positive publicity for short-term gain without assessing the practical implications

of such announcements.

In order to take on an enhanced role within the Army structure there needs to be significant investment to enable this to happen – not just during one-off photo opportunities in platforms that the Reservists rarely see, nor on expensive recruitment campaigns.

Money needs to be spent on providing the TA with the same good-quality kit and training enjoyed by the Regulars – on uniforms, weaponry, vehicles, up-to-date IT facilities – and supported by frequent and consistent opportunities for use.

Otherwise all this current effort could be to no avail.

After the gloss of recruitment has faded, retention is the key component that rarely gets the funding or attention it requires.

To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, "give us the tools" to do the job or we may find that, by 2020, very few of our newly-recruited soldiers are still in uniform.

– Name and address supplied.

Col Richard Lyne, AD Reserves (Army)
responds: These are all important points, acknowledged by the Army senior leadership, and the writer is correct that significant investment is required.

As has been announced, the government is investing £1.8 billion in the Reserves over the next decade, some of which has already been committed.

By way of example, and focusing on equipment up front, all TA units were included in the new combat clothing issue from the outset, with some receiving their kit prior to Regular troops.

The green vehicle fleet has also been updated across the board with the issue of around 1,000 "B" vehicles and Yeomanry regiments have now been equipped with the RWMK Land Rover.

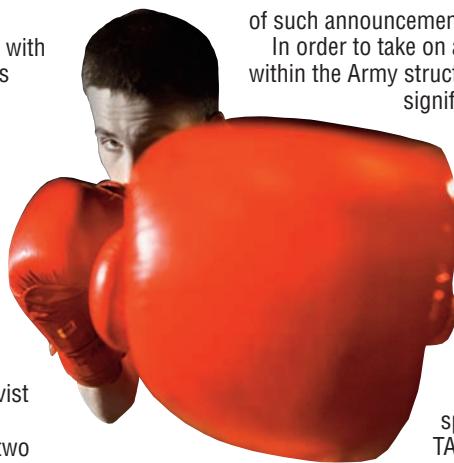
Training has been re-energised with 22 overseas exercises conducted in 2012 and a similar number happening this year.

While the list of what has so far been achieved already is far longer, these specific examples convey the overall Army commitment – and there is plenty more in the pipeline.

As for growing the Reserves, nobody underestimates the challenge this poses.

In an unprecedented programme of activity to support the requirement, we have already delivered many new initiatives and prioritised resources to deliver the manpower growth needed.

This is a challenge for the whole Army and we all need to work together to ensure success downstream.



Picture: Graeme Main

AFRICAN APPRAISAL

■ **ON behalf of all the Royal Engineers officers and senior NCOs who served in Sierra Leone during the 1950s and 60s, I wish to express thanks and appreciation to the team from the 521 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers (Water Development) [pictured below] for their expert and humanitarian work in the country.**

That region and its communities need all the help they can get after enduring years of civil war.

Those of us who served three years in Freetown and beyond became very aware of the beautiful people existing in a hostile environment.

There was harmony as they worked together accepting the religious, political and tribal affiliations of everyone in the community.

I will always remember Sierra Leone for its alligators, buzzards, cannibals, diamond smugglers, malaria, mosquitoes, scorpions, snakes and witch doctors.

I hope the personnel from 521 Specialist Team continue to offer expert advice and execute more humanitarian work where and when it is needed. – **Joe Hopkins, ex-RE.**





On the road to nowhere

AM interested to know why the two largest garrisons in the British Forces, namely Catterick and Tidworth, do not have adequate rail or transport networks.

These areas used to have railways and having served at both locations I find it unusual that the nearest train station to either of the garrisons is now at least a 20-minute drive away or an hour-and-a-half by bus.

Looking at this from a welfare point of view, neither of the regions have suitable facilities such as a selection of shops, outdoor activities or bars to name but a few.

Unless you have a car or a friendly driver you can very quickly end up with

garrison fever or spending significant amounts of money.

Local taxi firms have, of course, utilised this weakness to ensure it costs a minimum of £30 one-way to get to the nearest rail station or town.

I have only mentioned a few examples and could easily find more, not least the limitations for Service families in these areas.

Are there plans to revisit this issue at some point or are we to continue to have poor rail networks around these garrisons for the foreseeable future? – Name and address supplied.

Charlene Stevens, Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Secretariat, replies: The Ministry of Defence will be working closely with local authorities affected by future basing plans to identify opportunities to improve community infrastructure – including public transport provision where appropriate.

Some of these changes may be required as a condition of obtaining planning permission.

However, many moves will not be actioned until towards the end of the decade, allowing a period of time to put the necessary plans and resources in place.

The issue of perceived overcharging is for individuals to raise with their garrison commands.

ANNOYED BY ALLOCATION

I AM due to leave the Armed Forces in 2013 and have applied for council housing in Lincoln.

My wife spoke to the relevant department there and was disappointed to hear that military personnel will only be given priority for the area they currently live in.

This is disgusting and it is misleading of the British Government to say otherwise.

We live in Northern Ireland and to be told we would only get priority here is ridiculous as there is clearly a security issue. – Name and address supplied.

Philip Arundel, Joint Service Housing Advice Office, replies: All applicants for local authority housing may be given priority based on need but this is determined by the specific council.

Children are a good basis of need and receive higher priority.

Local authorities may also determine a Service person is a vulnerable applicant based on locally set principles. This may affect priority status.

My office provides housing guidance to troops and their families on request and I'd be pleased to supply detailed advice, based on your own circumstances, need and expectation.

Read *Housing Matters* magazine for more information on our all-day briefings.

Sticking the (black) boot in

READ with interest an article published on the defence intranet entitled "Army wants 10,000 soldiers to 'Step Up'", which focused on the campaign to continue recruiting despite the current rounds of redundancy (page 8).

I understand this requirement as we have seen the results of turning off the recruitment tap and the significant time it takes to switch it back on with detrimental effects on manning.

However, the initiative focuses on the iconic Army black boots, leading those watching the adverts from being on the

foot of a soldier undergoing basic training through to their time in working units and deployed on operations.

Very clever indeed and highly laudable but did no one point out that we are about to move to brown boots and the advert will therefore be dated within six months to a year?

I wonder if those who dreamt up the direction for this campaign note the irony of recruiting during a time of redundancy by making use of the image of a boot that is itself about to become redundant. – WO1 I Shaw, R Signals.



Picture: Steve Dolk



Military Injury Compensation

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The British Franchise Exhibition will be held at Manchester Central convention complex from 1000-1700 on June 21 and 1000-1600 on June 22. Discover the many franchise options available through exhibitions, seminars and financial and career advice. Admission is free by using promotional code "DD" when registering or £10 on the door. Call 0844 257 8668 or visit www.franchiseinfo.co.uk

The Cardiff Transition and Business Seminar at Cardiff City Hall on June 25 is open to all serving and former soldiers and their family members who come from or are based in Wales. Organised by 160 (Wales) Brigade in partnership with the Welsh Government and business community, the event will gather local employers and companies, as well as human resources professionals. To register email 160X-transition-group@mailbox@mod.uk

Tidworth Transition Fair will be held on June 26 from 1000 to 1500 at Tidworth Leisure Centre. Open to Service leavers considering Wiltshire and the surrounding area as a possible home, the event will feature more than 60 stands, including local employers such as Aspire, Babcock, First Great Western and Nationwide. Help and information will be available on everything from housing to schooling.

The Network Aberdeen is a focal point for Service leavers in north east Scotland, assisting in bridging the gap between military and civilian careers and providing links with industry and the community. Meetings are held every six to eight weeks in Aberdeen city centre. For more information visit www.thenetworkaberdeen.org



Spine line winners: Sgt A Stiles, HQ 1(UK) Armd Div, BFPO 15; T Roberts, Hitchin, Herts.

Zero Six Bravo book: Maj S Brooks, HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford Camp; SSgt D Williams, MoD Abbey Wood, Bristol; Maj E Quin, Royal School of Artillery, Salisbury; Nathan Barham, Support Command, Aldershot; WO1 D Hughes, Northwood, Middlesex.

Ease-Fit armband: Mrs Y Crossland, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield; Shelley Jessup, Catterick Garrison; Carol Sugden, Wembley, London; Penny Lee, Coventry, West Midlands; Simon Harris, Lakenheath, Suffolk; Jackie O'Neill, Shepperton, Middlesex; Luke Sanderson, Hedge End, Southampton; Mark Doherty, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire; Zoe Whymann, Crawley, West Sussex; Kayleigh Bates, Merthyr Vale, Merthyr Tydfil.



June 2: Hero Ride 2013 in support of Help for Heroes. From Blackheath to Horse Guards Parade, this will be the biggest cycling

demonstration of national support for wounded Servicemen and women, with thousands riding through central London.

June 7: The Home Front – Broadcasting to the Nation. BBC Concert Orchestra show at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall from 1930. Capturing the spirit of 1940s wartime Britain and focusing on the role of BBC radio music programming and British cinema. Tickets £15/£12. Call 0844 847 9910 or visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk



ABF The Soldiers' Charity: 0845 241 4820

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

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

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

Armed Forces Muslim Association: Chaplain 0207 414 3252; www.afma.org.uk

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

Army Ornithological Society: www.armybirding.org.uk

Army Welfare Service: 01980 615975; www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx

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

Blind Veterans UK: (formerly St Dunstan's) www.blindveterans.org.uk; 0207 7235021

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association: 0208 590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 766 8020

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

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

Family Escort Service: 0207 463 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: 0207 820 9988

Heroes Welcome: www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

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

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office: 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

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

Poppyscotland: 0131 557 2782; www.poppyscotland.org.uk

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

Remount: 01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion: www.britishlegion.org.uk

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

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

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:

BULLET POINTS

June 9: Walk to Recovery. A 22-mile charity walk from Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham to Whittington Barracks, Lichfield in aid of Support our Soldiers. For further information contact Charlotte Gebbett via c.gebbett@mail.bcu.ac.uk

June 19-20: DVD 2013. Bringing together industry and defence in the land equipment sector at Millbrook Proving Ground, Bedfordshire. The theme of this year's event is the shift towards contingent operations and the challenge of Army 2020, and includes a whole variety of equipment and capabilities to feature in the future Service structure. Those wishing to attend should register now at www.theevent.co.uk

June 22: Forces Festival and Community Games. Bedford International Athletic Stadium, 1100-1700. Raising support for SSAFA, the sporting challenge will feature activities for all the family and all levels of fitness and mobility.

