

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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All enquiries: Tel 01252 787107 / 94222 7107

Fax: 01252 787110 / 94222 7110

Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Sports Editor

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

Art Editor

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

Designer

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

Photographer

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

Photographer

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

Managing Editor

Steven Muncney 01252 787095 (7095)
smuncney@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Business Manager

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

Advertising/Subscriptions

Heather Shekyls 01252 787106 (7106)

Advertising: advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions: subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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ARMY

A look at life after Afghanistan

WITH drawdown continuing at pace this month, October's *Soldier* looks at the complex legacy that a decade of war in southern Afghanistan will leave behind.

For many of you, Op Herrick is representing some amazing career highs and exciting opportunities to expand your expertise and travel the world in the process.

For others, it has changed life irreversibly through injury, bereavement or battlefield experience.

As with all military missions, commitment to Queen and country comes at a high price.

This month we meet an inspiring Grenadier Guard who is recovering from some of the worst injuries imaginable (page 42-43) while all the time retaining his "squaddie" sense of humour.

For anyone who believes that wounds of any kind – whether mental or physical – are a sign of weakness, think again. I cannot imagine a better example of British soldiers' determination to triumph in all that they do than Gdsm John Dawson's story.

In addition to the world-class combat equipment (pages 10-11) and highly-trained personnel (pages 26-27) that Op Herrick leaves our Service with, a sense of pride at the professional conduct of our people is surely one of the key legacies of time served in Helmand province – something Afghan forces are keen to replicate.

And of course, with the commencement of Herrick 19 this month (page 7), the mission is far from over yet. So please keep your updates and letters coming in. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

"We're meant to be tough infantry soldiers but we came back from a four-hour ride and we were exhausted"

Troops at home on the range (pages 33-36)

S. Goldthorpe.





“We’re learning skills we’ve not used for ten years”
 Reserve officer on new training drills p31

“Providing the wrong songs to the wrong crowd can be pretty embarrassing”
 Army musician tells it like it is p39

“There are double amputees who say ‘let’s go out and get legless’...”
 Guardsman on life at Headley Court p42

BOXING

Browning takes centre stage

Having spent the last few years in the shadows, Browning has finally stepped into the spotlight. The 27-year-old has secured a spot in the main event of the upcoming fight night, a chance to prove himself against a former world champion. Browning's journey to the top has been a long and arduous one, but his determination and hard work have paid off. He is now ready to face the world's best and show what he's made of.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

WARRIOR TO RESERVE

Serving in the reserves has given him the chance to pursue his passion for mixed martial arts. He has trained for years, honing his skills in various disciplines. Now, he has the opportunity to compete at a professional level. He is determined to make the most of this chance and show the world that he is a true warrior.

How does Michael Browning feel about the chance to compete in the reserves?

“It’s a fantastic opportunity and I’m really excited about it. I’ve trained for years and I know I have what it takes to succeed. I’m going to give it my all and I hope to make a name for myself in the reserves.”

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Picture: Cpl S Longworth, RLC



Province progress: Numbers of UK troops will continue to reduce during the course of Herrick 19

The beginning of the end

THE penultimate deployment to Afghanistan begins this month, with UK troop numbers in the country set to drop to around 5,200 by the end of the year.

Members of 7th Armoured Brigade will assume control of Op Herrick 19, overseeing the drawdown of more than 2,000 military personnel between now and Christmas.

For those who have been to Helmand province previously, the latest tour is likely to feel quite different to those that have gone before.

While some personnel will serve for eight months, removing the need to train and deploy an extra brigade to cover the final months of 2014, others could return much earlier depending on how smoothly the process runs.

Brig James Woodham, commander of 7th Armoured Brigade, explained: "I fully expect in my time to conclude the process of closing and transferring the UK's bases in Helmand province and as this process takes place we will be able to redeploy more of our people and equipment back to the UK and Germany."

The day-to-day role for troops will continue to change, becoming less kinetic and more advisory.

Those working with the fast-improving Afghan National Security Forces will assume a supporting role rather than taking the lead.

As a result, Servicemen and women, including around 400 Reserves, have received specific

training tailored to the fresh set of requirements of this particular operational deployment.

"All the way through it was clear that Herrick 19 was going to be different and the training for Afghanistan which has been delivered by the Army has been really well focused," added Brig Woodham.

His opinion has been echoed by members of 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, who, as the Brigade Advisory Team, will be responsible for liaising with and advising the Afghan National Army.

"One thing we've been training hard on is being aware of our surroundings when working in an Afghan compound or forward operating base," said LCpl Andrew Barton (3 Mercian).

"We've been practising recognising body language and picking up clues on the mood or atmosphere."

Lt Col Chris Davies (3 Mercian) added: "The training is more sophisticated now and includes things like understanding the 'human terrain' – that is, a complex picture of the country and its customs.

"Once you understand that, you have to then make sure the soldiers don't fall foul of it.

"It's so important because, perhaps more than at any time in the past, we're aware of the importance of the legacy we will be leaving behind."

>> Op Herrick 19 will also cover key milestones in the transition process, such as the Afghan presidential elections in early 2014 – not to mention the huge logistical task of removing thousands of tonnes of equipment and cleaning, reconditioning and transporting the kit back to the UK (see pages 28-29).

“
We're aware of the legacy we will leave behind
”

● Final word – page 98

DIGITAL DIRECTION

■ ARMY units with official social media accounts must register their sites with the Army Media and Communication digital branch from now on.

The rule has been introduced to regulate the look and editorial standards of the Service's online channels and applies to all existing and new pages set up by corps, regiments, clubs and societies.

Units are also being urged to ensure that their pages on the Army website are brought up to date and maintained properly.

Guidance on the policy, as well as on operating official accounts on sites such as Facebook and Twitter, can be found in ABN 86/13 or by emailing the digital team.

REID INSPIRES ROCK

■ ROCK band Titor's Insignia have released a new single to raise money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Freedom Fighter

was originally written six years ago but when the group read about former Serviceman Andy Reid, who lost three limbs after being injured in Afghanistan, they were moved to support the cause.

As part of his quest to live life to the fullest he has worked tirelessly for the charity and the four-piece chose the song as its lyrics proved to be particularly poignant.

The track is available to download on iTunes.

● Pop and rock idols – pages 39-40



THE TIME TO STOP

■ SERVICE smokers still have time to sign up to the annual NHS campaign to help people quit cigarettes for a month.

Stoptober encourages smokers around the country to kick the habit by offering free support through texts, emails and a mobile app.

Those behind the scheme say people who manage to stay smoke-free for 28 days are five times as likely to give up for good.

To register or find out more information on the initiative visit www.smokefree.nhs.uk/stoptober



Blazing saddles

A GROUP of soldiers from ITC Catterick grabbed the opportunity to attend "Cowboy College" in Scottsdale on the outskirts of Phoenix, Arizona, on Exercise Catterick Wrangler. The week-long experience took even those who had ridden before back to basics and gave them a taste of working on a real ranch. They learnt western riding skills from professional ranchers, the art of looking after working horses and how to rope cattle with a lasso. They even faced the hair-raising prospect of competing in a rodeo. "None of us fancied a face-off with a bull," said one sore soldier.

“None of us fancied a face-off with a bull”

● Full report – page 33



Armed Forces Day

NEXT year's Armed Forces Day will take place on June 28 in Stirling less than three months before the referendum on Scottish independence. The town will be the centre of a week of activities encouraging the public to show their support for the military and should witness some spectacular celebrations honouring Service personnel past and present. It will be the second time in three years that Scotland has hosted the day after Edinburgh staged the event in 2011.



Peaking in Peru

NORTHERN Altura, a high-altitude mountaineering expedition to Peru to develop the experience of 14 Army Mountaineering Association members, was led by Capt Alexandra Dow (21 Engr Regt) and colleague Maj Terry Denton (DE&S).

The group traversed the spectacular Cordillera Blanca range at 4,800m; Wilkawain, a small site of pre-Inca archaeological ruins in the foothills above Huaraz at 3,400m; the route from Pitec to Lake Churup at 4,450m and to Lake Llaca at 4,474m. The soldiers also managed to scale Maparaju (5,326m), Ishinca (5,530m) and Pisco (5,752m).

Intelligence for the atlas?

Brief the team now

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Italian job

RESERVISTS from across north-west England have been training near Venice with soldiers of the Italian Army.

More than 80 men and women from Anzio Company of 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment spent two weeks working with Italy's 7th Infantry Regiment and 32nd Tank Regiment. The unit included combat soldiers, medics, chefs, training officers and other support staff.

Based at Camp Cellina Meduna in the north of the country, Exercise Roman Star was designed to link the Reservists' training with that of other Nato forces and ensure the best tactics and techniques are shared between nations. It tested vehicle drills, section attacks, night patrols, ambushes and ways to draw enemy soldiers out from cover.



« Croatia first

REGULAR and Reserve personnel from The Royal Anglian Regiment have become the first British troops to train in Croatia.

Exercise Sava Star saw 140 soldiers from the unit's 2nd and 3rd Battalions, which are paired under the Future Reserves programme, integrate with each other while also working alongside Croatian troops.

High ambition ≡

THE Household Cavalry Regiment is planning an expedition to Mount Everest Base Camp, where they hope to break the world record for the highest game of touch rugby. A total of 28 personnel will embark on the quest in February as they seek to raise £100,000 for the Household Cavalry Foundation, Combat Stress and the Rugby Football Union's Injured Players Foundation.

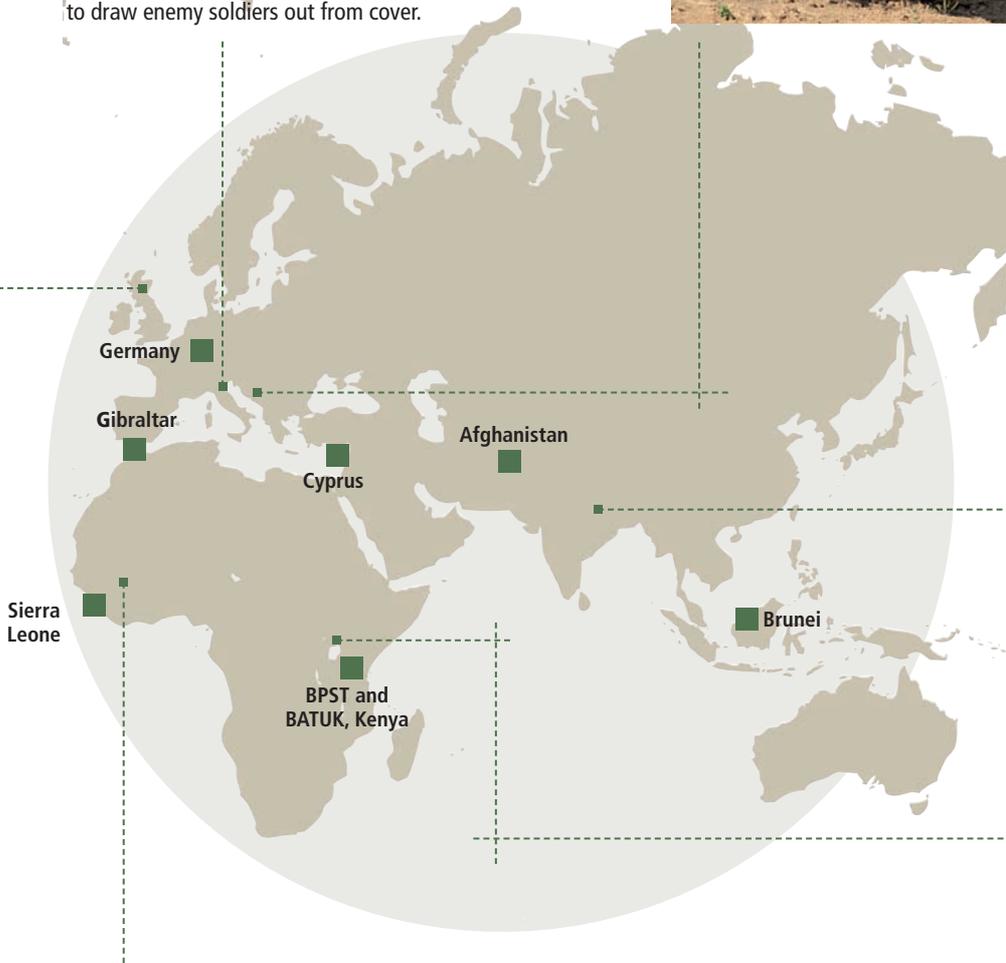


Reserve task

THE 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment have spent two weeks training 1,800 members of the Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) as part of a wider effort to increase the role of the Reserves on operations.

The tuition consisted of traditional infantry tactics and also peacekeeping procedures of interacting with the local population and female engagement. Over the previous three months the Ugandans had received training from American, French and Dutch troops before the British delivered the final fortnight of drills, which culminated in a challenging two-day field exercise.

Around 28 personnel took part in the instruction, after which the UPDF soldiers became eligible for UN and African Union peacekeeping missions.



Mali mission »

SOLDIERS from 1st Battalion, The Rifles recently assumed responsibility for the UK's contribution to the EU mission in the west African nation of Mali.

The riflemen took over from 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, which deployed six months ago in support of the ongoing operation to build long-term stability in the country.

Malian units will receive intensive ten-week training packages to develop skills and tactics and provide clear understanding of the conduct required of those engaged in combat and counter-insurgency operations.

The six-month stint will see The Rifles drawing upon the experience of similar missions in Afghanistan, where they mentored and trained local forces two years ago.





Picture: Steve Dock

Leaving Lashkar Gah

AROUND 1,400 pieces of IT kit, ten kilometres of cable, ten containers of equipment and 260 staff were transported in just a few hours as part of the relocation of the headquarters of British military operations in Afghanistan.

The early-morning helicopter operation to shift the base from Lashkar Gah to Camp Bastion was one of the most complex headquarters moves ever undertaken by the British Army on operations.

It took four waves of aviation to transport the base, led by 1 Mechanized Brigade, but control was formally handed over to the new site by the middle of the morning.

A short ceremony was then held in memory of those members of the Armed Forces who have lost their lives on operations in the country.

The procedure involved Servicemen and women from all three branches of the Armed Forces with military and civilian communications specialists,

builders, carpenters, metal smiths, electricians and plumbers all contributing as well.

The operation was the latest stage in reducing UK military presence outside of Camp Bastion.

Afghan forces are now planning and conducting many security operations across Helmand province without outside help.

Maj Dan Ashton (R Signals), who was responsible for coordinating the demanding project, commented: "The relocation was a technical and logistical feat, with a number of previously unencountered challenges.

"However, it has now set the conditions for 1 Mechanized Brigade's successors and the redeployment of UK Forces from southern Afghanistan."

The HQ in Lashkar Gah had coordinated British operations across the region for more than seven years.

● Kit countdown– pages 28-29

End of an era:
British Forces will now be based mainly in Camp Bastion

13 The number of bases where British troops are now stationed in southern Afghanistan – it was 137 just three years ago

SUCCESS FOR SAPPERS

■ ROYAL Engineers have repaired a key bridge in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand province.

The crossing over the Chah-e Anjir valley links communities in the Basharan and Babaji areas.

First built in 2010, the structure was damaged earlier this year when insurgents laid an IED there.

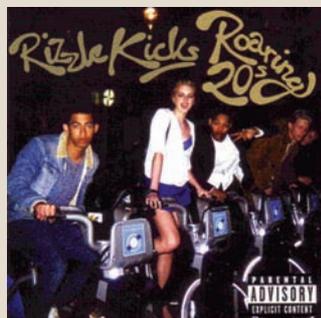
But thanks to a two-day repair job carried out by sappers from 5 Sqn, 22 Engr Regt, farmers can once again move their produce to market in Lashkar Gah and children can get to school more easily.

"My troops worked hard on the task, despite the heat, and we could all see what it meant to the local people," said Capt George Andrews.

The regiment's commanding officer, Lt Col Jason Kerr, said the unit's busy tour had also seen its troops reinforcing bases and removing others as the drawdown continues.



THIS MONTH IN REVIEWS



MUSIC: "This album is a watermark for British hip-hop"
★★★★★



With the release of their fifth album, *AM*, the Arctic Monkeys are bracing themselves for what is likely to be one of the best selling records of 2013 – pages 76-77

“YOUNG PILOTS WHO HAVE NEVER DEPLOYED ARE SO RESPECTFUL OF WHAT WE OFFER”

– AIRCREWS FACE HERRICK TEST, PAGES 26-27



Picture: Cpl Si Longworth, RLC



DISTRICT DEPARTED BY BRITISH ARMY

■ THE last UK soldiers have pulled out of the Nad-e Ali district of Helmand province as Afghan forces assume control of the region.

Members of 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were the last British troops to oversee the handover of responsibility.

Their departure and the closure of FOB Shawqat marks the end of a five-year British presence.

Since 2008, Nad-e Ali has been cleared of insurgent activity and transformed into a bustling hub that now boasts a bazaar, 29 schools and four clinics.

The Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police provided security during the 2013 fighting season. Mohammad Ibrahim, district governor of Nad-e Ali, thanked the British for their support.

“Our security forces have been well trained by the UK,” he said.

“Now that troops are leaving, the population is ready to put its trust in the Afghan security forces, who stand ready to uphold the gains British personnel have made.”

“Going out on a real operation like Herrick 19 is one of the reasons I wanted to be involved with the Army

THOUGHTS ON HELMAND TOUR – FINAL WORD PAGE 98

Weaponry wake-up call

WITH members of 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery deploying on Herrick 19 in a training and mentoring role, some rather unusual mission-specific drills have been required.

“We’re going out there to instruct Afghan trainers and mentor them when they go on operations,” said Capt Simon Grigg (3 RHA).

“The trouble is, they use Russian-made D30 guns which were manufactured in the 1960s. They were designed to be mass-produced in factories so they’re pretty crude.”

Finland is the only European nation to use the D30 so a team from the British unit spent two weeks at the Finnish Artillery School at Niinisalo, 250 miles north west of Helsinki.

“Our stint there was absolutely fantastic,” added Capt Grigg.

“We found out pretty quickly that the D30 is a world away from the 105mm light gun we’re used to.

“The shockwave smashes through your body – it’s pretty brutal.

“The Soviets obviously weren’t too

fussed about what happened to their personnel back then.

“To a man, after the first day’s firing we were wondering why our chests were hurting.”

Such impact was something the troops had been warned about during their pre-firing briefs.

“It was funny to see people’s faces when the first round was fired,” said Gnr Ritchie Whyte (3 RHA). “The Finns were looking at us to see our reaction.

“You really did feel as if you were getting whacked.

“When I came back off the first day the dust had got under my trousers and my legs were black.”

For the soldiers involved it was time to draw on some of their basic artillery training.

“The D30 has an optical sighting system that we have not used for ten to 12 years,” explained Capt Grigg. “There’s no GPS, keypads or computer software, but it’s always good to go back to basics.”

And the most valuable lesson learnt of all? Make sure you have your back to this gun when you fire it.



GAMES: “This proves to be the ultimate blend of style and substance” ★★★★★

“THIS IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE CRAZIEST GAME I HAVE SEEN

”



BOOKS: “A fascinating insight into the ‘influence’ poster.” ★★★★★



TOP GEAR: The Jaguar F-Type shows itself to be a rare beast – pages 80-81



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“YOU CAN’T FAKE REACTION FROM A BUNCH OF SOLDIERS WHO HAVEN’T HAD ANYTHING TO DRINK”

- MUSICIANS PRAISE MUSICAL OVERHAUL, PAGES 39-40



SHEDDING LEGAL LIGHT

■ A SERIES of roadshows are being held to explain the benefits of Armed Forces legal aid.

Organised by the authority that oversees the scheme, the seminars are aimed at all personnel in human resources roles and will take place on October 2 on HMS *Nelson*, October 30 at Catterick Military Court Centre, October 31 at Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade and November 5 at Colchester Military Court Centre.

An additional event will be held at the British Forces Germany Military Court Centre in Sennelager but a date has yet to be confirmed.

For more details call 01980 615973.

SPITFIRE UNEARTHED

■ AN award-winning project that uses archaeology to aid the recovery of injured soldiers has uncovered a crashed Spitfire on Salisbury Plain.

The fighter plane was shot down on October 27, 1940 and personnel from Operation Nightingale excavated its remnants with the help of the Army’s survey unit, 135 Geographic Squadron.

Experts from Cranfield University and Wessex Archaeology were on hand to offer support during the dig, as were members of 609 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

The Spitfire was part of the Battle of Britain and Plt Off Paul Baillon had to bail out after damage to the oil tank resulted in a severe loss of visibility which meant he was unable to land the aircraft safely.

His daughter, Rosemary, visited the dig site near Upavon to watch the excavation take place.

“The project has been a poignant and moving discovery,” said Richard Osgood, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation’s senior historic adviser.



Picture: Cpl Steve Blake, RLC



Blood brothers: Sgt John Priestley (RAMC) and his brother CPO Neilson McCready met for the first time during medical training

Miracle meeting

Medic realises instructor is his spitting image

A CHANCE encounter on an Army course has seen two long lost brothers united.

Sgt John Priestley (RAMC), a member of 16 Medical Regiment, was attending trade training at Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, when he realised that the naval medic leading the lessons looked just like him.

When his colleagues noticed the same thing, the soldier approached the tutor and after a short chat the pair realised they had far more in common than their careers.

“I was sat at the back of the auditorium and had my head down when several people suddenly said, ‘Look at that guy, John’,” the combat medical technician told *Soldier*.

“Everyone was saying we were the spitting image of each other.

“The instructor had the same Scottish accent as me and was also using some similar colloquialisms.

“I approached him during the break and he said that he was called Neilson McCready.

“I asked him if he knew John Neilson Priestley, my dad, and he said that was his biological father!

“He looked at me, frozen. We realised that made us half-brothers.

“My dad was shocked when I told him what had happened.

“I knew he’d been married before he met my mother and that I had a half-brother somewhere who I hadn’t

met but I never expected him to have joined the Services and for us both to have become medics.”

Now, 13 years after the shock meeting, the pair have become good friends and enjoy holidays and days out together.

However, the coincidence does not stop with their military careers.

Both men have got married, had two children, a boy and a girl, and became committed rugby fans.

“It’s been brilliant to have found each other and dad thinks so too,” added Sgt Priestley.

“It’s weird that I left such a remote part of Scotland to have an adventure with the Army and then met my half-brother so far away.

“It was a chance encounter that makes me wonder if we are destined to be in certain places at certain times. Whenever I tell people they say it is a brilliant story so I thought it was about time to contact *Soldier*.”

CPO McCready, who is due to leave the Royal Navy next year, said he would always be grateful to the British Army for bringing him together with Sgt Priestley.

“It’s incredibly surreal,” the pharmacy instructor said. “I can remember being aghast when I realised who he was.

“I don’t think we’ll ever get bored talking about it – it always comes up when we have had a drink together.”

“I knew I had a half brother but I never expected us both to have become medics”



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“WE CAN LAUGH TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH” - INJURY AND IN-JOKES, PAGES 42-43



MESS CHARGE MUDDLE

■ UNITS have been ignoring a recent change in rules regarding messing charges for personnel visiting on duty.

