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# Sporting success stories

**A**S EVER, the last month at *Soldier* HQ has seen our team uncovering a wealth of amazing stories from across the ranks.

Cricket success at the Inter-Services was closely followed by England's Ashes victory, and with a Fastnet first for Army women (pages 78-79) and double delight at the Inter-Services Triathlon Championships (page 85), the sporting success never seems to stop.

Even the somewhat grim results of the latest Armed Forces continuous attitude survey (pages 34-35) do not appear to have dampened the spirits of our athletes when it comes to reflecting on Service careers.

Our Final Word (page 90) interviewees pay tribute to the life-enhancing role of Army sport in a way that suggests uncertainty can (in part at least) be overcome by the positive mental attitude adopted in these disciplines.

And without doubt, a new wave of transition fairs (page 7) and the continuing resolve of our brilliant military charities (page 13) will keep equipping personnel to meet the challenging times ahead.

If that's all sounding a bit too sentimental then why not turn to this month's *Talkback* (page 49) for the usual mix of debate and entertainment.

Finally, make sure you check out the latest update from the Bloodhound team on page 28.

If anything is likely to counter the tumultuous climate we find ourselves in, it will surely be the triumph of our Service mechanics on this once-in-a-lifetime supersonic car project. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

*S. Goldthorpe.*



**"It's certainly  
clear that  
holograms  
have the  
wow factor"**

Mind-blowing  
memorial plan  
(pages 44-45)



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Picture: Graeme Main

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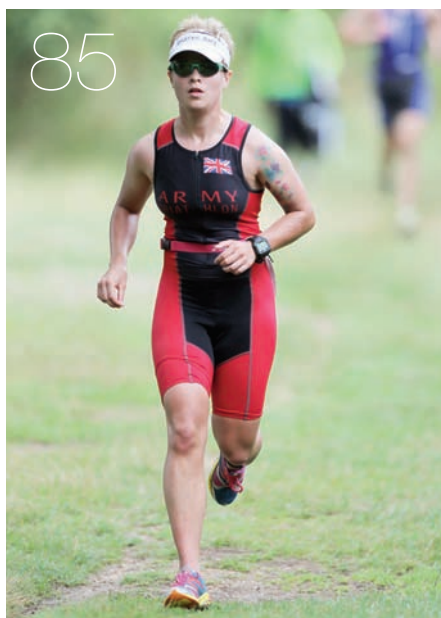
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# THE informer...

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

Picture: Sgt Wes Calder, RLC



**Flying high:** A new series of transition fairs will aim to launch soldiers into civilian life with all the information and help they need

## Service transition fairs are taking off

**A**N ARMY initiative to help soldiers move into civilian life is going from strength to strength.

Resettlement support has traditionally been provided to entitled Service personnel by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) but keen to do more in light of ongoing redundancies, the Army launched a series of transition fairs which will now continue through to next summer.

Additional staff have been drafted in to HQ Support Command and regional brigades to set up the events, which are often run in conjunction with CTP employment fairs.

And those behind the roadshows say they are producing incredibly positive results.

One recent fair at Tidworth, organised by 43 (Wessex) Brigade and the CTP, attracted around 1,000 Servicemen and women and 80 exhibiting firms.

Those companies to take part included Nationwide Building Society, Aspire Defence Services and Wiltshire County Council.

As a result of this and other success stories, a series of around 20 further shows will be staged from this autumn.

Col (Ret'd) Tim Forster, SO1 Transition

at HQ Support Command, explained that moving over to civilian life isn't just about finding a job.

"It is important that Service personnel know the difference between resettlement activities such as employment fairs and transition events like this," he said.

"Transition is founded on five pillars – employment, education, housing, health and welfare.

"Each date will usually feature local experts from all of these fields to provide help and guidance and to point soldiers in the right direction."

All of the events are designed to have a regional focus.

The Tidworth day, for example, was badged

"Living and working in Wiltshire", with local authority staff on hand to offer up-to-date information on schools, employment, healthcare, family services and leisure activities.

Another fair was staged at the Royal Highland Society Showground at Ingliston, Edinburgh.

Numerous local businesses were represented and the city council provided a team to brief soldiers on public sector jobs and the housing

situation in the region.

A stand provided guidance on becoming self-employed and the day also included welfare-related demonstrations and details on joining the Reserves.

Col Forster said the initiative was just the start of the Army's plans to place greater emphasis on soldiers planning ahead for civvy street.

"It's intended that the five pillars of transition will be promoted throughout Service life resulting in Army leavers and their families being better prepared mentally, physically and practically for what lies ahead," he added.

"Those who face specific challenges will be supported whilst serving and then signposted to an appropriate agency at the point of discharge so they won't be abandoned in any way.

"Transition fairs can help people build a really clear picture of an area and what is on offer, which should be invaluable when embarking on a second career.

"That can only help soldiers to make good and timely decisions about their next moves."

For further information on the events visit [www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support) and click on "transition"

● Books – pages 72-73





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career  
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# On the hunt for heroes

**B** RITAIN'S best read newspaper is calling on soldiers, civil servants and members of the public to nominate their heroes for its sixth annual military awards.

The Millies ceremony, which is run by *The Sun*, will highlight stories of excellence from across the Armed Forces and will be broadcast to millions on ITV in December.

Writing in the publication, the Prince of Wales explained why he helped the title set up the event.

“When meeting military personnel from all three Services, my wife and I continue to be astonished by their efforts and the determination they have to succeed, no matter what challenge they face,” he said.

“The Millies have offered us a means of showing our support and highlighting the tremendous acts of gallantry and self-sacrifice that mark out our Servicemen and women as the best in the world.”

The categories for this year's event include overcoming adversity; outstanding sailor or marine; outstanding soldier; outstanding airman; best Reservist; support to the Armed Forces; life saver and best unit.

There will also be a judges' special award, which is not subject to a public vote, for outstanding service by an individual or group not recognised elsewhere.

When considering candidates for the awards, units are



**Pride:** Last year's ceremony

Pictures: *The Sun*

being encouraged to consider the newsworthiness of the individual and their story.

Nominations should recognise achievements during the period of September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013 and can be made online by visiting [www.thesun.co.uk/millies](http://www.thesun.co.uk/millies)

The closing date for all entries is September 9.

**6**

**AGE, IN YEARS, OF THE MILLIES CEREMONY AT THE 2013 EVENT IN DECEMBER**

## Seven-decade medal wait pays off for Fred

D-DAY veteran Fred Mullis has been awarded with his Second World War medals – almost 70 years after the conflict ended.

The 88-year-old drove amphibious DUKW trucks all over Europe and North Africa during his time with Royal Army Service Corps but never claimed his mementoes.

Mr Mullis' son Rick set the wheels in motion and Lt



Col Bill Busby, commanding officer of 156 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, made the presentation at Astbury Lodge residential home in Cheshire (pictured below left).

“When I came back from the war I just got on with my civvy life,” the former Serviceman commented. “It was always something I just put off doing but I'm so happy I have them now.”

## CASH COACHING

■ AROUND 30 soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland were given a test of their financial nous at the launch of the new Money Force training programme.

The session was conducted by lead instructor Colin Mackenzie and encouraged troops to talk about their savings, budgeting and attitudes towards money.

“The unique challenges represented by deployment overseas and periodic relocation can make day-to-day management of finances particularly difficult for Service personnel,” he said.

“Money Force has been designed to help address this through a training programme and website that is trusted as a ‘one-stop shop’, where soldiers and their families can access information, advice and money management tools.”

For more details on the scheme visit [www.moneyforce.org.uk](http://www.moneyforce.org.uk)



## A JOB IN JAMAICA

■ AN officer has been playing a crucial role in the development of future leaders in the Caribbean Armed Forces.

Capt Christiaan Stoffberg (PWRR), of HQ 102 Logistic Brigade, visited the island of Jamaica to join directing staff on a junior command and staff course.

The trip was part of a UK government scheme to build relations with Caribbean nations and their military and support

Nato allies by providing skilled instructors to enhance their military knowledge.

Located in Camp Moneague, outside the capital Kingston, the course catered for students drawn from defence forces in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Barbados, Guyana and Canada.

“Those who attended are considered to be the best of their armies and displayed a professional attitude in their willingness to learn,” said Capt Stoffberg.

During his placement the officers were instructed on defence writing, communication skills, research, formal presentations and combined arms battlegroup tactics.







“ WHEN FLYING ON A TRAINING MISSION OVER SALISBURY PLAIN WE COULD SEE THE CRICKET STUMPS AT EDGBASTON ”

– SENTINEL AIRCRAFT BOWLS OVER ARMY PERSONNEL, PAGES 39-41

## SIGN UP TO STOP

■ SOLDIERS who smoke are once again being urged to sign up to an NHS campaign aimed at helping people kick the habit.



October – or Stoptober as it is known – will see smokers across the country challenge themselves to quit cigarettes for 28 days.

Evidence suggests that those who can stay smoke-free for four weeks are five times as likely to give up for good.

People who sign up will receive free support by texts or emails and can download a mobile app to keep track of their achievements.

Last year some 160,000 individuals took part in the scheme.

For more information or to register visit [www.smokefree.nhs.uk/stoptober](http://www.smokefree.nhs.uk/stoptober)

## ENGINEER EXCELLENCE

■ THREE soldiers have been included on the shortlist for the new Apprentice and Technician Awards.

SSgt Marc Cheesman (1 CS Bn REME), SSgt David Emmerson (MoD Abbey Wood) and Cpl D Haggarty (5 Rifles LAD) will travel to London for the ceremony on November 20, where the winners in each of the three categories will walk away with £1,000 in prize money.

The competition is being organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

## GETHIN GETS GREEN

■ TV presenter Gethin Jones has revealed he is thinking about joining the ranks of the British Forces.

The 35-year-old said he was considering becoming a Reservist during his third trip to Afghanistan, where he was filming a BBC series for Remembrance Week.

Speaking to BFBS, the broadcaster

explained he had been “inspired” by visiting troops on operations.

“I kind of have an affinity with the guys and girls out here,” he said.

“It’s the same mentality. I like being beasted physically. I like the challenge that they go through.”

The Cardiff-born *Daybreak* reporter said he was looking to join a Welsh Reserve unit or the Royal Marines.

“I don’t know if I could do a whole tour but I’m going to do my training and see how it goes from there,” he added.



# Tank crews take command

THE Army’s next generation of Challenger 2 tank commanders have completed their final test exercise on Salisbury plain.

A total of 13 corporals took part in the last serial of a demanding six-week tactics phase that covered every aspect of how to operate the fearsome vehicle.

The training culminated in a simulated assault on Copehill Down village.

Student Cpl Del Bennett (KRH) said: “Whether driving and maintenance, communication and information systems or gunnery and tactics, having the opportunity to put all we’ve learnt in the past five-and-a-half months into practice has been an unbelievable and invaluable experience.

“I look forward to returning to my unit and hopefully developing my new skills by deploying to Batus later this year.”

The course is staged by the Reconnaissance and Armoured Tactics



Picture: Iain Hamer

Division and undertaken by all newly commissioned officers joining an armoured regiment and appropriately qualified non-commissioned officers.

On completing the training, the soldiers return to their regiments as Sabre Troop leaders and corporals, ready to deploy on exercise or operations around the world.

# Military musical explores Afghanistan opium battle

WEST End star Simon Bowman is taking to the stage in a military musical about the exploits of an officer and the sons he raised as a lone parent.

*The Prodigals* tells the story of Col Luke Gibson, a father who is proud to lead the Scottish regiment his family has served in for generations.

One of his sons battles to destroy opium fields in Afghanistan as a serving captain while the other fuels his band’s gigs with heroin.

The plot focuses on the central character’s quest to balance his love for two such different children with his responsibilities to the soldiers under his command, and is supported by

original music and dance routines.

Bowman said: “When I first read the script and heard the music it gave me that positive gut feeling that this piece of writing is not only original and innovative, but a sign of the times and a new musical era.

“It’s set in the present day and appeals to a wide age group. The hard-hitting script tells a wonderful and poignant story.”

*The Prodigals* premiered at the Edinburgh Festival in 2011 and returns to the main stage at Coventry’s Belgrade Theatre this month.

The show runs until September 14 and tickets are available by visiting [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk)



Picture: Keith Pattison





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# ‘Military must stay relevant’

**T**HE new Chief of the Defence Staff has spoken of the scale and range of challenges that will confront British personnel over the coming years.