June 22-23: Bike Bath 2013. Marked rides around Bath. Soldiers from The Yorkshire Regiment are championing the 100-mile trips and invite all Armed Forces personnel to join them at the event. Visit www.bikebath.co.uk for further news and information.

June 29: Armed Forces Day 2013. The City of Nottingham will be hosting this year's national celebration. Further information on this and many other events across the the country can be found at www.armedforcesday.org.uk

June 29: London Community Pride. Members of the three Services will march in this event. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender soldiers and heterosexual colleagues are encouraged to swell the Army numbers. Read DIN 2013DIN01-042 for more details.

June 29: Fit In Kit Charity Challenge in aid of Hounds for Heroes at the Admiral Lord Nelson School, Portsmouth. For more information visit www.fitinkit.com

0800 169 2277 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

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

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

uk4u Thanks: 01798 812081; www.uk4u.org

INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 35/13: Recruitment and retention allowance review

ABN 34/13: Accrued pension rights

ABN 33/13: Disbandment of 19 Light Brigade

ABN 32/13: Prevention and management of musculoskeletal injury

ABN 31/13: Army Command plan 2013-14

ABN 30/13: Army redundancy tranche three – adjustment to field and yields

ABN 29/13: Red tape challenge

ABN 28/13: Equality and diversity conference

ABN 27/13: Horizon scanning

ABN 26/13: Army Apprenticeship Programme – Ofsted report

ABN 25/13: Primary health care service

ABN 24/13: RUSI Land Warfare Conference

DIN 2013DIN01-072: Amendment to JSP 477 Community Development, Youth and Play

Work and consultation on next revision

DIN 2013DIN01-092: Contact details for the civilian chaplains to the military of the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faiths

DIN 2013DIN01-091: Late entry commission in the Army Medical Services

DIN 2013DIN01-088: Uniform to Work Day, June 26

DIN 2013DIN01-087: Notification of casualties and compassionate cases via the high-grade messaging interface

DIN 2013DIN01-086: Pension rights accrued for various groups in Armed Forces pension schemes 1975 and 2005, full-time Reserve service 1997, Reserve Forces 2005 and the non-Regular permanent staff pension scheme

DIN 2013DIN01-085: Revised mess and single accommodation charges for MoD civilians temporarily residing in Service messes in the UK

DIN 2013DIN01-084: Revision of maximum figure for car import duty

DIN 2013DIN01-083: Status of sports in the Services

DIN 2013DIN01-082: Changes to housing benefit regulations

DIN 2013DIN01-081: Senior officers' course 123 – Nato Defence College Rome – September 2 to February 7, 2014 (inclusive)

DIN 2013DIN01-079: Service families accommodation – second offers

DIN 2013DIN01-078: Visits to South Africa

DIN 2013DIN01-077: Handling of Service complaints arising in joint units and organisations

DIN 2013DIN01-075: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Quad-Service Conference, June 28, 2013

DIN 2013DIN01-074: Armed Forces compensation scheme medical expenses provision

DIN 2013DIN01-073: Cost assurance and analysis cost engineering staff in Barrow – recruitment and retention allowance

DIN 2013DIN01-072: Amendment to JSP 477 Community Development, Youth and Play Work and consultation on next revision

DIN 2013DIN03-012: MoD use of government cloud services

DIN 2013DIN03-011: The media support scheme

DIN 2013DIN03-010: Policy and procedures for the use, prioritisation and tasking of command support air transport

DIN 2013DIN03-009: Document and material retention and preservation – Iraq and Afghanistan operational theatres

DIN 2013DIN03-008: Locally engaged civilians – interim guidance

DIN 2013DIN03-007: AESP form 10 amendment

DIN 2013DIN03-006: Overseas security and justice assistance – human rights guidance

DIN 2013DIN04-060: Declaration of obsolescence – Logistic Trackway (Mammoth Matting sets)

DIN 2013DIN04-059: Required information on movements documentation

DIN 2013DIN04-058: Declaration of BIDC/4000/1 as being obsolete by Crypto Services for Defence

DIN 2013DIN04-057: Declaration of KL-43 family as being obsolete by Crypto Services for Defence

Continued on page 56

NO. 859

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



TEN details have been changed on this photograph of members of The Household Cavalry Regiment escorting the royal family after the the state opening of Parliament. Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 859**, *Soldier*, Ordnance Barracks, Government

Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by June 28.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results will be

announced in the August issue. Usual rules apply. **April's winners:** First correct entry drawn at random was Claire Sgueglia, RAF Odham, Hampshire. **Runners up:** IP DW Crassweller, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London and Cpl C Jilley, 50 OPR Coy, St Barbara's Barracks, BFPO 38.



DIN 2013DIN04-056: Declaration of STU-III as being obsolete by Crypto Services for Defence

DIN 2013DIN04-054: Recording of rounds fired by Howitzer 155mm self-propelled (AS90)

DIN 2013DIN04-053: Recording of rounds fired by gun 105mm Field L118 (Lt Gun)

DIN 2013DIN04-052: Declaration of obsolescence – cartridge distraction Mk 245 Mod 0

DIN 2013DIN04-051: BOC Gas cylinder tracking system

DIN 2013DIN04-049: Declaration of obsolete – laying and recovery equipment, class 30

DIN 2013DIN04-048: United States international traffic in arms regulations – MoD policy guidance

DIN 2013DIN04-047: One-litre Abbot disposable liners

DIN 2013DIN05-021: MoD scanning policy

DIN 2013DIN05-020: Resubordination of 106th Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) from 1st Artillery Brigade to Joint Ground Based Air Defence Headquarters

DIN 2013DIN05-019: Media LAN governance

DIN 2013DIN05-018: Working practices for the production of media work

DIN 2013DIN05-017: Recruiting and equipping graphics, photographic and digital print staff

DIN 2013DIN05-015: Formation of the Joint Forces Command Global Administration Unit

DIN 2013DIN06-018: Maritime pollution preparedness and response

DIN 2013DIN06-017: Atmospheric emissions

DIN 2013DIN06-016: Anti-fouling systems

DIN 2013DIN06-015: JSP 426 MoD fire safety regulations – new leaflets

DIN 2013DIN06-014: JSP 403, Volume 2, Change 6, Amendment 2a – Range Safety Notice 1/13 carrier shell WDA amendment for 105mm Light Gun

DIN 2013DIN06-013: Cross-government contract with Specsavers for the provision of personal protective equipment (safety eyewear and display screen equipment eyesight tests and spectacles

DIN 2013DIN07-075: ME418A AD Stevedore training course

DIN 2013DIN07-074: Military Aviation Authority Centre of Air Safety Training courses FY 2013-14

DIN 2013DIN07-073: Formation of defence health care education and training

DIN 2013DIN07-072: Captains' warfare course

DIN 2013DIN07-071: Publication of Army instructor policy and standards and implementation of new Army instructor courses in 2013-14

DIN 2013DIN07-070: Mountaineering in Nepal: Ex Parbat Tiger 2014

DIN 2013DIN07-069: Adventurous training: planning expeditions to Morocco in 2014

DIN 2013DIN07-068: Army Inter-Unit Orienteering Championships 2013

DIN 2013DIN07-067: Adventurous training Service sub-aqua diving: planning expeditions

in 2014 to Ascension Island, Cyprus and Gibraltar

DIN 2013DIN07-066: Adventurous training sea kayaking: planning expeditions in 2014 to Cyprus

DIN 2013DIN07-065: Maritime Warfare Centre courses summer 2013 to spring 2015

DIN 2013DIN07-064: Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre; equality and diversity training 2013-14

DIN 2013DIN07-063: Defence Diving School courses for training year 2013-14

DIN 2013DIN07-062: Specialist Training Squadron environmental protection, health and safety and quality management course schedule April 2013 to March 2014

DIN 2013DIN07-061: Information systems short courses for September 2013 to July 2014 at the Defence Academy College of Management and Technology

DIN 2013DIN07-060: Information management courses for September 2013 to July 2014 at the Defence Academy College of Management and Technology

DIN 2013DIN07-059: Organisation of international events for volunteer Reserve Forces

DIN 2013DIN07-058: Change of responsibility for MoD Exonut management

DIN 2013DIN07-056: UK Special Forces units briefing course dates, selection course dates and medical standards

DIN 2013DIN07-055: Casualty procedures – visiting officer training course (Army)

DIN 2013DIN07-054: Military annual training tests and workplace induction programmes policy update

DIN 2013DIN08-004: Policy on the use of MoD-provided cars

DIN 2013DIN08-003: Non-entitled accommodation rates

DIN 2013DIN08-002: Non-entitled cash casual meal charge for financial year 2013-14

DIN 2013DIN08-001: 2012-13 Annual report and accounts – closure of feeders

DIN 2013DIN09-007: The Oliver Sword Award 2013

DIN 2013DIN09-006: The George Beeching Prize for Compassion

DIN 2013DIN09-002: Armed Forces Day – June 29, 2013

DIN 2013DIN10-024: Military equitation courses 2013

DIN 2013DIN10-023: Inter-Services Paragliding Championships 2013

DIN 2013DIN10-021: Army Fencing Union and Army Modern Pentathlon Training Camp 2013

DIB 31/13: PUS Jon Thompson writes to all staff about new appraisal arrangements for civilian staff from 2013-14

DIB 30/13: A new enhanced operating model for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation

DIB 29/13: DE&S materiel strategy – next steps

DIB 28/13: Skills and talent management in defence

DIB 27/13: Transforming defence: the red tape challenge



REUNION

Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport: June 1983 intake will hold a Azimghuir Barracks, Colerne reunion on June 8 in Chippenham. Especially looking for Hobbs Troop members. Please contact sean_d_pearson@hotmail.com or telephone 07792 585451.

On June 29 the **Norton Manor Group** is holding a reunion for former members of the Junior Leaders Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, who served in Taunton between 1961 and 1965. More than 150 veterans and their partners are expected to attend the day at Norton Manor Camp, home of 40 Commando Royal Marines. For more information email dave371uk@ntlworld.com

Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association. The annual Veterans Day will take place at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, on July 13. Attendance is open to all past and present riflemen and their partners. For more information contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or email roy.stanger787@mod.uk



ROADSHOWS

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

June: 4, Aberdeen; 5, Glasgow; 6, Edinburgh; 25, Cardiff.