The new policy, introduced in May, states that staff no longer have to pay daily subscriptions while staying in a mess other than their own while on official business.

However, confusion over what costs can be charged has led some establishments to continue billing guests incorrectly.

In response, the Army has issued clarification that all civilian and military visitors are exempt from subscription fees, irrespective of their length of stay.

Minimal contributions for non-contract services such as newspapers, laundry and entertainment can still be levied but must not exceed 75 pence per day.

Anyone wrongly billed is advised to request repayment and, if this fails, submit a Service complaint.

Read **ABN 87/13** for more details.



TRIBUTES FOR TROOPS

■ A BROTHER and sister team have created an online memorial site for friends, family and members of the public to pay tribute to fallen soldiers.

Notes With Wings was set up by Avi and James Lugassy after the ex-Serviceman, formerly of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, lost a good friend but had nowhere to leave his unsaid words.

The portal allows users to add eulogies, upload photos and videos, create albums, leave comments and send gifts.

For more information log on to www.noteswithwings.com

TIME TO CHANGE

■ BOVINGTON has become the first Army community in the country to join a campaign to end the stigma of mental illness.

The garrison signed the Time to Change pledge, which allows organisations to demonstrate that they want to tackle discrimination towards those suffering from mental health issues.

In the last 18 months various initiatives have been introduced in the area to support soldiers, including “tea and talk” sessions and special events to raise awareness.

The MoD is expected to sign the same pledge later this year.



Picture: Graeme Main

More claws for Foxhound

BRITISH soldiers will soon be getting their hands on 24 more Foxhound protected patrol vehicles, the MoD has said.

The £23 million contract will bring the Service’s total fleet to 400.

Announcing the order, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne, commented: “Foxhound gives our Armed Forces enhanced mobility, more protection and enables them to operate in a wide range of challenging environments.”

“This investment will bolster the Army’s capability far into the future and demonstrates our commitment to provide troops with the battle-winning vehicles they deserve.”

The 8.5-tonne asset brought a

boost to Service personnel when it was first introduced to southern Afghanistan in the summer of 2012.

With a top speed of 70mph, the highly armoured vehicle has a V-shaped hull making it more resistant against a range of threats.

It has been used for troop movement, dismounted operations, convoy protection and mobile patrolling among various other front-line tasks.

“Foxhound is superb and the technology it has is sensational,” Sig Mark Lawrence (R Signals) told *Soldier* when the kit made its debut during Op Herrick 16.

“Its performance cross-country is amazing and I cannot see it struggling. It is nice to drive.”

Nice wheels: The protected patrol vehicle has more than proved its worth in southern Afghanistan during the last 18 months

IN NUMBERS: FOXHOUND

£371M
total amount the MoD has invested in Foxhound since 2010

24
number of new platforms that have been purchased for the Army

Top speed of the asset
70MPH

2012
year the vehicle was first used in Afghanistan

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**“WE WERE WINNING THE EVENT ON WALKOVERS. IT WAS A BIT OF A FARCE”
- NEW ARMY BOXING COACH, PAGE 86**



Wheel revolution

THE next generation of armoured vehicles could be inherently safer for their passengers thanks to an innovative new drive system revealed at the recent DSEI Exhibition in London.

GKN Land Systems, which already supplies components for many military assets, displayed a new electric motor that is mounted at the heart of each wheel hub.

It's claimed that a vehicle powered by the company's 'Hub Drive' system would be quieter, more efficient and has the potential to offer better active protection against mines and IEDs as there are no running gear parts located underneath.

In addition, this means greater suspension movement to enhance off-

road performance.

The drive system also gives designers the scope to produce a smooth underbelly profile, shaped to provide more resistance to explosions than found in many of the current generation of vehicles.

"The benefits of the electric hub drive system include improved ballistic protection by eliminating hull apertures, silent running mode for stealthy operations and weight savings which can be utilised for improved protection or payload," commented Jules Carter, engineering director at GKN Land Systems.

Soldier understands that the firm hopes to produce a running demonstrator unit in early 2014.



THE programme to introduce the new Wildcat helicopters is on track. The Army Air Corps will receive 34 aircraft, which offer more powerful engines and better protection than the Lynx and are due in service next year.

UPDATE...

HOME TRUTHS

By Catherine Spencer, chief executive of the Army Families Federation (www.aff.org.uk)



Reserve contact

AFF has recently changed the way in which it works with Reservist families and units.

In the past we had one specialist who did a great job representing the views of Reservist families. Now, responding to the increased role of Army Reserves, AFF coordinators are working directly with units and will be represented at a higher level by AFF's UK director, Jill Baines.

This will give families local access to our organisation and we hope it will increase our contact with Reserve units across the country.

This approach will rely on even greater contact between regimental operations support officers and our coordinators.

Our covenant liaison, Julie Lowe, will also be able to assist families who believe they have an issue which could be addressed by the Armed Forces Covenant.

Families can now contact their local coordinator or any of AFF's specialists to gain guidance on issues. We're very interested in how Reservists view the support and communications provided by the Service, so please get in touch with your comments to help us pass on your opinions.

Dispersed families

The definition of whom the MoD views as a family has expanded in recent years to include a wide range of types. This is relevant to data that AFF is providing for a new study the organisation is undertaking.

It is examining how best to provide support for geographically dispersed families, or families living in their own homes.

Those living in service family accommodation have to be married or in a civil partnership, and this is not necessarily representative of the sort of groups many soldiers now call their family.

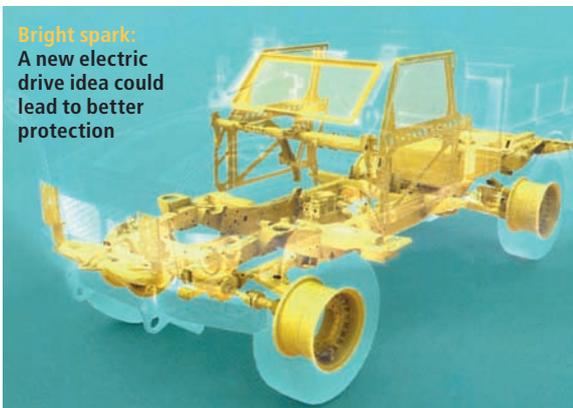
AFF welcomes this look at widening information and support to better represent the needs of the modern Army family.

In common with the MoD, we also have difficulty reaching those who have chosen to live in their own accommodation.

If this applies to your family, please put them in contact with AFF. We can provide assistance on a wide range of issues – the areas we work in include education, childcare, employment, training, allowances, housing, redundancy and rebasing from Germany.

● To obtain a copy of our new magazine *Army & You* please go to: www.armyandyou.co.uk

Bright spark:
A new electric drive idea could lead to better protection



IN NUMBERS: LIBOR GRANT

SIXTEEN Armed Forces charities will share a £2.5 million cash boost after the latest release of funds collected through banking fines following the LIBOR scandal

£1,000,000
amount that Blind Veterans UK will get to refurbish its Brighton centre

32 the number of children who will benefit from respite breaks under the CHICKS programme

120
the number of concerts that Music in Hospitals will be able to run for veterans in care establishments with its £32,400-share

the total number of charities that have secured funding so far

49

66,678
funding in pounds for the British ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association to further rehabilitation through physical activity



“ALTHOUGH I WAS ONLY EIGHT WHEN DAD’S CAREER ENDED, THOSE EARLY ARMY YEARS HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON ME” – CELEB SPILLS THE BEANS ON SERVICE ROOTS, PAGES 50-51



Picture: Graeme Main

Changes to terms ‘no cost-cutting measure’ say chiefs

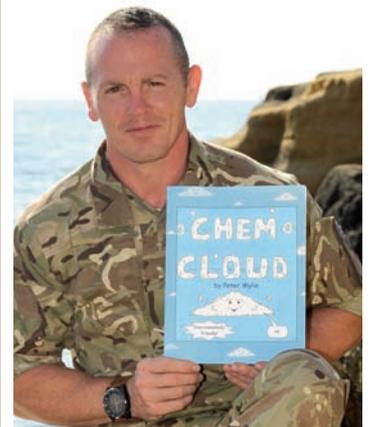
TROOPS and their families have had their say on the new employment model during the consultation period in the summer. Feedback was directed through roadshows and focus groups at locations across the UK and overseas, individual and paired interviews, and an online survey. Questions were also submitted through the NEM mailbox. There will be a further survey before the end of the year when the second phase of the consultation is due to begin. The programme will offer a thorough review of the terms and conditions of service with factors such as pay, accommodation and career structures falling under the spotlight of defence chiefs. The current package predates the 1970s and while some aspects are strong and need to be sustained,

such as subsidised housing and welfare provision, others have not kept up with the way soldiers and their families live their lives in the 21st century. “There is concern among many of our personnel and their loved ones that the new employment model is simply a cost-cutting exercise aimed at reducing the package currently available,” explained programme manager, Cdre Mike Bath. “It is important to make absolutely clear that this is not the case. “It is about updating and rebalancing the package on offer so that we can continue to recruit capable and motivated people and, more importantly, keep them.” Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/new-employment-model or defence internal brief 2013DIB37.

Under the spotlight: Soldiers’ terms and conditions are being brought up to date

THE NEXT JK ROWLING?

■ A SOLDIER is finding success in an unlikely role – that of a published children’s author. LCpl Peter Wylie (RLC, pictured below) is preparing to release his second book, *Elgin The Little Troll*, at the end of the year. The fantasy title is aimed at youngsters between the ages of six and nine and also features colourful illustrations by the Serviceman. “I just love keeping my hand in with writing and doing something totally different from my military job,” he told *Soldier*. LCpl Wylie’s first offering, *Chem Cloud*, inspired youngsters to respect the environment and sold thousands of copies in the UK and America. Although the next book covers a different topic, the Cyprus-based Serviceman hopes it will become just as popular. “The latest story isn’t a follow-on, it’s about an 85-year-old troll,” said the movements controller. “Hopefully through sales I can raise money for Service charities.” Ten per cent of the profits from *Elgin The Little Troll* will be donated to SSAFA. Visit www.sbptra.com/peterwylie to purchase the book.



Picture: Graeme Main

MORE AIRTIME FOR THE APACHE

A £367 MILLION deal will ensure the cream of the British Army’s equipment crop is kept in the air for longer. The new contract with Rolls Royce Turbomeca will provide maintenance for the Apache’s RTM322 engines as well as those of the Merlin. By simplifying the supply chain, improving technical support and increasing the availability of spare parts, the arrangement will reduce the number of major repairs needed, leaving crews free to fly for longer. “This will provide important support,” said defence minister Philip Dunne. The agreement will deliver around £300m of savings.



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"BEFORE WE STARTED GOING TO ITS EVENTS I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING WITHOUT CRYING"

– BREW GURU CHAMPIONS CHARITY, PAGES 46-47



NEW SECURITY MARKS

■ THE Army is making changes to the way it classifies information and physical assets.

From April 2014 the current government protective marking system will be replaced by a new three-tier structure – official, secret and top secret.

The "official" category will give rise to the most significant change and will absorb unclassified material, along with the majority of items marked as "restricted", "protect" and "confidential".

Sensitive information that justifies heightened protective measures will be marked as "secret", while the "top secret" tier encompasses data that requires the highest level of protection from the most serious threats.

Changes are being made as the current system was designed for paper documents and is not suitable in the electronic working environment.

For more information read **ABN 84/13**.

HI-TECH WELSH FACILITY

■ FRONT-LINE troops will soon benefit from advancements in ceramic armour being developed in South Wales, the MoD has announced.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) has teamed up with Kennametal Manufacturing UK Ltd to set up a £2 million state-of-the-art facility in Newport, which will produce components for personnel and vehicle protection.

Steel armour is already designed at a similar centre in Port Talbot but the new plant will lessen the UK's reliance on imports of ceramic plating and make it more readily available during the development of any future equipment.

"The ability to make ceramic samples large enough for full scale impact tests and the very significant reduction in time taken to produce a sample, means that we can investigate a much wider range of innovative formulations, faster and more cheaply than before," said DSTL's professor, Peter Brown.

'TUCK IT IN OR OUT'

■ TROOPS have been told they can wear their combat jackets how they choose.

Depending on direction from their chain of command, personnel can now wear the uniform tucked in or out, and with the sleeves rolled up or down as long as there is consistency within individual units.

The formal change in policy follows verbal direction given to regimental sergeant majors by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, at their annual conference in July.

The introduction of the new-style jackets in 2011 prompted complaints from many Servicemen and women that wearing them untucked and with long sleeves did not look smart enough.

For further details read **ABN 81/13**.



“I thought your magazine may like to know that the facility is now a nudist colony. Visitors are welcome – naked!”

TALKBACK PAGE 55

✉ mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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Is it time for another Armed Force in the UK?

CYBER defence has become so important to national security that a fourth Service may be necessary to help the Armed Forces protect the country, a senior politician has said.

Addressing the National Security Summit, Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, compared the issue to the discovery of gunpowder for its implications on future conflict.

Having traditionally operated within the domains of land, sea and air, the rise of cyber technology had created a "new frontier" for defence, said Mr Dunne.

"It is not inconceivable that at some point in the 21st century a new Service is required to utilise and protect cyberspace," he added.

With the National Security Council rating the cyber threat as a tier-one security priority alongside international terrorism and a major ecological disaster, the government has committed £650 million towards improving the UK's response.

"On top of the money allocated to the MoD from this fund in 2010, we will also invest a further £70 million over the next four years from within our own budget for improving our

cyber defence capabilities," said the minister.

"Our new Joint Forces Command, which was set up in April, leads on that response, ensuring that we consider cyber in all future planning and operations."

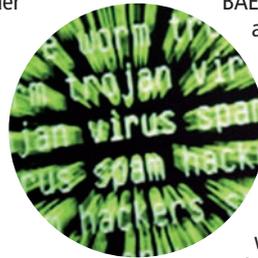
The minister also announced a partnership with industry that will bring together nine firms including BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Hewlett Packard to build resilience throughout the defence supply chain.

"This is a clear demonstration that government and industry can work together, sharing information, experience and expertise to make sure we do all we can to safeguard these critical networks," he added.

In addition, Mr Dunne said research proposals being coordinated by the centre for defence enterprise would help the department stay "ahead of the curve".

"These include ways to model linkages between cyberspace and real-world activity and assess vulnerabilities," he explained.

However, the minister stressed that personal "cyber hygiene" is just as crucial in combatting risk.



A Leatherman bag/tool combo

WIN

LAST month's spine lines competition was inspired by our cricket-crazy front cover. (Ray) Lindwall, (Neil) Harvey, (Bob) Simpson and (Bill) Lawry have all captained the Australian cricket team.

This month we have two sets of military booty to give away, courtesy of the online combat clothing and kit store Military 1st (www.military1st.co.uk).

To be in with a chance of winning one – which includes a multicam bag and Leatherman tool and is worth almost £200 – just tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or via email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by October 31. Good luck!



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TA NOW ARMY RESERVE

■ THE Territorial Army will soon officially be known as the Army Reserve, it's been announced.

Between November 1 2013 and January 20 2014, the use of the term TA or Territorial Army is to be phased out. Units should now begin preparing to update all branding, for example on signage, stationary, social media and recruiting material, to read Army Reserve. In addition, TA Centres will become Army Reserve Centres and the expression "volunteers" or its abbreviation "V" is also to stop.

For further details on the process, which is timed to coincide with the next Reserves recruiting campaign, read [ABN 90/13](#).



FLASHMOBS IN FAVOUR

■ MILITARY musicians left Saturday shoppers in Birmingham feeling anything but brassed off after a striking "flashmob" performance.

Some 60 Corps of Army Music (CAMUS) performers from both Reserve and Regular bands played the classic "Sing, Sing, Sing" by Louis Prima, surprising passers by in Chamberlain Square.

The event kicked off with a Serviceman, dressed in civilian clothes, playing drums on a plastic wheelie bin.

The orchestra then entered from side roads and entertained the crowd for 20 minutes before Army recruiters engaged with the audience.

Several similar events are planned around the country as part of a drive to expand the Army Reserve to 30,000 by 2018, as well as recruit more Regular soldiers and officers.

Captain Guy Bennett, Army Bands Coordination, Headquarters Support Command, said: "Flashmobs appeal to all ages, but particularly the younger generation.

"This was used to highlight one of the many exciting Army career opportunities."



Members of 37 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt work together on Exercise Global Total in Germany
Picture: SSgt Mark Nesbit, RLC

Signalling the change

EVIDENCE of the integrated Army could be seen during the recent Exercise Global Total, when 16 Sig Regt, based in Elmpt, Germany, hosted 115 members of its paired Reserve unit, 37 Sig Regt.

The two teams worked together on various communications systems, including trialling the new GPS-equipped Selex Elsag personal radio, as well as developing basic close combat skills.

The serial was designed to build on the success of the deployment of 14 personnel from 37 Sig Regt to work with their Regular counterparts in Afghanistan last year.

"It's all about developing our relationship with 16 Signal Regiment," said Lieutenant Colonel Dominique Cairns, Commanding

Officer of 37 Sig Regt.

"It was great to get all my squadrons together as the regiment is dispersed with units in Redditch, Birmingham, Coventry, Stratford, Cardiff, Colchester and Cambridge.

"Being together for an extended period of time builds morale and team spirit and I can see all of my commanders and Regular staff doing their jobs."

Looking ahead, 37 Signal Regiment has a target to swell its ranks by around 30 per cent (90 soldiers) by 2018, which Lt Col Cairns describes as challenging but achievable.

"We are already seeing a gradual upturn in recruitment, with quite a few former Regulars and graduates coming on board," she said.

Mum of five has arrived

AN Army Reserve medic and mum of five has described how she juggles her busy family life with a Service career.

Pte Hannah Vice, a combat medical technician with Maidstone-based 220 Field Ambulance passed out of basic training last September.

Despite her youngest daughter being little more than a year old at the time, the 36-year-old decided the time was right to pursue her dream of becoming an Army nurse.

"I just thought it was now or never," she explained.

"It's something I'd thought about before – I actually began training as a nurse after school but then left to start a family.

"It's easy to get into that nine to five rut, and being known as 'just a mum' but now I'm making a career, albeit a

part time one, out of something I enjoy.

"So far everything has been very positive – I actually wish I had done it sooner."

Along with Wednesday night training sessions, weekend exercises, and volunteering for the ambulance service, the Reservist said she would consider operations.

"It's unrealistic to join up and not to expect to deploy if it comes up.

"I might have to wait until my two-year-old is a bit older but when the time is right I'll definitely think about it and if it happens I'll have had the best preparation."

With opportunities for Reservists increasing in line with the changes, Pte Vice said she would encourage others to enlist.

"There's something in it for everyone," she said.



Pte Hannah Vice is combining an Army career with a very hectic home life

THE BIG PICTURE





> **LONGMOOR CAMP, HAMPSHIRE**
FAST AND FURIOUS

SGT Kev Murray (REME) hones his off-road skills in preparation for an international six-day enduro challenge in Sardinia. The Service's three-man team will take on a 1,500-kilometre course and a field of more than 600 riders from 36 countries.

Read the full report on page 89.

Picture: Graeme Main

JUDGEMENT DAY

Aircrews learn to make the right call

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

AS OPERATIONS in Afghanistan gradually wind down before the Army's withdrawal next year, British soldiers are rightly looking ahead to what the future holds. While notions of contingency take greater relevance the Service still has Herrick commitments to fulfil and those preparing for upcoming tours are seeing no reduction in the pace and intensity of the training cycle.

Winning the hearts and minds of the local population has been one of the military's key objectives in Helmand province and that mantra remains at the forefront of the challenging exercises troops face.



Ground Control:
Capt Mark Aslett (AAC)
stages a serial for
helicopter pilots on
Salisbury Plain





For helicopter pilots and crew this is no different and their arrival in theatre is preceded by a demanding judgemental training package that ensures the Army's fearsome aviation assets support this overarching aim.

The process tests soldiers in a variety of operationally focused scenarios, where they have to decide if firing weapon systems falls within the rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict.

They also have to consider when, where and how to use force, who to use it against and ensure it is in line with the ground commander's intent.

"My job is to prepare these guys for operations worldwide," Capt Mark Aslett (AAC), head of the judgemental training team, told *Soldier* during a two-week exercise on Salisbury Plain.

"We can train pilots singularly or as a collective in serials that replicate what is happening out on the ground. We add various conditions and severities to look at the whole spectrum of the rules of engagement.

"It is all about how they react in pressure situations and under time constraints."

No stone is left unturned when it comes to creating such scenarios and Capt Aslett and his team had an impressive array of assets at their disposal as they set about creating a realistic Helmand backdrop.

AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other weaponry were available to those posing as insurgents, while a fleet of motorbikes served as their transport of choice.

"We bring together 30 or 40 men and women from across the Services and teach them how to act, walk and react," the officer explained.

"I do not want them to behave like a soldier standing with his hands in his pockets or marching with his arms by his side.

"We show them footage of how insurgents operate and how they manoeuvre on the

ground, looking at their tactics and seeing how they respond to helicopters overhead.

"It is about them getting in the mindset of what is required."

A typical scenario may see an Infantry section patrolling across open ground towards a compound ahead of a shura. On the way there is a build-up of excitement as insurgents move in and manipulate the local nationals.

A sniper then opens fire as Isaf troops approach. They suffer a casualty and a young Serviceman suddenly finds himself on the radio talking to a helicopter above.

"The soldier cracks so it is down to

the pilot to get the information he needs," Capt Aslett said. "He has to try and calm him down to get a medevac brief.

"He has to ask him to secure a landing site and deal with the insurgent threat. Not only are we training pilots, we are helping the crew and guys on the ground as well."

The team visits theatre every six months to talk to high readiness pilots about their experiences so the training stays relevant.

"We must ensure our tactics and procedures are kept up to speed with what the insurgent is doing," he added. "They are constantly evolving and we need to keep one step ahead."

Such efforts have not escaped the attention of the personnel on flying missions, who were quick to praise the attention to detail offered by the exercise.

The officer commanding 664 Squadron, 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps said judgemental training has developed over the last few years and having resources

available to conduct it for real was delivering clear benefits.

"It gets the aircrews thinking about rules of engagement, targeting decisions and policy guidance," said the major, who did not want to be named for security reasons.

"Some really complicated scenarios from theatre have been replicated and the training we receive is outstanding.

"Everyone thinks the Apache is just about the kinetic impact but it is not. All my guys get to see a complete breadth of serials, from the basic to the most complicated."

An Apache commander from 654 Squadron added: "Judgemental training is

really important.

"The insurgents have a good idea of when, where and how we are allowed to engage and they are always just the other side of the line.

"It would be so easy for us to step over that line and engage.

"These serials offer complex scenarios where you are never 100 per cent clear about what is happening."

The positive

comments have been welcomed by Capt Aslett, who is enjoying his time as a late entry officer in the Army Air Corps after a long career in the Infantry with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

"We get nothing but complimentary feedback," he said. "Young pilots who have never deployed on Op Herrick are so respectful of what we offer.

"I am very fortunate to be in a position where I am training pilots. It is a privilege and I love it.

"I was away overseas for nine months last year and four-and-a-half this year – it is not a typical late entry officer's job." ■

“It is all about how they react in pressure situations and under time constraints”



Kit countdown

Stats that tell the story of Op Herrick...