In a message to Servicemen and women, Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton said a number of issues will result from the conclusion of combat operations in Afghanistan as the Armed Forces move into a contingency role.

He also believes there is a greater challenge which may not be instantly recognisable – the need to improve national understanding of the relevance of defence.

“We are living at a time of national austerity; we have no clear existential threat to our country and we are experiencing the natural societal and political anxiety that accompanies a decade of combat operations, some of which have not been widely supported,” the senior officer said.

“This has led some to question the relevance and utility of our military capability and its employment.

“Our challenge is to revalidate both to society and to government the utility of defence to the security



**Future focus:** Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton

and prosperity of the nation.”

While acknowledging the country’s emotional attachment to the military, Gen Houghton insisted more needs to be done to secure the UK’s understanding rather than just its sympathy.

He also said that change is not over and that he will take an active role in transforming existing cultures and behaviour.

The 58-year-old previously served as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and was central to implementing the outcomes of the Strategic Defence

and Security Review.

He commissioned into the Green Howards in 1974 and his former roles include commander of 39 Infantry Brigade in Belfast and Director of Military Operations at the MoD during the foot and mouth crisis and the outset of the campaign in Afghanistan.

As well as looking to the future Gen Houghton paid tribute to the efforts of personnel in meeting the challenges of recent years.

He said: “These range from current operations, especially in Afghanistan and Libya; preparing for contingency; meeting standing commitments across the world and dealing with the unexpected, most recently delivering security for the Olympic Games.

“They have also included an unprecedented amount of change.

“Defence is emerging from the process of transition and reform in much better shape.

“It has proven itself remarkably resilient to the changing circumstances and fully able to confront challenges it has faced.”

● Talkback views – pages 49-54

## LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

SWAG	FORCE FOR GOOD	QUIDS IN
£19,385	<b>EXERCISE BIKE EXERTION</b> More than 800 staff from defence contractor Sodexo joined forces to cycle 14,012 miles on exercise bikes. Held at various UK sites, the challenge saw a team from Albemarle Barracks in Newcastle notch up the top distance of 773 miles, while employees at London’s Wellington Barracks collected the most cash with more than £1,700.	SSAFA and Sodexo’s Stop Hunger programme
£12,000	<b>OARSOME EFFORT</b> Civilians and soldiers paddled 123 miles along the River Thames in aid of wounded troops, disabled adults and the elderly. Travelling in three two-seater Canadian canoes, the combined team from care provider Barchester Healthcare and Forces charity Help for Heroes completed the route from Cirencester to Teddington Lock in six days.	Barchester’s Charitable Foundation and Help for Heroes
£3,000	<b>YORKSHIRE YOMP</b> A team of nine current and ex-soldiers from The Queen’s Royal Lancers with a combined age of 373 and more than 200 years of military service between them tackled the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge with what they described as “very few sense of humour failures”.	The Royal British Legion, The North Yorkshire Air Ambulance Service, MacMillan Cancer Research, Cancer Research UK and Scotty’s Little Soldiers



Picture: Channel Four

## SPIRITUAL SERVICE

■ A MUSLIM Serviceman has featured on a Channel Four programme about the religious month of fasting.

*Ramadan Diaries* focused on Spr Abubakar Swalah (pictured above) while he was working with the IED Disposal Defence Team in southern Afghanistan.

The soldier, one of 2.8 million Muslims in Britain to take part in the ritual each year, gave his perspective on spirituality while disposing of bombs in Helmand.

“During Ramadan you intend to do more spiritual things in terms of doing good,” the Royal Engineer told the show.

“Being out here during this special month and dealing with bombs is a pretty good thing that in my heart I know I’m doing because a kid running around and kicking his football can step on it.”



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# Officer's warning over silent killer

“MOST blokes, particularly those that join the Army, tend to consider themselves pretty invincible. I've jumped out of planes and put myself to the test physically but suddenly this is something you haven't got a lot of control over.”

They could be the words of a bomb disposal expert in Helmand following another IED encounter, but they're not.

They were, in fact, spoken by Col Kevin Davies, deputy commander of 160 (Wales) Brigade.

The “bomb” he was referring to was not explosive but it is deadly enough to kill 10,000 men in the UK every year – prostate cancer.

The Reservist, who is a professor of nursing, had just completed a three-year stint with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps when he was diagnosed with the disease in 2012.

If someone with his level of knowledge can miss early signs of the condition then anyone can, which is why the officer's story is being used to raise awareness among personnel.

Col Davies, 55, had no obvious symptoms but as both his father and uncle had

suffered from prostate cancer he knew he was in a high-risk group.

“I underwent a test when I was 50 and it was fine,” the senior soldier said. “But five years later I asked the GP to test me again given my family history.”

“As soon as I got the biopsy results back there was only one option for me and that was surgery.”

Col Davies is urging personnel to take action if, like him, their relatives have been affected or they are displaying any early symptoms that can go unnoticed.

These include frequent urination during the night, difficulty or discomfort when passing water, blood in the urine, chronic constipation or regular pain in the lower back, thighs and hips.

“Sometimes guys think that getting out of bed three or four times to go to the toilet is a normal thing when it probably isn't,” he added.

“Early detection makes it potentially curable so you do have to be proactive.”

Col Davies had keyhole surgery, meaning the prostate could be removed without damaging the nerves and blood vessels around the gland.

“There is nothing painful about the procedures,” he continued.

“They can be embarrassing

just because of where the organ is but people don't die of embarrassment.”

Three months after the operation the Serviceman was as fit as before, running and cycling routinely again.

“I'm lucky that I can tell the good side of the story but many admit they knew they had symptoms, which they chose not to act on,” he said.

Anyone with concerns is advised to speak to their GP or medical officer today – it just might save your life.



## THE PROSTATE

### WHAT IS IT?

A SMALL gland that produces semen. It surrounds the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the penis.

### WHAT CAUSES CANCER?

LARGELY unknown but age is a factor as is family history. It is more common in men of African or African-Caribbean descent, and less common in men of Asian descent.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

AN increased need to urinate, straining while urinating and a feeling that your bladder has not fully emptied.



## ALLOWANCE INCREASE FOR ARMY OFFSPRING

■ THE money available to Forces parents to help them offset the cost of school fees will rise for the next academic year.

Military personnel sending their children to junior schools will see a 2.54 per cent increase in the continuity of education allowance, while those whose youngsters are at senior school will receive an extra 4.99 per cent.

The grant is reassessed every summer to account for predicted hikes in fees and is based on an average calculation taken from the institutions attended by the majority of Service children.

Further details can be found in **ABN 74-13** or by visiting the PS10 section of the defence intranet.



## A pair of maximum-grip outdoor gloves

LAST month's spine lines competition was one for the avid readers of our *SoldierSport* section.

(Cpl Richard) Pittam, (Pte Jamie) Hull, (Maj Mike) Briant and (Pte Matt) Noakes were all quoted in an article about Mission Motorsport's first ever biking event at Silverstone.

This month we have teamed up with adventure clothing specialists SealSkinz ([www.sealskinz.com](http://www.sealskinz.com)) and Snugpak ([www.snugpak.com](http://www.snugpak.com)) to give away eight pairs of state-of-the-art outdoor gloves.

To be in with a chance of winning a set of *GeoGrips* or *Ultragrips*, worth £20 and £30 respectively, 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](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 30. Good luck!







**“ NO ONE HAS EVER DONE THIS LEVEL OF ENGINEERING  
ON A ROAD LIKE THE HAKSKEEN PAN TRACK BEFORE ”**

**– PERSONNEL LABOUR TOWARDS LAND-SPEED FIRST, PAGES 28-30**



## STAR'S SERVICE SEARCH

■ THE ICONIC *Surprise Surprise* show fronted by Forces favourite Holly Willoughby is on the hunt for serving soldiers or veterans who would like to be reunited with their colleagues.

ITV producers are working to bring old friends and family members back together for an emotional Remembrance Sunday programme.

If successful in finding a long lost companion, the reunions will be presented by the glamorous *Celebrity Juice* star in London one month prior to the tear-jerker being aired.

To be involved in the programme call 0207 157 4550 or send an email to [surprisesurprise@ITV.com](mailto:surprisesurprise@ITV.com)

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

■ SOME 140 soldiers from 38 Engineer Regiment are enjoying improved accommodation following an £800,000 refurbishment of their quarters at Kinloss Barracks.



The personnel, who recently relocated to the Scotland site from Cambridgeshire, have been given upgraded utility, laundry, shower and toilet facilities as well as new furniture, carpets and redecorated rooms.

The project was run by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

## DESERT RATS REACH 75

■ MEMBERS of 7th Armoured Brigade celebrated the formation's 75th anniversary with a thanksgiving service and one week of special events.

Veterans and friends of The Desert Rats joined personnel from the unit to mark the milestone at Hohne Garrison in Germany.

The nickname for the brigade dates back to its original unit, 7th

Armoured Division, members of which were involved in Second World War battles in the deserts of North Africa.



# 'Faster than when serving'

A 67-YEAR-OLD who has completed a 3,300-mile walking challenge says he can move quicker now than when he left the Army.

Mike Crawley, a former warrant officer in the Intelligence Corps who undertook Special Air Service selection, moved to civvy street in 1986.

Having conquered various marathons, the veteran's latest mission saw him complete 100 ultra-marathons in as many days on a cross-country route in Kent.

He then topped off the task with the Three Peaks Challenge, all in aid of



the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

"I feel surprisingly fit," he told *Soldier* during the last leg of the walk.

"I've been running faster then I ever have in my life.

"I'm doing eight-and-a-half minute miles at the moment, it's incredible. But I do get aches and pains and it's not super-easy."

The challenge saw a sports science research team monitor Mr Crawley in order to learn more about how exercise can affect men of his age.

To donate to the veteran's cause visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/olr>

# Military DJs join forces

**S**ERVICE personnel will take centre stage at a London cocktail bar later this month, where they will display their DJ talent.

The dance music event is being organised in aid of Help for Heroes and is thought to be the first all-military line-up of its kind.

Cpl Scott Clark (ACG (SPS)) and Bdr Barry Morris (RA) will showcase their mixing skills at The White Rooms in Fulham alongside Royal Air Force members Cpl James Williams and SAC Reece Humphries.

Cpl Clark (pictured below), who featured in *Soldier's* December issue after he played at the world-famous Ministry of Sound nightclub, will headline the gig

and hopes it will help to raise the profile of life in the Army.

"We see military sport being promoted and I don't see why the same thing can't be done with DJs," he explained.

"It's something different which you don't see much of in Service life at the moment.

"Dance music is becoming such a big industry if you look at the Top 40 these days.

"People's heroes used to be bands but now they are DJs."

The event, on September 13, starts at 1900 and is open to those over the age of 21.

Entry costs £5 on the door, which will be donated to the charity, and the venue holds a maximum of 500 people.



Picture: Graeme Main



# WHAT'S THE VALUE OF YOUR ARMED FORCES PENSION?



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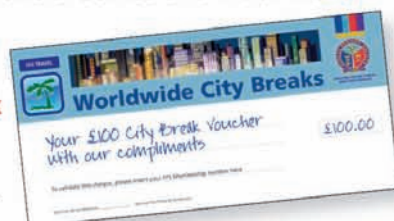
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**In with the new:** The Corps of Army Music is introducing more contemporary genres

## Marching to a new tune

THE idea of soldiers winding down by listening to a military band on their MP3 players doesn't seem a very credible one.

But Army chiefs are hoping that's about to change.

They're looking to revamp the Service's playlist through the largest restructuring of the Corps of Army Music (CAMUS) in its 20-year history.

The result will be more modern and diverse sounds echoing down the halls of military music establishments around the country.

"There are going to be more non-marching contemporary bands playing pop, jazz and modern tunes," claims Col Barry Jenkins, Director CAMUS. "And while some may shudder at that thought, this is absolutely what the soldiers want to hear."

However, traditionalists needn't worry because following a review by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, the range of new specialised units will also include 18 marching bands, a new string orchestra and the Service's first professional brass ensemble.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers, Army Air Corps and Adjutant General's Corps have been designated contemporary music units as part of the revamp, which has also seen The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals merge to form a larger Household Cavalry Band and the Light Cavalry Band amalgamated with the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai to form the Band of the Royal Armoured Corps.