SEARCHLINE

Author Nick Metcalfe is compiling stories of those who have been awarded the **Queen's Gallantry Medal** for his second book, due to be published later this year. As part of his research he is contacting recipients and seeking photographs. To help email nickmetcalfe@queensgallantrymedal.co.uk

Dean Hustler is looking for members of the team that climbed **Mount Kenya to check a crash site of the Blenheim Bomber** Z-7763 that was lost on July 23, 1942. The group consisted of WO2 Bobby Gillespie, Sgt Brian Elliston, LCpl Simon Carter, LSgt Adrian Doyle, WO2 Graeme Elstob and WO1 (Conductor) Rex Smith. Email any information to rhuslter@nwptb.co.za



Concern over housing 'bubble'

TO FAR the most obvious effect of the Strategic Defence and Security Review has been redundancy but as units move back from Germany and begin to find their new homes we'll see further evidence of change.

Working towards our new UK-based Service is the impetus behind a wide variety of studies across the Ministry of Defence which the Army Families Federation (AFF) is able to influence.

We are particularly pleased with the department's partner employment project, which will investigate the barriers to spousal jobs and explore ways to improve the career possibilities for Forces partners.

Our organisation will be providing evidence, case studies and support to the initiative, which over two years will look at a number of work-related factors.

These will include partner training and education together with career development facilities, access to national employment support, interaction with childcare schemes and similar assistance to partners during their Service person's transition.

The aim is to improve the financial situation of families through a second wage, which will allow greater numbers to increase their standard of living.

Importantly, it will enable more people to realistically look at buying property.

The AFF has highlighted for some time that home ownership will only be possible if both the soldier and spouse have a reliable and decent income.

I am hopeful that this project will identify some new areas to improve partner employment and lead to an easier route to the housing ladder.

Although enhancing work opportunities will improve Army families' ability to meet

mortgage repayments, the hurdle for most is amassing a deposit big enough to buy a house in a location and of a size that will suit their needs.

Whilst the MoD is looking at options specifically for the Service population in the form of possible home purchase incentive schemes, the government has launched a variety of projects to encourage ownership.

This sounds promising but there are already concerns that a housing bubble will be created due to increased demand and, although moves to encourage ownership are welcome, I fear Armed Forces families will only be able to afford property whilst the market is in the doldrums.

When the economy recovers, that housing will once again be too pricey for many and therefore the need to provide affordable Service families accommodation (SFA) remains important.

Details of the ongoing work around the new employment model will be published later this summer.

This has been an all-encompassing look at terms and conditions of service, examining pay, allowances, housing and working hours for the years ahead.

The future accommodation project has formed part of the work of the new employment model and has investigated how families will be housed while working for the military.

Whilst there is no doubt that Service families accommodation will still be available, the aim has been to look at reducing dependency, and therefore over time we can expect buying your own place to become more attractive as SFA charges increase.

I'll be interested to see if Army pay rises once the economy improves, to match the need for more home ownership and the AFF will remain vigilant in terms of cost, availability and standard of housing for Service families.

We continue to recognise the need for SFA for mobile troops and their loved ones, as well as those at the start of their Forces career.

To that end, we will work with the MoD to explore affordable options.

Rebasing from Germany, coupled with longer periods of time in one location for family units, is expected to increase the desire to live in your own home.

Stability, it is hoped, will enable the Forces spouse to find a well-paid job which will contribute to the ability to buy. Time will tell whether these plans really will work.

In the meantime, the AFF will be continually reviewing the impact of any changes and we are well connected to ensure soldiers and their loved ones are appropriately represented. ■

'When the economy recovers housing will once again be too pricey for many Service families'



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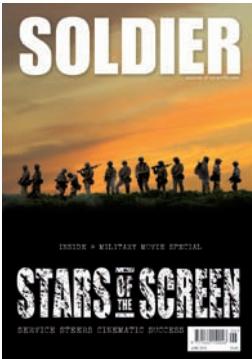
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reviews

HIGH HITTERS

JUNE'S JOYS

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A close-up of the character Wreck-It Ralph from the Disney Pixar movie. He is wearing his signature red power suit with grey shoulder pads and a green t-shirt underneath. He has a determined, slightly grumpy expression. The background is a blurred version of his own video game world, with grey blocks and a blue track.

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PICK OF THE MONTH: WRECK-IT RALPH

RETRO ROMP

A DISNEY JOURNEY THROUGH VIDEO GAME HISTORY



Interview: Joe Clapson

A DISNEY animation may not sound like something readers of these pages would class as decent entertainment, but the humour and nostalgia of *Wreck-It Ralph* propels it into a different sphere to the likes of *Snow White and Pocahontas*.

The crux of the movie is that the protagonist (John C Reilly) is sick of playing the bad guy and being overshadowed by Fix-It Felix Jr (Jack McBrayer) in the computer game in which they are characters.

In a bid to prove he can offer more than smashing buildings down only to see his nemesis repair everything with a magic hammer, Ralph "jumps" through his machine's wire and across multiple generations of video games to show he's got what it takes to be a hero.

One aspect in which the animation triumphs is its accurate portrayal of arcade-style imagery, from the 1980s to the modern era, and the way household icons feature in an off-duty context. Watching Ken and Ryu nip for a cold beer after a tough day working on *Streetfighter* is a particular comedy highlight.

On Ralph's cumbersome quest across the platforms he meets the feisty misfit Vanellope von Schweetz (Sarah Silverman) from the candy-coated cart racing game, *Sugar Rush*.

At this point the film does go a bit "Disney" with a clear message to "be yourself" as the lead finds a friend in the girl-racer – a fellow outcast – but it's not so saccharine as to prompt switching off completely.

Explaining how the feature gave him the chance to put his own prized console characters on the silver screen, director Rich Moore said: "Pac-Man is a great favourite of mine, so he was pretty awesome to work with.

"However, I spent a lot of time playing *Q*Bert* when I was a child, so that was also very special to me. I was also excited to include Bowser."

The Emmy award winner, famed for his directing efforts on shows including *The Simpsons* and *Futurama*, went on to make it clear why the film is as much for adults as it is for the younger generations.

"A lot of people have come up to me and said 'I'm so glad the movie is set in an arcade'. Who are these people? They are teenagers, as well as those in their fifties. They all think it's for them. Somehow we tapped into these memories and feelings that are being shared cross-generationally with a lot of the audience."

All in all, the idea of bundling video games characters from different eras into a funny story with plenty going on in the background is very shrewd from Disney as all ages are left happy. ■

VIVACIOUS VIEWING



BULLET TO THE HEAD out June 3

THIS is a thriller starring **Sylvester Stallone** as an ageing – yet incredibly in-shape – hitman who loses his partner via a double-crossing act, before teaming up with a New York Police Department cop to discover the truth. The movie does have some pedigree about it, having been directed by the king of action **Walter Hill** (*The Warriors*, *48 Hrs*) and starring **Jason Momoa** (*Conan the Barbarian*). Sadly this fails to match the sum of its parts. It lacks originality and misses a trick by not playing on Sly's cinematic history and giving us something fresh.

Capt Alex Janaway, RAMC



DEADLY BLESSING out now

IN this movie we see a young farmer excommunicated from his family, who are involved in a sect called the Hittites. He lives a peaceful existence with his wife Martha (**Maren Jensen**) until he is mysteriously crushed by a tractor. Widowed, Martha is visited by two friends – Lana (**Sharon Stone**) and Vicki (**Susan Buckner**) – who decide to stay to help with the grieving process. But when one of the Hittites is murdered further doubt is cast on what is behind the killings. This deluxe edition of a **Wes Craven** classic is well worth a watch.

Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para



THE COLLECTION out now

THE 2013 edition of the big four WWE events was headlined by **The Rock** fighting **CM Punk** for the championship, a title he last held ten years ago. Also on this release is the Royal Rumble itself, with 30 superstars of the professional wrestling discipline battling against each other and the last man standing earning the opportunity to fight in the main event at Wrestlemania 29. To be honest, this wasn't really my bag but the kids enjoyed it and it was certainly watchable. If the soap opera of wrestling floats your boat this is just the thing for you.

Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para



WIN... GREAT ESCAPE SPECIAL EDITION

TO celebrate its 50th birthday *The Great Escape* will be released on Blu-Ray for the first time on June 3. The offering comes loaded with more than three hours of extras, including commentary from the film's director, **John Sturges**. *Soldier* has teamed up with MGM and Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment to offer a copy of the Blu-Ray to five lucky readers. To have a chance of winning, tell us who played Capt Virgil Hilts in the movie. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: June 28

WIN... ZERO DARK THIRTY

THE critically-acclaimed action thriller *Zero Dark Thirty*, created by director **Kathryn Bigelow** and writer **Mark Boal** – the brains behind *The Hurt Locker*, will be released on June 10. The movie chronicles the hunt for Osama bin Laden, masterminded by a dedicated team of CIA operatives. *Soldier* has teamed up with Universal Pictures to offer a copy of the DVD to five lucky readers. To have a chance of winning, tell us who directed the film. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: June 28

games

JUNE'S
HOT PICKS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

VALENTINE'S DAY

HEROINE RETURNS IN CONSOLE CONVERSION

Review: Richard Long

WITH recent instalments of the *Resident Evil* franchise receiving a lukewarm response, fans could be forgiven for thinking they had seen the final chapter in this once-mighty horror saga.

However, developers Capcom have refused to turn their back on the games and the mainstream release of *Revelations* sees this struggling series attempt to regain some of its past glories.

Originally designed for the Nintendo 3DS, the title has been upgraded for the console world with new HD visuals, enhanced lighting effects and an immersive sound experience.

The story is set between the events of *Resident Evil 4* and 5 and focuses on the drama surrounding the outbreak of the devastating T-Abyss virus.

Key characters Jill Valentine and Chris Redfield return in the starring roles and the action begins on-board a seemingly abandoned cruise ship, the *Queen Zenobia*, where evil lurks around every corner.

The plot then shifts to the mainland and the devastated city of Terragrigia, where our heroes have to survive further horrors with limited weapons and ammunition.