W

ITH poor roads and a sparse rail network, the return of equipment, ammunition and other supplies from Helmand province was always going to be a challenge. Here, *Soldier* gives a flavour of the work that has been going on behind the scenes of Op Herrick's logistics supply chain to get personnel set up in Afghanistan and to bring them back home again next year.

In 2012, more than **74,000** passengers were flown between the UK and Afghanistan

Helicopters move up to **400** people per day through Camp Bastion to other locations in Afghanistan



People

The water bottling plant at Camp Bastion can produce up to **48,000** bottles of water a day



An average forward operating base needs a resupply of **8,400** litres of water every week

Food

During 2012, British troops consumed

110,000 ration packs



Water

Homeward Bound

All equipment being returned to the UK from Afghanistan comes by air via RAF Brize Norton or by sea via the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre.

Vehicles are sent to the Herrick exchange point at Warminster, where mechanics work to bring them up to standard before being stored or sent out to units.

Other supplies are forwarded to strategic base depots around the country such as Bicester and Donnington.





Vehicles



More than
1,080
vehicles and major pieces of equipment have already been returned from Afghanistan

In the ten months leading up to August, 125 Jackal, 44 Mastiff and 5 Warrior vehicles had already been returned to the UK

Vehicle repair stores at Camp Bastion hold more than **9,600** different spare parts



It is estimated that the largest combat logistic patrol was made up of **240** vehicles

A forward operating base can consume up to **100,000** litres of fuel per month



However, some **150,000** litres of fuel are consumed at Camp Bastion every day

Fuel



The equivalent of about **1,570** 20ft ISO containers of materiel have already been brought back to the UK from Afghanistan And **5,500** containers are likely to have been returned by the end of 2014



Supplies

How much?

Some random ratios from southern Afghanistan...



3.5 tonnes

Chips consumed by troops at Camp Bastion each week

The mail that arrives at Camp Bastion every week can weigh up to



20 tonnes



5.4 million

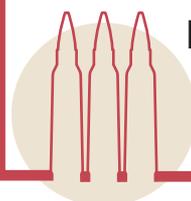
The number of teabags that have been issued to Afghanistan in the last 12 months

Ammunition

In the **six months** between March and September 2013, UK

Forces used around

1 million rounds of ammunition.



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LONDON CALLING

CAPITAL'S RESERVISTS EXCEL IN THE CHALLENGE OF ARMY 2020

Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Steve Dock

WITH the Army Reserve taking a prominent role in plans for an integrated Force part-time personnel are expected to be the near equals of their Regular counterparts.

For The London Regiment this concept is nothing new and having achieved a wealth of operational experience in recent years the unit is well placed to meet such demands.

More than 300 officers and soldiers have deployed to Helmand province since 2007 but with Operation Herrick drawing to a close the formation, much like the wider Service, is looking ahead to future challenges.

This notion was reflected at its annual training camp in Norfolk, where troops were tested in a demanding live firing package before reverting to a back-to-basics contingency exercise in the field.

"It is unlikely that we will deploy to Afghanistan again so we are now looking at re-learning the skills that have not been used for the past ten

years," said Maj Chris Green, officer commanding D Company (London Irish Rifles).

"It is great to bring everyone together. We now have a situation where guys with Helmand experience are teaching those who are straight out of recruit training, so as a collective we are all getting better."

The officer is one of a number of troops who deployed on Op Herrick 16 last year and the marketing director proved himself on the front line alongside full-time colleagues from The Grenadier Guards.

"I was attached to the battlegroup headquarters," he explained. "Once we secured an area I would come in to speak to the local nationals to find out what issues they had and talk about how we could help them."

"I was one of 50 soldiers from the regiment to serve with the Regulars and that is proof we can work together. The more opportunities we have to operate and train alongside a paired battalion the better we will become."

Soldier looked on as one of the Norfolk drills

saw troops master the art of seizing a building occupied by enemy fighters and Pte Pascal Fombutu, of B Company (Queen's Regiment) said the scenario was completely different to what had gone before.

"The last camp focused on Afghan training," the interior design student added. "The whole package was geared towards deployment so this is new."

"I love coming to camp and I can now pass on the experience I have to the new recruits."

With the Army moving in a new direction The London Regiment is one of many Reserve units that are keen to embrace the challenges ahead.

A deployment to Cyprus on Op Tosca looms on the horizon next year and these dedicated soldiers will no doubt prove themselves the equal of their Regular colleagues once again. ■

»» SIDE BY SIDE

The London Regiment has enjoyed a close working relationship with the Regular Army and Op Herrick 16 was the ideal backdrop to prove their worth.

“I WAS attached to The Grenadier Guards. We were inserted ahead of the Afghan National Army to establish a front line. It was in enemy territory and we were there to conduct influence patrols. It was a good challenge and I really enjoyed it. I went to Belgium, France and Canada to train with the Regulars beforehand, it is a good system and was great experience of working together.”



Pte Pascal Fombutu, B Company (Queen's Regiment)

“IT WAS a busy tour with lots of IEDs, people were getting bad injuries. If you go out on the ground as a new guy you have to be prepared to prove yourself. In the build up you get to know the soldiers you are working with and once that initial contact with the platoon is made it is fine. At one stage more than 25 per cent of the platoon was made up of Reserve personnel. A lot of Regulars were on their first tour but some of our people were on their third Herrick deployment. We have a lot of experience in The London Regiment.”



LCpl Domenic Sidonio, A Company (London Scottish)



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TRUE GRIT

**INFANTRY INSTRUCTORS SADDLE UP
FOR ULTIMATE COWBOY ADVENTURE**

*"A cowboy is pleasant even when out of sorts.
Complaining is what quitters do, and cowboys hate quitters."*

- Code of the West

Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Graeme Main

RATTLESNAKES, mountain lions, gaping canyons and herds of skittish cattle; these are just some of the dangers faced by an Arizona cowboy on a daily basis.

Alongside soldiering, the job of a professional rancher must rank as one of life's most risky vocations.

At the Cowboy College near Phoenix, instructors from Catterick's Infantry Training Centre have become the latest batch of recruits to find out first hand how tough the trade can be.

Established in 1989, the school was the first of its kind and today still prides itself on offering an authentic experience to those seeking a taste of the West.

"This is not a dude ranch," said owner Lori Bridwell.

"You don't arrive to find your horse already saddled and move cattle from A to B and back again, before heading to the spa.

"It's not fake – we do need livestock branding, we do need fences fixing.

"Guests help us with all the jobs that have to be done around the ranch."

Exercise Catterick Wrangler, as the serial was known, saw the soldiers-turned-students lend a hand with herding, worming and branding cattle, as well as getting to grips with roping, riding and horse care.

Their classroom for the week was the boulder-strewn, cactus-filled desert of the movie screens where, even in autumn, the temperatures exceed 40 degrees Celsius.

"The perception I had before we came was that it would be stereotypical yeeha-type stuff," admitted Lt Gareth Smyth (R Irish).

"I'd be wearing a cowboy hat and looking stupid and occasionally doing something but it's not like that at all.

"They're doing their normal job and we're mucking in."

Describing the less-than-straight forward task of rounding up cattle, Rfn Sparky North (Rifles), said: "The trick to herding is definitely teamwork.

"Without it they go everywhere.

"They're big animals so there's an element of caution too.

"None of us fancied a face-off with an angry bull.

"You have to make sure you're

not in kicking range."

Lt Smyth continued: "This isn't too dissimilar to adventurous training because that's meant to test you and give you that fear factor the way a combat operation would.

"Going down a massive hill on a horse you've only just started riding definitely gives you that challenge."

With good horsemanship crucial to successful cowboying, the college takes visitors on rides of more than eight hours a day over miles of increasingly treacherous terrain and participants can sometimes find themselves camping next to their steeds in the desert overnight.

Saddle sores and aching limbs are all in a day's work and even those with prior riding experience can struggle to adapt to a brand new skill set.

"I've ridden in the past and thought I was quite good but western riding is totally different and being in the saddle for hours at a time is completely new," commented Cpl Jamie Lambie (Para).

"You have to learn to put your trust in the horse when you're going down steep inclines and over demanding ground."

LSgt Adam Kerridge (Coldm Gds) agreed:

"We're meant to be tough infantry soldiers but we came back from a four-hour ride and we were totally exhausted," said the 25-year-old.

"The other thing is, as instructors at a training establishment we're used to being subject matter experts but this is like going back to being a recruit again, so it gives you a good reminder of how they feel."

Exercise leader Cpl Burt Reynolds (Para), said he hoped that the unusual serial would boost morale and encourage team building amongst ITC staff.

Having been to the college on working holidays before, the 29-year-old was keen to introduce colleagues to the cowboy lifestyle.

"I've been here a few times already on private visits and I wanted others to have this opportunity," said the 29-year-old.

"This is a first for the Army and people were sceptical when I suggested it but I knew it would push the guys out of their comfort zone and make them do things they will never have done in their lives.

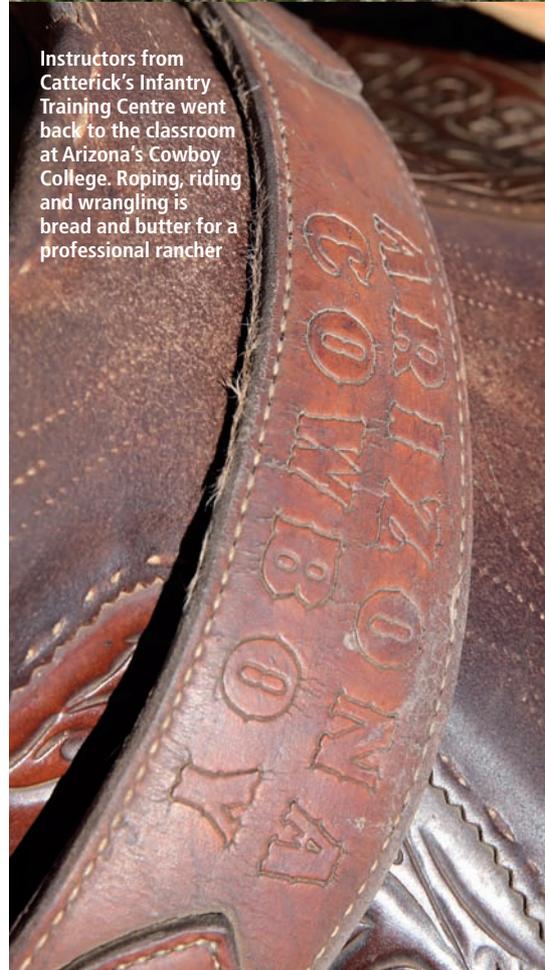
"I hope people see this and realise the benefit of it.

"It's not all fun and enjoyment; it is hard graft, but it really is a once-in-a-lifetime experience." ●

“No matter how bad it gets you pick yourself up by your bootstraps and get the job done”



Instructors from Catterick's Infantry Training Centre went back to the classroom at Arizona's Cowboy College. Roping, riding and wrangling is bread and butter for a professional rancher





Cut from the same cloth

According to Rocco Wachman, senior instructor at the Cowboy College, serving personnel and ranchers share a common set of values and standards.

Soldier asked the 57-year-old about the crossover between the cowboy code and the military mindset.

What makes a cowboy tick?

"There are three rules I live and die by. Firstly, your primary responsibility is your horse.

The United States cavalry used to swear two oaths – the oath of allegiance and an oath that unless they were in battle, their first duty was to their horse.

Secondly, think of your crew.

They say war is hell and gathering cows isn't that different – it takes a lot of teamwork to do it effectively.

And the last thing is just to cowboy up.

No matter how bad it gets you pick yourself up by your bootstraps and get the job done.

Failure is not an option."

What are the qualities of a good rancher?

"Strength of heart is important. Being a cowboy isn't a job description it's a state of mind.

You have to have a plan in place but be versatile at the same time.

When stuff doesn't go right you have to be tough enough to take it and adapt.

If I want to camp somewhere and there's no water, maybe it gets dark and starts to pour, well you just sit next to your horse and wait 'til sun up and then get up and you go on your way."

So do soldiers make good cowboys?

"A lot of it is scary and not everyone can do it but there's a closeness between what ranchers do and military work.

There's discipline and training.

As a cowboy you have to rope and you have to ride just like a soldier has to jump out of a plane or clean his gun.

If I'm sore I still ride all day in the same way that troops on patrol can't just turn round and go home."

What about the other way round?

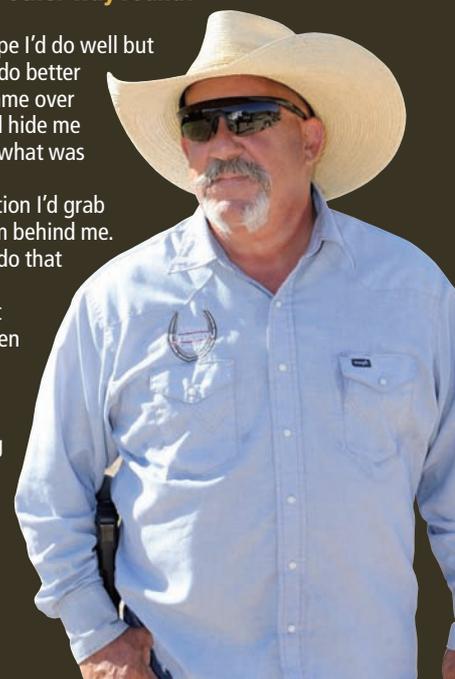
"In a firefight I hope I'd do well but these guys would do better so if the Taliban came over the hill they would hide me until I figured out what was going on.

In a horse situation I'd grab them and put them behind me.

People need to do that for each other.

Soldiers will put themselves between innocents and danger and that's the same as the cowboy protecting his horse.

I'd rather be dead than not be like that."



Raging bull

NO cowboy experience would be complete without the ultimate man-test – a ride on a real life rodeo bull.

The aim: stay on 1,800 pounds of irate bovine for eight seconds.

How did the Army's Magnificent Seven measure up?

"It was more the anticipation than anything. It's the same feeling as when you're about to do a parachute jump but once it started my nerves went. You might have ridden a mechanical bull in Magaluf but doing it for real is an unforgettable experience. It's something to tell my son about when he's older."

Cpl Jamie Lambie

"You don't really have time to think. Once it's over you realise it wasn't as bad as you thought it was going to be. I think this was a good first showing for the British Army Rodeo Association."

Cpl Burt Reynolds

"I'd definitely like to give it another go without people watching because now I know what I did wrong. I didn't understand the mechanics of the rope you hold on to so I kind of let go when I could probably have stayed on longer."

LSgt Harry Foxcroft

"Even before the gate opened the bull tried to kill me in the stall. I wouldn't say I was the most confident of cowboys but it was a massive rush. I'm glad everyone's in one piece."

Lt Gareth Smyth

"The waiting was horrible but when I got on with it, it was good. I can't actually remember any of it though. I'd honestly rather get shot at – at least then I'd know what I was doing."

LSgt Adam Kerridge

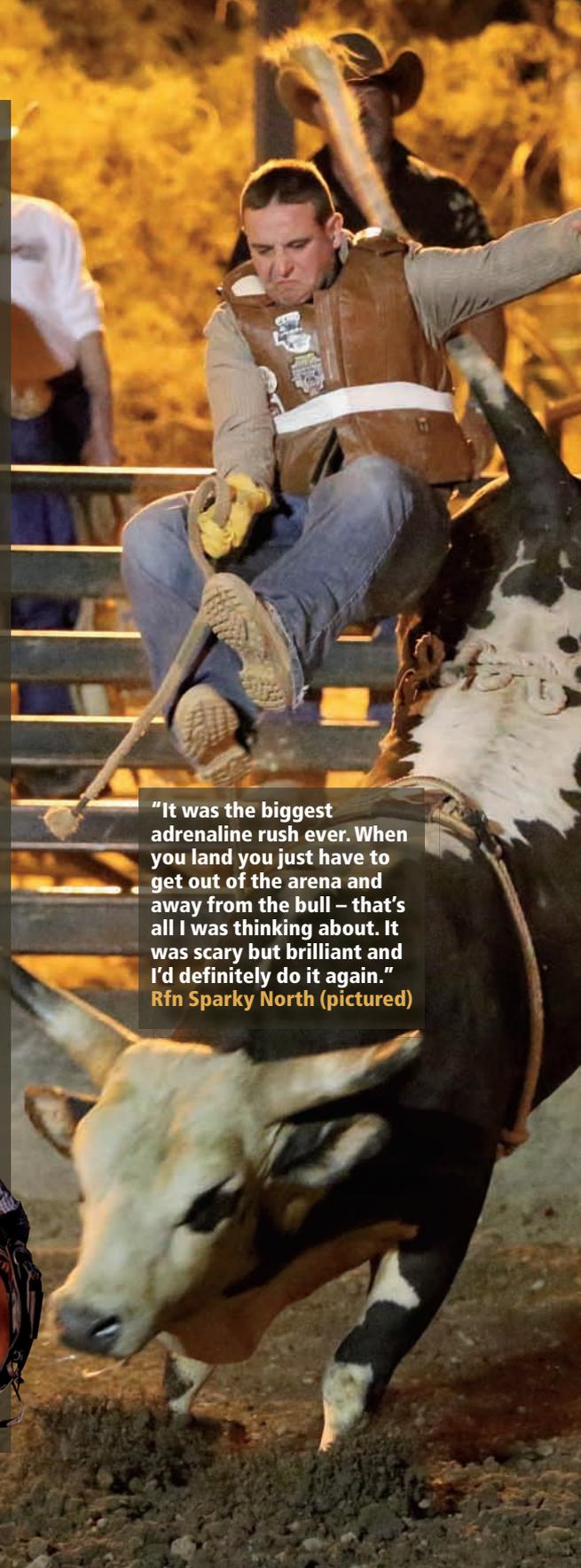
"Waiting in that cage was the worst bit. As soon as you move you can feel the pure power of the animal you can't control and then before you know it you end up on the floor."

Sgt Tats Taylor (pictured right)



"It was the biggest adrenaline rush ever. When you land you just have to get out of the arena and away from the bull – that's all I was thinking about. It was scary but brilliant and I'd definitely do it again."

Rfn Sparky North (pictured)



And the judges said...

Professional bull rider and Phoenix native Eric Cordova gives his evaluation of the rookies' performance:

"They did good. A lot of people who come aren't ready, but with these guys doing what they do you could see they didn't have the same sinking feeling.

The best thing to do is relax, even if that sounds stupid because the animals can tell how you're feeling and whether you're scared.

Unfortunately none of them stayed on for eight seconds so they didn't score but I would have to declare Adam the winner.

He listened to what he had to do and stayed looking down the middle of the bull like he was supposed to.

These animals do about one jump

per second. I think Adam stayed on for about three, which isn't bad.

I like helping out first-timers because when I was starting out I didn't get a lot of help.

I always say: You have to say your prayers before you ride because without Him nothing is possible."



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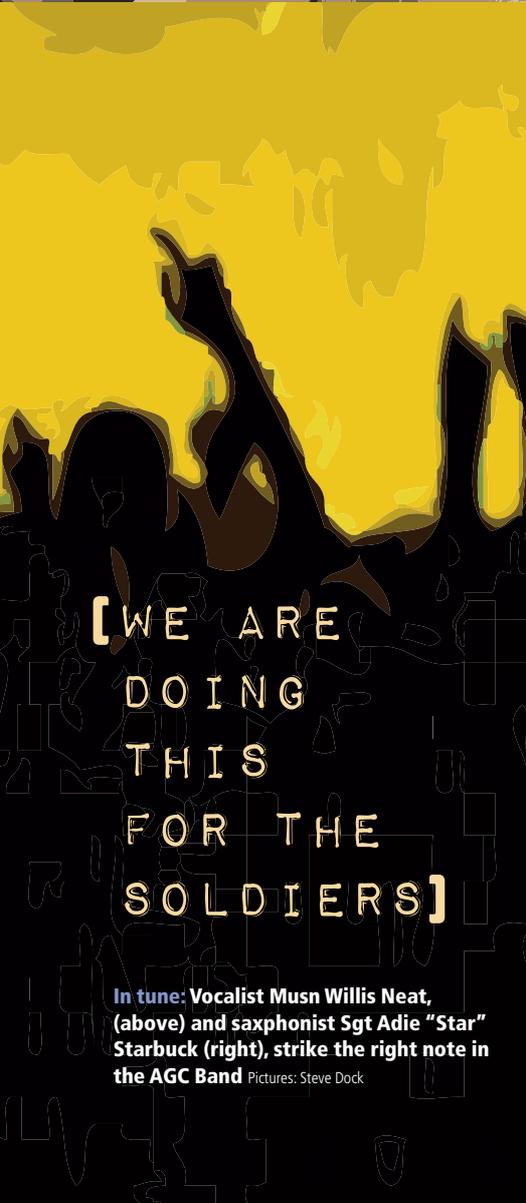
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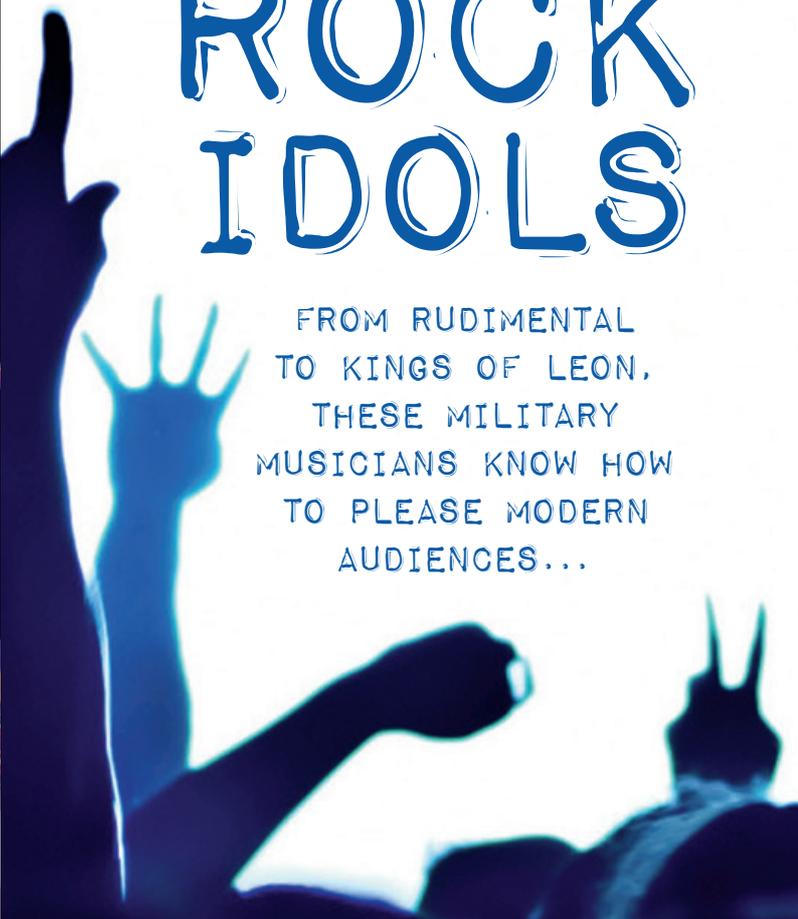
**[WE ARE
DOING
THIS
FOR THE
SOLDIERS]**

In tune: Vocalist Musn Willis Neat, (above) and saxophonist Sgt Adie "Star" Starbuck (right), strike the right note in the AGC Band Pictures: Steve Dock



POP AND ROCK IDOLS

FROM RUDIMENTAL
TO KINGS OF LEON,
THESE MILITARY
MUSICIANS KNOW HOW
TO PLEASE MODERN
AUDIENCES...