Meanwhile, the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will grow to the same strength and size as the Foot Guards in London.

The new structure will be implemented in stages between 2014 and 2018 to minimise impact on the availability of music during the process.

And while no musicians will be lost as part of the restructure, CAMUS, which currently has around 40 per cent of its personnel based in London, will be decentralised with many musicians being moved to regional locations yet to be announced.

It is hoped that this dispersal, along with the British Army's new riffs, will boost the recruitment and retention of military musicians.

### BOWMAN BOOST

DEFENCE chiefs have awarded a maintenance contract for the Bowman radio to General Dynamics UK.

Worth £45 million, the deal will provide essential support to troops using the secure voice and data system.

Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment Support and

Technology, said the firm had a "proven record of delivering high quality support services".



### MOVING FORWARD

THE Yorkshire Regiment has held an exchange of colours parade to signify some of the reorganisations being made under Army 2020.

As part of the restructuring the formation's 3rd Battalion has been renumbered to become 1st Battalion.

Lt Col Zac Stenning, CO of 3 Yorks, said: "As professional soldiers we are marching with the history that has gone before us, and which we will honour as we go forward."

Soldiers from the former 1 Yorks will now form part of the new Reactive Force under 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade.

## GOOD DRILLS

### ROWLING RELIEF

AUTHOR JK Rowling has promised three years of royalties from her latest bestseller *The Cuckoo's Calling* to ABF The Soldiers' Charity. The millionairess pledged the money as a thank you to personnel who helped her research the title, which tells the story of a veteran. The author wrote the book under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith but her true identity was later leaked.



### MASAI MARVEL

GURKHA engineers have constructed a cricket pitch for tribesmen in Kenya. The facility is the first of its kind to be built in Masai land. Troops from 70 Gurkha Field Squadron, part of 36 Engineer Regiment, levelled the terrain before installing a concrete base and AstroTurf wicket to international standards.



### FACEBOOK FICTION

A PUB had to close its doors temporarily after hackers left a message on its Facebook page claiming it had banned Forces personnel. The fake statement that The Globe in Leicester had introduced the rule to avoid upsetting non-British customers provoked a barrage of allegedly abusive complaints, forcing managers to call in police. The bar's Twitter feed clarified that an anti-military policy did not exist. "We have no idea why The Globe was targeted," a spokesman told the BBC.

### OFFICER OFFENCE

A MAN has been arrested in Nigeria for impersonating a military officer. A spokesman from the country's army said the scam was thought to have been going on for around three months in the city of Onitsha.

## BAD DRILLS





**NOT RELIGIOUS?**

# **UK ARMED FORCES HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**

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UKAFHA is a section of the British Humanist Association.

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Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble, RLC



**Commissioning with pride:** The course enabled recruits to fast-track their officer training

## Sandhurst first for volunteers

THE first Army Reserve officer cadets have graduated from a new eight-week commissioning course at the prestigious Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Launched in the aftermath of the Reserves white paper, the pilot programme saw candidates fully engaged with Service life as they learnt the basics of military skills and the art of leadership, from weapons handling and drill to command and tactics.

Participants immersed themselves in the core values of the Army in the same manner as their Regular counterparts, with high standards of selfless commitment, respect, loyalty, integrity, discipline and courage expected.

The course is aimed at fast-tracking recruits during their officer training – a process that would usually be spread over a year or more.

Speaking at the passing out parade Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, said: “Those who volunteer to serve as Reservists in the British Army are, in my opinion, unique.”

“It is not only the high level of commitment and dedication required, but the willingness to deploy on

operations that sets them apart.

“These are exacting but also exciting times that will see some of the biggest changes to the Regular Army and the Reserves for many years.”

2nd Lt Matthew Osment, an auditor with Price Waterhouse Coopers, was among the graduates and was full of praise for his workplace and the Service.

“It is a big commitment for my employer to let me have eight weeks off to take part in this course but the leadership skills I have gained at Sandhurst have given me confidence and assurance I can take back to my day job,” the 26-year-old said.

“I have learnt how to manage and lead teams effectively under pressure and these are key skills for me to progress in the Army Reserve, which can only benefit my civilian career.

“I have always wanted to be an officer. It has been tough but really enjoyable and the other cadets on the course will be friends for life.”

2nd Lt Osment is commissioning into the Royal Signals and will soon be leading soldiers to set up and manage communications systems during training and on operations.

## AMERICAN ADVENTURE

MOUNTAIN lions and rattlesnakes were among the hazards faced by a Servicewoman during a military exchange programme to the US.

Cpl Rebecca Smailus, of 225 Medical Regiment, travelled to Joint Forces HQ in Camp Rapid, South Dakota to join the annual camp of the US Army's 7232nd Medical Support Unit.

The former Regular, who is a nurse at Leicester Royal Infirmary in her civilian life, took part in medical exercises and adventure training during the summer visit.

“I feel privileged that I was able to represent my country, the British Army and nursing,” the 32-year-old member of 222 Medical Squadron explained.

“Some of the activities were quite challenging – during one serial I was informed that the area was inhabited by mountain lions, black widow spiders, ticks and rattlesnakes so this was certainly different to home soil.

“I will definitely share my learning with colleagues back at my unit.”

A US staff sergeant was due to make the return visit to the UK as this issue went to press.



RESERVISTS from 159 Supply Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps have enjoyed an action-packed spell in Germany as part of their annual deployment exercise.

A total of 174 soldiers travelled to the country for an Op Herrick selection battle camp, theatre supply drills, a potential non-commissioned officer cadre and adventure training.

Together with recruitment, the unit's main target is to generate a deployable

troop and a strong focus was put on determining those fit and suitable to go forward for final selection for operations.

Drivers and mechanics tested their skills further as they joined 6 Regiment, RLC on Ex Bavarian Charger, where they worked alongside their Regular counterparts and gained experience of being in the field.

More than 70 troops also enjoyed a week-long adventure training package that included climbing and abseiling.

## Reservists put to test in German serial





**“ WE TOOK WICKETS AT THE RIGHT TIME. WE HAD A GAME PLAN AND STUCK TO IT; EVERYTHING CAME TOGETHER IN THE END ”**

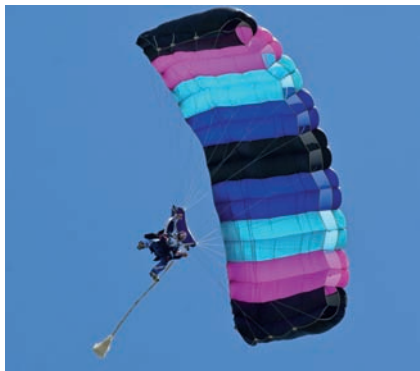
**– ARMY CRICKETERS REFLECT ON INTER-SERVICES SUCCESS, PAGE 80**

## GROWING DEMAND

■ A KEY military charity says it is experiencing its busiest ever year.

Three rounds of Army redundancies and injuries sustained in Afghanistan are among the reasons for the increased workload at SSAFA, which is currently running a mentoring programme to help troops adapt to civilian life.

The charity's impact report for 2012/13 says that it dealt with 25,064 visits or cases relating to the Army.



## RECORD BREAKERS

■ A MILITARY charity that provides gruelling physical challenges for injured troops has secured a Guinness World Record for the greatest number of tandem skydives in 24 hours.

Pilgrim Bandits gathered 177 jumpers for the attempt at Netheravon drop zone. Among them was Jake Bartlett, who lost a leg in Afghanistan.

“This is an amazing day, I am so proud to be part of it,” the ex-soldier said.

## AFRICAN AMBITION

■ A FORMER soldier begins an epic solo motorcycle trip from London to Johannesburg this month in aid of wounded Service personnel.

Will Moore will make the 20,000-kilometre journey on a 125cc Suzuki to raise funds for Help for Heroes and expects to complete the mission within six months. For details visit [www.anidiotgotbored.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.anidiotgotbored.blogspot.co.uk)

# Ex-soldiers call for changes to Afghan interpreter policy

**F**IVE former Army officers have visited Downing Street to call on the government to offer all Afghan interpreters who served with British Forces the option of resettling in the UK.

The group presented a petition demanding a change to the current rules, which allow only those deemed at high risk of reprisals or serving after December 2012 to claim asylum.

In response to the campaign a government spokesman said the prime minister had “been very clear that we should not turn our backs on our local staff in Afghanistan”.

Under the present policy any local employees who have worked for the British government, regardless of date and duration, are offered a range of protection measures depending on the seriousness of the threat they face. This includes the possibility of relocation to the UK in extreme cases.

A redundancy package is also available to Afghan staff who were in post on the date the prime minister announced drawdown.

However, campaigners want all Afghan interpreters to be offered safety, as was the case for Iraqi linguists who helped British Forces.

Alex Perkins, an ex-Scots Guard and great-grandson of Winston Churchill, set up the petition on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and was among the group to go to London.

The 27-year-old said Britain owes a debt to the interpreters, such as those he served with during two tours of Helmand Province.

“They were vital to everything we were doing on a day-to-day basis because they provided a crucial link to the local population and our Afghan counterparts,” he explained.

The case of Baryalai Sham in particular prompted the former



Picture: Graeme Main

captain to take action.

Despite his father and brother being executed by the Taliban and his mother and sister drowning while attempting to reach safety in Europe, the translator's request for asylum in the UK was rejected.

“Barri was my interpreter on my first tour and his situation is why I started this petition,” explained Mr Perkins. “Other Isaf nations grant their interpreters asylum and nationalise them, as well as giving them and their families assistance to resettle. I hope there's scope for us to do more.”

Fellow campaigner and recently retired major, James Driscoll, said the cause had widespread support among serving and former troops.

“The policy is completely counter to the core values we all learn as soldiers,” commented the former Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment officer. “In any future conflict how do we persuade potential interpreters that they can trust us?”

Mr Perkins added: “Our aim is that when the decision makers return from their summer recess they will review the policy.”

Following the Downing Street visit signatories to the petition rocketed from 27,500 to around 90,000.

# Personnel help boost teenage confidence

SERVICE personnel have been drafted in to boost the skills and self-confidence of youngsters from council estates to encourage them into successful careers.

Troops from 143 (West Midlands) Brigade worked on the five-day Life Maps programme with the aim of reducing crime in the West Midlands.

The residential camp at Gamecock Barracks, which involved a range of Army-style command and teamwork tasks, was supported by Stoke-on-Trent police officers and teachers

from Holden Lane High School.

“This was a great opportunity for the Army to give something back to our communities,” WO2 Ray Miller (QRH) commented. “Working alongside police and teachers was an excellent combination.”

“These students have not been in trouble but live in an environment where crime could be an option so hopefully they will look back on it with a huge sense of achievement and a great outlook on the future.”



**Bright futures:** The scheme helped improve the future prospects of youngsters who live in areas where crime could be a temptation



## Military claims and negligence

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## THE BIGGER PICTURE

THE Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst marked the completion of a year's intensive training for 193 British officer cadets and 28 from overseas countries. The ceremony was attended by the Countess of Wessex and saw friends, family and VIPs gather on Old College Square.

Picture: Cpl Richard Cave, RLC





# If you're in the Armed Forces and you've had a credit agreement; bank loan, mortgage or credit card...

- 👉 Reclaims UK have successfully claimed back over **£1 million** for Armed Forces personnel.
- 👉 Reclaims UK are Armed Forces specialists, we understand the lifestyle of serving and ex-serving personnel.
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# FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET

## SUPERSONIC CAR PROJECT GATHERS PACE

Report: Joe Clapson

■ THE TESTS WILL START WITH BORING RUNS AT 200–300MPH BUT THEN WE’LL BUILD IT UP ■

**T**HE mission to capture the imagination of the nation by creating the world’s fastest car is now well underway.

Five years after the mind-blowing plan was first announced, the Bloodhound supersonic vehicle is under construction at a state-of-the-art technical centre in Bristol.

What has hitherto been a virtual computer project is now fast becoming a rocket-powered reality.

And of the 50 people at this site working to make motoring history, five are troops from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Since last year the soldiers have been helping to build the hybrid rocket and jet engine, which it is hoped will create the first ever 1,000mph car.

Cpl Lisah Brooking, a member of the project team, decided she wanted to become part of the unique challenge after hearing about Bloodhound in Army circles.

“I just thought it would be interesting to be involved with top mechanics in an area I’d never worked in,” she explained to *Soldier*.

“The mix of Army personnel and civilians works well as we all learn from each other.