Such a premise sounds intriguing but the elongated cut scenes stifle the fluidity and not having the ability to skip such annoying dialogue becomes increasingly infuriating as the game evolves.

The campaign is entertaining enough and those seeking greater challenges will be pleased to learn a new internal mode has been added.

This takes the difficulty level above "easy" and "normal" and mixes the placement of enemies and other items to avoid any sense of familiarity.

However, this is far from spectacular and the upgraded raid mode proves to be a better source of action and adventure.

This co-op offering utilises the game's new features well and sees players taking on hordes of ruthless enemies across a variety of missions and tasks.

Compared to the 3DS version, this boasts more weapons and characters and the online capabilities extend the scope further, making it a welcome addition to the fold.

A slight downfall of *Revelations* is the control system, which proves to be a little too unresponsive at times.

Character movements are sluggish, meaning commands are executed with a slight delay, and the weapon swaps and reloads are far from swift – all of which allows enemy monsters to get a little too close for comfort.

As a supposed survival horror this title also lacks a genuine sense of fear. While bloody and gruesome, the foes are not particularly scary and the early appearance of what can only be described as giant slugs with sharp teeth is comical at best.

While *Revelations* has its flaws it is a marked improvement on recent efforts in this long-running series.

There is plenty to enjoy and players will revel in the familiarities it strikes with *Resident Evil* at its peak. ■

VIRTUAL PLAYGROUND

TOMB RAIDER

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

IT'S been a while since we last saw the anatomically implausible Lara Croft. The heroine is a survivor of an expedition gone wrong, playing castaway on a dangerous island. But it's not the confident and sure-footed Croft we're used to; she's young, inexperienced and desperate to survive. The levels may seem linear in design but there's plenty to keep you occupied and Lara's skills develop as you explore. This is a more realistic and grittier *Tomb Raider* that is keen to set itself apart from its predecessors. And a damn good job it does of it.



INJUSTICE: GODS AMONG US

for Xbox 360/PS3/Wii

I AM only a casual player of fighting games but *Injustice* is definitely among my favourites. The characters look great and have their own signature moves, while the graphics are fantastic and offer interactive arenas to battle in. The tutorial is very helpful and allows players to get acquainted with the title's style. Sometimes it takes a while to get the hang of such releases but here the controls are very intuitive. The online aspect isn't the greatest as there is a long wait for matches, so the best way to play this is in front of the TV with a friend at your side.



SSgt Graeme Russell, Scottish Tpt Regt

WORMS: REVOLUTION COLLECTION

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

THEY'RE back and as fun as ever. This turn-based combat collection offers a big and bold style and features *Worms* and *Worms Armageddon* plus a raft of downloadable content. Old favourites such as the dreaded sheep, granny and holy hand grenade all return but there are exciting additions like donkey and skunk. This is probably one of the best re-releases of an old classic I have seen or played for a long while and is a must-have for all – families and the block included. This title will never get dull and comes with a ten-out-of-ten rating.



DRAGON'S DOGMA: DARK RISEN

for Xbox 360/PS3

I DIDN'T know what to expect from this title so I was pleasantly surprised with what I found. The combat is fluid and feels sharp, while the gameplay is fairly intuitive and follows the open-world ethos that is common in many of today's role-playing titles. The central characters are aided by pawns, who prove to be useful in a fight, and the impressive AI on these assets help make this an in-depth offering that will keep fans of the genre happy. There are some small niggles but they don't detract from the overall feel of the game. Definitely worth a look.



Cpl Mike O'Neill, RLC

STAR TREK

for Xbox/PS3/PC

DIRECTOR JJ Abrams breathed new life into the *Star Trek* franchise in 2009 but sadly this game is a universe apart in terms of quality. Primarily a third-person co-op shooter, the title casts Kirk or Spock on a mission to stop the reptilian Gorn. Battling the enemy never proves too troubling as abysmal AI makes them easy cannon fodder. Your computer-controlled ally is at best illogical and at worst moronic, while mediocre graphics and some awful platform sections mean there is little to recommend here beyond the novelty of playing as the film's heroes.



FORZA HORIZON

for Xbox 360

SET around the fictional Horizon Festival, this iteration of the racing series sees *Forza* going off the track and on to the highway. As a podium contender you have to earn different wristbands, each of which provide access to a number of events. The vehicle list is extensive and there are plenty of opportunities to acquire new wheels, be it through racing, generous rewards or finding them abandoned in barns. What sets *Forza Horizon* apart from its predecessors is a mix of hardcore racing and modifications with the freedom of the open road.



David McDougall, JHQ Rheindahlen



JUNE'S
JUMPING
BEATS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

RAISING THE BAR

DANCE MUSIC DUO REDEFINE THE GENRE

Review: James Morton

FOR two men who you wouldn't recognise even if they came up and bellowed "One More Time" in your face, Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo aren't half famous.

They, of course, are Daft Punk. And they have created a monster.

The most heavily-rumoured, galactically-hyped and immensely-anticipated album of this century, and possibly any other, has finally landed.

The slavering sideshow that has accompanied the release of *Random Access Memories* has ensured that expectation is somewhere into the next solar system.

But do Thomas and Guy-Man care?

"We don't actively try to feed people," they recently told the *Observer*. "We are not craving to be known."

Tough luck, mon amis.

Seemingly every second person on the planet wants to know what the new Daft Punk album sounds like.

And the answer? Now that's tricky...

The first thing to say is that it doesn't sound like the Daft Punk of yore.

It's wise to dispense with the filtered techno of *Da Funk* or the serotonin-charged house of *One More Time* at the door. This is serious stuff – but don't let that put you off.

While the chart-slaying *Get Lucky* has provided a relatively comfortable introduction to the album, the rest of it spirals off in more unfamiliar directions.

The pair make no secret of the beating disco heart at the epicentre of the record – be it through the liquid guitar lines from Chic's Nile Rogers or their paean to one of the era's most influential figures, *Giorgio by Moroder*.

The orchestras, live musicians and wide range of vocalists are likely to attract the term "mature" to this album like a magnet.

And there's no getting away from the fact your parents could happily listen to most of it without once cursing "this generation".

But by turning their back on the instant gratification dance music culture that they inspired, Daft Punk have once again raised the bar and redefined the genre.

Album bookends *Give Life Back to Music* and *Contact* are the best examples: cinematic soundscapes so preposterously ambitious, Calvin Harris should be slung into isolation and made to listen to them until he promises to delete Rihanna from his phonebook.

The quiet men have done it again. Daft Punk just let their music do the shouting. ■

TUNES FOR THE TROOPS

Intense by Armin Van Buuren

THIS fifth album from **Armin Van Buuren** was three years in the making and mixes electronic beats with a classical style. At first I was rather sceptical about what *Intense* would behold but I enjoyed this a lot more than I thought I would. It's very easy to listen to, especially as the sun has finally made an appearance this year. Although it didn't set my world on fire it's a good background soundtrack while enjoying a barbecue and cold beer in the garden or when you are getting ready for a night on the town. If you're into trance music this is a must for you, if not I'd give it a miss.



Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

Golden by Lady Antebellum

NASHVILLE trio **Lady Antebellum** are back with their fourth studio release and although more up-tempo than their previous offerings, *Golden* still contains a couple of trademark ballads to pull at the heartstrings. *Goodbye Town* provides **Charles Kelley** one of his finest moments and **Hillary Scott** is in sterling form throughout. Upbeat lead single *Downtown* is another high point. Unfortunately, this record lacks a standout hit like 2009's *Need You Now*, but if you like country music of any kind this should be a definite addition to your album collection or iTunes library.



Sgt Mike Owens, RE

The Shocking Miss Emerald

FOLLOWING the multi-platinum success of *Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor*, the second album from Dutch jazz-pop singer **Caro Emerald** was long awaited. Thankfully it does not disappoint. Her unique, smouldering style is uplifting even when stuck in a traffic jam on a grey "summer" day. Inspired by the glitz and glamour of Hollywood this is another slick release from a woman who was plucked from the anonymity of singing on backing demos. The mix of cinematic ballads and swinging tunes signified by Emerald's smoky voice confirms the sassy songstress as a star to brighten up any season.



Joe Clapson, Soldier

Home by Rudimental

AFTER crashing into the mainstream with the number one smash *Feel the Love*, dance outfit **Rudimental** look to build on their initial success with the release of debut album *Home*. Instead of sticking to a rigid formula this record shows great flair and variety as drum n bass, RnB and soulful lyrics combine to produce some impressive results. *Powerless*, *More Than Anything* and *Waiting All Night* are among the many standout offerings and even a guest appearance from ubiquitous Scottish songstress **Emeli Sande** fails to take the shine off proceedings.



Richard Long, Soldier

We Met At Sea by The Pigeon Detectives

IT is fair to say **The Pigeon Detectives** are hardly the most exciting band ever and their latest effort – *We Met At Sea* – fails to set the world alight. Opener *Animal* is dull and what follows is not much better and it got to the point where I didn't know which tracks were playing as they all seemed to blend together. The only exception is *Unforgettable*, which has a great drum opening. This lacks the attitude of an indie record and the catchiness of a pop offering. The whole thing sounds like a half-hearted attempt to put some songs together for the sake of releasing an album.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

Hubcap Music by Seasick Steve

HAVING achieved almost overnight success with his unique brand of blues, **Seasick Steve** has become a virtual ever-present on the music scene. This is his sixth record in nine years and it builds impressively on previous efforts. Armed with a guitar constructed from two hubcaps and a garden hoe, the unlikely star sticks with the lo-fi approach that has served him so well as tracks such as *Down On The Farm*, *Over You*, *Purple Shadows* and *Coast Is Clear* all sparkle. Collaborations with **Jack White** and **John Paul Jones** serve to underline the quality of this album, making this a must-have for fans of his earlier offerings.



Richard Long, Soldier

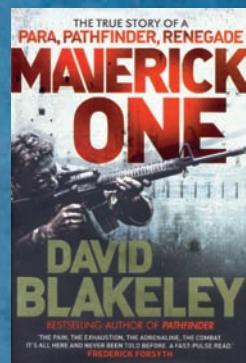
DOOKS

JUMP INTO JUNE

PICK OF THE MONTH:

PARA TO PATHFINDER

FORMER CAPTAIN SHARES
EXPERIENCES OF SELECTION



Elite operator: *Maverick One* is out now priced £18.99 Picture: Andy Chittock

Interview: Becky Clark

PASSING selection for one of the elite units of the British Forces is widely recognised as the ultimate test of soldiering; proof that troops who make the grade have reached the very pinnacle of their profession.