Report: Sarah Goldthorpe

AS I walk into the bathroom at the home of the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps in Worthy Down, a brightly coloured poster of Jimi Hendrix stares back at me from the wall.

If anything captures the current mood of soldiers in this sub-unit it must surely be this image.

The late rock guitarist, who briefly flirted with a military career himself, is one of the most celebrated and iconic musicians of the 20th century.

As a self-taught artist, his pioneering use of the electric guitar won him legendary status in the musical history books.

And although the AGC band has far more modest ambitions for its innovation, it is hoped a recent overhaul of its repertoire will win a similar level of appreciation from generations of troops.

Some 18 months ago the Corps of Army Music (CAMUS) charged the formation with being the first of three to become a contemporary music unit, replacing traditional military playlists with those resembling Radio 1's output.

After a restructure that saw cornet and clarinet players reassigned to other parts of the Service and guitarists brought in, the new-look ensemble deployed on Op Herrick 17 to boost morale with a series of performances at different operating bases.

Covers of Maroon 5's *Moves Like Jagger* and David Guetta's *Titanium* ensured a raucous reception on the front line.

And after further successful shows at family days and regimental events back on home turf, the confidence of the band's 15 personnel is soaring.

"This is the most appreciated I have felt in 24 years as a musician," said Sgt Adie Starbuck, a saxophonist who joined the new-look set-up from The Minden Band of The Queen's Division. "We still get the odd smirk from traditionalists but the Army is modernising in all other areas so why not do this?"

"There's still a huge place for ceremonial tunes, but our new specialism is about having both genres in the military.

"Providing the wrong songs to the wrong crowd can be pretty embarrassing. >>>

»» "Ten years ago in Iraq we were performing pieces from The Commitments and The Blues Brothers and cringing while playing it.

"But giving soldiers a product that they can't get enough of is really satisfying. I think there is mileage in it."

Musn Willis Neat, a vocalist who joined the new-look outfit from The Band and Bugles of The Rifles, agreed.

"Newer music goes down really well with the younger troops," he told *Soldier*.

"Before I was playing concert pieces but modern songs mean that guys actually listen to them.

"We surprised a few people on Herrick 17 – they were expecting a marching band but got acoustic guitars and drums."

The new formula sees band members rehearse with the help of video website YouTube, which provides constant inspiration for their lively performances.

Practices have seen the team experiment with everything from drum and bass to modern jazz and keyboard versions of the national anthem.

One recent track to have proved particularly popular was a cover of Daft Punk's *Get Lucky*, which was showcased at a Service dinner.

"Stylistically our performances are very different now because we are going from a classical mentality with sheet music in front of us to being animated on stage, and all of the musicians need to buy into that for it to work," explained bandmaster WO1 William Casson-Smith.

"We had to find strong vocalists, guitarists, electric bass players and drummers and Op Herrick 17 gave us a real focus to pull all that together.

"It was so nice to see members of 4th Mechanized Brigade enjoying the music and not ignoring us, which I have seen before.

"You can't fake reaction from a bunch of soldiers who haven't had anything to drink. They are either going to stay and listen or not."

Cpl Craig Phillips (pictured above right), a sound engineer and guitarist, said the familiarity of modern melodies had helped give troops a flavour of home

while on the front line.

"We had comments from guys who said they felt like they had been in O'Neill's for half an hour," he added.

"That's what we wanted, to get them out of their strict tour mindset.

"I have been fighting to do more contemporary stuff for a while so this is fantastic. After all, the rest of the military has moved forward over the last 200 years and are no longer fighting on horseback with a bow and arrow."

If the overhaul in song choice isn't making enough waves, the band's decision to play most of its music out of ceremonial dress will do.

Performances for public audiences are undertaken in combat uniform and those for the military are done in casual civilian clothing.

However, even personnel at the top of the regiment are in full support.

"In this band CAMUS have created a capability, the like of which we

haven't had in the Army since the Second World War," said Col Rob Davie.

The senior officer said his formation had been the ideal proving ground for contemporary music because of the wide distribution of its personnel, meaning the requirement for a marching band is limited.

He added: "CSE Forces Entertainment are brilliant at providing the same sort of music but this is an Army-owned capability which sees trained soldiers being sent into an operational theatre.

"I think there has been the odd doubting Thomas over this, including, I suspect, some fairly senior figures.

"It is a significant change but the troops' motivation has been absolutely brilliant throughout."

Miles away from the historical relics that adorn the walls of Kneller Hall, home of The Royal Military School of Music, pop idols are inspiring Army personnel into creating a new and exciting chapter in the story of military performance. ■

● Read page 19 of last month's issue for full details of the sweeping changes to *The Corps of Army Music*

[IT IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE BUT THE TROOPS' MOTIVATION HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT THROUGHOUT]



[IN 24 YEARS THIS IS THE MOST APPRECIATED I HAVE FELT]



MILITARY MUSIC?

OTHER RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BAND OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS



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sex on fire kings of leon



price tag jessie j



read all about it emili sande

are you gonna go my way? lenny kravitz

* See the band's recent performance of Daft Punk's *Get Lucky* at www.youtube.com/corpsarmymusic

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Report: Joe Clapson

FINDING humour in the darkest moments is something soldiers are renowned for.

Often to the bemusement of their civilian counterparts, troops faced with hellish battlefield scenarios or life-threatening injuries will remain cheerful, offering wisecracks to raise a smile.

The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Unit at Headley Court, the place where the Service's most injured personnel are sent to recuperate, is something of a hub for such black comedy.

"One bit of advice I would give to soldiers is to keep your head down – I obviously didn't," smiles Gdsm John Dawson, a patient at the 85-acre centre.

The 24-year-old has just received his Afghanistan Operational Service Medal for Herrick 16, on which he served with the Grenadier Guards.

During the mission the soldier was shot in the head by a Taliban sniper.

He was on sangar duty to protect his compound in Nahr-e Saraj when the single bullet slotted into his skull and turned his world upside down.

Since the incident on July 16 last year Gdsm Dawson has undergone extensive neurological surgery and his rehabilitation, working alongside a team of doctors, nurses and physiotherapists, is ongoing.

On arrival at Headley Court the outlook was bleak but now, thanks to the remarkable work of medical experts and the Serviceman's never-say-die attitude, his recovery is moving ahead at pace.

"He was pretty much close to death and if it wasn't for the speed of the Medical Emergency Response Team then he wouldn't have made it," said Phil Hall (ex-REME), Gdsm Dawson's personal key worker.

"I can honestly say John is one of the worst casualties I've seen who has survived, and it's testament to his fortitude that he's here – he is a tough cookie."

The soldier was missing half of his skull

following the enemy attack and has just undergone a cranioplasty, during which it was rebuilt with a titanium plate.

"I wasn't expecting to see him so soon after the operation but he was back within a day to ensure he could collect his medal," the cognitive rehabilitation specialist added.

Being in a fit state to receive the decoration from the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, was a personal mission for the father-of-two as it signified his efforts as a British soldier but also as a patient.

"I feel normal now," the Serviceman commented. "The medal means that all the work in getting to Afghanistan, getting shot and being in here now was worth it – it's more of sentimental value than anything."

CSgt Royston Shepherd (Gren Gds) was on the ground with Gdsm Dawson when the enemy marksman struck and saw his comrade battle for life.

"Looking back now it does seem a bit like a miracle that John survived," the colour sergeant said.

"He looks a million times better than he did a year ago – they have literally put his head back together."

"He has lived for the medal ceremony and now he's got his beret on you can see he's himself again."

Fresh from having 64 staples inserted to hold his scalp together, Gdsm Dawson is living at the multi-million pound accommodation suite at Headley Court and follows a strenuous exercise regime in the gym and hydrotherapy pool to build up his muscle strength.

"They thought I would never walk again," he explained.

"When I arrived I couldn't drink, couldn't feed and couldn't even sit up in bed – it's the worst feeling in the world when you can't

do something for yourself.

"But now I can just about walk with a stick and by Christmas I want to be comfortable doing that."

It is clear that the joint force of a soldier's determined mindset and a dedicated team of experts can achieve wonders when it comes to recovering from injury.

"The lads in here are good banter; they don't care about what happened to them, they just get on with it," Gdsm Dawson added.

"There are double amputees who say 'let's go out and get legless' and we can laugh together because we're all on the same wavelength."

Being surrounded by like-minded members of the Armed Forces has been vital to Gdsm Dawson, as has his ability to apply his professionalism as a Serviceman to the task of rehabilitation.

"It's natural for a soldier to adapt and overcome and that's what I'm doing now," he said.

"When I look in the mirror I see a guardsman not a patient."

World-renowned medics working on the front line and in the MoD's state-of-the-art

clinical facilities are frequently conquering "the impossible" by helping personnel to recover from horrendous injuries and their ground-breaking work sets the benchmark for others to follow.

A major factor in these success stories, though, is a soldier's ability to remain cheerful, to refuse to accept defeat and to laugh when others might cry.

"I've got a proper scar now, something to talk about in the pub," said Gdsm Dawson.

"I've just got reconstruction stuff to do to smooth out my skull but that's nothing – I'll probably do it without anaesthetic." ■



"One bit of advice I would give to soldiers is to keep your head down – I obviously didn't!"

ADAPTING AND OVERCOMING...



Before: On operations in Afghanistan

Rehabilitation: Lots of hard work followed major skull surgery



Receiving his Service Medal: "You can see he's himself again," say colleagues





**‘ IN THE
MIRROR
I SEE A
GUARDSMAN,
NOT A
PATIENT ’**

**Injured soldier laughs in
face of extreme trauma**

Pictures: Graeme Main

ONE JOURNEY,

Troops, veterans and civvies reveal their motivations for undertaking an 870-mile walking campaign

Report: Joe Clapson
Pictures: Graeme Main

A UNIQUE pilgrimage around the picturesque Welsh coastline is seeing an eclectic group of trekkers striding shoulder-to-shoulder to honour fallen soldiers and raise £1 million for military charities.

Set up by former Welsh Guards Jan Kooops and Dai Graham, Walk on Wales is inspiring people from a variety of backgrounds to don a pair of hiking boots and help the team march proudly along an 870-mile route.

The idea is simple: draw attention to the mental health problems that are faced by ex-Servicemen and women while raising funds for Combat Stress and the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

It is also hoped that money raised on the trip can be used to establish a facility in Wales where veterans can share their experiences of war and receive counselling.

The Prince of Wales and Welsh rugby heroes Ryan Jones and Martyn Williams have already shown their support for the mission, which ends at the start of next month.

Soldier took a trip to the coast to discover some of the more personal motivations behind the strenuous saunter...



WELSH GUARDS
AFGHANISTAN
APPEAL

IN SUPPORT OF



THE VETERANS'
MENTAL HEALTH
CHARITY

● To find out more about Walk on Wales and to support the team visit www.walkonwales.org tweet @walkonwales or check the event's Facebook page



Main picture: Members of the Walk on Wales team during Stage 3 of the trek overlooking the Menai Straits and Carneddau mountains. **Below:** Dai Graham with the silver baton inscribed with the names of the Welsh Guardsmen who have died on operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland



Dai Graham (ex-WG) Walk on Wales co-founder

ALONG with fellow event organiser Jan Kooops, Dai Graham was aboard the *Sir Galahad* when it was struck by Argentinian bombs during the Falklands War in 1982, leaving 48 dead.

"We thought it would be fantastic to give people a day when they could remember the fallen," the proud veteran explained.

"It's also important that personnel past and present see how much the public values them.

"There's a real mix of ex-Welsh Guards, serving soldiers and civilians here and it's a pilgrimage for the memories of the fallen but also a healing process.

"There was no therapy in our day but now we need to make sure people suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are helped.

"Troops that have seen terrible things in Afghanistan must be looked after." >>



MANLY VOICES



THE WALK



1. 25-28 AUG
CARDIFF BAY TO
CHEPSTOW

2. 29 AUG-2 SEP
CHESTER TO
BANGOR

3. 4-9 SEP
BANGOR TO
FOUR MILE BRIDGE

4. 11-16 SEP
FOUR MILE BRIDGE
TO WHISTLING
SANDS

5. 18-23 SEP
WHISTLING SANDS
TO SHELL ISLAND

6. 25-30 SEP
SHELL ISLAND TO
NEW QUAY

7. 2-7 OCT
NEW QUAY TO
WHITESANDS BAY

8. 9-14 OCT
WHITESANDS BAY
TO FRESHWATER
WEST

9. 16-21 OCT
FRESHWATER WEST
TO BURRY PORT

10. 23-28 OCT
BURRY PORT TO
PORTHCAWL

11. 30 OCT - 2 NOV
PORTHCAWL TO
CARDIFF BAY





Pte Caleb Allport (WG)

“PEOPLE suffering with PTSD need just as much support as those with physical injuries so it’s good to have the chance to raise money to help out.

“It’s also good to be able to walk and talk with veterans of past conflicts to hear about their experiences and how they’ve dealt with different things.

“Understanding the battalion’s history is very important to the Welsh Guards and it makes you proud to wear the cloth on your beret when you hear about the things people have done before us.”

LCpl Charles Millins (WG)

“BEING involved is a good way to raise money for our mates but it’s also a way to show civilians that soldiers are willing to help their own.

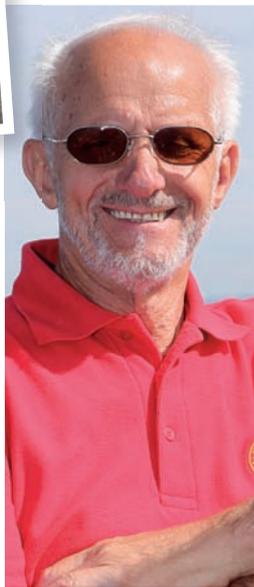
“I spoke to one woman who lost her son on the *Sir Galahad* and was humbled to see that she still wanted to help serving personnel.

“Even 31 years on from the Falklands, relatives of fallen troops are keen to remain involved with the Army and that’s nice to see.”

Amaratta Evans, aged 17

“I WANT to join the Army as soon as I’m old enough and by taking part in this I’m learning more about the military ethos. I want to help soldiers with health issues at the same time as remembering people that have been killed.

“It’s a respectful way to honour the fallen.”



Ray Poole

Father of Gdsm Gareth Poole (WG), who was killed on the *Sir Galahad*

“THIS is a very unusual event in that it has relatives of fallen soldiers, current personnel, veterans and civilians all walking together, which is fantastic to see.

“It allows loved ones of those killed in the South Atlantic to realise that their mates are doing something to remember them and that means so much.

“For many the Falklands is in the past; it’s gone and they don’t see the lasting effect that it’s had.

“This is bringing a bit of respect for the people that have gone before.”



Philip Roberts

Captain of the *Sir Galahad*

“I THINK about the Falklands every day and log onto a webcam that shows what the weather is like over there, just to remember.

“It’s good to see old faces from the Welsh Guards and give them a cheer for the extraordinary feat that is Walk On Wales.

“It is fantastic to see current troops walking with the relatives of those who died.

“A lot of guys were extremely shaken up by what happened and an awful lot of people are still suffering.

“Combat Stress is doing great work to help these individuals and we must continue to raise money to fund their mental health work.”

‘TODAY, COMBAT STRESS IS HELPING 391 WELSH VETERANS’

Alison Elson

Stepmother to LCpl Dane Elson (WG), who died in Afghanistan in 2009

“I’M finding this process very therapeutic as I feel that I’m doing something constructive.

“I can’t do anything for my son but there are others out there who need help and walking is something that everybody can do.

“Hopefully events like this will put PTSD under the spotlight and ensure there is a place in Wales for soldiers to get treatment in future.

“The atmosphere among the walkers has been fantastic even though we’ve had a cry.”

Jan Koops (ex-WG)

Walk on Wales co-founder

THE 870-mile walk has been divided into 11 sections, with teams joining the event on different legs. However, Koops is one of three individuals who are aiming to complete the entire course.

“We’ve seen what has been going on in Afghanistan and the effect it’s had on people and as ex-soldiers we felt it was time to do something,” the former captain said.

“The memory of the chaps we lost in the Falklands is never really far away so we also wanted to do something that was fitting for them.

“When you see your friends and colleagues with limbs missing and in extreme pain that is a strong image that will never leave you and we need to make others realise that.”



Left to right: Amaratta Evans, LCpl Charles Millins (WG), Pte Caleb Allport (WG), Rhodri Morgan, Alison Elson and Jan Koops



R

RESTRICTED

USE OF NFTO APPAREL MAY LEAD TO
A MORE INTERESTING LIFE

ADVENTURE, EXPLORATION, FULFILMENT



BEHIND THE

Fallen soldier's mum explains the life-



Cherished daughter: Pte Eleanor Dlugosz was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2007

**Report: Joe Clapson
Pictures: Steve Dock**

COMBAT medical technician Pte Eleanor Dlugosz (RAMC) was just 19 when she was killed alongside three of her comrades and an interpreter after a roadside bomb hit her Warrior vehicle near Basra in Iraq on April 5, 2007.

For her mother, Sally Veck, the pain of that day will, obviously, never fade, but six years on she is dealing with her grief by throwing herself into SSAFA's largest single fund-raising effort.

Last year Sally hosted her first Big Brew Up, where she raised £1,000 in just two hours by serving up cups of tea and coffee. Now she has been selected to front SSAFA's national event as its ambassador.

It may revolve around a very simple concept – coughing up to have a cuppa with colleagues or friends – but last year alone the Big Brew Up raised approximately £100,000 through 732 separate parties.

"Hopefully I can raise the profile of the charity because a lot of people haven't got a clue what good work it does," explained Sally.

"I'm going to cajole as many people as possible into hosting an event, whether it involves tea, coffee, gin and tonic or real ale – just to spread the word and have some fun."

But it wasn't just Sally's fund-raising abilities that marked her out for the ambassadorship in the eyes of SSAFA. The decision was taken after the charity met with the 47-year-old at their Bereaved Families Support Group.

"We asked Sally to be the main face of the campaign because we really wanted to make a link between the fundraising that we do through the Big Brew Up and the people that we support with the money generated," said SSAFA public relations officer Lizzie Clark.

"She has a wonderfully positive attitude and has thrown herself headlong into making her own events very special and worthwhile, so was a natural choice to be the face of the campaign for us."

Sally is ably supported by her mum, Mary, dad, Lionel, and a stream of relatives and friends who live close to the family farm in Swanmore, near Southampton.

However, the SSAFA events have provided a valuable focus that has aided her recuperation process.

"The charity has done me and my mum the world of good," says Sally. "Before we started going to its events I couldn't say anything without crying."

Speaking about attending her first SSAFA meeting for bereaved parents, she adds:

"Even when I walked into a room of strangers I was at ease because everybody just knew. There were 150 people like me and nobody had to say anything. They know what you're going through."

The Veck farmhouse now serves as a special kind of Brew Up HQ, where



BREW-UP

changing effect of tea times

raffle items are sourced, many cakes are baked and, of course, tea is brewed.

And while meticulous work is being done – such as fashioning flags with cocktail sticks – ideas for the next charity moneymaker are already being floated.

“What do you reckon on a nude calendar?” ventures 74-year-old Mary. “Only something tasteful mind, nothing crude!”

The fact that Sally can now enjoy the odd joke in such circumstances shows just how far she’s come.

“When it happens you don’t think you’ll last another day, and then suddenly you look round and it’s six years later,” she explains.

“It’s hard when friends’ children get married and have kids of their own and you see them getting older.

“I cope by being busy; I have to be doing things and the charity work really helps in that respect.”

In fact, Sally is now at the stage where she can talk openly about the fate of her daughter – known to her friends in 3 Medical Regiment as “DZ”.

“I have absolutely no regrets, I don’t see it as a wasted life,” she says.

“I only had Eleanor for 19 years and I know she was doing what she wanted to do and I did my best to support her.

“She packed so much into her time – she chose to be a soldier and she did it.”

However, Sally’s pain didn’t end there.

After her loss she continued to send parcels out to her daughter’s best friend in the Army, Cpl Channing Day (RAMC).

“The pair went through training

together and would always come back to us when they got a break and would go out on the horses,” she recalls. But in October last year Cpl Day was shot dead while on patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Afghanistan.

“I have a picture of the two of them being held up by the lads at Keogh Barracks – one at each end,” she adds.

Without the focus that her charity work has given her, Sally doesn’t know how she would have coped with the double blow.

But the experience has made her even more determined to carry on with her fund-raising quests on behalf of SSAFA.

“I can’t tell you how important it is to me that I’m still involved with the Service community,” she adds.

Sally’s next Big Brew Up will take place at Soberton Hall in Hampshire on October 12, where she says it will be a case of “the more the merrier”.

But she wants people to create their own parties as well.

“People can host an event whenever they want and it doesn’t have to be just tea – bubbles and smoked salmon sandwiches will be fine!”

For Sally and the thousands of others who are assisted by SSAFA each day, the British obsession with tea-drinking has taken on far deeper significance than simple refreshment. ■

“I can’t tell you how important it is to me that I’m still involved with the Service Community”

WORLD CUPPA

SALLY won’t be alone in her Big Brew Up. This time around the 125-year-old charity is aiming to have more than 1,000 soirees taking place between October 7 and 13 in the UK and across the world, from the tropical island of Diego

Garcia to Afghanistan.

Money raised will help SSAFA deliver a range of vital projects across the serving and veteran community, helping them to improve thousands of lives.

To join the fun, donate or find out more visit www.thebigbrewup.org.uk

IN NUMBERS: SSAFA's work in a year

£16.7 million

amount the charity spent assisting former personnel and their loved ones last year

40,645

veterans and their relatives who were directly supported by the charity

4,046

calls made to Forcesline, SSAFA's confidential advice service

885

people helped by a Family Support Group



branches located across 14 different countries

“When it happens you don’t think you’ll last another day or minute and then suddenly you look round and it’s six years later”

My Army life:

Jenny
Éclair

Comedienne
and self-
confessed
Grumpy
Old Woman
reveals her
Service roots
to *Soldier*...



MY DAD was a major in The Parachute Regiment, but when I was a kid I suspected that he was also a spy.

When I was five or so he was posted to Berlin to work with a military liaison mission. We had very nice quarters on the edge of some woods and I can remember the address was 32 Kiplingweg – all my parents' best friends lived down that road.

There was a lot of gin drinking and kids going in and out of each other's gardens.

I never really worked out what dad was doing in Berlin, except that he was always taking lots of photographs of Russian things and we used to get Soviet rations left on our doorstep – he never did tell me what that was all about.

Every Friday after school the family would be taken by armoured car to Potsdam Palace, a historic Prussian estate and one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to.

We'd go swimming in a big lake, which straddled the border between West and East Germany. The rumour

was, if you swam too far in the wrong direction you could get shot. So, of course, we kids would get as close as we dared, and then quickly swim back.