“We’ve got some of the best fabricators in the country here so it’s a great education.

“The main thing I’ve been involved with is the gearbox, which is fixed to the Cosworth F1 engine that is powering the hydraulics and the peroxide fuel supply.

“Previously I had been working on Land Rovers and Bulldogs but the Bloodhound has been designed as a one-off.”

The vehicle mechanic added: “Military

training has prepared me for things like this and by being part of the project we are inspiring the next generation to get involved with engineering, either as civilians or Service personnel.”

Describing the value of this visionary assignment, the man in charge of REME manning, Col Dan Scott, added: “To have our troops involved is just fantastic – for their own professional development but also to be part of something that is inspirational.

“I would call this an operation; it’s now at the planning stage and the execution phase will be in South Africa. It’s all about preparing a piece of equipment to do a job.

“The soldiers involved are building a great depth of understanding and realising what is actually possible.”

Of course, whether it is in fact possible to create a car that can break the land speed record of 763mph remains to be seen.

The current plan is to have the prototype structure built by early 2014, with a view to running it on the sun-baked mud track of Hakskeen Pan in the Northern Cape during the second half of 2015.

South Africa has been chosen to host the attempt because of the huge expanses of open space and the ideal surface it offers.

Civilian Mark Elvin, who previously worked for Williams Formula One, provides his design engineer expertise to the Bloodhound team.

“The table is where most of the work happens, with bits of the car starting to come together,” he explained.

“The vehicle now under construction is the thing that will eventually be speeding over the desert.”

**48** **14** **40**  
**DAYS** **HOURS** **MINUTES**

the time it will take (without breaks) to fix the Bloodhound car together with 14,000 rivets



Picture: Siemens MX

The latest part of the machine to be built is the monocoque – or cockpit – where former Tornado pilot Wg Cdr Andy Green (RAF) will attempt to hold the steering wheel steady while accelerating to a speed of Mach 1.4 in 54 seconds.

Staggeringly, that is faster than the speed at which a bullet travels from a pistol.

"The next things to add on to the vehicle are the side rails, which have been painted and are ready for bonding and riveting," continued Mr Elvin.

"In total, the car will have 11,500 rivets holding its upper structure together with around 2,500 doing the same job for the lower structure.

"Each bolt will take about five minutes to put in place, so that in itself is going to take a while."

Once complete, the team is planning to send the car out on 50-60 test runs prior to their attempt at smashing the existing land speed record.

To most racing drivers, let alone domestic

road users, the trial outings would set pulses raising beyond comfortable levels but the Bloodhound gang have a different attitude.

"The checks will start with boring runs at 200-300mph but then we'll build it up," said Mr Elvin.

"Unless we go in excess of 600mph we won't need the rocket."

As well as its precision-engineered bodywork – designed to be aerodynamically neutral with equal down and up force – the vehicle's electronic control systems play a pivotal role in achieving the desired 1,000mph speed.

With that in mind, you could say that the man with his finger on the control levers, SSgt Henry Breed (REME), literally holds the power.

"When I flick the jet switch it instantaneously goes from idle to 100 per cent afterburn in a few seconds, which is at roughly 600mph," he said.

"I'm involved with anything that's about electronics on the vehicle and that

encompasses the rocket, surface and hydraulic control systems, which will determine how much peroxide fuel is used.

"If any one of those elements fails the car will not run."

The soldier added: "Although not comparable to Afghanistan, the record attempt will be risky and there is a life on the line – the driver's."

To utilise the power of the EJ200 engine, SSgt Breed and his colleagues have effectively hacked into it to convince the machine it is inside the Typhoon it was designed for.

"The jet will not work unless it thinks it's an aircraft so we've written a programme that tells the engine what to do," the Serviceman said.

With expert minds from the worlds of motoring, aeronautics and warfare, this machine is closing in on its moment of fame.

Like the Army on operations, the Bloodhound team are taking on a difficult challenge with the sole aim of success. ■

## INSPIRING A GENERATION



● **BLOODHOUND** has created a nationwide surge of interest in science, technology, engineering and maths. To that end, the minister for universities and science has pledged another £1 million towards an outreach programme. The money will allow project ambassadors to visit schools across the country to explain the exciting mission. More than 5,000 educational institutions have already benefitted. "Success will not only be measured in miles per hour, but also in how this project inspires future generations," David Willetts said.

Picture: Shane Wilkinson Main picture: Emilia Hendricks Foto 24

# 6,000

the weight, in tonnes, of stones collected and moved by hand from the Hakskeen Pan track ahead of the attempt. The undertaking was a Guinness World Record for the largest area on the planet to be cleaned by hand



# BLOODHOUND GANG

## THE TEAM TALK...



"AS an instructor with 11 Training Battalion REME I will take the techniques learnt here back to my unit and apply them. The Bloodhound team have been using computer technology to talk to different pieces of kit on the car and a central control system – that's something the military could look into doing."

– SSgt Henry Breed (REME)



"I'VE gone from the desert of Afghanistan with Army vehicles to a garage in Bristol with the fastest car in the world. I'm learning a lot. The work has similarities with basic engineering but it's much more refined. In the military we can't go into the gearbox if it breaks down; we exchange it instead. Here things are more surgical."

– Cpl Lisah Brooking (REME)



"NO one has ever done this level of engineering on a road like the Hakskeen Pan track before. We will finish up with the best racetrack anywhere. The test will have a global audience and Bloodhound will become the world's first 1,000mph car."

– Wg Cdr Andy Green (RAF), driver

Picture: Shane Wilkinson, Graeme Main

## ROCKET POWERED REALITY

### COCKPIT

There's no autopilot here; the driver controls jet thrust and rocket power while keeping the Bloodhound straight against the effects of crosswinds – if uncorrected, a gentle 3mph breeze would blow the car 120 metres off line in the 90 seconds of the run.

### ENGINE

Around half the 135,000lb of thrust comes from an EJ200 turbofan normally found in a Eurofighter Typhoon. The hybrid rocket motor – the largest of its kind ever made in the UK – will provide an extra 25,000lb of thrust for 20 seconds.

### BRAKES

Bring the five-tonne car to a stop from 1,000mph in just 4.5 miles by first closing the throttle. Then, at 800mph, deploy the airbrake. At 600mph deploy the parachute. At 400mph deploy another one. At 250mph apply the multi-plate carbon disc brakes.

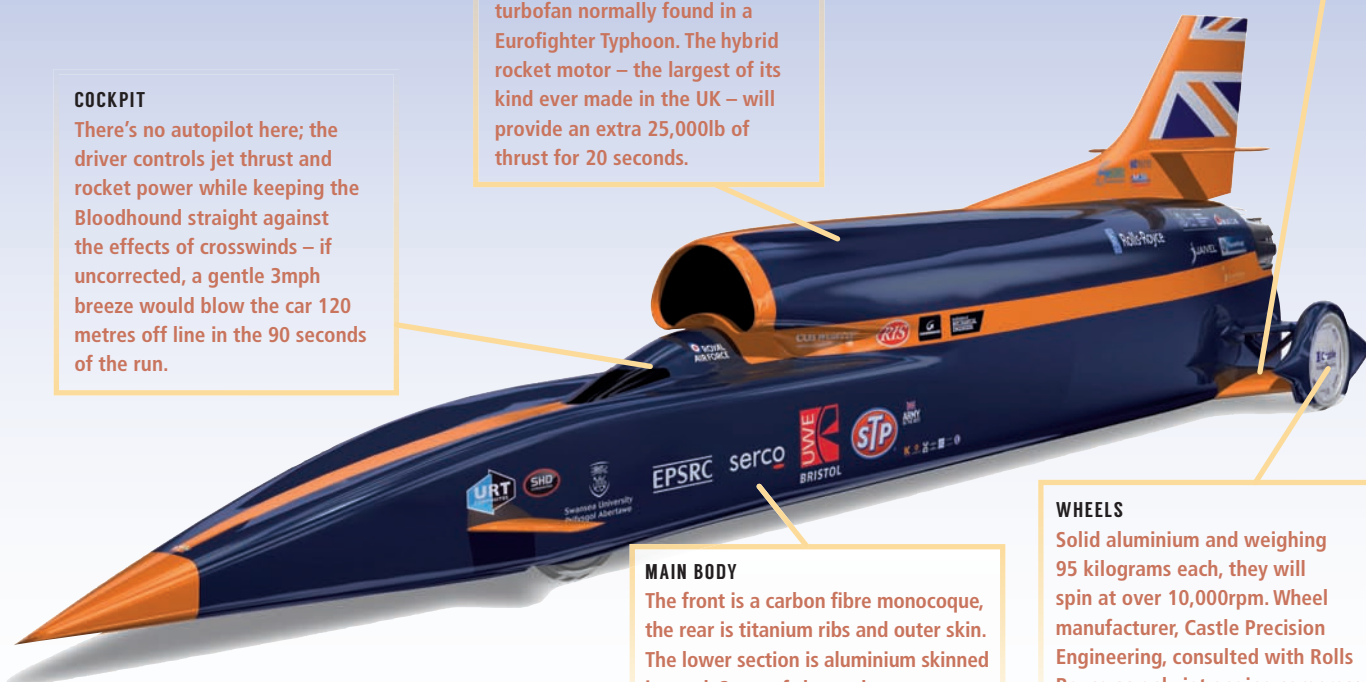
Picture: Siemens NX

### MAIN BODY

The front is a carbon fibre monocoque, the rear is titanium ribs and outer skin. The lower section is aluminium skinned in steel. State-of-the-art laser cutters helped forge many components.

### WHEELS

Solid aluminium and weighing 95 kilograms each, they will spin at over 10,000rpm. Wheel manufacturer, Castle Precision Engineering, consulted with Rolls Royce as only jet engine compressor blades experience the same forces.







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**Report: Becky Clark**  
**Pictures: Steve Dock**

**W**HILE a career as a marine engineer might not immediately be associated with a land-based force such as the Army, the Service has a small group of technical specialists keeping its fleet of maritime assets seaworthy.

Around the world, whenever troops or equipment are moved between boats and the shore, dedicated Royal Logistic Corps personnel will be on-board to ensure the craft in question runs smoothly.

But despite the obvious links to the work of their naval counterparts, this year is the first time that engineers from both Services have undergone joint trade training.

Run on HMS *Sultan* by the Defence School of Marine Engineering, the new ten-month course develops the technical and academic skills of Royal Navy leading hands and Army junior NCOs.

The first soldiers to embark on the combined programme alongside 17 naval colleagues were Cpls Joe Russel and Jeanne Dupreez (RLC, described left and below).

Describing what the training entailed, 33-year-old South African, Cpl Dupreez, said: "The syllabus includes technical drawing, electrical principals, power distribution, diagnostics, propulsion and refrigeration and a host of other subjects.

"There's a lot of self study outside of the classroom. It's quite intense but manageable."

Cpl Russel added: "This is our third trade course so some of the stuff is familiar to us

but other things – high pressure air systems for example – are new.

"We have done engineering maths in the past but that is quite challenging mentally – it's probably the thing people trip up on most.

"I'm looking forward to the metalwork module. You get a solid chunk of raw material and you have to make your own tool or engine part from it using a machine that cuts it, so that's quite cool."

With just 63 marine engineers in the RLC, only four members of the trade will complete the course annually.

Despite being in the minority, the soldiers thought there was much to gain from working closely with personnel from the Senior Service.

"It makes sense to amalgamate," commented Cpl Dupreez.

"Their equipment is essentially a lot bigger than ours but the information is still transferable.

"Our main engines or diesel generators may be smaller but the base knowledge is the same."

Cpl Russel explained: "We get our experience on crafts first before coming here, while for the Navy it's the other way round, so they train to a high level of detail.

"That, coupled with our soldiering skills, will make us better tradesmen for the Army as a whole.

"Also, they normally work as part of larger teams, while we work in singleton posts so it's useful to experience different methods."

With RLC marine engineers often deployed in isolated roles, the course is crucial in preparing them to diagnose and fix any problems a boat may encounter with little or no backup.

# MARITIME

## Army and naval marine engineers learn the tricks of their trade together



### WHY THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT...

SUCCESSFUL students on the combined course are awarded an advanced modern apprenticeship in engineering and an NVQ level 3 in engineering maintenance.

Capt Gulley explained that the job market in the civilian sector put those with the right credentials in a strong position.