Only a handful of those who attempt the notoriously gruelling process succeed, among them Army officer-turned-author David Blakeley.

Having commissioned into The Parachute Regiment at 19, he went on to become part of the Service's specialist reconnaissance formation, the Pathfinder Group.

The story of his unit's 2003 mission to recce the Qalat Sikkar airfield in Iraq was told in his debut book, *Pathfinder*, but new title *Maverick One* lifts the lid on his route into the platoon.

"After *Pathfinder* was published, some readers said they wished I'd gone into more detail about selection," said the 35-year-old.

"So the new book focuses on what it's like to go from a fairly normal boy, to leaving home, going to Sandhurst, joining the Paras, becoming the youngest captain in the Army at 21 and ends up with me being in the Pathfinders."

To join the elite group, applicants must endure five weeks of mental and physical exertion in the infamous Brecon Beacons, a course so demanding that many voluntarily withdraw.

Blakeley explained how appearances can deceive when trying to predict who will make the cut.

"You might get some guys who have huge muscles and are great runners and on the first day they could be at the front of the pack but the attrition of doing this day in day out – learning new skills, patrolling, building observation posts, doing contact drills as a team – wears you down," he said.

"Often the people who look the part end up giving in but the slower guys just keep going and going – it's very much like the tortoise and the hare."

However, those who do pass are rewarded for their efforts.

"The unit is open to all cap badges and offers personnel the chance to undertake very gratifying, 'sexy' military work," the veteran added.

"You get to do James Bond-style high altitude, low opening skydiving and work with the very best."

"I definitely miss that part of the Army a lot – being removed from it makes you realise how exciting it was and how amazing."

Blakeley left the military in 2007 when an ongoing shoulder injury threatened to confine him to more mundane duties.

Since then his CV has included model, stuntman and military adviser to TV projects including ITV's *Primeval* and authors such as Frederick Forsyth.

His new career sees him splitting his time between the UK and Los Angeles, where he wrote *Maverick One*.

Offering advice to Service personnel who are considering joining the ranks of elite formations, the expert continued: "There are guys in the Pathfinders who others consider to be superhuman but most of them are ordinary people – they just have this extreme determination."

"Go that extra mile. Volunteer for expeds or additional training, take any opportunity to get on the ranges and practise your shooting."

"Never, ever give in."

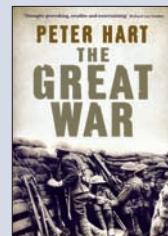
"It doesn't matter if you're not the fittest and you still have lots to learn; put the work into developing yourself and it could take you to some really amazing places." ■

RECONNOITRING READING

The Great War

by Peter Hart

THE impending centenary of the First World War is generating a barrage of releases aimed at marking the conflict, many of which will be duds. However, this book cannot be categorised as anything but accurate and does not drop short of its intended target. I recommend the text unreservedly as an excellent overall history of the war. A refreshing and engaging read, supported with good maps and interesting photographs. If you want to gain a broad understanding of the complexities of the campaign this is the best place to start.

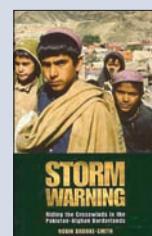


Maj Mike Peters, AAC

Storm Warning

by Robin Brooke-Smith

SET against a backdrop of the rapidly changing global security environment after 2001, this title provides a unique insight into the culture and traditions of the Pakistan-Afghan borderlands. Inhabited by a collection of tribal communities, this strategically important yet politically unstable region is rarely explored by outsiders. The author was the principal of the prestigious Edwardes College in Peshawar and possesses intimate knowledge of the area. A superbly written personal account of one of the most turbulent and interesting places on Earth.



Simon Moody, civvy

The Things They Cannot Say

by Kevin Sites

BEGUN as a way for the author to deal with his time as a front-line journalist, this book explores the problems society faces as soldiers return from combat to civilisation. Drawing on interviews with veterans of various war zones and accounts from psychologists working with PTSD sufferers, **Kevin Sites** examines the effects of battle on the mind and the coping mechanisms employed by those involved. The result is an interesting, if slightly disturbing, read that provides an insight into the long-term consequences of operations on the psyche.



Sgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

A Cold Night in June

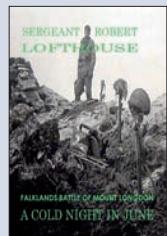
by Sgt Robert Loftouse

SUBTITLED *Falklands*

Battle of Mount Longdon, this text is not

academic or memoir-based, but a novel that recounts the struggle through the eyes of a young para. Well

researched and written with considerable respect for combatants on both sides, it depicts clearly the intimate, bloody violence of the engagement. Whilst replete with banter and gallows humour, a notable degree of pathos grows throughout as the protagonist adjusts to his first experience of war and its aftermath. A thought-provoking account of our last low-tech, conventional conflict.

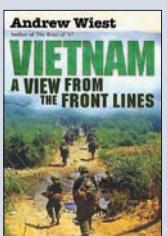


Lt Col G Evans, Int Corps

Vietnam

by Andrew Wiest

PORTRAYING a very human perspective of the Vietnam War, this title deliberately avoids detailed analysis of events. Instead it follows personnel chronologically from the initial draft to post conflict, expertly knitting together a selection of vignettes that really give you a sense of what soldiers, marines and their families were feeling at the time. It's in the final chapter, *Life after Nam*, where the value of the book is perhaps greatest and most relevant to us today as we enter the post Iraq and Afghanistan period and attempt to comprehend what that means.



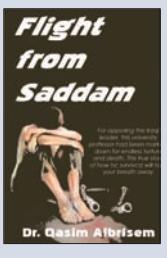
Maj Jim Vincent, RLC

WIN... Flight from Saddam

by Dr Qasim Albrisem

AMONG the thousands sent to the infamous Alradwania prison in Baghdad, university professor **Dr Qasim**

Albrisem was one of the few to survive. Hideous torture, amputations and ruthless executions were a daily reality. Too terrified to tell his story until now, *Flight from Saddam* documents the author's ordeal and his escape across the desert. *Soldier* has three signed copies to give away. For a chance to win one tell us which city Alradwania prison was in. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Closing date: June 28

SPORTING SPEC

UNDER THE HOOD

A MIGHTY 2.2-litre i4 turbo diesel engine sees this big cat roar from 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds and it has a top speed of 134mph. But this thundering machine is not an all-out gas-guzzler and an impressive fuel economy of 55 miles-per-gallon in combined mode means drivers will not take a big hit on the wallet when refuelling at the pumps. It is also highly competitive with other cars in terms of CO2 emissions.



EXQUISITE EXTERIOR

ASIDE from its peak performance on the road, this super-sleek car ticks all the boxes in the looks department. Sparkling 19-inch alloy wheels offer a nice finishing touch and a rear parking aid with visual indicator ensures there is little chance of damaging this prized possession. Rain-sensing windscreen wipers are another welcome feature, as is the powered tailgate with soft-close function.

INFOTAINMENT CENTRE

NO car is complete without a raft of in-house entertainment. The *Sportbrake*'s options are operated by a touchscreen digital control system that guides you to a DAB radio and CD player, while a Meridian 825-watt sound system allows you to enjoy your tunes in stunning quality. The console also boasts an easy-to-use satellite navigation system along with USB and iPod connectivity.



IMPRESSIVE INTERIOR

THE supreme comfort offered by the *Sportbrake* makes driving this vehicle nothing but an absolute pleasure. Decked in luxurious leather, the interior boasts heated and cooled seats, dual-zone automatic climate control that allows passengers to set different temperatures to the driver and auto-dimming rear view mirrors, which are essential if you don't want to be dazzled by the headlights of cars behind you.

BOOT SPACE

THE defining characteristic that sets the *Sportbrake* apart from other Jaguars is its bulky rear end. While it may not be as stylish as its contemporaries the additional boot space makes this the perfect family car thanks to its capacity to house shopping bags, golf clubs, dogs and any other kit and equipment required for the hectic daily routine. The load-space volume totals 500 litres with the seats up.



ONLINE DISCOUNT

THE on-the-road price for the *XF Sportbrake* reviewed by *Soldier* is £44,690. While this car represents the height of luxury it comes at a significant cost and potential owners must think long and hard about making such an investment. However, Jaguar is offering Service personnel an impressive 18 per cent discount on vehicles in its range. To take advantage of this offer visit www.jaguar-militarysales.com



Review: Richard Long

WHEN offered the chance to test drive the latest addition to the Jaguar fleet images of a classy, yet unashamedly powerful, sports car came to mind.

So it was something of a surprise to see the hulking figure of a diesel-powered estate model arriving for a week-long stay at *Soldier* HQ.

The *XF Sportbrake* is the company's first attempt at such a vehicle since 2004 and, although initially underwhelming, it proves to be a welcome addition to the big cat family.

In terms of looks and appearance it is definitely a grower but sheer performance is undoubtedly its defining characteristic.

The 2.2-litre i4 turbo diesel engine achieves 0-60mph in a brisk 8.2 seconds and is capable of hitting a top speed of 134mph.

One of the factors contributing to such feats is the car's outstanding automatic gearbox, which is tuned to deliver near perfect changes without losing any sense of power or acceleration.

Those who see such gimmicks as detracting from the driving experience need not worry as the sport mode offers a manual option courtesy of paddles on the steering wheel.

Another factor to consider on a machine like this is fuel consumption. The Jaguar is noticeably thirstier during shorter journeys but on the open road it produces some impressive results that made a weekend trip to Norfolk surprisingly light on the back pocket.

The ride is smooth and responsive and the diesel engine is blissfully quiet, making taking to the wheel a truly pleasurable experience.

On the inside, the *Sportbrake* is armed with the usual array of gadgets expected from a high-end model – the majority of which are accessed via a central touchscreen console.

The device features a DAB radio, CD player, satellite-navigation system and climate control – all of which are simple to use.

It also boasts a parking aid that sets the scene at the rear of the car. While this has obvious benefits, the beeping alarm can prove annoying and it succeeds in instilling a sense of panic as you attempt various manoeuvres.