My time in Berlin was one of the happiest periods of my life.

I was sent to an Army school called Charlottenburg, which was very progressive and arty with a slightly pretentious 1960s 'let them do what they want' feel about it.

They were very encouraging of art, drawing and writing. There was lots of freedom of expression and I think that's where my love of performing and the stage first blossomed.

It was all a stark contrast to the time before going to Berlin, when we were stuck at home for months while dad was in the Middle East with the Trucial Oman Scouts.

Army wives tend to be in one of two camps, the stoics and the hysterics. My mum was a stoic but during these few months without dad around even she reached her limits.

I can recall her nursing me and my elder sister Sara when we were aged about three and five through a nasty bout of chicken pox.

It's the only time I ever remember my mother having a meltdown. I remember her mopping up sick and shouting, '**** I don't think I can cope with this any more!'

Normally she was the most controlled and capable of women, even though she had to wear a full-length caliper on her leg because she had caught polio when she was 22.

That was the only time I can remember mum complaining to our faces and she was very relieved when dad finally returned from his tour of duty.

I can't remember exactly how long he was in Oman for but it was for a few months and certainly long enough for me to have forgotten who he was.

I recall going to the train station to meet him and my sister Sara did the whole 'daddy, my daddy' thing and ran towards this bloke while I hung back thinking, 'Who is he?'

The two-year age gap between us had made a big difference because I really had no recollection of him.

Once I got to know my dad though I discovered that he was great fun to be around. He made people laugh very easily and I think I get my sense of humour and tendency to show-off from him.

By the time we came back to England from Berlin in 1968 I had a baby brother, Benjamin, and dad was burnt out from all the travelling he'd done with the Army. He decided he

didn't want any more long spells away from home, so he left the Service after more than 20 years.

Although I was only eight when dad's military career ended, those early years have had a lasting impact on me. I'm a stickler for timekeeping for a start and I believe in duty and in turning up and doing the job.

Those qualities have really helped me as a performer and they've given me the discipline to take on things like a 30- or 40-date tour, which

I'm hoping to do next year with a new stage version of BBC 2's *Grumpy Old Women*.

I wrote it with Judith Holder, producer of the BBC2 TV series, and it's called *Fifty Shades of Beige*. The show is a funny look at why women become snobby in old age, how to get your own way without your other half realising and what we miss about our younger selves.

I don't know if it's my dad's cup of tea. He's enjoying his retirement in Lytham St Annes in Lancashire and going home is always a great leveller for me.

Mum and dad are only vaguely interested in what I do – if they happen to walk past a television and I'm on it they might stop to watch.

The only exception is *Loose Women*, which neither of them can bear – so it's a good job I don't do that any more! ■

● Jenny can be seen in *Fifty Shades of Beige: Grumpy Old Women* at The Princes Hall Theatre, Aldershot, on November 10, 11 and 12.

Multi-layered Eclair

■ AFTER starting out doing punk poems in the 1980s, Jenny starred in *The Bill* and the Channel 4 comedy *Packet of Three* with Frank Skinner. In 1995 she became the first female solo winner of the Edinburgh Festival's Perrier Comedy Award. In 1997 she played Josie in the stage play *Steaming* and 2001 saw her first novel *Camberwell Beauty*. She helped develop and starred in *Grumpy Old Women* and in 2006 appeared in the sell-out stage show *Grumpy Old Women Live!* alongside Dillie Keane and Linda Robson. The comedienne was a panelist on *Loose Women* in 2003 and 2011-12.



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Property burden

I AM a private soldier based in Northern Ireland who owns and maintains my own property (which the Army helped me buy with the LSAP scheme).

But I am massively out of pocket and feel I'm being treated unfairly compared to soldiers who don't have a mortgage.

I am currently in receipt of 12 flights a year as well as Northern Ireland pay, and I have been through my chain of command (some of whom are in the same position) to try to find out why we are not receiving get you home (GYH) pay – which I would be entitled to on the UK mainland – or any extra flights to get me back home to check on my property twice a month.

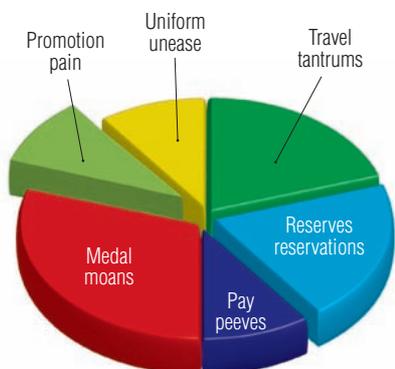
Paying a mortgage on a private's wage is a struggle on its own, without having to fund flights every weekend. It's obviously a lot more expensive than buying petrol and I need to be able to check on my home on a more regular basis.

I now feel both angry and resentful at being posted to Northern Ireland. I would love to hear if there is anything that can be done, or if there is a secret JSP where this is laid down? – Name and address supplied

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: I understand your position and do recognise there are differences in provision of support to get you home depending on where you are assigned, and differences in the purpose behind specific entitlements. Those based overseas receive GYH(O) to reduce the separation of personnel from family, friends and the UK lifestyle – currently three journeys a year from north west Europe and one journey a year from the rest of the world (and the difference is reflected in additional recompense in LOA for the rest of the world community).

Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



Travel limits: Personnel based in Northern Ireland receive 12 flights per year under current regulations

Those on the British mainland with a qualifying residence are entitled to GYH(T) (about two return journeys per month to that property) to alleviate the separation caused by service.

The property must be in the same country as the duty station and kept empty for use at weekends and leave. It's granted on the premise that those on the mainland may reasonably be able to travel home regularly.

Northern Ireland sits somewhere in the middle. You are separated from the mainland but are not 'overseas'. You get the Northern Ireland Journeys package of 12 flights per year (three flights per annum for families) to provide respite from the restrictions placed upon you, but you are not entitled to GYH(T) as well because you cannot be reasonably expected to get back to your property every week.

Work is underway within the New Employment Model to look at all these allowances and our intent is to simplify and harmonise provision so they are clearer and fairer for all.

Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Residents' Supplement that you also receive is worth £2,686.40 per annum (before tax), which should assist you in paying your mortgage.

Parking problems

SINCE being posted to the London Central Garrison, Wellington Barracks, I have had to pay for a parking permit within the Westminster area.

The first permit was paid for with my disturbance allowance. Am I able to claim this back via JPA as I've heard that other serving soldiers have? I didn't choose to live in the capital – I was told I was being posted there. And as a senior NCO who doesn't receive a London level of pay, I find it hard to accept that the MoD cannot help. – Name and address supplied

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: In the majority of cases Service Families Accommodation (SFA) provides parking facilities for occupants in the form of on/off-street parking or garages.

Although those occupying Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) are able to claim through the Resident Parking Scheme described in JSP 464 (Tri Service Accommodation Regulations), there is no identifiable allowance provision within JSP 752 (Tri Service Regulations for Allowances) for compensating individuals occupying SFA for the purchase of on-street permits.

HQ London District has confirmed that there is no historical associated reduction in SFA grading (and therefore charge) to recompense for the purchase of on-street parking permits. For these reasons you should consider submitting an exception case to the Pay and Allowances Casework and Complaints Cell (PACCC) for their deliberation. Your RAO staff will be able to assist you in compiling any such submission.



Picture: Brian Cliff



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Left aghast by lack of leave in Canada

I WAS posted to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) on a temporary deployed staff post for just shy of seven months and was shocked to find out that during this time troops are not entitled to rest and recuperation.

We get two weeks off, which comes off our individual leave allowance, but still no extra leave.

I fully appreciate that this is not an operational environment but I can assure readers and soldiers back home that my colleagues and I work harder here than on any operational tour I have been on in the past.

The hours are long and in conditions that are far from ideal.

Admittedly, the surroundings here are not as bad as in the likes of southern Afghanistan but we still have to spend the same amount of time away from our families.

I may not have all my facts right but when I did enquire at the regimental admin office I was informed we are entitled to nothing whatsoever.

No indulgence flight home, no rest and recuperation period, no post operational tour leave, nothing.

I fully appreciate the financial predicament we are in as a country and an army so not providing flights I can deal with.

What I cannot understand, however, is the lack of respect for family members back home that have had to endure the stresses and strains of life without their loved ones for seven months and then they are expected to go straight back to work with no time off.

Answers would be more than welcome. – SSgt M Stifman, REME.

Lt Col Stephen Nevin, SO1 G1/G4, Batus, replies: Temporary duty staff who are assigned to Batus for a seven-month period each summer fulfil an extremely important role in the delivery of training.

It is of course not an operational tour and therefore there is no entitlement to the associated welfare package but the local overseas allowance is payable.

As the roles undertaken are essential to the delivery of training it is not possible for leave to be taken outside of stand-down periods and commander Batus is conscious that like exercising troops, temporary deployed staff work through many weekends.

In order to allow for some respite from the demanding routine, such staff get a long weekend – four to five days – between the exercises at either end of the season and a two-week stand-down period during the summer.

Therefore, most of these personnel would have received six days' grant leave for the long weekends and used 11 days of their individual leave allowance for the summer leave.

Temporary duty staff are also briefed at the start of each season on the families assistance visiting abroad allowance



It's a long road home: A posting to Batus in Canada can be hard on family life

for those eligible. An assignment to Batus in this role is both challenging and rewarding. There is not the opportunity to take a great deal of leave. However, the unit ensures that all temporary duty staff can take at least two weeks in the summer to either return to the United Kingdom and see family and friends or explore Canada and the US.

Tankless task for museum

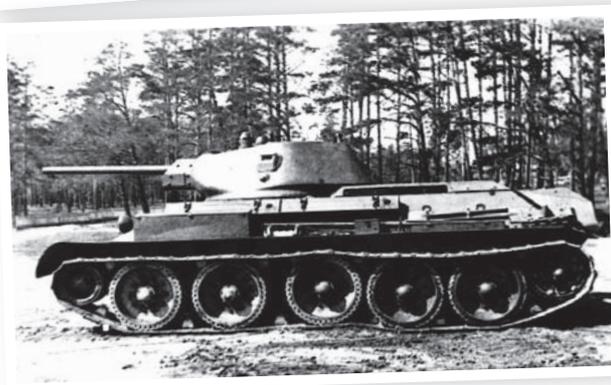


I TRUST that the Bovington Tank Museum is able to identify correctly all the tanks in their collection, so I am assuming that their labelling of a late production T-34/85 as "T-34/76" in the September issue ("Mighty machines") was a ploy to determine whether there are any armour anoraks among the readership of *Soldier*.

Evidently there is at least one! – Lt Col Anthony Kaduck, PPCLI, Army HQ.

Nik Wyness, Marketing Communications Manager, The Tank Museum, responds:

Well spotted by your correspondent, who is of course absolutely right. I would like to say they have successfully passed the "spot the deliberate mistake" test, but I must confess to simply including the wrong name. To complete the mea culpa, here are the correct images of a T34/76.



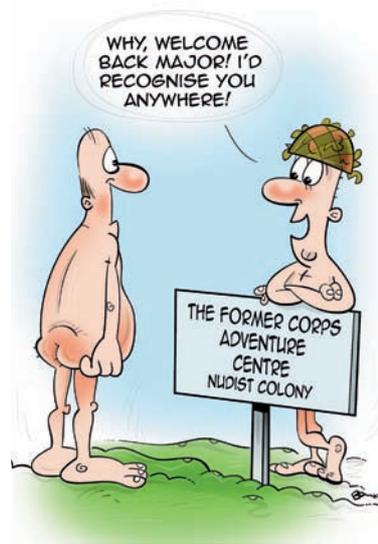
NORWAY'S NAKED TRUTH

■ I HAVE just returned from a trip to southern Norway, where I visited the site of the former 1 (British) Corps Adventure Centre in the Isefjaer Fjord, near Kristiansand.

I helped to set it up and was stationed there for several idyllic months before attending the Staff College at Camberley.

I thought your magazine may like to know that the facility is now a nudist colony.

Visitors are welcome – naked! – Maj (Retd) D Crouch.



'Uniform grant needs to go all the way'

IT'S welcome news that newly commissioned Reserve officers and newly promoted junior NCOs can receive a uniform grant to allow them to buy mess dress and No 2 dress accoutrements.

However, there is no retrospective grant for those who commissioned prior to April 2013. There is not even any annual upkeep allowance available for the thousands of Reserve officers and senior NCOs who have already paid out for these items.

It is easy to envisage that in future all Reserves will be expected to possess mess dress and consequently many will be obliged to buy this kit, which can cost upwards of £1,500. There does not seem to be any justification given for this disparity.

Why should an officer or junior NCO who was commissioned or promoted on March 31, 2012 not be able to claim the cost back when those who did so a year later can? – [Name and address supplied.](#)

Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, responds: You are correct in that prior to 2009 there was no assistance given to Reserve

officers nor was any help given to Regular Army senior NCOs who had traditionally always purchased their mess dress.

However, the Service recognises that these anomalies existed and is correcting the situation as the finances allow.

In 2009, it was agreed that all Reserve officers would receive a free issue of the new No 2 dress. In 2010, the Army introduced the mess dress grant for Regular Army senior NCOs.

It was recently announced that all Reserve officers commissioned after April 1, 2013 into group A units will receive exactly the same grants as Regular officers and Reserve senior NCOs promoted after April 1, 2013 would receive the senior NCO mess dress grant.

Both these groups are also

entitled to an annual upkeep grant with which to maintain and repair uniforms bought with this money.

However, as you say, there is very little assistance for those Reserve officers and senior NCOs who were commissioned or promoted prior to April 1, 2013.

As with any change in policy that cannot be introduced retrospectively, there has to be a start date and no matter where that is set, there will always be a disparity between

those who miss or qualify for a benefit by a few days.



'Reserve commitment should be rewarded'

READING the deputy commander Land Forces' answers to questions in the August edition ("Any Questions?"), which says that "you may have to do six out of nine starred weekends", and knowing how emotive the whole bounty issue is with the Reserves, has prompted me to write in.

I too started my military career over 30 years ago in the Territorial Army, to return after a full Regular career and have now been serving as a permanent staff administration officer, defacto OC, for the last five years.

It has become apparent that the current bounty qualifying criteria needs to be updated in conjunction with FR2020.

The present criteria, dependant on contract, especially the successful completion of the military annual training tests (MATTs), have created a culture of "bounty hunters" and a training system that is generally catering for the individual to achieve a tick in the box to receive the bonus.

MATTs are a measuring stick to confirm that soldiers are at a standard level, but this shouldn't be part of the bounty criteria.

Bounty payment for the Reserve should, I believe, be commitment-based.

Training time is limited already and MATTs training is counterproductive, with some individuals only turning up to events to achieve this and their bounty qualification.

I suggest we go back to the "starred weekends" or a points allocated type system where the individual must amass a set amount to achieve a full bounty.

If they only achieve a percentage of the points then it stands to reason that

they only get the same proportion of their bounty, therefore rewarding those who show full commitment. – [Name and address supplied.](#)

Col Adrian Walton, AD Res DTrg(A), responds: As the Reserve moves from supplying individuals for current operations to providing collective capability, you are right in identifying a need to change bounty qualification criteria. Army Reserve regulations provide the direction and we are currently rewriting the requirement to reflect the much wider training remit.

Part of that will be direction on

attending training, allowing commanding officers to specify attendance at key events and that will include weekend, annual training and specialist in role training or courses. MATTs will still feature as they are a basic training standard.

By programming activity well in advance, it will enable troops to plan their attendance against the set requirement, and units should provide sufficient training events to fit in with the demands of the family and employer.

Reserve service will require an increased commitment but will offer more investment in equipment, training days and interoperability with Regulars.



New direction: Collective capability has led to a review of the bounty rules

Picture: Steve Dock



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Concerned by combat critique



WRITE regarding August's "Cotton on to combat uniform" letter, which contained several valid points regarding the current issue personal clothing system (PCS).

I like the hand warmers but completely agree that the smock concept needs to be revisited.

I also prefer the 95-style multi-terrain pattern uniform but times change and we are expected to change with them.

To my knowledge there are different versions of PCS for temperate and hot weather conditions, which look identical.

The standard issue version is designed for temperate climates, like northern Europe, using a high synthetic content material.

Troops deploying to hot locations such as Afghanistan are issued a high cotton content format, which is lightweight and dries quickly.

I do not understand the writer's argument for repositioning sleeve pockets.

They are already placed on the upper arm, in the best position to allow access whilst wearing body armour.

I am concerned the correspondent is actually using the cavities in the lower sleeve for this purpose but they are designed for protective pads.

If this is not the case and the actual pockets are too low, he or she may be wearing the wrong size and should visit the clothing store. – **Sgt Andrew Watson, 22 Signal Regiment.**

● **Combat clothing change – page 23**

DISAGREE?

Contact *Talkback*
 mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk
 @soldiermagazine

'LAY PCS ISSUES TO REST'

■ IS there any way in which we can please lay the personal clothing system (PCS) issue permanently to rest?

From Afghanistan to Aldershot, this correspondence has dominated my reading of *Talkback* for two years.

In the interim Herrick multi-terrain pattern (MTP) clothing I was always untucked as I was in "dezzies" in Iraq. Ergo, no change.

The MTP passed through Kabul's Ecolog laundry 40 to 50 times per set in the course of an eight-month tour.

It will take me a while to catch up with that in the gentle environs of my home washing machine, so don't expect it to soften overnight.

The natural fibre content of PCS is higher than that of the interim version so please, detractors, do not continue harping on about the higher "plastic content" – it is a false illusion caused by unfamiliarity and a wish to grasp at the straws of criticism.

The sleeves do fold up, actually rather well when a degree of precision and thought is applied.

I approach PCS with more curiosity than criticism. I like it.

Okay, I contemplate for seconds on end the purpose of the two tiny braided and filled holes on the cuffs (enlighten me someone, please). And maybe the angles of the panels are a little more extreme than customary.

But that is a cosmetic matter and not worthy of expansion.

And now, having expounded a wish to cease this seemingly endless correspondence, it is with irony that my alliance has no doubt opened up such a can of worms that it will protract the exchange. – **Maj Jeremy Burnan, RLC.**

Readers reject cap badge claim

I DISAGREE with the correspondent who claims to have worn more cap badges than any other soldier ("Bold cap badge claim", September).

As a young Army cadet in the late 1960s I displayed the Wessex Wyvern cap badge.

I then joined the Wessex Yeomanry's A Squadron and acquired the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars cap badge.

In 1974 I became a member of the Regular Army and worked as a craftsman within the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Then in 1977 I transferred to the Royal Hussars whilst serving in Germany.

From 1981 to 1983 I was posted to Oman as part of the loan service team and wore the Sultan of Oman's Armoured Regiment cap badge.

In 1991 the Royal Hussars amalgamated with the 14/20th King's Royal Hussars to become The King's Royal Hussars, bringing me to badge number six.

From 1993 I was posted to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment on loan service and again wore their emblem.

Then in 1996 I reached the end of my 22 years but joined the Territorial Army and, again, donned the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars badge.

In 2001 I was appointed permanent staff administrative officer of the Royal Devon

Yeomanry, a position I am still in today, meaning that I have now

been in possession of nine cap badges. – Capt Clive Pearce, R Wx Y.

■ I CAN match Mr Rackham's claim to have legitimately worn more cap badges than anyone else.

My Army career started with the Army Cadet Force (ACF) before I joined the Territorial Army, and I have continued to serve as a Regular soldier since 1994.

For the record, the cap badges I have held include: ACF, Royal Signals and London Scottish; 51st Highland Brigade, Royal Engineers other ranks and officer; Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support).

By his own admission, Mr Rackham's year in the Home Guard was not entirely above board so perhaps I have just pipped him to the title.

Many of my colleagues have complex career histories and large cap badge collections, some having transferred between the Services. However, I think I hold the record among them.

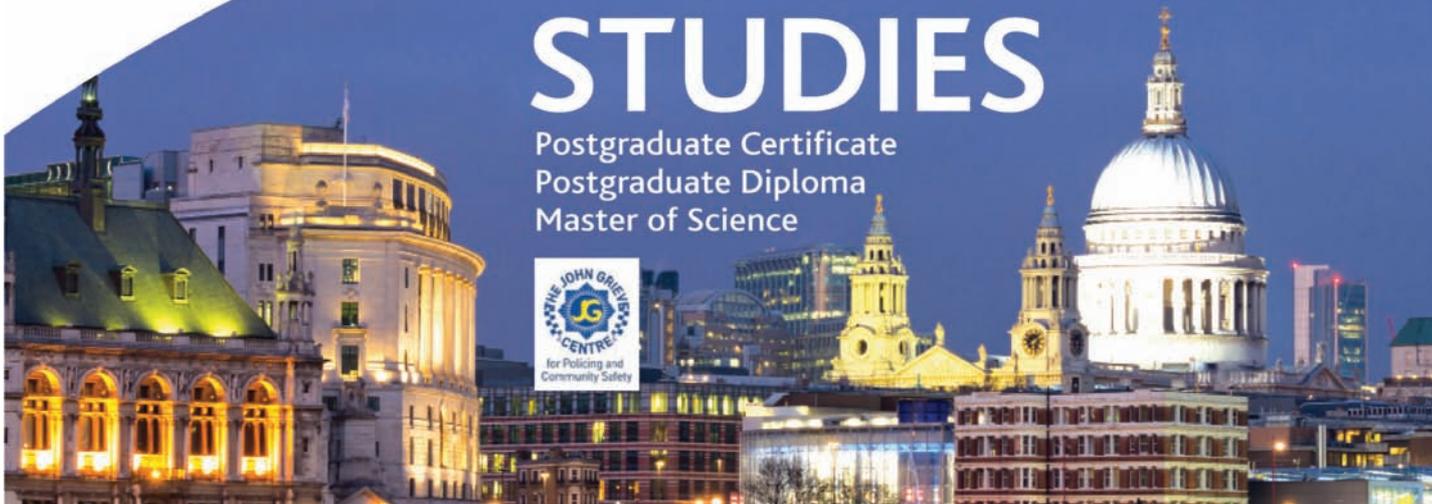
The stories of Mr Rackham and myself might remind those tempted to complain about the expense and inconvenience of frequent uniform changes ("Clothing costs need ironing out", September) that they could be far worse off.

Conversely, I consider my variety-packed Service career to have been a great privilege, not a burden. – **Maj Bill Hawkins, AGC (SPS).**



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COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: Maj Gary Bagley, JSSO Cyprus; GP Karran, Rhyl.

Tommy at War: A Davies, Army HQ, Andover; Lt AJ Lappin RN, RMB Chivenor; Bianca Barnett, Gillingham, Kent; Bernard Slater, Yatton, North Somerset; Mark Aplin, Witham St Hughs, Lincoln.

The Look of Love DVD: Cpl S Haggerty, BFPO 16; Graham Drew, Marlborough Barracks, Temple Herdewyke; Cpl Lisa Watson, Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley; C Duckworth, Shefford; J Matthews, Dallas, Moray.