"In the UK there is a real shortage of experienced engineers and technicians so careers outside the Services are becoming increasingly attractive," said the officer.

"There's a natural transfer of skills, which is both good and bad.

"We therefore need to focus on reward, recognition and job satisfaction."

SSgt Walker said that the future of defence would present interesting opportunities for those marine engineers who decide to stay in the military.

"Looking ahead to contingency operations, the future is bright for the trade," commented the 34-year-old.

"It will be about small teams in isolated locations reacting quickly – the same kind of thing that was happening in Sierra Leone if you look back ten years or so.

"The need to provide logistics will always be there."



"The guys have to be able to work independently with confidence," said instructor and assistant course manager SSgt Richie Walker.

"They must also show judgement – they can find themselves called in to meetings with senior officers as subject matter experts so we need people who are capable of operating as individuals at a much higher level than their rank suggests.

"Whether it's fixing a tugboat, as happened in Iraq in 2003 when the Shatt al-Arab waterway had to be cleared, or assisting with disaster relief in Haiti, these guys are highly skilled and have to be able to turn their hand to anything."

Cpl Dupreez was among those with first-hand experience of the mission to provide emergency assistance to the Caribbean nation following the 2010 earthquake.

He agreed that versatility and self-assurance are key prerequisites of the trade.

"I was dual-rolled as a chief engineer on the mexeflote, the Army's modular raft system, and as a diver inspecting the structural soundness of the piers," the Serviceman added.

"There's something to be said for being your own boss and working in those kinds of situations.

"You could find yourself in sole charge of a workboat or you could end up in the Falklands for six

months as the only marine engineer within about 8,000 miles.

"It's not for everyone – some people prefer to have someone to answer to – but if you're the right sort of person you will thrive."

With such operational experiences to draw on before they even begin the integrated course, Army participants bring a wealth of practical skills and knowledge into the training environment.

Capt Trevor Gulley (RN), CO of HMS *Sultan*, said the benefits of green and dark blue working side by side were clear.

"In terms of learning and getting value for money for defence, integrated programmes such as this one offer a lot," he remarked.

"Many minds are always better than one and as a group we are stronger so the more we train together as joint Services, the better the product will be." 🙌



## ARMY'S AQUATIC ASSETS

A FOUR-WEEK, RLC-specific training package concludes the course for Army marine engineers. Among the craft they will work on during their careers are:

**Mexeflote** - a modular landing raft system

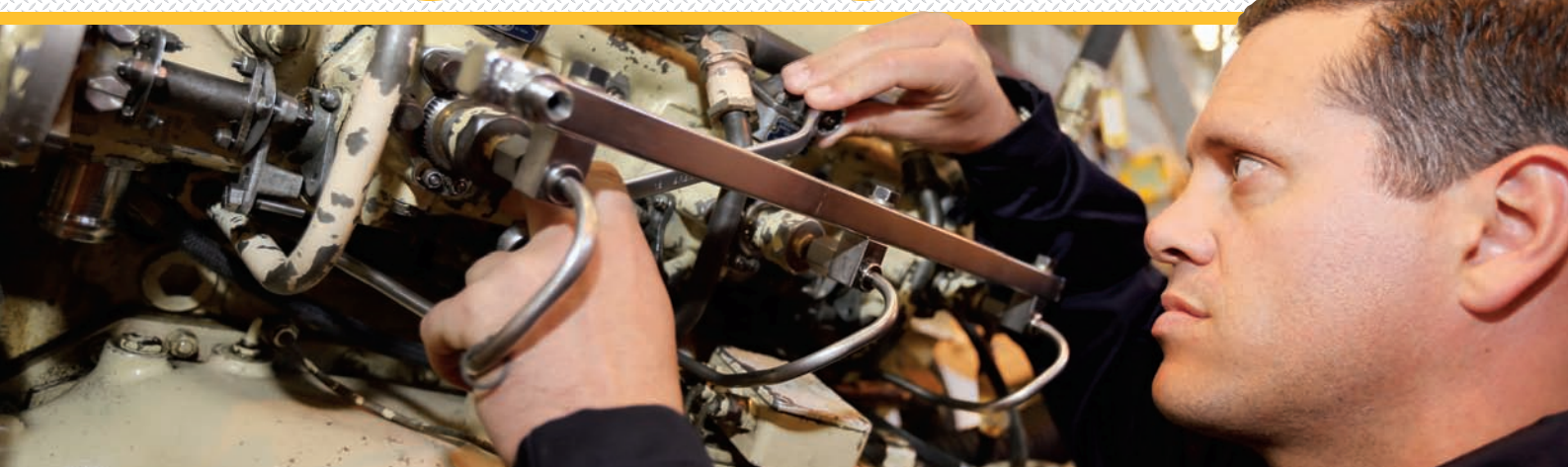
**Workboat** - small supporting craft for the mexeflote

**Combat Support Boat** - a small, versatile vessel used during diving operations, ship-to-shore resupply and inland water patrols

**Ramped Craft Logistic** - used for amphibious operations and designed to deliver men and material onto beaches

Pictures: Mike Weston, Bill Scott and Paul Gandy

# MASTERS



## IN NUMBERS

63

number of marine engineers in the Army, the majority of whom serve with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC

10

approximate percentage of the trade deployed in equipment support roles with elite units at any one time

2012

year the Defence College of Technical Training was formed to oversee specialist trade instruction across all three Services, including marine engineering

2,400

number of personnel based on HMS *Sultan*



# OUR SURVEY SAID...

*You were asked what you thought about life in the Army, and here are the results*

**F**ORMER US president Dwight D Eisenhower, who knew a thing or two about running armies, once said: "The best morale exists when you never hear the word mentioned."

"When you hear a lot of talk about it, it's usually lousy."

Unfortunately, the 2013 Armed Forces continuous attitude survey (AFCAS) contains quite a few references to morale – and most of them are contained in the same sentence as "the Army".

However, the results this year were always going to be skewed somewhat.

The dust has yet to settle following tranche three redundancies and the threat of further departures under tranche four still hangs in the air.

Thousands of Service personnel are facing the upheaval of relocating from Germany back to the UK and the questionnaire was sent out just before the launch of the Future Reserves 2020 green paper.

In this climate, AFCAS results were going to make for challenging reading.

Pensions, for example, remain a significant concern, with the number of those expressing satisfaction with the scheme dropping to nearly half the figure of the 2007 survey at 32 per cent.

More than 50 per cent of soldiers in Service accommodation expressed dissatisfaction with the way their units are maintained and repaired.

And while integration of the Regulars and Reserves is only just beginning, hearts and minds obviously still need to be won over with 64 per cent of soldiers believing that volunteer troops are "not well integrated" at the moment.

However, the majority do believe they can make a valuable contribution.

And there are other reassuring elements in the survey too.

The proportion of soldiers rating their morale as "high" fell in comparison to the 2102 survey but only by five per cent.

The overall figure matches the level of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel.

Job satisfaction also remains high among troops, with the majority saying they enjoy "a real sense of achievement" in their job.

The Army has fewer personnel who are unhappy with the X-factor payment scheme than the other Services, while specialist pay, the length of operational deployments, longer separation allowance and the basic rate of pay were also deemed acceptable by most of the questionnaire's respondents.

Perhaps the most heartening statistic of all was that the majority of personnel (65 per cent) said Army life matched or exceeded their initial expectations.

With the Service facing some of its greatest ever challenges over the coming years, many will be hoping that is not a lie, or a damned lie, but a genuine and meaningful statistic. ■

## PAY



**28%**

feel that the X-factor provides enough compensation

Dissatisfied with the basic rate of pay

**37%**



## EQUIPMENT



**55%**

Satisfied with the standard of personal equipment



**48%**

Satisfied with the standard of major equipment (vehicles, etc)



**80%**

Satisfied with medical facilities and treatment received



**73%**

Satisfied with sports and exercise facilities



## JOB SATISFACTION



## FRIENDS & FAMILY



**50%**

AGREE THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMY ARE RESPECTED BY SOCIETY AT LARGE

**58%**

ARE CONTENT WITH THEIR SERVICE FAMILIES ACCOMMODATION

**70%**

SATISFIED WITH THEIR OVERALL LEAVE ALLOWANCE

## INTEGRATED ARMY

**41%**

rate the professionalism of the Reserves



**AND...** 63% of soldiers rated Service life in general as “six out of ten” or more

Check out Final Word (page 90) to read soldiers' views on the rewards and challenges of serving in 2013



### March 13, 2013 - Arrival in Kathmandu

After months of planning I've arrived in Kathmandu, filled with excitement and confidence.

Leaving the sleepy airport, the dusty familiar smell seeps in and the craziness begins.

"Yo Nepal ho - this is Nepal!"

### D-Day minus one - Taplejung Bazaar

I've spent the past two weeks dealing with frustrating bureaucracy, doing some low-level training and repacking my Bergen to see if it made it any lighter - it didn't!

Having deployed on Herrick 16, the principles behind planning a trip like this have become second nature.

I've studied the ground, chosen the routes and identified a number of decision points along the way.

As I am walking on my own, the risks are potentially very high.

### Day 9 - Kanchenjunga National Park

My Himalayan race is on! After eight-and-a-half days and 120km of walking I've reached the official start line, Mt Kanchenjunga Base Camp.

Seeing the amazing sunrise over the summit, which at 8,586m is the third highest in the world, is enough to get my adrenalin going.

### Day 14 - Lumba Sumba Pass (5,130m)

Caught in a storm coming down from the Lumba Sumba Pass.

Most of the 2km vertical descent was knee-to-waist-deep snow.

I knew I couldn't out-walk the bad weather and make it to a village two hours away so my only option was to find a boulder binny but there was nothing.

In the dark and lightning I ran along the valley floor through streams until I struck gold.

I saw the glow of a small fire from a little makeshift yak herder's tent and fell inside uninvited, startling the poor old Sherpa.

After some polite conversation he has given me shelter for the night.

I won't lie - I am tired, hungry, cold and wet. But having just crossed three 5,100m passes I am very happy and feel ready for anything.

### Day 16 - Lost in trees

Poor maps, bad weather and a network of yak tracks have got me lost for the second day in a row.

I know where I am on the map but just can't find the path I need.

Although it's pretty lonely - I haven't seen anyone for two days - I'm more concerned with keeping calm and exploring every option to keep moving.

### Day 17 - Back on track

After taking a big gamble down a steep ridge, I finally found the correct track to get me out of the trees and met a family heading in the same direction.

Together we moved quickly through more miserable conditions to the nearest village 12 hours away.

For people that have very little, they have given me some fantastic hospitality.

More and more I'm appreciating that my ability to interact with locals is crucial to my success.

### Day 20 - Arun River

After turning south along the Arun River three days ago the mountains are nothing more than blips on the horizon.

Bad visibility is making navigating difficult and endless rain makes it uncomfortable to walk. Tracks are slippery and streams overflowing.

Leeches have also been feasting on various parts of my body - although mildly annoying, at least they are harmless.

Tonight I'm staying with a farmer in his small bamboo hut in the middle of the jungle.

Time to dry out and check my bruises after falling through a bridge.

### Day 26 - Everest region

Yesterday I finally made it to Lukla, the main town on the way into the Everest region.

# MOUNTAIN MISSION UNCUT



## Sapper's solo quest to trek Great Himalaya Trail

**E**VER wondered what it's like to take on a gruelling physical challenge in the name of charity? Or to be the only one who succeeds in doing so? Former Royal Engineer captain, Doc McKerr, spent his last days in the Army fulfilling a quest to become the first person to trek Nepal's Great Himalaya Trail unsupported. At 1,250 miles long and with no less than 14 passes of around 5,000 metres, the route is one of the highest and longest walking tracks in the world. Here, *Soldier* delves into the diary entries of the 30-year-old, who made the journey in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust and SSAFA...



This has allowed me to eat something other than rice and lentils, wash my clothes, sleep in a bed and use the internet.

Even though I think that Mount Everest has become far too commercial, you cannot deny its overwhelming presence.

I can't help but stare and be inspired by the early expeditions such as Mallory and Irvine or Hillary and Tenzing.

### Day 32 - Tashi Labsta Pass (5,760m) into Rolwaling

After lots of local advice I've decided to hire two local Sherpas.

My aim was to do the whole route solo but this next part is too dangerous to do on my own.

Last night we bivvied under a large boulder, the three of us huddled together prior to an 0200 start.