For such a big vehicle leg room is a slight concern but the general quality and comfort is not in question.

After initial scepticism the *Sportbrake* proved its worth and, with the extra room provided by its spacious boot, it thoroughly deserves its place among its illustrious siblings. ■

CO

BIG CAT
ON THE
PROWL



PICK OF THE MONTH:

JAGUAR'S NEW STAR

MOTORING MASTERS WELCOME GRAND ESTATE TO THE FAMILY

Temporary Jobs... Full Time Adventure



Opportunities exist
for temporary staff
at Army Adventurous
Training Centres

look at
2012DIN07-127



For guidance on expeditions or information on
Adventurous Training courses visit: www.atga.mod.uk
or search for 'Adventurous Training' on the Defence Intranet



SOLDIER SPORT

PARA UNITS BATTLE FOR RING SUPREMACY AT ARMY BOXING FINALS

PICTURE: GRAEME MAIN





Roko runs riot as Reds strike

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

AHAT-trick from LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) helped the Army complete a stunning fightback against the Royal Navy and secure yet another Inter-Services crown in rugby union's premier fixture.

A record crowd of 72,471 saw the ruthless Reds run in six tries on the hallowed turf of Twickenham Stadium as they overturned a 19-point deficit to storm their way to a 43-26 win.

Rokoduguni was the headline maker as he matched his scoring feat from last year's game, while Cpl Ceri Cummings (REME) showed sublime accuracy with the boot in what was his last appearance for the team.

However, the champions elect were put to the sword in the early exchanges as the Senior Service made a blistering start that defied their status as underdogs.

The challengers opened the scoring in the eighth minute as their dogged determination forced a turnover to set an attacking platform.

Mne Nathan Huntley skipped through the tackles and with POAET Marsh Cormack in support the ball found its way to ET (ME) Dale Sleeman, who emphatically rounded off the move.

Skipper POAET Dave Pascoe missed with his conversion attempt but further points followed just minutes later.

The Navy flexed their muscles up front and a powerful drive from a line-out saw

Sgt Gaz Evans (RM) reach for the line.

Pascoe found his range to kick the extras and the onslaught continued as Sleeman added his second of the afternoon following a huge hit on Army star LCpl Peceli Nacamavuto (RE).

With Reds' fans fearing the worst the shell-shocked soldiers finally stemmed the tide and set about clawing their way back into the contest.

Rokoduguni showed his attacking flair as he cut through the Navy defence before offloading to Pte James Read (2 R Welsh) but the fly half was forced into touch as he threatened the line.

The wait for points didn't last long as LBdr Sam Speight (RA) showed superb footwork to touch down in the corner after some slick passing from Read and Nacamavuto (pictured left).

A strong line-out set the platform for Rokoduguni to open his account shortly after the 30-minute mark as the Fijian flyer burst through opposition lines to score before Nacamavuto levelled the game on the stroke of half-time.

The Army forwards made serious inroads into Navy territory and the centre left the defence flat-footed as he jinked inside to score under the posts.

The Reds maintained their momentum after the break and Cummings, who had earlier kicked two conversions, put them in front for the first time with a penalty in the 49th minute.

Rokoduguni extended the lead when he collected a pass from the excellent LCpl Lueda Jope (RE) to cross in the corner before replacement Spr Inosi Laqekoro





Running hot: LBdr Sam Speight (RA) cuts through the Royal Navy defence during the Army's 43-26 win in front of a record crowd at Twickenham

(RE) stretched to the line following another strong drive from the pack.

The defending champions completed the comeback when Rokoduguni (pictured below) skipped through an exhausted Navy rearguard to score.

Men Jack Foster grabbed a late consolation for the Senior Service but the afternoon belonged to the soldiers who showed ruthless efficiency in overcoming their early setback.

"This is much sweeter than last year's victory," Army skipper Sgt Darrell Ball (RE) said at full-time.

"We have only won two games this season so we didn't really have any consistency but we knew we could perform well."

"The Navy were really strong and they battered us early on. However, we regrouped at half-time and started to play the rugby we know we can."

"I'm really pleased with the way we reacted. Experience counts for a lot."

Head coach SSgt Axel Rees (REME) told *SoldierSport* he expected a strong challenge but was confident his team would triumph.

"We knew the first half would be very difficult but I did not think they would go 19-0 up," he added.

"Our mistakes got punished and they played a

good offloading game which worked well.

"The important thing was not to panic. I knew we would dominate the scrum, would win more line-out ball and that we had the backs to take the game away from the Navy in the second period."

"At half-time I told them to be patient, look after the ball and the chances would come. The Fijians will take the limelight as they scored the tries but it was great to see Darrell Ball named man of the match as the forwards were magnificent."

"Playing quality opposition in the build-up to this game meant we had been in this position before and we finished strongly against Worcester and Bedford."

Rees praised the efforts of Cummings and front-row forward LCpl Chris Budgen (2 R Welsh).

He said: "It was a fitting end for Ceri. It was his last chance to pull on that red jersey and his efforts with the boot made the scoreline so convincing. He slotted some great kicks from out wide."

"The game meant a lot to Chris and he gave a great performance."

He scrummaged well and carried the ball superbly; he did everything that was expected of him. As a team we did what we had to do."



ARMY 43 – NAVY 26

Babcock Trophy match
Twickenham Stadium, London

Army: Cummings; Rokoduguni; Nacamavuto; Wessels; Speight; Read; Martin; Reeves; Dwyer; Budgen; Llewellyn; Ball; Boladau; Mundy; Jope. **Subs:** Titchard-Jones; Dowding; George; Laqekoro; Parry; Prasad; Bokoso.

Tries: Speight; Rokoduguni (3); Nacamavuto; Laqekoro.

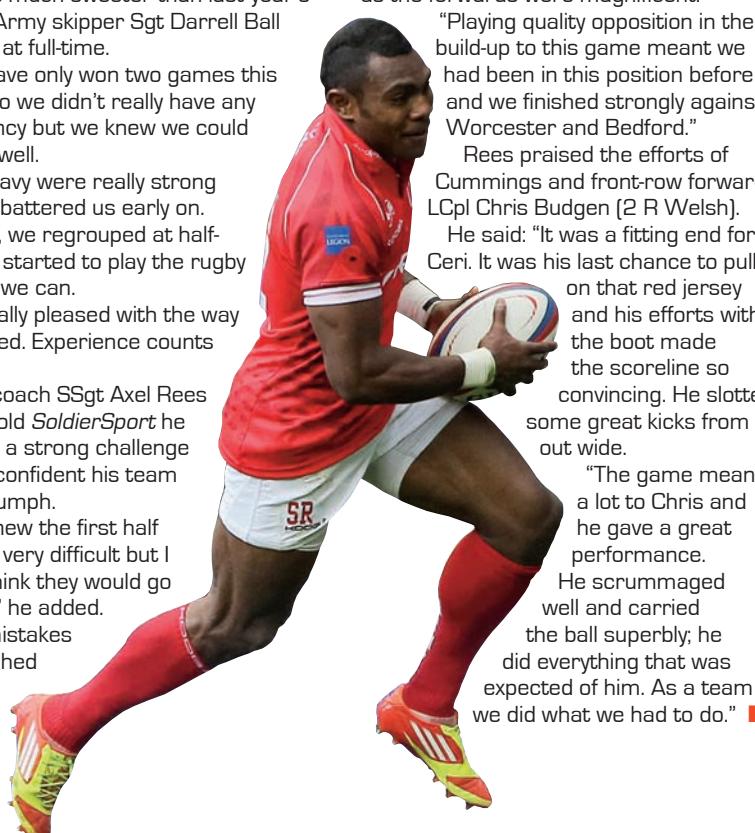
Conversions: Cummings (5).

Penalties: Cummings (1).

Navy: Humphrey; Foster; Tichias; Sleeman; Marlin; Huntley; Pascoe; Mason; Priddey; Beasley; McLaren; Cormack; Taylor; Laird; Evans. **Subs:** Terry; Court; Lamsin; Raumakita; Cooper; Davies; Welling; Thompson.

Tries: Sleeman (2), Evans, Foster.

Conversions: Pascoe (3).





Driving force: Cpl Jay Bates launches an attack for 22 Signal Regiment in their Army FA Cup final clash with 3 Royal School of Military Engineering

Signallers shine in season finale

Report: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

A BRACE from LCpl James Poulter helped 22 Signal Regiment to a convincing 4-1 victory in the 113th Army FA Cup final.

The Stafford-based soldiers outclassed their rivals from 3 Royal School of Military Engineering and further strikes from Cpl Graham Baily and WO2 John Stephenson sealed an emphatic win.

With a host of Service players on show the match proved to be an entertaining affair and it was the sappers who enjoyed the better of the early exchanges.

Skipper Cpl Gervyn Griffiths tested Signals' goalkeeper LCpl Dave Carroll with a well-struck shot from distance before strike partner Cpl Andrew Cottam opened the scoring in the 16th minute.

A long clearance downfield saw Carroll race out of his area to clear but the Army

under-23 star misjudged the flight and bounce of the ball, allowing Cottam to fire into an empty net.

The opposition had to wait until the 31st minute before registering their first effort on target. Poulter was given time and space to turn and shoot but his strike was gathered by goalkeeper WO2 Andy Panniers at the second attempt.

Sig Sam Agar then threatened with a long-range free kick and from the resulting corner Poulter headed home to tie the contest.

The signallers maintained the momentum after the break and when Panniers could only parry a low drive from Agar, Baily was on hand to head home from the rebound.

Agar tested the stopper with a fierce drive moments later before Stephenson extended the lead to end any hopes of an Engineers victory.

Baily fed the ball into the striker on the

edge of the area and the former Army star drilled his shot into the bottom corner, giving Panniers no chance.

The forward turned provider in the 80th minute when his corner was met by Poulter, who headed his second goal of the evening to complete the win.

Man of the match Stephenson linked superbly with Agar in attack, while Poulter marshalled the back line to keep the sappers' forwards in check.

"We played some good football and our ability and bit of class paid off in the end," coach Capt Dean Boughen told *SoldierSport* at full-time.

"We are unbeaten this season and have a really good squad. We lost our captain to injury but had three corps-standard players to bring into the fold.