DIARY

October 6-11 The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association will be holding SR UK (formerly known as Soldier Ride), a six day bike tour setting off from Windsor Castle and covering 250 miles around the South East of England, culminating in a victory lap from Horse Guards Parade to the Tower of London. The event is run in partnership with the US Wounded Warrior Project. For more information visit www.blesma.org/what-we-do/member-activities/sr-uk

October 8: The Battle of Mirbat, Oman, 1972, presentation by Pete Winner, the author of the best selling memoir *Soldier I* at The Courtyard, Hereford. Tickets priced £15. For further details contact secretaryabf@btinternet.com, phone the Courtyard box office on 01432 340 555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk

November 16-17: History in Your Hands, IWM HMS *Belfast*. 1100-1230 and 1400-1600. Discover hidden stories about the vessel and explore the fascinating lives of the men who lived and worked on board.

November 30-December 1: The Birmingham International Tattoo. Military bands, displays and a spectacular grand finale on Saturday, November 30 at 1800 and Sunday, December 1 at 1400 at The N/A Birmingham. Box office 0844 338 8000 or visit www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

Until further notice: Chelsea pensioners' wartime stories are being captured in a new online collaboration between the National Army Museum and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The **Old and the Bold** is

an audiovisual history project and videos are available to view at www.nam.ac.uk

DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity: 0845 241 4820

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

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

BULLET POINTS

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 Libraries: 01252 340094

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.ngvfa.org.uk

National Ex-Services Association: www.nesa.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: 0800 169 2277 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

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

Stoll: (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation) 0207 385 2110; info@stoll.org.uk; www.stoll.org.uk

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

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

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 88/13: Captured persons doctrine

ABN 87/13: Mess contributions and subscriptions – duty visitors

ABN 86/13: Army social media governance and registration

ABN 85/13: Accrued pension rights for the RG pension scheme

ABN 84/13: New government security classification

ABN 83/13: Army lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender forum

ABN 82/13: Removal of functional competency assessment

ABN 81/13: Combat uniform

ABN 80/13: Pension tax relief – publication of annual allowance

Continued on page 62

ABN 79/13: Army Reserve No 2 dress and grants

ABN 78/13: NRPS and FTRS posts – impact of restructuring

DIN 2013DIN01-182: Armed Forces Covenant LIBOR fund

DIN 2013DIN01-181: Obsolete DINs and ABNs following publication of amendment 37 of TA regulations

DIN 2013DIN01-180: Performance management and managing poor performance – formal disagreement meeting June 10, 2013

DIN 2013DIN01-179: MoD/NHS agenda for change grades pay award 2013

DIN 2013DIN01-178: Pension rights accrued in the Royal Gibraltar Regiment pension scheme

DIN 2013DIN01-177: MoD firefighters 2012 pay award

DIN 2013DIN01-176: Long service advance of pay – alteration to medical certification

DIN 2013DIN01-175: Band B nine box grid

DIN 2013DIN01-174: Overseas visits by Services sports teams

DIN 2013DIN01-173: The In-Service fast stream competition – autumn 2013

DIN 2013DIN01-170: Release of JSP 950 leaflet 10-4-1: *Procedure for sampling and archiving tissue reference samples for post mortem identification through DNA analysis*

DIN 2013DIN01-169: Operational welfare communications – WelComE

DIN 2013DIN01-168: Armed Forces childcare voucher scheme

DIN 2013DIN03-015: Publication of revised JSP 398: *United Kingdom manual of national rules of engagement*

DIN 2013DIN04-148: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment – PFA in annex A

DIN 2013DIN04-147: Declaration of ALC obsolescence equipment – PFA in annex A

DIN 2013DIN04-146: Instruction on how to access maintainer and user guides for joint Service command and control applications hosted on DII(F) deployed in the Secret domain

DIN 2013DIN04-145: Declaration of the out of service date of L100A2 G3K 7.62mm rifle

DIN 2013DIN04-144: Declaration of the out of service date of L107A1 P228 Sig Sauer 9mm pistol

DIN 2013DIN04-143: Amendments to operational medical modules contents (Jul 13)

DIN 2013DIN04-142: Modification to wraparound staging for the maintenance staging for the Sea King helicopter Mk 3, 4, 5 & 7

DIN 2013DIN04-141: Rocket hand-fired series

DIN 2013DIN04-140: Secondary surveillance radar, mode S 24-bit address management

DIN 2013DIN04-139: Submarine international cooperation control panel

DIN 2013DIN04-138: Transfer of defence ordnance assurance service to Defence Munitions

DIN 2013DIN04-137: Sting Ray AT/Q parachutes – life and usage policy change

DIN 2013DIN04-135: Equipment tables, scales

and schedules

DIN 2013DIN04-134: Removal from service of rocket hand-fired radar echo 1,000m L23A1

DIN 2013DIN04-133: Weapon equipment – declaration of obsolete/obsolescent status

DIN 2013DIN04-132: The process and priorities for the provision of movements air combat service support units

DIN 2013DIN04-131: Management of land non-ionising radiation hazards to personnel, fuels and flammable gasses

DIN 2013DIN04-130: Framework agreement for technical support market knowledge matrix

DIN 2013DIN04-129: Declaration of obsolescence of towed mechanical sweeper collector

DIN 2013DIN04-128: Declaration of obsolescence, post review of armament ground support equipment

DIN 2013DIN04-127: Urgent operational requirements standing instruction version 8 (UOR SI V8)

DIN 2013DIN04-119: Logistic information systems – cessation of obsolete/obsolescent capabilities

DIN 2013DIN04-118: Equipment tables, scales and schedules

DIN 2013DIN04-117: Declaration of ALC obsolete equipment – PFA in annex A

DIN 2013DIN04-116: Declaration of BID/2370 as being obsolete by Crypto Services for Defence

DIN 2013DIN05-034: Information services and equipment capabilities delivered by the Maritime C5ISR Support Unit

DIN 2013DIN05-033: Air Warfare School progress towards full operating capability

DIN 2013DIN05-032: Centre for Defence Radiology

DIN 2013DIN05-031: Airfield Support Capability Integrated Logistic Operations Centre implementation

DIN 2013DIN06-030: Guidance on bringing a common law claim for compensation against the MoD

DIN 2013DIN06-029: JSP 800, volume 7 policy: *Load safety regulations and tie down schemes*

DIN 2013DIN06-028: The health and safety (sharp instruments in healthcare) regulations 2013

DIN 2013DIN07-117: Tri-Service university short course programme – academic year 2013/14

DIN 2013DIN07-114: Defence operational Individual pre-deployment training policy

DIN 2013DIN07-113: Move of Joint Service Sub Aqua Diving Centre

DIN 2013DIN07-112: City and Guilds professional recognition awards

DIN 2013DIN07-111: Revised attendance policy for the military analysis programme

DIN 2013DIN07-110: Individuals competent to conduct single Service physical fitness and swimming tests and assessments, together with phase one and two syllabused physical training, and the use of endurance training leaders/physical training leaders

DIN 2013DIN07-109: Intermediate command and staff course (maritime)

DIN 2013DIN08-010: Private use of MoD-provided vehicles by all MoD personnel (including commuting journeys) – tax and national insurance liabilities

DIN 2013DIN09-012: *The Sun* Military Awards 2013

DIN 2013DIN09-011: The Ruth Carter Prize for nurses and the Eliza Mackenzie Prize for student nurses

DIN 2013DIN09-010: Iraq Reconstruction Service Medal

DIN 2013DIN10-037: Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund

DIN 2013DIN10-036: Army Squash Rackets Association sponsored championships 2013/14

DIB44/13: 2012/13 Performance awards for MoD civilian staff below SCS

DIB43/13: *The Sun* Military Awards – nominations now open



REUNION

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Regimental Association's annual Fusilier gathering will be held at the Royal Court hotel, Coventry on October 19 from 1900 to 0100. Past and present members of the regiment are welcome. Full details from Warwickshire Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF. Telephone 01926 491653 or email rrfhqark@btconnect.com

South Notts Hussars Association annual reunion and remembrance dinner at the TA Centre, Hucknall Lane, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8AQ on November 9 at 1900. Tickets cost £20 and are available from the association secretary at the TA Centre.

RAMC Reunited 2014 will take place at The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool on February 7-10, 2014. For further information contact Mick McCran by sending a SAE (C5 size) to 132 Nightingale Crescent, Lincoln LN6 0JZ. Alternatively telephone 01522 879307 or send an email to michael.mccran@ntlworld.com

Singapore Dawn Watchers' Society for members of the Intelligence Corps or those attached to it in Singapore during the 1960s and 1970s. The next reunion will be at The Maid's Head Hotel, Norwich on April 4-6, 2014. Please contact Nik Collett, secretary, via sdws-sec@hotmail.co.uk

P (Parachute) Troop, 7 Para RHA reunion at the Elephant and Castle, North Camp, Farnborough on Airborne Forces Weekend, Saturday, July 5, 2014, to mark 30 years since the formation of P Troop. All ex-members and friends welcome. For further information contact Mark Flannigan via mark.flannigan@yahoo.co.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 e-mail your name and address to apt.mod@btconnect.com with the event you are interested in attending.

October: 22 – Chichester; 23 – Haslemere; 29 – Kensington & Chelsea; 30 – Greenwich; 31 – Newham.



Christopher Nation, a member of The International Guild of Battlefield Guides, is looking for members of E Battery, RHA who visited Binche in Belgium in 1984 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the first artillery salvo fired by the BEF during the First World War. Anyone who took part, or has any contemporary knowledge of the event, is asked to contact him via email on nation49@gmail.com

British author and researcher Duncan Wade would like to meet with anyone who served in the **118th HAA** under Col Durrant in Rheinberg between April and August 1945. Those with a first-hand account of service can contact him via duncanwade@fsmail.net

Tom Riley is trying to contact any ex-Royal Artillery soldiers, or their relatives, who may have information about his father.

Anthony Riley (also known as Spud) joined in December 1946 in Rhyl, North Wales. Between August 1948 and August 1951 he served in Hong Kong and then Malaya, before being posted to Castlemartin camp in Pembrokeshire in 1952. Anyone with information is asked to contact tonyriley56@live.co.uk

Corinne Todd is looking for her friend **David Hadden, who served with the 9th/12th Royal Lancers** in Detmold between 1974 and 1977. Anyone with information can contact her via corinnetodd@hotmail.com



The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Regimental Association's annual gathering will be held at the Royal Court hotel, Coventry on October 19

73 Engineer Regiment Combined Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is to close by July 2014 as part of the restructuring of the Army Reserve under A2020. Anyone who has donated an item of property to the Mess is asked to contact the Regt QM or the RSM regarding return or disposal instructions for the item. In order to complete the closure process, specific instructions are required as soon as possible. Any items that are not claimed will be offered to the Corps Museum or put forward for a charity auction after Easter 2014. All applicants are responsible for the cost of post and packaging for return. Contact Maj M Everett, QM on 0115 9008652, email 73engr-rqm@mod.uk or WO1 (RSM) A J Everson RE, on, 0115 9008645, email 73engr-rsm@mod.uk

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

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The results will be announced in the December issue.

Usual rules apply. **August's winner:** First correct entry drawn at random was L Newport, Oxford. **Runners up:** WO1 M Smith, RAF Odiham and J Murdoch, Army Foundation College, Harrogate.



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MOVIE

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Review: Joe Clapson

THE spine-chilling *Child's Play* franchise returns to screens this month with a surprisingly strong sequel for a straight-to-video release – ensuring fans of the horror genre are suitably terrified in time for Halloween.

The world's most demonic doll, voiced by Brad Dourif (*The Lord of the Rings*), reprises its role as a murderous plaything inhabited by the spirit of serial killer Charles Lee Ray.

The latest chapter in the blood-soaked saga ties in with the controversial series' 25th anniversary and sees Dourif's daughter, Fiona, taking up the lead role as Nica, a born paraplegic living amid a highly dysfunctional family.

The "Good Guys" doll arrives at her eerie Gothic house where she lives with her unstable mother and both are clueless as to where the package came from. Needless to say, Nica soon finds herself in a torturous battle to survive against the lethal toy.

Chucky is thrown in the bin but we all know that means nothing. The heroine is woken up to screams and then finds her mother dead on the floor after an apparent fall from the balcony.

Unsurprisingly the sinister little doll is watching from the corner of the room.

To his credit the writer-director and series creator, Don Mancini, does not jump straight in with gore tactics, he builds the tension masterfully by keeping Chucky off-screen for an elongated period and shooting the isolated home from angles that will only ramp up anxiety levels.

With her mother dead, Nica is forced to suffer the arrival of her money-grabbing aunt Barb (Danielle Bisutti) and her family, including five-year-old daughter Alice (Summer H Howell).

Clearly, when the youngster takes a shine to the bug-eyed and less-than-cuddly toy the ending is never going to be pleasant for the household.

In a move away from the style of *Bride of Chucky* and *Seed of Chucky* this is a full-fledged horror film picking up largely from where *Child's Play 3* left off.

Mancini's impressive visuals and nods to earlier films will please the die-hards and leave most viewers petrified.

With lots of self-referential moments the film makers have gone all out to please Chucky fans and tie everything together in one film.

The result is one of the best instalments in the feted franchise.

Plot twists throughout and the possessed redhead wreaking chaos alongside numerous old characters ensure there is no settling down.

Despite its lack of a theatrical release this low-budget horror sequel could well prompt a re-birth for the series' cult following.

As Chucky says: "It's time to play." ■

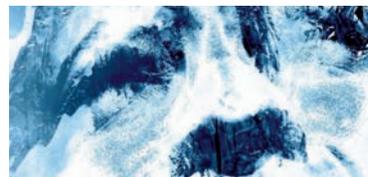


THE ICEMAN out now

THIS is based on a true story and it's a cracking tale. Kuklinski (**Michael Shannon**) is a New York businessman, or so his wife (**Winona Ryder**) believes. In fact, he is a ruthless hit man governed by Mafiosi rules. **Ray Liota** is very much in character pulling Kuklinski's strings. The loyalties and vulnerabilities of outwardly sinister mobsters are flawlessly captured in this compelling flick.

Maj Neil Johnson, AAC

VERDICT: Killing by every conceivable means. A gripping thriller ★★★★★



THE DYATLOV PASS INCIDENT out now

STARRING **Gemma Atkinson**, this movie follows students who are investigating the true-life mystery of nine Russian skiers who went missing in 1959. When the gruesome scene was discovered it was revealed that their tents had been ripped open from the inside and the dead were bare-footed with broken ribs, crushed skulls but no external injuries. A great date-night movie for me and the wife!

Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

VERDICT: Full of suspense – an unexpected treat for all genre fans ★★★★★



Frankenstein's Army out now

THIS is a novel addition to the "found-footage" sub-genre of horror movies. Set in the Second World War, it follows the fate of a Soviet reconnaissance section. The soldiers uncover a ruined village where half-machine half-human monsters created by the Nazis roam free. While it is obviously a low-budget affair, this film is actually very well shot and the creatures are genuinely scary.

Alex Janaway, civvy

VERDICT: Takes cues from *Warhammer 40K* and *Bioshock*. Not bad ★★★★★



GREEN STREET 3 out October 14

SCOTT Adkins (*Expendables 2*) stars as Danny Harvey, a former member of West Ham firm the Green Street Elite. He turned his back on violence 14 years ago but is now back in the thick of it due to brother Joey. The usual pub brawls are replaced with organised underground fights that run in sync with Premiership matches. Great if you like violence and potty-mouthed Londoners.

CSgt Christopher Lockhart, 1 Scots

VERDICT: Decent for a straight-to-DVD movie. ★★★★★



TIME BANDITS out now

THE brilliant 1981 movie that cemented **Terry Gilliam** as more than just *Monty Python's* resident animator has been released on DVD and Blu-ray after a restoration. The fantasy sees schoolboy Kevin (**Craig Warnock**) join a band of dwarves as they race through history via holes in the space-time continuum. On his way he bumps into Agamemnon (**Sean Connery**), Robin Hood (**John Cleese**) and boards the Titanic.

Joe Clapson, *Soldier*

VERDICT: First class comedy, a re-release worth spending money on ★★★★★



WIN... THE WORLD AT WAR

THE BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning series of documentaries, which were the first factual programmes to cover the full history of the Second World War, have been digitally restored to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their release. *Soldier* has teamed up with Fremantle Media to offer a copy of the Blu-ray box set worth £200 to two lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning, just tell us when the shows were originally broadcast on television. Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to: comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: October 31

games

PICK OF THE MONTH: XBOX ONE

THE NEXT GENERATION

CONSOLE UPGRADE DAZZLES
ON DEBUT PERFORMANCE



Review: David McDougall

EXCITED members of the video gaming fraternity recently descended on Cologne, Germany, to get an early look at the latest developments and upcoming releases in the console universe.

But, unlike other conventions, GamesCom 2013 was the first public exhibition where players could get their hands on the forthcoming Xbox One and some of the biggest and most popular titles available.

A few of these were familiar – the next *Call of Duty*, for example – and some were not. *Titanfall* springs to mind.

Like it or loathe it, this machine is impressive. It's quieter, faster and more powerful than its predecessor and on top of that it has an improved Kinect system that wouldn't look out of place on the sci-fi film *Minority Report*.

But despite the obvious and typical technological advances, it's the controller that is the most interesting aspect on the next generation of gaming. And this leads us to *Forza 5*, an Xbox One exclusive that is due for release on November 22.

This series has always been synonymous with realistic racing and each iteration provides visually pleasing machines, equally beautiful and accurate circuits, and digital cars that respond and handle like their real-world counterparts.

The fifth instalment takes this a step further by not only bettering previous efforts but by drastically improving on the level of feedback the player feels when racing.

Gear changes and cornering are channelled through small, bespoke vibrations in the controller and the same happens when you brake or accelerate.

If that doesn't persuade you, though, the graphics are truly amazing, and the cast of *Top Gear* also return – all three of them: Jeremy, James and Richard, who each add their own distinctive, invaluable and entertaining viewpoint.

If you prefer blasting things in the face, however, then look no further than *Titanfall*, a first-person shooter from the original creators of the *Modern Warfare* series.

This game places you in an environment where you can leap onto buildings and scale walls in style.

But also included are Titans, large vehicles that allow you to spearhead attacks or go toe to toe with other platforms, each of which have their own unique, distinctive flavours when it comes to weaponry and the art of war.

Titanfall is a refreshing escape from your typical shooter but familiar enough to satisfy fans of *Call of Duty* or anything similar.

On the back of these were other offerings as well, with *Battlefield 4*, *Call of Duty: Ghosts*, *Ryse*, *Watch Dogs*, *Project Spark* and Bungie's new take on science fiction, *Destiny*, all receiving game time.

These titles provide something new and interesting that extends beyond the typical improvement in graphics.

But for me, the real standout competitors in the early stages of the new gaming generation are *Forza 5* and *Titanfall*. ■

SAINTS ROW 4

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

THIS is without doubt the craziest console release I have ever seen. I was aware of it being similar to the superb *Grand Theft Auto* series but there is so much more on offer here – to start with you bizarrely play as the president of the USA. The opening mission reaches its zenith in a parody of *Armageddon*. I will not give the plot away but the whole thing is quite trippy and action packed. A good game with some fun quirks but it may lack long-term playability.



Sgt Mike O'Neill, RLC

VERDICT: The ideal warm-up before taking to the streets in *GTA 5* ★★★★★

SPLINTER CELL: BLACKLIST

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

SAM Fisher is back. As America comes under attack from a feared terrorist organisation called The Engineers, our hero heads up a new clandestine team that is answerable only to the president himself. Working from a fully mobile ops unit, you have an impressive array of unique equipment and upgrades at your disposal. This is a fully immersive and detailed game, both in storyline and missions, which succeeds by getting you thinking like a true operative in the field.



Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

VERDICT: A superb game and a true blockbuster ★★★★★

LOST PLANET 3

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

LOST Planet 3 is an action-heavy shooter set on the icy planet of E.D.N. You play as Jim Peyton, a contractor for the Neo-Venus Construction company, who is tasked with mining valuable energy sources while surviving attacks from giant bugs and plants. This boasts amazing graphics, gameplay and story from the start but after a while it becomes repetitive. The online multiplayer is fun but average compared to other titles.



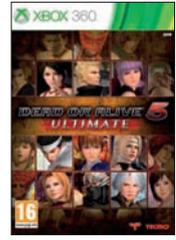
Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC

VERDICT: Worth a play, but one to rent rather than buy ★★★★★

DEAD OR ALIVE 5: ULTIMATE

for Xbox 360/PS3

THE *Dead or Alive* series is often derided as superficial due to its emphasis on glamorous and over-the-top characters. However, the fifth instalment provides a complete package of graphical and gameplay excellence. The ridiculous story won't appeal to all but there are a large number of modes to keep you entertained for hours on end. Add these factors to the slick presentation throughout and this proves to be the ultimate blend of style and substance.



Stephen Smith, MoD Corsham

VERDICT: A must-have release for all fight fans ★★★★★

RAYMAN LEGENDS

for Xbox/PS3/PC/Wii U

THIS is a fantasy adventure that plays through a series of legendary worlds, multiple characters and a host of enemies. A bunch of Teensies (tiny blue people) have been kidnapped by nightmares that come to life and you battle through levels to free them. On occasions this can be challenging and demanding, but it is also a very rewarding experience. However, beware of the mini-games – particularly the football – that will suck you in and distract you for hours at a time.



Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

VERDICT: An awesome adventure that ticks every box ★★★★★

THE BUREAU: XCOM DECLASSIFIED

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

THIS title offers an interesting fusion of **Tom Clancy**-style tactics and the squad building approach of *Mass Effect*. Add a 1960s American setting and a story that becomes intriguing over time, and you've got an impressive package. The enemy AI is very smart and the graphics are excellent. Sound tactics and a clear strategy are the key to success and peeking from cover will see you dead in an instant. Definitely worth checking out.



WO2 Graeme Russell, 39 Engr Regt

VERDICT: A fun and quirky game based on action and tactics ★★★★★

mus



PICK OF THE MONTH: AM

MONKEY BUSINESS

ROCKERS OFFER NEW VIBE IN
IMPRESSIVE FIFTH ALBUM

C

Review: Richard Long

WITH four hit records to their name Arctic Monkeys have earned the right to be ranked among the upper echelons of the British rock tree. But having achieved such widespread success the four-piece have remained firmly grounded and a determination to do things their own way, while avoiding the distractions of mainstream acclaim, has been evident.

The band's previous two offerings were recorded in their adopted home of Los Angeles – far away from the UK spotlight – and when their attention turned to new album *AM*, the stateside adventure was repeated once more.

The end result combines elements of their earlier work with a new twist that sees hints of American RnB flow through their tunes.

"With artists like Aaliyah," singer Alex Turner explains, "what's sometimes seen as being cheesy is actually a real coolness about the melodies and we wanted to get the way that music moves into what we were doing."

"That also went hand in hand – in our minds at least – with 70s rock n roll, bands like Black Sabbath and The Groundhogs that we listen to very loud in the dressing room when we're on tour."

Technology also played its part in the process, but not the state-of-the-art variety.

"I used to mess around on an old four-track cassette recorder that belonged to my dad," Turner said.

"Then I got given one for my birthday last year and we really liked the way it sounded. So we worked on it for three weeks straight till we wore out the mechanism."

"I definitely believe in songs existing inside bits of equipment and in the end you just have to let them out – there's a few riffs we owe that machine."