This morning was clear but bitterly cold.

After a while I got significant pains in both hands and for hours couldn't do anything to warm them up.

Once over the windy, icy pass we had to negotiate a route through two heavily crevassed glaciers for over ten hours.

Progress was slow. It was like walking through a quarry; two steps forward whilst sliding one step back.

This has been one of the longest and hardest days so far but completely worth it.

### Day 38 - Sindupal Chowk

I've been spoilt for weeks with the kind hospitality of the Sherpas but responses in some villages are completely mixed and I'm becoming uncomfortable with the amount of unwanted attention I'm getting.

Yesterday I decided to take a significant detour after I was told that continuing on my route could lead to me getting killed or robbed. A mother and daughter told me that recently there had been a murder by thieves. I think this was a good enough reason to deviate.

### Day 62 - Lower Dolpa

Today was my longest and most ambitious day yet. I walked between

Dho Tarap and Phoksundo Lake:  
15 hours, 36km and two passes  
of more than 5,100m.

The 5,350m Nagala Pass was exhausting work as it was still covered in snow and ice. From the top, the panoramic views were unbelievable.

### Day 64 - Huricot, Dolpa, the home straight

I'm down to my final two maps but my body is starting to tire.

This afternoon I felt ill for only the second time.

I am staying in a monastery tonight. It is basic but comfortable; friendly, private but more importantly they have a toilet. Luxury!

### Day 73 - Hilsa, Humla, the finish

After 1,580km of walking (1,480km on the Great Himalaya Trail), I have finally arrived in Hilsa. I think I am the first person to ever get here solo.

The long tiring days now all seem a distant memory as I peer over the border into Tibet. Emotions are mixed - proud and ecstatic to have nearly completed the Great Himalaya Trail but sadness because I have no one to share the moment with apart from some confused border police.

Although I have finished the route, I still have a 72km walk back to Simikot to catch my flight out of the mountains. It isn't over yet.

### Day 80 - Simikot, Humla

Torrential rain has stranded me in Simikot for five days.

The ferocious weather has caused disasters across Nepal, most notably in Hilsa. A severe landslide destroyed 12 houses and killed five people.

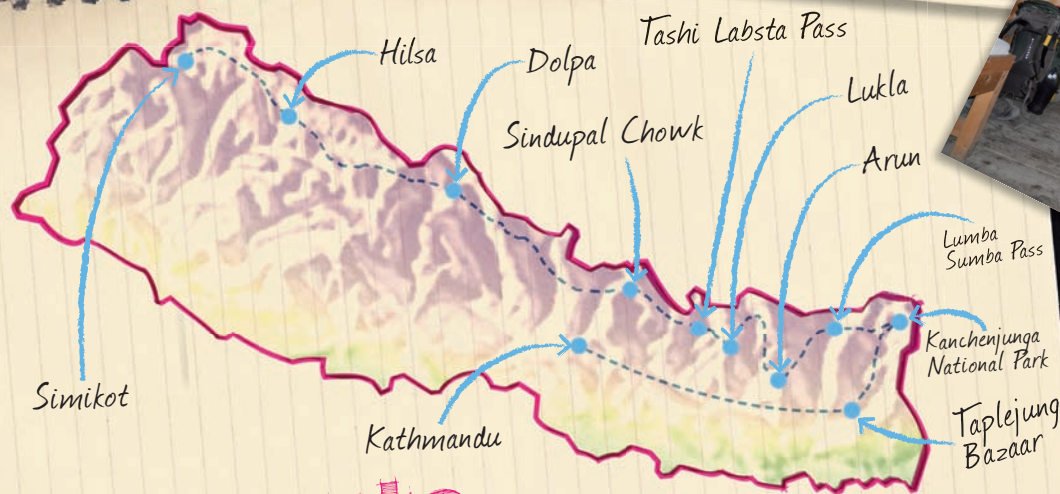
It is a stark reminder that I had been immensely lucky throughout the expedition and that the mountains should never be taken for granted.

This trip has been amazing. Physically, I knew it was going to be demanding but I always thought I would finish.

If I had not had military training or operational experience it would have been a different story.



Main picture: Graham Harrison



## The route

For more information about the trek, which was supported by the British Gurkhas Nepal, the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association and Khil Thapa of Gurkha Adventures, visit [www.east2westnepal.org](http://www.east2westnepal.org)

Are you planning an epic exped? Share your diary with *Soldier* by emailing [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



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# UNDER THE RADAR

PERSONNEL SING  
THE PRAISES OF  
ENIGMATIC ASSET



Report: Joe Clapson  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**F**OR something that cost £1.6 billion, has seen action in Afghanistan, Libya and Mali and is considered to be one of the world's best surveillance assets, the Sentinel is not as well known as you might expect.

The converted Bombardier Global Express aircraft flies at altitudes of up to 49,000ft to collect radar imagery and ground data from vast distances,

and has proved invaluable to ground commanders since it was launched in 2008.

However, despite being regularly called upon by British troops and their foreign allies on various international operations, the future of this intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (Istar) equipment is not a certainty.

The platform was originally due to be removed from service in 2015 after Op Herrick ceases but its

significant role on recent UK missions has led defence chiefs to think again about its future.

To find out more about the past achievements of the aircraft – known in the military as the Sentinel R1 – and the ground stations it links to, *Soldier* visited its owners, 5 (Army Cooperation) Squadron, at RAF Waddington.

Jointly manned by airmen, Royal Navy personnel and soldiers, the formation is one of the oldest flying squadrons in the Royal Air Force. >>





**Top, Teamwork:** SSgt Rob Golton (Int Corps) and Sgt Graeme Napier (Int Corps) are responsible for on-board analysis of the intelligence gathered by the aircraft **Middle, Ground force:** Cpl Norman Smith and LCpl Joe Howlett (Int Corps) analyse imagery in one of the operational level ground stations to provide near real-time intelligence to commanders and their staff. **Above, Data link:** Sgt Rob Bromwich (R Signals) works with equipment from one of the mobile tactical ground stations

>> Maj Guy Porter, officer commanding the unit's C Flight detachment, explained the value of the MoD's five Sentinels and the state-of-the-art technology found inside them.

"This is the only platform able to simultaneously monitor the whole battlespace at both command levels and also individual units," he said.

"In Libya the aircraft became the intelligence asset used to show where pro- and anti-Gaddafi forces were and it did very well on Op Newcombe in Mali, covering wide areas of operations."

Such high-profile success stories will be fully considered by the military's top brass when they make a final decision on Sentinel's role within its future arsenal of battle-winning equipment.

Powered by two BMW/Rolls Royce 710 engines, the aircraft is manned by two Royal Air Force pilots, a mission commander and two airborne image analysts (AIA) drawn from the Intelligence Corps or other Services.

Flying high above the cruising altitude of commercial airliners, and with an endurance time of 11 hours, images collected by this asset are not of the optical variety but instead gathered using pulse responses from a dual-mode radar.

The result is a selection of pictures formed by dots.

"What we get is a graphic representation of the battlefield picture," said SSgt Rob Golton (Int Corps, pictured right).

"Lots of dots shifting about would signify a moving target indicator and this means we can also work out the most used trails, such as bridges and roads."

Although the exact range of the radar cannot be revealed for operational security reasons, Sgt Graeme Napier (Int Corps), an AIA, gave a flavour of its highly impressive capability.

"When flying on a training mission over Salisbury Plain we could see the cricket stumps at

Edgbaston – that's how good it is," the officer commented.

The technology on-board the business jet-turned-reconnaissance platform can provide near real-time images, which are followed up with detailed second-phase analysis.

Back on terra firma, the land segment of the Sentinel's system consists of two transportable operational level ground stations and six mobile tactical ground stations.

Both are connected to the aircraft via data links to enable detailed scrutiny of its pictures to take place.

"While in theatre these images will show any movement and will highlight where there might be an IED," explained the section commander of C Flight, who wished to remain anonymous for his personal security.

"We are very quick for the ground commanders and understand which routes are busy at different times of the day," the captain added.

"From this feedback he will know what to expect from certain areas."

The very fact that Sentinel carries people puts it in a different sphere to its unmanned counterparts. A human presence means that images can be analysed instantly and, if required, the crew can be tasked with new missions immediately.

And as the only UK asset equipped to provide moving target indicators, the plane's worth over the last five years has been clear to those operating it.

"Sentinel's speed and ability to function in any given environment are proven," the anonymous Serviceman added.

"The collective knowledge that's been developed through this asset has probably been underestimated in the past."

"Members of the British Army are not always aware of the work we've done but without all of the intelligence we have gathered with this aircraft operations would have been very different." ■

## African assignment

### How Sentinel contributed to the Nato mission over Libya during 2011...

Libya is a big desert and we were identifying the front lines and pointing out how things were changing.

It had an immediate strategic effect as the Tornados were going in and hitting targets while we could give a damage report.

We were communicating with both strike aircraft and other aerial assets to get a full picture of what were hostile vehicles.

However, in terms of grouping the targets, we wouldn't necessarily have known where the enemy movers were going. ■

**SSgt Rob Golton (Int Corps)**



# SENTINEL: THE FACTS

● The platform's operator, 5 (Army Cooperation) Squadron, is the only joint unit to have deployed on all three recent missions in Afghanistan, Libya and Mali



● The aircraft has flown 4,400 hours in the last 12 months

● On Operation Newcombe in Mali, the Sentinel flew on 66 operational sorties in 700 hours, providing 100 separate intelligence reports

**/ The collective knowledge that's been developed through this asset has probably been underestimated in the past /**



# New and improved

## ENGINE

Honeywell was awarded a £128 million contract to provide the new T55-L-714 engine, which has replaced the current T55-L-712F model.

## REAR CREWMAN STATION

A new seat allows full use of the upgraded communications, touch-screen moving map and navigation systems.

## GROUND MISSION SUPPORT

An on-board mission planning system allows the entire operation and flight plan to be loaded and rehearsed prior to boarding the aircraft. The digital device, which can be annotated with obstructions, enemy positions and threats, is designed to replicate a paper map.

## HI-TECH UPGRADE FOR HARD-WORKING HELICOPTER

Report: Joe Clapson

**T**RANSPORTING troops by helicopter will never be a risk-free activity, especially in combat conditions or periods of low visibility.

But the safety of soldiers being moved around by the tandem-rotor Chinook aircraft is about to be enhanced thanks to a major overhaul of the fleet.

Named Project Julius, the £280 million revamp includes major modifications such as upgraded cockpit displays, the addition of a third crew-member seat and a more modern engine.

Given its vital role on operations as both a troop carrier and a heavy lifter, the platform – which has been flying in excess of 18,500 hours a year since 2011 – is likely to be welcomed by personnel from all three Services.

Features of the Mk 4 version include new multi-function screens, control display navigation units and vehicle management modules, which will help to improve flight safety and spread crew workloads.

The aircraft is due to deploy on operations in Afghanistan this month and while it may seem that nothing much has changed from the outside, a closer look reveals some game-changing differences...





## VITAL STATS

**Aircrew:** 4

**Max speed:** 185mph

**Length:** 15.5m

**Rotor span:** 18.3m

**Weight:** 22,680kg max

**Range:** Around 300 miles

## AIRCRAFT EVOLUTION

THE existing fleet of 46 Chinook Mk 2/2A and 3 helicopters will be transformed to Mk 4 and 5 versions respectively. The entire fleet is due to have been upgraded by the end of 2016.

The MoD will also spend £1 billion on the purchase of 14 brand new CH-47F helicopters, designated Chinook Mk 6 models.

The main feature of the latest iteration is a digital automatic flying control system, which will provide enhanced hold functions.

Its aim will be to improve accuracy and reduce the potential for aircraft damage while conducting low-visibility operations.

The equipment can maintain a position and height but, unlike a pilot, is not reliant on being able to see outside.

Such a capability can be exploited on dark nights, over water or in dusty conditions.

The Mk 6 version is due to be fully operational by early 2017.