"It was all about belief. Their goal came against the run of play but I knew if we carried on with our plans we would get the win." ■



A SOLITARY strike from LCpl Gavin Mee was enough to give 2 Military Intelligence Battalion (in blue) victory over A Squadron, 1 Royal Tank Regiment in the Army Minor Units Cup final. The midfielder headed home in the 76th minute after a cross eluded goalkeeper LCpl John Painter.

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Double delight for Army team

Interviews: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

THE Army squad celebrated double success at the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) Championships as Pte Jeff Saunders (2 Para) and Sgt Tony Richardson (LD) returned victorious from the showpiece event.



Welterweight Saunders downed Sam McNess in his final to cap a sensational debut season with the team, in which he was also crowned Combined Services champion.

"I was going in as the underdog," he told *SoldierSport*. "He was expected to win as he had boxed with the GB development squad.

"A lot of people thought he would be

all over me but I found it to be a really comfortable fight.

"I came out of basic training and straight on to the Army squad. That was a surprise and I hadn't even thought about winning an ABA title.

"I have to thank my coach, SSgt Martin Anthony (RLC), and my regiment for allowing me to do this at such short notice. It means a lot.

"The Great Britain Championships are now coming up and I hope to represent England there."

Richardson defeated Nicholas Webb to claim his title having twice fallen at the semi-final stage earlier in his career.

"I knew he would be a strong lad but I stuck to my plan and outboxed him in the first two rounds using my speed and the angles," he explained.

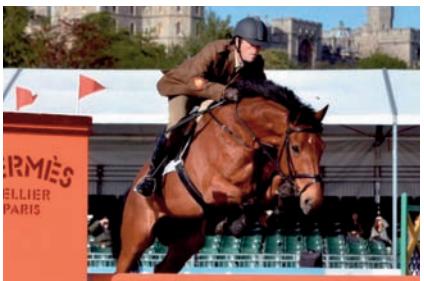
"I started to tire in the latter stages but I knew I had done enough to see me through.

"I came back to the team to fight at the Combined Services. I did well and my coach said I had a good chance at the ABAs so I went for it. It was an opportunity to gain more experience and I can't believe I won.

"I'm part of the Infantry Recce Wing at Warminster and they have worked really hard to give me the time off to train. I cannot thank them enough. The plan now is to keep things ticking over and hopefully I will be looking at an England call-up.

"I'm going to keep fighting and will see what happens." ■

SPORT SHORTS



■ THE Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers finished as the top military team in the Services showjumping competition at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Capt Hannah Adams, WO1 Graeme Matthews (pictured) and Cfn Kennedy Holmes-Chinal represented the corps at the event and finished third overall.

Matthews and Holmes-Chinal produced two clear rounds over the 1.05-metre course and the latter was awarded the best junior rider award.



■ A GOAL from skipper SSgt Krissy Wright (pictured) helped steer the Adjutant General's Corps to victory in the final of football's Inter-Corps Tournament in Aldershot.

The Army star was on target as the team defeated defending champions the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 3-0.

"The competition showed that ladies' football in the Service is going from strength to strength," said organiser Capt Priyum Patel (AMS).



■ ARMY karters recorded their best-ever result on the track in the second round of the Tri-Service Championship at the Rowrah Circuit in Cumbria.

During a weekend of mixed weather the outfit's lead drivers finished second and sixth overall, an effort that saw them ranked first and third in the military standings.

A technical fault with the timing system meant results from the opening round did not stand and the action now moves to Wigan on June 22.

Paras square off in final fight

Report: Richard Long
Picture: Graeme Main

A STUNNING win for Pte Joe Allen in the final bout of the evening saw 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment retain the Army Team Boxing Championship during a night of high drama in Colchester.

The all-conquering squad faced a stern test in the shape of brother unit 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment but a storming second-half showing saw them overturn a 3-1 deficit to lift the trophy for the seventh time in ten years.

The defending champions were pushed all the way in the pursuit of victory and Pte Clyde Hogan gave their rivals the perfect start as he defeated Pte Michael Gates in the opening featherweight clash.

Hogan scored points with a series of good combinations and while his opponent held firm he struggled to land the shots needed to win.

Pte Dan Holmes maintained the momentum as he triumphed in an evenly fought contest with the unfortunate Pte Luke Brewer.

With 3 Para suffering early defeats Pte Joe Waterworth (pictured) set

about reducing the arrears in his clash with Pte Matt Benge.

After three close rounds Waterworth picked up the win but 2 Para fired an immediate response through the superb Pte Chris Oliver.

The welterweight launched a stinging assault on rival Pte Stephen Preston and after forcing a standing count in the final round he was able to celebrate victory via a unanimous decision from the judges.

Having regrouped at the interval 3 Para returned to the ring in determined mood and Pte Liam Giles gave them the perfect start against Pte Jamie Found.

Having landed a number of heavy blows the light middleweight forced a stoppage in the second round, when his stricken opponent was knocked to the canvas.

Pte Jay Williams continued the comeback by defeating Pte Ronny Harris but 2 Para halted the charge as Pte Carwyn James outscored Pte Dave Webb.

However, Pte James Nelson restored parity thanks to a

unanimous verdict in his heavyweight showdown with Pte Gaz Innes, leaving Allen and Pte James English with the decisive final bout.

After a close opening round Allen picked up the pace and, despite suffering a standing count as the final bell loomed, he was declared the victor via a majority decision.

"It was a lot closer than I expected,"

3 Para coach Cpl Ben Cunningham told *SoldierSport* after watching his team lift the trophy.

"I was confident at the break as I knew who we had left to come out. Our more experienced fighters were involved in the second half and we could rely on our heavier lads. These guys do not go in the ring to lose."

Speaking in relation to the final bout, Cunningham added: "The 2 Para lad got two points for the standing count and that made it a lot closer but I knew I could rely on Joe.

"He is always fully focused and does not get caught up in the atmosphere. He is a mature fighter and that showed through in the end." ■

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Back on the grid: Sgt George Morrison (REME) is hoping for a successful showing on his return to action in the British Rally Championship Challenge

Morrison prays for Peugeot pole

Interview: Richard Long

Picture: Graeme Main

RACE ace Sgt George Morrison (REME) is hoping to push for honours in the British Rally Championship Challenge after returning to action following a three-year absence.

The 35-year-old took to Northumberland's Kielder Forest for the opening stage of the competition last month but mechanical problems forced his Peugeot 205 into an early retirement during the second stage.

On his last entry in the series the soldier finished first in his class and fifth overall and despite a disappointing initial outing he is targeting a repeat performance this season.

"There are 25 to 30 guys racing so it is quite competitive," Morrison told

SoldierSport. "There are some stages where you really have to be on the money but there are others where you can just get in and go.

"My Peugeot is the oldest car in the championship but if anything goes wrong it is easy to fix.

"My main aim is to finish every race I start and hopefully I can match my achievements from 2010."

Morrison learnt his trade racing Land Rovers with the Armed Forces rally team before turning his attention to cars.

But after a promising debut campaign he was forced to sit out the following two years as a combination of work commitments, a shortage of funds and the lack of a co-driver took hold.

The Army star said: "In 2010 it was just a bog-standard car but since then I have upgraded the gearbox and suspension.

"Last season I was based in Northern Ireland so that made it difficult to compete. I'm now back in England and I've got a full-time co-driver in Richard Hortin.

"Once we're in the car together we will start to trust one another and that makes life so much easier."

Morrison's Peugeot can reach speeds of up to 80mph and while it may not match the capabilities of its rivals it remains a strong runner.

"If there are a lot of twists in the section I can stay in contention thanks to the gearbox I have," the driver explained.

"If we're racing over long straights I will have a bit of a problem."

"The majority of stages are on gravel but the car can change to whatever set-up is needed."

"In terms of driver skill and ability, this is one of the best motorsports going." ■

INTERNATIONAL MODERN PENTATHLON



OLYMPIC bronze medallist Yane Marques celebrated further success on British soil as she was crowned champion of the Army's international modern pentathlon competition.

The London 2012 star (pictured left), a sergeant in the Brazilian Army, was among a strong field at Sandhurst that also featured military athletes from Germany, Ireland and the UK.

The home team gave a strong showing with Cambridge officer cadets Ed Trusting, Emma Byatt and Laura Plant enjoying notable success. Cpl Alexander Nobis, of the German Army, took the men's overall title.

The sport, which comprises riding, swimming, fencing, running and shooting, utilised the Olympic laser pistol range, which was bequeathed to the Army under the London 2012 legacy arrangements.



Picture: Graeme Main



Govender guides gunners home

Report: Richard Long

Pictures: Graeme Main

ARAPID-fire knock of 80 from opening batsman LBdr Sherwin Govender helped the Royal Artillery to a 31-run victory in the Army Inter-Corps Twenty20 final.

The left-hander (pictured above) smashed seven sixes and six fours in a devastating innings that formed the backbone for a highly competitive total of 176-9 against the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

In reply, the defending champions stuttered to 145-9 as a lack of meaningful partnerships scuppered their chances of retaining the trophy.

Govender and Gnr Graham Wiseman gave the challengers the perfect start with a vicious assault that yielded a more-than-healthy return from the early fielding restrictions.

Wiseman was the main aggressor and a flurry of boundaries saw him race

to 37 before he was caught and bowled by LCpl Tommy Jones.

His departure saw Govender pick up the pace and the Army star launched a succession of maximums as the REME bowlers continued to toil.

But with a century in his sights he perished at the hands of WO2 Steve Hole while chasing another boundary.

The dismissal sparked a middle order slump from the gunners as their opponents clawed their way back into the contest thanks to a controlled spell from Cfn Gav McKenna, who recorded figures of 3-25 from his four overs.

But tail-ender Capt Steve Booth restored the momentum as he struck three boundaries in an unbeaten 20 to ensure the innings ended with a flourish.

In reply, the REME needed to make a strong start with the bat but the early departure of Cfn Basil Rauwerda did not help their cause.

However, fellow opener Hole ensured the team stayed in touch as he found

the boundary with ease before WO2 Ian Forrester halted the charge.

The medium-pacer removed Jones and LCpl Jay Boynton in quick succession and when Gnr Barveen Kumar trapped Hole leg before for 60 the REME fell further behind.

Gnr Nick Schofield maintained the pressure and claimed three wickets as the Artillery closed in on a deserved win.

Speaking after his side lifted the trophy, Govender, who also captured two wickets with the ball, praised the efforts of his colleagues in what proved to be an outstanding final.