AM proves to be a successful return to form for a reinvigorated band who were simply superb at this summer's Glastonbury festival.

Do I Wanna Know offers a slow burning start before the outstanding *R U Mine* bursts to life with trademark riffs and screeching guitar work.

But this is not all-out rock and the West Coast vibe surfaces on *One For The Road*, which sees Turner's vocals flirting with a hip-hop diversion, while 70s rock oozes from *Arabella* and *I Want It All*.

On the whole, this is a surprising change of direction which delivers impressive results that easily sit alongside the Arctic Monkeys' greatest achievements to date. ■

Roaring 20s by Rizzle Kicks

URBAN duo **Rizzle Kicks** return with a high quality follow-up to 2011's *Stereo Typical*. Their lyrics are hilarious in places, especially on the track *Lost Generation* which pokes fun at footballer **John Terry** and chat show host **Jeremy Kyle**. They also have a refreshingly normal take on contemporary life. This album is a watermark for British hip-hop in the same way that **NWA's** *Straight Outta Compton* was in America. The only difference is they have replaced lyrics about guns with humour.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: By far and away the best album of 2013 ★★★★★

Studio Zoo by Newton Faulkner

SINGER-songwriter **Newton Faulkner** created history with the release of new offering *Studio Zoo*. The making of this album was streamed live online over a five-week period and, with no production or sound engineering involved, fans were given the opportunity to share the highs and lows of the recording process with the artist. To finish the concept off the dreadlocked star played at this year's Isle of Wight Festival, which was also streamed live via the internet. Standout tracks include *Indecisive* and *Plastic Hearts*.



Sgt Ben McDaniel, REME

VERDICT: Not an album I would buy, but fans will love it ★★★★★

Boy Cried Wolf by The Feeling

BRITISH pop band **The Feeling** are back with a new release, a new label and a whole new lease of life. *Boy Cried Wolf* was born when frontman **Dan Gillespie Sells** returned to London following the breakdown of his last relationship. With his head in turmoil he sat down in front of a piano and the tracks started to take shape. Throughout the album you can hear his new-found freedom and reaffirmed love in every soaring melody, nagging hook and pin-sharp lyric.

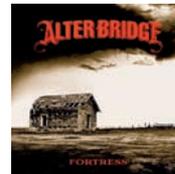


Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

VERDICT: The triumphant sound of a band reborn ★★★★★

Fortress by Alter Bridge

LIKE many good albums, this offering takes great joy in lulling you into a false sense of security before slapping you in the face with unapologetic, searing rock. This record is everything that could be hoped for from the Florida metal act on their fourth studio release and, although it won't necessarily change the world of modern music, it maintains the integrity of the **Alter Bridge** sound while ticking all the necessary boxes: soft, heavy and heavier still (and also their heaviest to date).



Maj Fraser Dowling, AGC (ETS)

VERDICT: Good, heavy rock from a band that keeps getting better ★★★★★

Hail To The King by Avenged Sevenfold

JUST over two-and-a-half years since the death of drummer **Jimmy "The Rev" Sullivan**, **Avenged Sevenfold** return to the forefront of hard rock with their equivalent to **Metallica's** *Master Of Puppets*. The album blows up from the start with *Shepherd Of Fire*, while the title track provides evidence of their signature guitar sound. The riffs are a loud, groovy, masterpiece of blues-infused rock and the vocals tear through this record relentlessly, making this a true performance of modern heavy metal.



Gdsm Steve McManus, Coldm Gds

VERDICT: Superb modern metal from Orange County's finest ★★★★★

iTre X Cuatro by Green Day

THIS CD/DVD pack includes the *iTre* album, which followed on from the arena rock sound of *iUno* and the punk-garage themed *iDos*. Unfortunately, the record is a mixture of its predecessors making it detached from the set. However, **Green Day's** everlasting popularity shines through, providing a melancholic nostalgia and a sense that you've heard the songs before. The DVD offers an interesting look at the band as they work through the record and shows them performing at spot gigs and bigger venues.



Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

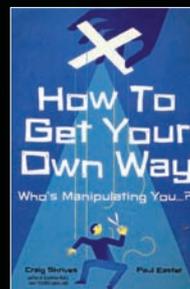
VERDICT: Heard it all before, but not a bad effort ★★★★★

books

PICK OF THE MONTH:
HOW TO GET YOUR OWN WAY

POWERS OF PERSUASION

MANUAL REVEALS HOW TO MASTER
THE ART OF MANIPULATION



Available to buy now,
priced £12.99

Interview: Becky Clark

SALESPEOPLE, advertisements, politicians, the media, even colleagues – whether we notice it or not, every day we are subjected to a barrage of potentially manipulative messages from individuals or organisations trying to steer our behaviour for their own gain.

But with a bit of practice it is possible to defend yourself against the mind games of modern life.

So say former Army officers Craig Shrives and Paul Easter whose new title *How to Get Your Own Way* draws on their combined experience in the Intelligence Corps to explain how the power to influence can work both ways.

Over the course of five chapters the pair discuss the principals of persuasive writing, personal bias, body language, statistics and shopping.

While seemingly unrelated, a common thread emerges; the need to question the information in front of you.

"The old adage 'don't believe what you read' is well known," said Shrives.

"We expand on that to try and provide you with the tools to develop a more critical eye about lots of things – from those yellow bargain tags in the supermarket, to what you read in the papers or on people's faces and everything in between."

Two-for-one deals offering minimal benefits, price structures designed to lure the hapless buyer to a particular product – the tricks used to flog stuff are myriad and turn the weekly shop into an exhausting prospect.

But how do such theories about manipulation apply in the work place?

According to the book, the key is understanding bias – that is, our tendency to view the world through "us-tinted" glasses.

Citing an example, Shrives explained: "In the military there's a game known as 'paper, scissors, rank slide'.

"So, a corporal and a major are having a discussion and after a while they decide the officer was right all along.

"That's 'authority bias'.

"When people are able to recognise that being of a higher rank doesn't mean you're correct, they can get to the root of whether someone's idea has any merit or not."

Easter agreed that an autocratic approach is one of the greatest weaknesses of the rank structure.

"Anyone who believes that it's not important to win over a subordinate is destined to be a pretty poor leader," said the 45-year-old.

"It's much easier to take people with you rather than forcing them in front of you.

"Clearly if you're about to attack a machine gun position you don't want to look for consensus first, but if you're discussing a large project you'd be an idiot not to listen to others, particularly those with specialist knowledge."

As well as giving an insight into what makes colleagues tick, Shrives and Easter suggest a number of other tactics to help you get ahead.

Suspect your emails are being ignored? Make your point more quickly. Want to build credibility? Get someone else to sing your praises. Need your boss to adopt your idea? Make him think it was his in the first place.

It may take practice to adopt the manipulator's mindset but from stubborn superiors to those slimy salesmen, by anticipating the way your "enemies" think you can put yourself in control.

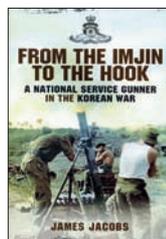
So arm yourself – after all, it's a war out there. ■

From the Imjin to the Hook

by James Jacobs

A PERSONAL account of National Service released on the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, this book follows a familiar format but with a twist. **James**

Jacobs was conscripted into the Royal Artillery and volunteered to serve in the conflict, not knowing that he would be in the thick of the fighting. On discharge, he re-enlisted to return to Korea because the country had got under his skin. A very readable demonstration of how formative an experience National Service could be.



Lt Col Andy Gladen, RE

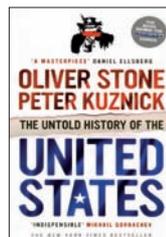
VERDICT: An engaging look at the sharp end of the Korean War ★★★★★

The Untold History of the United States

by Oliver Stone

I DON'T think this book's title is accurate. What we have here is not an "untold history", but **Oliver Stone's** version of how major events shaped America in the past 100 years.

This is not an objective and unbiased telling. Instead it is heavily slanted against Britain and France as imperialist oppressors. That said, Stone is not averse to attacking certain US policies where it suits him and seems to spend all of his time looking for negatives in most presidents and their closest advisers.



Andy Kay, ex-RS

VERDICT: Mistitled, unbalanced and too subjective ★★★★★

A Mother's War

by Yvonne Collinson Heath

THE author's fight for the truth about her son's death at Deepcut, including the campaign for a public enquiry, should have allowed this book to stand on its own. But **Yvonne Collinson Heath's** decision to purge some of her personal demons regarding her childhood detract from the main content and, in my opinion, do her son's memory a disservice. Having worked in a training establishment though, it is good to see that previous failings have been improved upon.



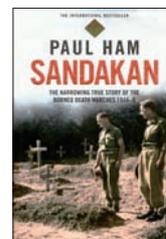
SSgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

VERDICT: Memories from the author's youth cloud impact ★★★★★

Sandakan

by Paul Ham

THIS is a harrowing tale, told very plainly, about the "Borneo Death Marches". After the capture of Singapore, the Japanese transported some 2,400 prisoners of war as slaves to Sandakan. Only six survived and many thousands of native Borneans perished with them. It is a story of unremitting and unimaginable cruelty, lifted only by the courage and fortitude displayed by the victims and survivors alike. As we struggle to deal with modern dictatorships, such lessons should stiffen our resolve.



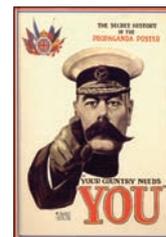
Alistair Clark, ex-R Signals

VERDICT: Depressing yet uplifting, well told and worth reading ★★★★★

Your Country Needs You

by James Taylor

PUBLISHED to coincide with the centenary of the First World War, this book uncovers the secret history of propaganda imagery. It is illustrated throughout with pictures of the recruiting and publicity artwork used to encourage enlistment in the UK and around the world. From the conception of the famous Kitchener cartoon by **Alfred Leete** to many more examples, the title offers a fascinating insight into the development of the "influence" poster.



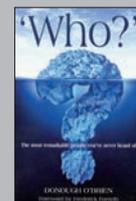
Maj Matt Sheldrick, Scots

VERDICT: A coffee table-type book but a worthwhile indulgence ★★★★★

Win... Who?

by Donough O'Brien

WHO was the bravest man at Waterloo? Which Russian submariner saved the world from nuclear war in 1962? Who was Sam Browne? Author **Donough O'Brien** brings together more than 200 figures who should be household names but whose role in history has been forgotten. *Soldier* has five copies of *Who?* to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one tell us which Hollywood film star was born Thomas Mapother IV. Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Closing date: October 31

SPORTING SPEC

UNDER THE HOOD

THERE are three engine options and all are supercharged. The V6 has 335bhp on tap. The V6 S is updated to 375bhp, dropping the 0-60 time to 4.9 seconds from 5.2. The V8 S comes with 495bhp. The S models offer significant upgrades, including dynamic drive to tweak steering, throttle, gear changes and exhaust noise plus a limited-slip differential for a harder edged feel.



TOP DOWN

THE design team worked hard to not let the folding roof spoil the F-Type's taut lines, and it shows. The electrically-powered canvas top folds away beautifully behind a series of flaps in just 12 seconds and can be operated at up to 30mph, preventing sudden showers spoiling your day. Metal folding roofs are all the rage but Jaguar have stuck to their quest for lightness and balance by keeping the F-Type as a soft top.

EXHAUST YOURSELF

PART of the F-Type's appeal lies with the noise it makes. Most performance cars have been getting quieter over the years thanks to more stringent emissions regulations, but this Jag bucks the trend while sticking to the rules. The noise, in V6 or V8 mode, is tremendous. Make sure you spec yours with the active exhaust option, which increases the bellow to rudely loud levels. Immature maybe, but great fun!



PUSSY'S GADGETS GALORE

THIS is a cabin full of toys. An eight-speed automatic gearbox comes as standard and there's the usual array of on-board entertainment, including DAB radio. Jaguar's traditional gear selector dial has gone, replaced by a joystick-style shifter and orange gearshift paddles. The touch screen is a joy to use and comes with a reversing camera and a navigation system that's intuitive and accurate, unlike some of its German rivals.

BOOT SPACE

WE almost don't want to mention the boot bearing in mind the car's intentions, but it may influence your decision so here goes; it's pathetic. We tested this so we know – you can definitely fit a mobile phone in with a few inches to spare! If you want travel with anything larger then measure up your baggage carefully. The boot is wide but very shallow – although it is perfect for transporting spaghetti.



ONLINE DISCOUNT

THE on-the-road price for the F-Type ranges from £58,000 to around £80,000. While not cheap, there are useful

discounts for Service personnel. If you're in the market for a premium sports car then the base model is comparable to a similarly specified Porsche Boxster S with a PDK gearbox, for example, while the most expensive variant, the V8 S, is still cheaper than its Porsche 911 equivalent. For more information go to www.jaguar-militarysales.com

TOP G

Review: Steven Muncey

THERE are times when living up to a brilliant reputation can become a huge burden. The new Jaguar F-Type is a case in point.

This car's extended gestation period was down to much hand-wringing among the company's engineers and designers.

The cause of their angst? Believe it or not, a vehicle that was thrust onto an unsuspecting public more than 50 years ago – the Jaguar E-Type.

Slated as the spiritual successor to that automotive legend, the new Jaguar F-Type had some very large tyres to fill.

Back in the early sixties Britain was known for churning out dumpy little Noddy-style Austins and Morrisies, but then the E-Type came along looking like a Grand Prix racer with long, sexy curves and a great engine – it was the first production car capable of reaching 150mph.

Whether, in the F-Type, Jaguar has succeeded in providing a worthy spiritual successor is still being hotly debated in the motoring press.

It is fast (0-60 in 4.2 seconds for the V8 we tested) but it isn't the quickest car of all and, unlike its forefather, its design is striking rather than jaw-dropping – except in a couple of areas where pundits have been hardly complimentary.

One is the storage space, or the lack of it to be precise. There are only two seats (and no rear bench) and the boot is simply minute.

Its capacity is about a third of that of a typical mid-size saloon's, but it's the shape which compounds the problem. It's so shallow you can forget taking anything with you except a briefcase or a small, squishable sports bag.

Other criticisms include the hard ride and excessive wind and engine noise. However, to criticise it on those grounds is to miss the point.

Jaguar's techies knew that unless the F-Type could sprout wings and take off they had no chance of replicating the splash the E-Type made all those years ago, so they focused on producing the finest pure sports car they could, without any compromise for the golf club set.

The F-Type's stunning performance, exuberant noise, superlative handling and huge grip are all about having driving fun, and nothing else.

That makes this cat a rare beast in a market homogenised by discreet looks, low emissions and dullsville practicality. It's also why we love it.

VERDICT: A great sports car but one to buy with your heart not your head ★★★★★

car



PICK OF THE MONTH:

PUTTING THE 'F' INTO FUN

IF YOU WANT AN ADRENALIN RUSH THE JAGUAR F-TYPE IS IDEAL

UCFB WEMBLEY

UCFB BURNLEY

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SOLDIER SPORT

EDITED BY RICHARD LONG PICTURES BY GRAEME MAIN AND STEVE DOCK

Italian stallions: The Army enduro team will lock horns with some of the world's top riders at an international six-day challenge in Sardinia this month. Read more about their quest for glory on page 89...



LEAGUE LEADERS

Army 18 – RAF 4
Navy 6 – Army 18

Army are 2013 champions

THE Army made a spectacular return to winning ways as they recorded back-to-back victories over their rivals to reclaim the **Inter-Services Rugby League Championship**.

After relinquishing the trophy in disappointing circumstances last season a new-look Reds team downed the Royal Air Force on home turf before battling their way to an 18-6 triumph over the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.

With redundancies and injuries having a severe impact on selection, head coach WO2 Stewart Ridsdel (RLC) named 12 uncapped players in his 2013 squad and his faith in the new talent reaped maximum reward in the opening fixture against the airmen.

On a miserable night in Aldershot the hosts suffered an early blow as Cpl Chris Gordon profited from some slick passing to score in the third minute.

But the setback spurred the soldiers on and as the heavy rain started to fall Spr Taniela Bakoso (RE) smashed through two would-be tacklers to dive home in the corner and square the contest at 4-4.

The Army scored again just minutes later as possession was wrestled from the visitors near the half-way line. The ball was shifted to the hands of Bakoso and the winger sprinted to the line with ease.

Cpl James Young (R Signals) kicked the extras to extend the lead and with the Reds in firm control further points followed in the 27th minute.

SSgt Gareth Slade-Jones (RAPTC) placed a deft kick through the RAF lines and when the ball rebounded off the post

SSgt Rob Martin (RA) reacted quickest to score.

With the downpour continuing after the interval the home side protected their lead with a solid defensive display and Young sealed an 18-4 win with a simple penalty conversion.

The fine form continued a week later against the Navy. Young slotted two penalty attempts to get proceedings under way before LBdr Meli Waitaqa (RA) got the all-important opening try on the stroke of half-time.

Bakoso – making his final appearance in Army colours – added a second score after the interval before another kick from Young ensured the soldiers emerged victorious.

Speaking at the end of a hard campaign Ridsdel said he was delighted with the effort of his players, particularly the many newcomers in the ranks.

“Injuries and tranche three redundancies made things very difficult,” he told *SoldierSport*. “I could have named a starting 13 of top rugby league players who were not available to me.

“To have 12 new caps involved is unheard of.

“A lot of time was spent on integrating the guys and it worked very well, the way it all came together was fantastic.

“At first we just wanted to build a new squad. We had 25 players but most of those had never been involved in the Inter-Services, so we needed to know how they would perform.

“There was an attitude of ‘let’s see what happens’. But in both matches we never looked like losing.

“We dominated in defence against a good quality RAF side and in our clash with the Navy we pushed down the channels and caused them some drama. The guys really stuck to the plan.” ■



Soldier's star man

SPR TANIELA BAKOSO (RE)

HEAVY downpours meant free-flowing attacking rugby was always going to be difficult in the Army's opening clash with the Royal Air Force.

With chances at a premium Bakoso offered the hosts a decisive cutting edge and the winger danced down the touchline to cross for two clinically taken tries that ended the visitors' hopes of victory.

Bakoso added to his tally a week later against the Royal Navy. After a tight opening half he crossed in the second period in what was his last match in Army colours.





Army 64 – RAF 0
 Navy 4 – Army 66
Army women are 2013 champions

THE Army women maintained their stranglehold on the Inter-Services trophy with two emphatic wins in this year's tournament.

A four-try burst from LCpl Caz Roberts (REME) and a hat-trick from LCpl Shellyann Magic (RAMC, pictured below) formed the backbone of a 66-0 demolition of the Royal Air Force in Aldershot as the hosts crossed on an impressive 13 occasions without reply.

The points continued to flow a week later as the Reds smashed the Royal Navy 66-4 to complete their sixth successive undefeated campaign at Inter-Services level.

"It was a strong performance," said coach Sgt Ross Stanley (RE).

"We had eight new caps against the RAF and we have some experienced players to come back into the squad."





Browning takes centre stage

HAVING made his Service debut as a junior fighter in 1991, SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) has seen his commitment to his sport rewarded by landing boxing's top job.

The newly appointed Army head coach was part of the support staff that helped deliver a 30th successive Combined Services title last season and having stepped into the spotlight he is keen for the success to continue.

Full-time training resumed at the squad's Aldershot base last month and Browning spoke to *SoldierSport* about the honour associated with his new role and his hopes for the year ahead.

"I've been involved with Army boxing since the early 1990s so this is something I've always aspired to," he said. "When I was given the opportunity I did not think twice.

"To put down my ideas and train the guys the way I want to train is something I'm looking forward to."

Browning has the experience of athletes such as LCpl Martin Stead (RLC, main picture) to call upon but he has also welcomed a raft of newcomers to the fold.

And with a format change being proposed for the Forces' showpiece

the coach is facing some hefty challenges.

"I would not say it was a lucky season last year but we were fortunate that people came in at the right time and did well," he added.

"I want to carry on from where we left off. However, our success is based around the Combined Services, which is totally different this year.

"We were winning the event on

walkovers and it became a bit of a farce. But now it is being opened up to make it more competitive, there will be no such thing as a walkover, it will be settled in the ring."

With predecessor SSgt Martin Anthony (RLC) setting high standards the new man is well aware of what is expected and how to meet those goals.

"I have my own ideas," Browning (pictured left) said. "There are new coaches coming in with their own thoughts as well.

"I cannot make drastic changes and will introduce things slowly. We have already altered the programme timings and the guys have adapted well.

"A change is as good as a rest and just because something has been done for 20 years does not mean it is right."

The coach's reign started with a 3-2 loss to London last month but he was delighted with the performance of his fighters on the night.

He said: "Two guys had only done a week's training and had to step up and box, so they did really well.

"Last season we lost 4-0 and 5-1 against London; we got thrashed. So to be close and competitive on the night is a good performance." ■



WARRIOR TO RESERVE

STEPPING into the ring for a professional fight in one of Europe's leading mixed martial arts promotions would be a big enough challenge for most individuals in an average month.

But for Mahmood "Persian Pride" Besharate the contest formed the stepping-stone to an even greater adventure as he embarked on a new career in the Army Reserve.

The 35-year-old defeated Joe Laurence over the course of three rounds in the BAMMA 13 show at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and just a fortnight later enjoyed his first taste of Service life during a training weekend in Grantham.

Besharate's sporting prowess stems from a background in tae kwon do, where he won a silver medal at an international open event before progressing to the ranks of mixed martial arts.

"I needed a new challenge," the flyweight star told *SoldierSport* at his gym in Nottingham.

"I started training in 2006 and have an unbeaten record after three fights as a semi-professional and five as a full professional athlete.

"This was my second bout with BAMMA. I suffered a knee injury six weeks before the contest but a lot of people were coming to support me so I pushed on with the training.

"If it was not for that I would have definitely pulled out.

"I managed to get through three tough rounds and that has given me more experience in the sport.

"I'm not 100 per cent happy with my performance, I never am.

"I wanted to fix the mistakes from my previous fight but the training was limited by my injury."

Besharate ranked the birth of daughter Layla as the greatest experience in his life but said the buzz of competition comes second on the list.

"You feel like you are on top of the world," he explained. "But it is hard to fully express what it is like."