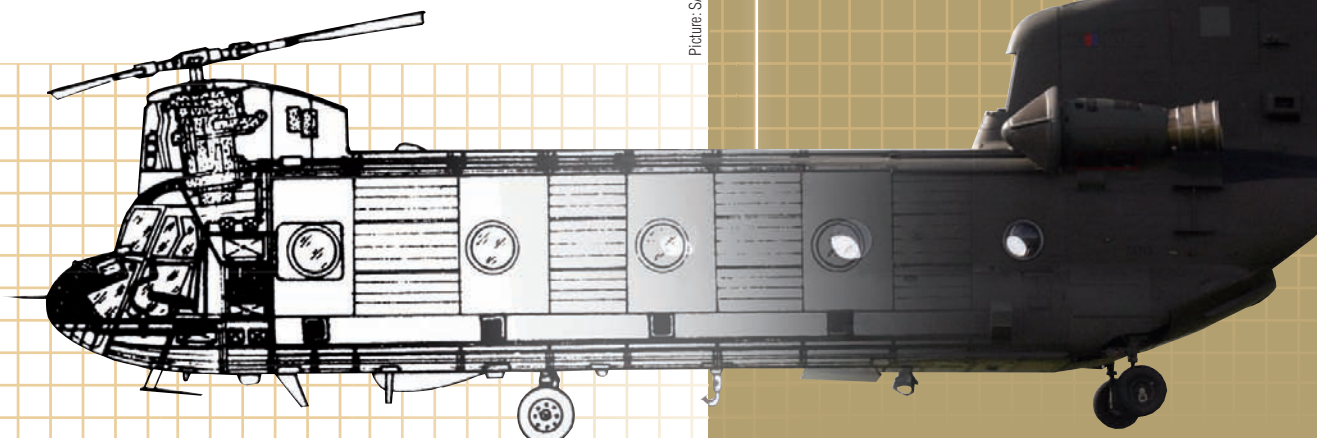
### COCKPIT

The Thales TopDeck glass cockpit display system, comprising multi-functional screens, has replaced analogue flight instruments. This gives pilots improved situational awareness by allowing them to change what they see using flight instruments, a moving map or a feed from an electro-optical sensor turret.



Four main colour displays, two standby flight screens, updated communications interfaces and two new air data computers are included. The kit is also fully compatible with night-vision goggles, feeding critical flight information directly into the pilot's line of sight without the need to look down.

Picture: SAC Andrew Seaward, RAF





**D**URING the First World War ten million soldiers travelled through Folkestone to board the troop ships headed for the trenches of France and Belgium.

For many it would be the last part of Britain they would ever set foot on.

Now, almost one hundred years later, their sacrifice is being honoured in the very same place with the development of a state-of-the-art memorial that is likely to raise eyebrows.

The Step Short programme, named after the order given to troops as they marched downhill towards waiting boats, is aiming to put holograms at the centre of a new structure in the Kent town.

Using special 3D technology, residents and visitors will be transported back to the Great War by images that are projected through a stainless steel arch at night.

The aim is for soldiers to reappear in places where they actually marched, bringing the conflict to life for younger generations.

And with the ability to create different lighting effects and transmit audio clips of veterans' memoirs, the structure is likely to become one of the most cutting-edge commemorative sites in the world.

"The idea is that at certain times of the night soldiers emerge in the arch," explained Philip Gearing, whose company Foster Gearing is designing the memorial.

"We want to beam tableaux and small scenes, for example, where a soldier picks up his bag and moves off or an injured Serviceman is pushed in a wheelchair.

"It will create ghostly images and we think that will be incredibly poignant."

The project, which is due to be complete by August 4 next year, will use a mixture of original First World War photographs and videos filmed by actors.

"When you are building a construction it has to be interactive," Mr Gearing added. "That is something people expect.

"When you go into any museum there

are places where you can do things and get involved with exhibits."

Wireless technology will be installed in a box underneath or next to the base of the monument to transmit the holograms into the sky above.

The gadgetry will be set up so that it can be updated as technology advances.

"There are all kinds of ways we can create these effects but the main aim is to make sure the arch is upgradable and can stand the test of time," Mr Gearing continued.

"The amount of thought that's gone into this is enormous. We wanted to create something that doesn't become part of the furniture.

"You go to so many towns now where urban spread has rendered their memorials almost impossible to find. You see them on traffic islands, where no one can access them.

"With this people can walk through it, see and experience its features."

With the backing of Number 10, Step Short will produce the only physical monument built to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

Chris Tudway, who works for world-leading holographic projection Musion, said the 3D effect would lend itself well to such a significant project.

"This technology is very versatile indeed," the expert told *Soldier*.

His firm have been involved in everything from product launches to museum and engineering projects but he admitted that war memorials were not a regular line of work.

"It is certainly clear that holograms have the wow factor and it is pretty incredible what can be done," the civilian added.

"The resulting images are exact reflections and create a feeling of cinema and theatre.

"All footage is pre-recorded and then it is up to the users how extravagant or sombre

they want it to be.

"There are so many things that can be done with this."

Estimated to cost more than £600,000 in total, this undertaking will certainly not come in cheap. However, international property group Lend Lease are helping by delivering the project free of charge.

In addition, businesses, private donors, residents and local authorities have all contributed to the project – tens of thousands of pounds of which is likely to be spent on the hologram kit alone.

But the brains behind the programme say this will be a worthwhile investment.

"The Great War was the first time that technology was used to blow people apart," Mr Gearing said.

"But for technology to now be a unifying force in this way is quite different.

"I hope this becomes one of the major locations for military ceremony. It's an extremely poignant place."

Pathos and peaceful reflection on events of the past may not be easy to preserve with something so interactive.

But its makers are determined the tone will be fitting.

"We want to convey something respectful and not just use technology for the sake of it," Mr Gearing said.

"We want a structure that people will feel compelled to look at; something that will redefine what Folkestone is."

As well as reinventing a place, this cutting-edge project could also begin to change how fallen soldiers are remembered by future generations.

For that reason alone, next year's unveiling of this monument is likely to be of as much interest to serving personnel as it is to the relatives of the First World War's fallen soldiers. ■

**'We wanted to create something that doesn't become part of the furniture'**

## Hologram hits

Other ways 3D technology has made the headlines this year...

### THE CLASSROOM

HOLOGRAM-like images have been giving medical students memorable lessons at the University of London.

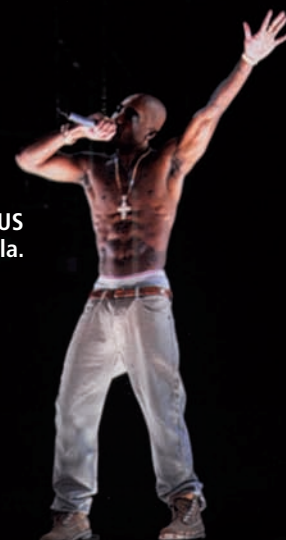
A 3D graphic of a kidney was used at a test lecture earlier in the summer using a technique called Pepper's Ghost, which uses glass or foil combined with special lighting to make objects appear in mid air.

It is one of a series of similar animations being developed by two London doctors to aid lessons at the institution.



### MUSIC

THE late rapper Tupac appeared unexpectedly when a special illusion was created for the US festival Coachella. The artist, who was shot dead more than 15 years ago, was resurrected in a life-sized image for a set from Dr Dre and Snoop Dogg.





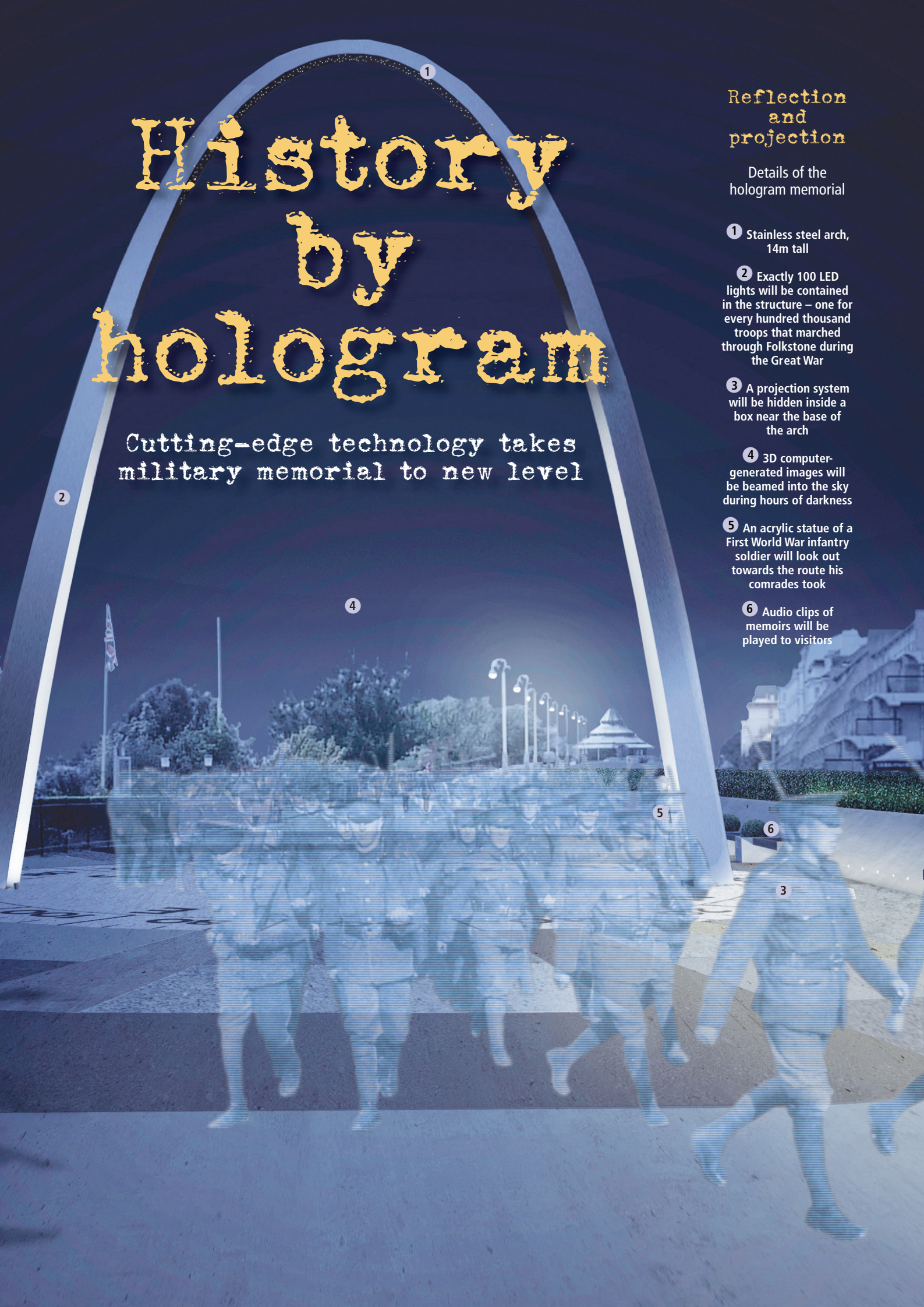
# History by hologram

Cutting-edge technology takes  
military memorial to new level

## Reflection and projection

Details of the  
hologram memorial

- 1 Stainless steel arch, 14m tall
- 2 Exactly 100 LED lights will be contained in the structure – one for every hundred thousand troops that marched through Folkestone during the Great War
- 3 A projection system will be hidden inside a box near the base of the arch
- 4 3D computer-generated images will be beamed into the sky during hours of darkness
- 5 An acrylic statue of a First World War infantry soldier will look out towards the route his comrades took
- 6 Audio clips of memoirs will be played to visitors





David Willey, curator of The Tank Museum in Bovington, lists ten vehicles that have helped to shape the history books

# MIGHTY MACHINES:



1

**Mark IV** Country of origin: Britain In service: 1917-1919 Crew: 8  
Weight: 28,000kg Speed: 3.7mph Max armour: 12.7mm Firepower: Male 2 x 6pdr guns, 4 x .303 Lewis machine guns; Female 5 x .303 Lewis machine guns

THE first mass-produced tank to see action in numbers during the First World War, this platform was a British innovation to try and break

the deadlock of static warfare on the Western Front. At Cambrai in November, 1917 as part of an all-arms encounter it showed its potential as a decisive weapon on the battlefield.



2

**FT 17** Country of origin: France  
In service: 1917-1945 Crew: 2  
Weight: 6,800kg Speed: 4.8mph  
Max armour: 16mm

Firepower: 1 x .315 Hotchkiss machine gun, 1 x 37mm Puteaux gun

THIS platform had the first fully rotational turret and was designed for exploiting breakthroughs by larger tanks. Alas, the French army's assault vehicles were a major failure in the First World War but this did not hinder the popularity of the FT 17; more than 17 other countries used it.