"The guys played well; it was a real team effort," he told *SoldierSport*. "I had some good support out there and I'm very happy with my performance.

"Nick Schofield was superb. Considering he has just come back from Afghanistan he really pulled it out of the bag. We know we can rely on Ian Forrester; we look up to him with his experience and he was brilliant." ■





Close call: The Army's cricket team suffered a 19-run defeat in the opening fixture of the season

Reds set for Lord's battle

THE Army's cricketers return to Lord's this month on a mission to lift the Inter-Services Twenty20 title.

Having seen the Royal Air Force dominate the competition in recent seasons the Reds will be hoping to improve on their performance from last year, when they lost both games against their military rivals.

LCpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE) is leading the side this term and he is fully aware of the challenge ahead.

"Winning that trophy is something we have waited a long time for," he said.

"Hopefully we will not disappoint this year; we have to go out there and believe in ourselves.

"We have some challenging fixtures in the lead up to the competition and those matches should hold us in good stead for what is to come.

"We are missing three players due to operational commitments but that gives others the chance to come in."

The soldiers slipped to a 19-run defeat to the Fire Service in their opening Twenty20 game of the season at the Army Cricket Ground in Aldershot.

Batting first, the visitors posted a total of 149-5 thanks to a superb knock of 90 from opener Alex Morris.

In reply, the Reds saw their top order blown away as they crumbled to 68-7 before some late hitting from Sgt Reagan McClean (AGC) saw them reach 130.

The Inter-Services Twenty20 showdown will be held on Tuesday, June 18.

Play starts at 1000 and tickets cost £15 for adults, £5 for under-16s and £7.50 for over-65s.

Visit www.tickets.lords.org for more details or call 020 7432 1000. ■

SPORT SHORTS

■ **WARRINGTON'S** Hood Lane Recreation Ground will host the annual Tom Sephton Memorial Trophy match on Saturday, June 29.

Army corps champions the Royal Engineers will take on a Crossfields amateur rugby league side and proceeds from the day will go to The Royal British Legion.

The game is held in memory of Pte Thomas Sephton (1 Mercian), who died from wounds received while serving on Op Herrick 12.

In addition to the main event, teams from 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will go head-to-head for the Tom Coleridge Cup.

Admission is free and the matches kick off at 1300 and 1530.



■ **ARMY** ice hockey stars Capt Dan Withers (CLR) and Rfn Steve Gilmartin (2 Rifles) switched allegiances to boost the Royal Navy's ranks for a competition in Canada.

The duo helped their counterparts in matches against the country's navy and air force in the Chris Saunders Memorial Tournament.

The players exceeded expectations by winning a number of games on a two-week tour ahead of the contest.

"We are used to being tough opponents on the ice but being there forged new friendships," Gilmartin said.

The pair will return to Army colours for the Tri-Service Ice Hockey Championships which are being held in Sheffield on Tuesday, June 11.

ARMY SEVENS



THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards retained their Army Sevens crown with a 33-5 win over 2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh in the tournament's final.

A hat-trick from LCpl Marty Komaiyasa and further scores from LCpl Isoa Matagi and Tpr Jake Ubitau did the damage for the Germany-based outfit, who played without star performer LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni.

"It was a long day with six matches in total," said Lt Alasdair MacLaurin. "Everyone was asking where Roko was but we were confident we had a team that could retain the title.

"Marty performed well and to score a hat-trick in the final is fantastic."

Tries from Sgt Carrina Reeves, Maj Alex Coxon, LCpl Zoe Harris and Cpl Amy Robinson (pictured right) steered the Adjutant General's Corps to a 24-17 win over the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the final of the women's competition.



Pictures: Steve Dock

SPORT SHORTS

■ SERVICE personnel are being urged to sign up for the Karrimor Great Trail Challenge, which is being staged in Keswick on June 9.

More than 50 soldiers travelled to the Lake District to take part in the 2012 event and teams can battle it out over 11- and 22-kilometre routes.

The Royal British Legion has been nominated as the race's official charity for the second successive year and entries can be made online at www.greattrailchallenge.org

■ MARATHON man LCpl Liam Grimmer (AGC (SPS)) will be pushing himself to the limit this year as he bids to run nearly 300 kilometres for charity.

The 21-year-old has already completed the Haspa Hamburg Marathon and was due to compete in the London to Brighton Ultra Marathon as this issue went to press.

He will also run the Thames Path Ultra Marathon and Windsor Half Marathon in September, along with the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon in October.

Grimmer is raising money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and The Children's Society and his attempt follows a six-race challenge in Germany last year.

Donations to the latter cause can be made at www.justgiving.com/Liam-Grimmer-TCS, while those wanting to support the military organisation should email liam.grimmer414@mod.uk

■ AN ex-paratrooper set a new world record at the London Marathon by running the course while carrying a 40lb pack.

Mike Ellicock completed the energy-sapping 26-mile route in a time of 3hr 25min 21sec and raised more than £20,000 for the Parachute Regiment Charity in the process.

The 37-year-old shattered the previous record, which was set at the Tokyo Marathon, by 17 minutes.



Marathon mission

Interview: Richard Long

■ INSTANCE runner Capt Paul Molyneux (RAMC) is targeting a place at the 2014 Commonwealth Games after he posted a personal best time at this year's London Marathon.

The officer completed the 26-mile course in a time of 2hr 21min 54sec – an effort that saw him shave 20 seconds off his previous record and finish in 19th position overall.

Such sparkling form saw him crowned Inter-Services champion and Molyneux told *SoldierSport* the hard work invested during the winter months paid off in the capital.

"My previous best was set in 2011 and I have been training continuously since then," he explained. "I had a couple of good races beforehand and had a decent cross-country season so I was in good shape."

"I was on for a sub 2hr 20min time but it was a hot day and I was left on my own for the last six miles so I didn't have a group of runners to push me on."

"The qualifying standard for the Commonwealth Games is 2hr 18min and that is my target."

"I have until April next year to achieve that so I'm just concentrating on short-term goals – the first of which is the Manchester ten-kilometre race for the Combined Services."

Molyneux is a seasoned campaigner having completed his first marathon in 2003 and he has represented England at international level, winning an Ultra Marathon silver medal in 2009.

He also competes regularly for the Combined Services team.

"We run in some high profile races and are up against a quality field of athletes," he said. "The standard is good and the Royal Air Force is particularly strong."

"The Army is really proactive when it comes to sport and my unit, MDHU Frimley Park, has been very supportive. I've been quite overwhelmed by the way they've reacted to my results."



Picture: Steve Dock



Athletes dominate duathlon

ARMY triathletes made a successful start to the new season by dominating the field at the Inter-Services Duathlon Championships.

More than 120 competitors took to the start line at Hullavington Airfield for the event, which featured a five-kilometre run followed by a 20-kilometre bike stage and a further two-and-a-half kilometres on foot.

Sgt Gaz Watkins (RE) was the leading light for the men's team as he completed the course in a combined time of 54min 27sec to be crowned champion, with Sgt Jacko Jackson (RAPTC) finishing second.

Lt Elysia Ridley (RLC) opened a 40-second lead in the first phase of the women's race but she had to settle for second place overall, while Maj Sarah Thomas (RAMC) was third.



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Final word

To round off our military drama special, we asked soldiers from 1st Battalion, Irish Guards what makes a war film worth watching



Gdsm Kenny Devon

I'm into comedy but I like military shows too so I thought *Bluestone 42* was alright. The platoon commander and the padre were funny. The privates and the corporals had some good banter and that's what it's like in real life. It's bad when something feels too scripted.



Gdsm Matt Reynolds

I enjoy war films if they're done well but it doesn't do it for me when Steven Seagal goes in with two guns and defeats an army, James Bond gets shot at by 60 enemies and doesn't get hit or one exploding vehicle destroys a whole camp. The titles that show comradeship between soldiers and the pride they take in their work are the best. *Act of Valour* was full of courageous feats, such as someone jumping on a grenade to save his section and that does happen in real life as the operational honours and awards show.

Gdsm Chad Lennon

I wasn't around during the Second World War or Vietnam, obviously, but *Enemy at the Gates* and *We Were Soldiers* appeared quite realistic, just jazzed up a bit for film. *Band of Brothers* was probably one of my favourite screenings. It seemed accurate and the tactics were similar to ours. I like how it followed the same group of men throughout the whole series. Films and programmes bring the intensity of combat to life but not the anxiety you feel if you're actually there.



Gdsm Samuel Miller

I like *Black Hawk Down* because it's based on true events and the actors are quite accurate in their drills so you get a realistic impression of what it must have been like. *Bluestone 42* was rubbish. It didn't get the squaddie banter right and the way they saluted and addressed their officers was all wrong too.



Gdsm Brett Spencer

Behind every war there is a story. I watch *The Hurt Locker* again and again. It shows what troops do on current ops – finding IEDs, disarming them, coming under contact and losing comrades. There are a lot of sad parts and I think it captures the emotions of conflict.



Dmr David Steed

I wouldn't say I am a massive film guru but the special effects and graphics in *The Hurt Locker* made the action seem very realistic. When it came out I think it drove home what it's like for troops on modern operations. As a soldier you do look out for details such as cap badges in the wrong place or beret shaping. ITV's *Homefront* was really bad for that.



LCpl Dan Gardiner

My favourite films are the ones with a bit of humour in them, like drill sergeants shouting at people. Some of the insults are brilliant. If you spot mistakes it doesn't necessarily spoil the enjoyment but you can tell straight away that the filmmakers didn't know what they were doing. I like titles that are based on true events, not stuff that's unrealistic and cheesy, but a film will never give as accurate a view of war as like as a documentary.



Gdsm Christopher Boyd

I'm a fan of military movies, especially *Full Metal Jacket* and *Platoon*, which give an impression of what war used to be like. Operations today are different. *Saving Private Ryan* shows the impact of conflict and what it was like for the families. Battle is not a nice thing and the bad films glorify it, which gives the wrong idea to young people watching. If they end up joining the Army it won't be what they expect.

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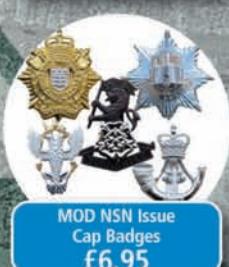
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