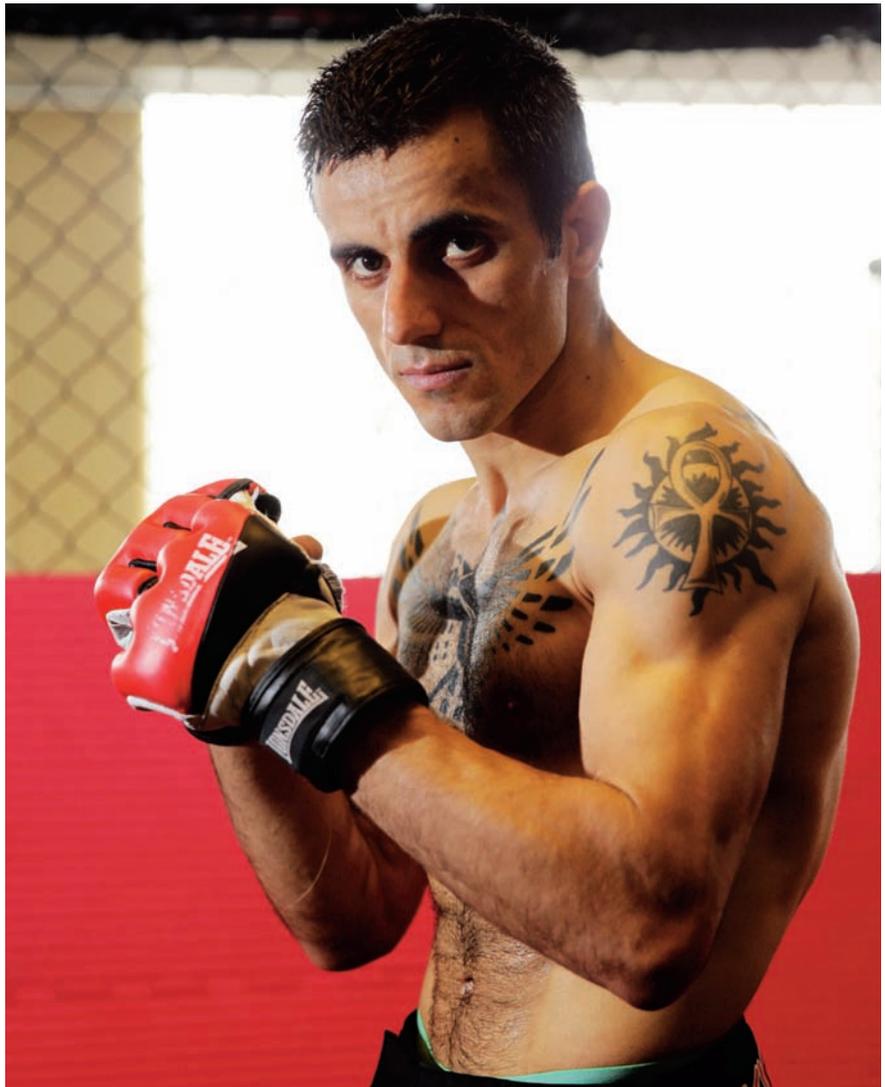
The fighter, who is both a welder and doorman on civvy street, passed his selection for the Army Reserve in the summer and will serve with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

"It is a totally different experience," the recruit said.

"When you have a child it completely changes your outlook on life. I want my daughter to have someone to look up to and be proud of.

"The military also gives me the chance to meet new people who come from a different background."

The initial selection phase posed few problems for Besharate and he is now



New dawn: Mahmood Besharate has joined the Army Reserve after excelling in mixed martial arts

looking forward to starting his training.

"I'm not setting myself any goals but I definitely see this as a long term commitment," he said.

"They will assess me during training to see where I fit in.

"I don't really know what job I want to do until I start but I will try anything.

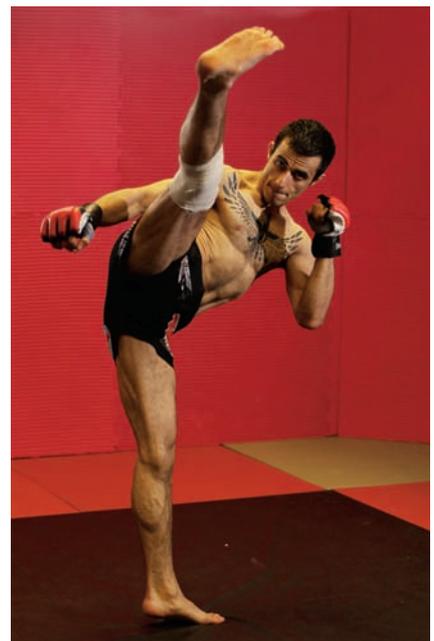
"I think the Army Reserve is going to become quite popular as you can do what you want in life and still serve.

"You have the chance to spend time with your family, play sport and work while being in the military as well."

Besharate shaved his hair in the build-up to his latest fight to raise money for the Nottingham University Hospitals Charity, which is helping youngsters suffering with cancer.

The athlete also offered his purse and share of ticket sales from the evening to the cause.

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/Mahmood-Persian-Pride ■





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Enduro's high hopes

Service squad targets international success in off-road examination



ARMY off-road riders head to Sardinia this month to test themselves in the "Olympics" of their sport – the International Six Days of Enduro.

Set in the island's Gallura region, the event will see the three-man team cover 1,500 kilometres as they compete in a field of more than 600 entrants from 36 countries.

With elite riders – including world and European champions – forming strong national sides the soldiers will be making their mark at club level, where they hope to finish as the top British outfit.

"It is similar to a rally," Sgt Kev Murray (REME, pictured left) told *SoldierSport*. "We will ride for eight hours each day through forests and up streams and mountains.

"There is also a series of special stages, which are timed to a thousandth of a second.

"This is the pinnacle of our sport. You are not allowed any assistance with the bikes so we have to carry tool kits with us and spare parts are strapped to the machines. We do whatever we can to get round."

Murray has previously been ranked among the country's top ten riders and has represented the senior British team.

The soldier has enjoyed mixed fortunes at the event and as well as winning three gold medals he has been hospitalised twice, suffering a broken back and shoulder.

"This time I'm hoping to be the country's best club rider, but there are six or seven guys who could potentially win it," he added.

"We have a great team and we are aiming to be the top British side in our class. But over six days of competition anything can go wrong and it is not uncommon for a rider to drop out at some point."

Sardinia poses a unique challenge for the squad and Murray said his teammates must master the conditions if they are to be successful.

"It is totally different terrain," he explained. "It is very dusty and the course does not cope too well with 600 riders coming through. You also find spectators lining the hills.

"The dust will be really thick and the bike will suffer so you have to keep on top of the mechanical side and change filters regularly."

While Murray has a wealth of international experience to call upon, the same cannot be said of Cpl Kalem Hicks (pictured below).

The rider has been part of the Royal Logistic Corps team for six years but Sardinia represents a new level.

He said: "This is my first six-day event and my first time riding for the Army team. My initial aim is to finish the race and I will be making sure the bike is as prepared as it can be.

"I know I'm not going to win but I still want to do well. There are a number of world champions out there so for me it is about getting to the end."

With three riders forming the main body of the team the Army is also able to call upon WO2 Marc Jenkins as its nominated reserve.

The RLC manager has travelled to five international competitions without competing but has vowed to be fully ready should he be needed.

"I will prepare in a similar way and will get my riding skills to the same standard," the senior NCO said.

"If one of the guys drops out then I step in. The team is picked on merit so I can have no complaints.

"In the past we have had two teams but budget restrictions mean that opportunity isn't there now." ■



Reds suffer at hands of rivals



Inter-Services Golf			
Men		Women	
Army 7	Navy 8	Army 5	Navy 7
Army 7½	RAF 7½	Army 0	RAF 12
Navy 6½	RAF 8½	Navy 1½	RAF 10½

THE Army's hopes of victory in the **Inter-Services Golf Championships** were washed away in the rain after the Royal Navy dealt a hammer blow to their title aspirations on the tournament's opening day. With the Senior Service winning the men's and women's matches the soldiers needed to record a comfortable victory against the Royal Air Force to keep their faint hopes of lifting the trophy alive.

But a disappointing morning on the Frilford Heath course effectively sealed their fate as the quest to take much-needed points failed to hit top gear. Having slipped to a slender 8-7 defeat against the Senior Service, the men's team returned to action in determined mood for their clash with the RAF.

However, the early foursome contests went in their opponents' favour and they found themselves trailing by three points as the pairing of Col Mark Snape (late REME) and Spr Richard Over (RE, pictured left) headed to the 18th tee.

With the match all square on the final green the Army recorded a vital win as Snape sunk a pressure putt to reduce the arrears.

The momentum was maintained in the singles' competition, where the Reds took a 6-4 victory to tie a hard-fought contest on seven-and-a-half points each.

"We were expecting to beat the Navy but we knew it would be very close," non-playing captain Lt Col (Retd) Paul Vernam (late RLC) told *SoldierSport*.

"The rub of the green was not rubbing our way. The weather was horrendous but as soldiers we are expected to do well in that.

"They had some good young lads who did well and we knew we would be up against it with the RAF.

"As a team we have brought in three new players this year and have found a couple of lads who will be future stars.

"Sig Sam Morgan (R Signals) has just finished training but he came in and won two of his first three points.

"To get Richard Over involved was another bonus, he was part of the Nick Faldo school as a youngster and is a county player."

The women also failed to find their

rhythm as a 7-5 loss to the Navy was followed by a 12-0 defeat at the hands of the RAF.

But, like the men, they were able to look to the positives thanks to the emergence of debutants SSgt Dawn Buckley (AGC) and Cpl Zoe Burrell-Knipe (RLC).

"They are brand new to the set-up," said Capt Gina Smith (REME), the team's non-playing captain.

"The Inter-Services creates a different kind of pressure compared to club matches, but I'm happy with the girls – they played out of their skin.

"Putting was the difference in the end and the greens were just so difficult. The competition was settled on the quality of those shots."

The women's squad is on the lookout for new talent and a host of development weekends and competitions are available for novice and more experienced players.

"The game has changed, it is no longer an officers' sport and a lot of junior ranks are now coming through," Smith added.

"We have a small pool to fish in but we will take anyone who is interested and try to develop them."

For more information on how to get involved contact Diane Walters on 01252 787078. ■



● W02 Chrissie James (AGC) takes to the tee

SPORT SHORTS

Picture: Shane Wilkinson



■ **ASTON Villa** formed the opposition for the Royal Artillery women's football team as they kicked off the new season at Larkhill.

The squad has gone from strength-to-strength in recent years and despite suffering an 11-0 defeat the players are focusing on the positives for the upcoming campaign.

"To be able to go up against a club like Aston Villa is a great start for us," said secretary Capt Nicola Gould.

"We began last season with just nine players but now we have amassed a group of 35. We receive great backing from our colleagues at Larkhill and the support base has just grown and grown."

■ **THE Adjutant General's Corps** Badminton Championships will be held at RAF Halton on October 17 and 18.

Anyone wishing to take part should contact LCpl Kenneth Li on 95237 6211 or email kwok.318@mod.uk

Picture: Epic Action Imagery



■ **LBDR James Simpson (RA)** has made history by becoming the first double amputee to complete the UK Spartan Sprint.

The soldier lost both legs in an explosion in Afghanistan in November 2009 and completed the gruelling four-mile course, which features 25 energy-sapping obstacles, in just over four hours.

Simpson followed a strict training regime ahead of the event that focused on upper body strength and functional exercises. His efforts raised more than £4,000 for SSAFA.

"It's been brilliant," he said after reaching the finish line. "I knew it was going to be really tough, I was under no illusions."



On track: The Adjutant General's Corps downed the Army Medical Services in the women's final

Normal service resumes

Inter-Corps Rugby Union Festival

Women' final: AGC 17 - AMS 0

Men's final: REME 32 - RLC 14

League two final: Int Corps 34 - AAC 0

THE new rugby union campaign started with a familiar feel as last year's leading lights took top honours at the annual **Inter-Corps Festival** in Aldershot.

Tries from LCpl Rebecca Webber, Sgt Georgie Millar and Maj Charlie Maxwell helped the Adjutant General's Corps to a 17-0 over the Army Medical Services in the women's final as the all-conquering team continued their fine form from 2012/13.

The squad won titles in all three formats of the game last season and Maxwell is hoping for more of the same this year.

"This definitely sets us up for things to come and hopefully it is the start of another winning run," she said.

"The Army coaches are here looking at

players across the teams and we have developed new talent as well, so it should be a good year for both sides."

Having lifted the corps title in April, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers returned to action with a new-look squad but the success continued as they downed the Royal Logistic Corps 32-14 in the men's league one final.

LCpl Jamie Laing (pictured below) was the star of the show as he crossed for two tries, while Cfn Billy Allington, LCpl Aaron Dellay and LCpl James Farrell also got their names on the score sheet.

"This is a new team and we only got together two days before the tournament," skipper Farrell told *SoldierSport* at full-time.

"Winning here will help us progress and it gives everyone confidence for the season ahead. We will go away and come back stronger for the next game."

Cpl Tom Lowe and Cpl Richard Cork both scored twice as the Intelligence Corps defeated the Army Air Corps 34-0 in the men's league two final. ■





Mckenna sinks sappers

Major Units Cricket Final

39 Engineer Regiment 216-6 lost
to DSEME 218-5

A SUBLIME unbeaten century from Cfn Gav McKenna steered the Defence School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering to a five-wicket win in the **Major Units Cricket Final**.

The right-hander expertly battled the gloomy conditions in Aldershot as his side chased down their target in style to leave the hopes of 39 Engineer Regiment washed away in the rain.

Batting first, the Kinloss-based troops posted a total of 216-6 thanks to a superb knock of 101 not out from middle-order ace Spr Connor Reed.

Army skipper LCpl Jacques Prinsloo made a useful contribution of 37 but tight bowling from Cpl Manjit Jhaji (3-31) and Sgt Mac McAlpine (2-34) kept the innings in check.

The sappers claimed an early breakthrough with the ball but McKenna and WO1 Steve Hole posted a boundary-laden partnership of 92 runs to tip the match in their team's favour.

Hole's dismissal, along with the fall of two further wickets, gave the opposition hope but McKenna maintained his form in the deteriorating conditions.

A succession of drives found the rope as the bowlers struggled to control the wet ball and after bringing up his century McKenna sealed the victory with another crisply struck four.

"A score of more than 200 is always a good total but we knew we had the batsmen to chase it down," the star performer told *SoldierSport*.

"Someone had to step up to the plate and today was my chance to shine. Once I got in I tried to ignore the elements and concentrate on the job at hand.

"As long as we were out there for the full 40 overs I knew we would win." ■

SPORT SHORTS

■ **APPLICATIONS** can now be made for the 2014 Help for Heroes 4x4 European Rally.

The event has raised more than £625,000 for the charity since its launch in 2010 and next year's leg will commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War and the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

The rally starts on June 14 in Berkshire and features a 2,000-mile journey through seven European countries in 12 days.

The non-speed touring venture also includes visits to war graves and historic sites as well as fun challenges and off-road driving.

Visit www.h4hrally.co.uk for more details or email info@h4hrally.co.uk

■ **THE Army Martial Arts Open Championship** will be held at the Combat Sports Centre in Aldershot on Saturday, October 19.

Individual and team events in karate, tae kwon do, kendo (pictured), weapons and Brazilian jujitsu have been scheduled and the competition will be an ideal opportunity to identify new talent for Service, regimental and corps squads.

The contest is open to all Regular and Reserve personnel and more information is available from WO2 Andy O'Neill on 96798 5285.

■ **A TEAM** of 16 British war veterans travelled to Russia for a unique off-road rally aimed at helping them socialise with their peers.

Organised by the charity Motorsport Endeavour, the event saw three-person crews racing round a track on the outskirts of Moscow in timed laps.

Six injured US soldiers joined them on the day, while drivers from the host nation also took part. For more details visit www.motorsportendeavour.com



Services set sail on Indian adventure

THE Combined Services cricket team will embark on their first tour of India this month as they face a challenging series of matches against the country's Armed Forces.

Eight Army players, including batsman Pte Brannon Varley (3 Med Regt, pictured) have been named in the party, which will arrive in the subcontinent on October 18.

The two-week trip starts in Delhi, where they will take on the Indian Army and Air Force, before moving to Jaipur and then Mumbai, where the host nation's navy will be lying in wait.

The team suffered a narrow loss to the Club Cricket Conference in their final match ahead of the tour. Their opponents posted a total of 193 but the early dismissal of Capt Storm Green (101 Log Bde) set the tone for a disappointing chase and the military men slipped to a three-run loss.





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ROAD TO SUCCESS

Soldiers leave rivals trailing as Inter-Services winning streak continues

ARMY cyclists completed a clean sweep over their Forces rivals as they dominated the field at the Inter-Services Road Race Championships at Sandhurst.

The soldiers topped the podium in the men's, women's and support races as they continued their fine form of recent years and with a raft of talent rolling off the production line the success story looks set to continue.

Newcomer 2nd Lt EJ Harris (RAMC) triumphed in an Army-dominated women's field, finishing ahead of teammates Maj Nikki Jordan (RADC) and SSgt Chanel Mason (RAPTC) in what was an inspired debut performance.

"This was my first-ever cycling race," she told *SoldierSport* after crossing the finish line.

"It was my first time competing for the Army but the girls here have a lot of experience.

"Our aim was to work hard as a team and break the others bit by bit and that paid off. On a personal note, I was trying not to annoy anyone but I also wanted to put in some good attacks. It worked well."

Capt Ryan Perry (REME) and Maj Dan Guest (Infantry) completed an Army one-two in the men's event, while WO1 Kev Sheppard (RLC) held off the challenge of OCdt Chris Boote and LCpl Dave Reeves (RLC) to win the support race.

The squads continued success has been attributed to a flourishing Inter-Corps series that has exceeded expectations this season.

"The original idea was to make it a novice competition but in the end we decided to have an 'A' race as well," explained SSgt Rob Jones (REME), Army road race secretary.

"That gave the less experienced riders something to aspire to.

"A good example is Sgt Kev Bell (RAPTC). He won the first 'B' race of the series and then stepped up to the main event.

"He was second in the last round at Thruxton and has just represented the Army at the Inter-Services Championships.

"He had not really ridden a bike until this year and it shows what can be achieved.

"The groundswell of interest is out there now and I cannot see the team weakening in the coming seasons. Army cycling is in a great place." ■



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Ali's ambition



Picture: Walking With The Wounded/Captive Minds

INJURED ex-soldier Ibrar Ali has set himself two adventurous challenges in extreme conditions as he aims to end 2013 in spectacular style.

The 36-year-old, who lost his right arm in a bomb blast in 2007, is part of a team that will climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds and awareness for the work being carried out by Walking With The Wounded.

Once he has scaled Africa's highest peak, which stands at 5,895 metres, he will join fellow injured personnel in a race to the South Pole.

"I feel honoured to be part of the amazing group of people on this expedition to climb Kilimanjaro," said the former officer, who left Service life in August.

"I hope I'm not too much of a burden on them.

"It will help me to prepare perfectly for the South Pole with the long days of trekking, dealing with the altitude and of course being part of a team that will work together to overcome the daily challenges that we will face."

Paul Deakin, of Private Expeditions, the high altitude specialists organising the climb, added: "Kilimanjaro is a fantastic challenge. Although it requires no technical climbing it does need bucket loads of determination.

"We will be able to see first-hand how soldiers like Ali overcome their injuries."

Walking With The Wounded stages adrenalin-fuelled expeditions to showcase the extraordinary determination and courage of injured troops.

These have included recent trips to the North Pole and treks up Everest.

Later this year three teams of Service personnel from the UK, United States and the Commonwealth nations – all with physical and mental ailments sustained in the line of duty – will race to the South Pole in the biggest adventure to date.

Participants will face a 335-kilometre route, temperatures of -45 degrees Celsius, 50mph winds, vast crevasses and fierce snowstorms as they pull their pulks – each weighing in excess of 70kg – towards the southern-most point on the globe.

Ali, a former captain in The Yorkshire Regiment, will line up on the same team as Prince Harry. ■

CANOE SLALOM



Picture: Rapid Focus Photography

CANOE slalom paddlers from the Armed Forces followed in the footsteps of Team GB's successful Olympians as they took to the Lee Valley White Water Centre for a training weekend.

Personnel challenged themselves on the legacy loop and Olympic courses where home athletes won gold and silver medals at London 2012.

"It was a great opportunity for our guys to use the excellent facilities at Lee Valley; it is important we test our team members in the most demanding situations and the Games course certainly achieved that," said Maj Alex Burt (AGC (ETS)).

"We also have a focus on development and the legacy loop was ideal to hone the skills of young paddlers who will go on to represent the Services at military and civilian events."

The exercise allowed individuals to focus on their training programmes, gain experience of high volume water and challenge their paddling abilities in a controlled environment.



Final word

With Op Herrick 19 getting underway this month we asked a few of the soldiers set to deploy how they feel about the drawdown and serving in Afghanistan for up to eight months



Pte Alexander McQuade (3 Mercian)

I joined the regiment at the end of the last tour in 2011 so I just missed out on going to Afghanistan then. I'm happy that now I'll be able to put all my training into action and go out there and help people. Everything we'll be doing will be more on the back foot than previous tours. We're mentoring or advising and the Afghans are taking the lead. It'll be interesting to see how they conduct operations themselves.



Capt Simon Grigg (3 RHA)

I'm not worried at all about being away for an extended tour. We are going out there to teach their artillery instructors. It's something I've not done before so I'm looking forward to the challenge of working closely with the Afghan National Army. I've heard some good things about them and I really enjoy instructing, so I'm going to relish the experience of teaching them how to pass on skills in the most effective way possible to their own soldiers. It will be part of the legacy we leave behind.

Capt Elaine Walker (2 Med Regt)
Intrigued is probably the best word to describe how I feel about going out. But I am also excited and looking forward to deploying. I want to get out there, do a good job and get home safely. I will be based at Bastion but there is a possibility we'll be forwarded so it will be fascinating to see what it's like to work under those conditions.



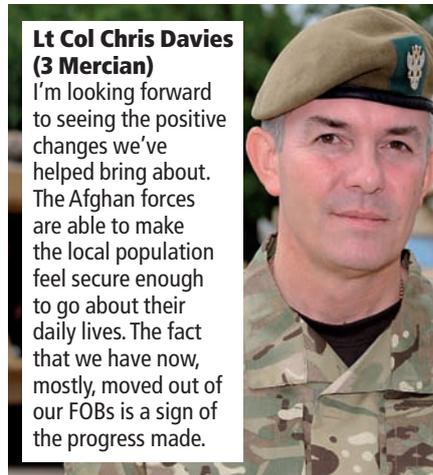
Lt Col Chris Davies (3 Mercian)

I'm looking forward to seeing the positive changes we've helped bring about. The Afghan forces are able to make the local population feel secure enough to go about their daily lives. The fact that we have now, mostly, moved out of our FOBs is a sign of the progress made.



LCpl Andrew Barton (3 Mercian)

This is my first deployment – I only joined the regiment nine months ago. I'm looking forward to seeing the fruits of those who've been out before. I feel proud to be part of the drawdown and leaving a country in better shape than when we went in. I also feel honoured to be part of the Brigade Advisory Team, working and liaising with the ANA on a daily basis.



Pte Kyle Skittlethorpe (2 LSR)

I'm a truck driver in civvy street so this is a really exciting opportunity for me. Going out on a real operation like Herrick 19 is one of the reasons I wanted to be involved with the Army. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to show that I can do my job well and also to prove that Reserve soldiers can do just as good a job as the Regulars.



WO2 David Boissel (3 RHA)

It might be a challenge for the younger guys. Some of them have never even done a six-month tour before and it's hard to impress on them just how long this op will seem. But I'm proud I'm going to be there at the end and I feel privileged that I'll be able to see what we've managed to achieve over the last few years we've been in Afghanistan.

Bdr David Marston (3 RHA)

I'm looking forward to working with the Afghan National Army instructors. The local forces use old D30 guns left behind by the Soviets years ago. We've just finished a training stint on this piece of kit with the Finnish Army, who still use them, which was really useful. We had to get used to working with the basic optical sighting systems again. But whether you're employing their kit or ours the basics are the same.



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