3

**Vickers Medium Tank Mk 1** Country of origin: Britain In service: 1924-1940 Crew: 5  
Weight: 11,888kg Speed: 15mph Max armour: 6.25mm Firepower: 1 x 3pdr 47mm weapon, 4 x .303 Hotchkiss machine guns, 2 x .303 Vickers machine guns

ONLY a modest 160 of these tanks were built, entering British service in 1924, yet this was the vehicle that showed a fully mechanised force could work at speed. On Salisbury Plain in a series

of war games, the ideas of a number of theorists were demonstrated in a spectacularly successful fashion. Not only did the War Office take note and start a full mechanisation programme, so too did members of the German military.



4

**Vickers Six-Tonner** Country of origin: Britain In service: 1928-1959 Crew: 3 Weight: 7,112kg  
Speed: 22mph Max armour: 14mm Firepower: 1 x .50 machine gun (or various other options)

AS Britain had invented the tank in the First World War, many nations saw it as the country to buy these machines from – or at least the plans to start building their own. The Vickers company built two main models for export, the six-ton tank being a particular favourite that was bought by 12 countries. It led to important production vehicles such as the American T1 series and the massive numbers of Russian T26 tanks.



5

**Sherman M4A1** Country of origin: United States  
In service: 1941-1980s Crew: 5 Weight: 30,164kg Speed: 22mph  
Max armour: 51mm Firepower: 1 x 75mm gun, 2 x .30 machine guns

OFTEN dismissed in Top Trumps-style comparisons with later and larger German tanks, the Sherman was nonetheless a hugely successful vehicle for the Allies in

the Second World War. It not only allowed for many improvements and adaptations during its manufacture but more fundamentally played on the American strengths in mass production methods. More than 48,000 were made, equipping all the Allied armies.





# 10 TOP TANKS

6

**T34/76** Country of origin: Soviet Union In service: 1940-1990s  
Crew: 4 Weight: 26,725kg Speed: 32mph Max armour: 45mm  
Firepower: 1 x 76.2mm gun, 2 x 7.62 machine guns

THE T34/76 appeared somewhat crude to the German authorities when inspected after capture in 1941. However, the tank worked well with a reliable engine, wide tracks for the Russian terrain, good armour protection and an effective gun (later increased to 85mm in a roomier turret). Poor design features such as the abysmal

crew conditions did not much matter in a dictatorship. The vehicle fitted the Soviet theory of war perfectly. It was thought of just like a hand grenade, produced in such quantity as to meet the aims of any operation. Quantity, as Stalin said, has a quality all of its own.



8

**T72M** Country of origin: Soviet Union In service: 1971-current  
Crew: 3 Weight: 41,000kg Speed: 49.7mph

Max armour: 280 mm  
Firepower: 1 x 125mm main gun, 1 x 7.62mm machine gun, 1 x 12.7mm machine gun



ALMOST any post-war Soviet T-Tank could be chosen as an example of this region's

style of a good basic design (a reliable engine and powerful gun) produced in mass numbers. Like for like, they were often outclassed by the Western equivalent tank of the day and many countries that bought or were gifted the platform used them in an inappropriate and unsuccessful manner. However, there are still so many of these models in use around the world they continue to be a real threat and with upgrades and add-ons they can become a much more sophisticated weapon. Give a well trained unit such as a British tank regiment a fleet of these vehicles and the results would be surprising.

7

**Centurion Mk 5** Country of origin: Britain In service: 1945-current Crew: 4  
Weight: 50,728kg Speed: 21.5mph Max armour: 152mm  
Firepower: 1 x 105mm main gun, 2 x .30 machine guns



ORIGINALLY produced in 1945, the Centurion was a design classic like the Spitfire that did exactly what it needed to do and could be developed and improved on to keep abreast of later advances. The Mk 5 had the great combination of good firepower (the L7 105mm gun that was also used by the Germans on their Leopards and the Americans on their M60s), decent mobility from the powerful Meteor petrol engine (developed from the Spitfire's Merlin) and well-sloped thick armour. Highly trained crews kept the Centurion on the winning side for more than 50 years.

10

**Challenger 2** Country of origin: Britain In service: 1998-current  
Crew: 4 Weight: 62,500kg

Speed: 35mph Max armour: Secret  
Firepower: 1 x 120mm main gun, 1 x 7.62 chain gun, 1 x 7.62 general-purpose machine gun

THIS vehicle first saw service with the British Army in 1998 having been designed as a private venture by Vickers and tested in competition with the Abrams and Leopard 2. The tank is protected by top secret Chobham armour – a laminate that provides much better protection than the equivalent weight of steel. The Challenger has performed well in combat and although numbers are being reduced, it will still be a key item in the armoury. Like many vehicles it will undergo improvement programmes over its remaining service life. Nothing has the presence, accurate firepower, protection and capability of a Challenger, and history shows the tank's adaptability to changes in warfare will ensure its survival for decades to come.



9

**Merkava 1** Country of origin: Israel In service: 1979- current Crew: 4 Weight: 60,000kg Speed: 28.6mph Max armour: Secret Firepower: 1 x 105mm main gun, 1 x .50 machine gun, 3 x .30 machine guns



THE Merkava is a good example of a tank designed for a country's specific circumstances, that takes it away from the mainstream. Another example is the Swedish S-Tank. Israel decided to start its own tank programme after Britain's refusal to sell Chieftain at the end of the 1960s. Merkava uses a

front-mounted engine to add protection to the crew and incorporates a versatile inner compartment that can carry up to ten soldiers, act as a casualty clearing space, house a command centre or transport a mortar. The platform has gone through many improvements and is currently at the Mk IV stage, with an active protection system called Trophy that targets incoming missiles.

Visit [www.tankmuseum.org](http://www.tankmuseum.org) for more information on the world's best collection of tanks, which offers free entry to all MoD 90 pass holders.

Disagree? Tell Talkback about your views...

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## DII-ing to get web access

**G**IVEN that 20,000 members of the Army have received redundancy notices and have left, or will shortly leave, the Service – not to mention the commensurate reductions of manpower in the various support units – there should, surely, be a major reduction in the number of people using DII.

Yet after three attempts at logging on to DII(R) recently, one of which resulted in a comedy 350 font size appearing on my screen, and then two attempts to access DII(S), I can't say that I have noticed any difference.

Maybe it's some kind of health and safety measure to encourage us to step away from the computer once in a while.

In the time it takes for my mailbox to become available, I could do all of my military annual training tests, a short exercise and take some leave.

DII(S) allows time for a six-month tour to be snuck in-between the logon screen and "applying computer settings"! – **WO1 Graeme Winning, Land Intelligence Fusion Centre (Afghanistan).**

**Steve Moule, DE&S Defence Information Services project team, responds:** We are sorry that you are not content with the system. The general performance of DII(F) is subject to constant monitoring and reporting and there is an ongoing programme to deliver improvements to the site.

Investigative work is being conducted at five locations identified as priority areas by the Ministry of Defence and any identified resolutions will then be applied across the DII(F) estate as appropriate.

In addition to these activities there

is also the need to ensure that the MoD utilises the service appropriately.

Many performance issues can be related back to "business management" undertakings.

You mention the reduction in military personnel and it is imperative that MoD business units identify DII(F) accounts for deletion as part of this process. Similarly, the management

of data holdings, in line with policy guidelines, is paramount in ensuring capacity levels are not exceeded, resulting in a detrimental effect on the system's performance.

Compliance with security instructions in ensuring work stations are regularly connected to the network to receive the appropriate security and patching updates is also vital.

The issue of poor performance and slow logon was the subject of a recent DII service hotspot publication, which is available via the Atlas web portal.

It is strongly recommended that those with issues raise a formal incident for investigation via the Single Point of Contact on short dial 188 or via the website mentioned above.



## VIRGIN ACTIVE GYM RUN-IN

■ I AM about to deploy on Operation Herrick so I went to my local gym to ask about suspending my membership while I am away.

Despite being a member since 2004, Virgin Active wanted to charge me £10 per month to suspend my account.

They were in full knowledge of why I needed to do this.

Given that I am soon to attend the Reinforcements Training and Mobilisation Centre and am not forecast to be back in the UK until early January 2014 (and let's face it, heading for a workout will not be top of the list then), I anticipate being back in the gym mid February.

Although this only means a charge of around £50, I just think it is absolutely scandalous and not supportive of the military – not to mention a business model that fails to retain members.

Needless to say I have resigned on principle. – **Lt Col Nigel Heal (QARANC).**

**The editor writes:** After contacting Virgin Active for a response, the *Soldier* team were informed that Lt Col Heal's membership had been reinstated, with the charge to suspend his membership waived and one month offered free on his return to the club next year.

Please do contact *Talkback* if you have a similar story to tell or feel that you have been unfairly disadvantaged by a company because of a career in uniform.

## Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



## Wrangle over rank and pension rules

I'VE had a concern since I left the Army in 2006.

I was employed as an accommodation senior NCO in my unit from 1998 as a substantive corporal, acting sergeant and in 2002 began getting paid as a colour sergeant as the role for the job was substantive colour sergeant.

I was posted in my last two years from 2004 until I left on a military pension for a sergeant.

Would I be entitled to a colour sergeant's pension rights for the role I was carrying out at the time, being paid in the higher rank for at least two years in my last five? – **Gary Fisher, ex-Staffords.**

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:** From the information provided I can assure you

that you are receiving the correct pension.

As you left in 2006, I am assuming you were a member of Armed Forces pension scheme 75 and under these rules a member's pension rank is the highest substantive rank or paid acting rank held for (in the case of other ranks) two years in the final five of pensionable service.

From what you have said it appears you held the acting rank of sergeant for more than two years and you are therefore pensionable as such.

Although you were entitled to substitution pay as a colour sergeant this does not count for a pension as you did not hold that rank.





## OFFICERS 'OUT OF TOUCH'

■ I READ the director of Army manning's comments ("Redundancy support stepped-up") in July's edition with shock.

Brig Rob Nitsch's statement that the number of applications for redundancy was "not an indicator of ill-feeling amongst the ranks" shows how out of touch senior echelons of the Army are.

I am currently serving at British Army Training Unit Suffield and the culmination of pay freezes, reduction in pension and allowances, over-commitment and daily uncertainty has taken morale to the lowest point I have ever seen.

Any civilian firm that had one in five employees asking to leave would realise there was something fundamentally wrong, but not the Army. – Name and address supplied.

**Brig Nick Cavanagh, DM(A), replies:** The redundancy programme will have generated a great deal of uncertainty for those affected and their families.

In tranche three we deliberately sought to maximise the number of applicants and minimise the number of non-applicants and our approach was geared to achieve this.

For the vast majority of personnel their selection was as a result of applying and it is worth stressing that significantly less than one in five asked to leave in this round.

Naturally, for some, redundancy would have been unwelcome. For others it would be an opportunity to seek fresh challenges elsewhere.

Following notification of selection in June we are carefully monitoring voluntary outflow, particularly those applicants who were not selected.

At present the number leaving is within what we forecast and it is therefore encouraging to see that people wish to continue their service.

However, we are not complacent and are doing all we can to retain our high quality people, with their hard won skills and experience, as we move towards the Army of tomorrow.

# Dental care like pulling teeth

AFTER serving for 24 years in the Army I was offered a full-time Reserve service (FTRS) contract which I gladly took.

However, I now find that I cannot register with a NHS dentist in my area due to local funding.

I have been lucky because during my career this sort of treatment has been free but I now feel penalised for serving as if I had stayed with my civilian dentist over the years I would still be registered now.

Why is it that everything is being done to help the Territorial Army and get them on a par with the Regulars yet while working under these arrangements I get nothing?

I now have to pay to go private, which I cannot afford to do.

Is it not time that FTRS home contracts were brought in line as far as health is concerned? – Sgt Gareth Lloyd, Cardiff.

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds:**

The conditions of service for FTRS home contracts are deliberately austere in order to promote local recruiting, which is why you have to rely on NHS support for medical and dental health and why accommodation is strictly limited.

Therefore these contracts cannot be brought in line.

Whilst in Regular service your dental fitness would have been linked to deployability which is why you had frequent checks.

It is recognised that NHS dentistry is not as accessible as it used to be but oral

health for Reservists remains a personal matter. You still need a dentist whether you are in the Service or not.

Your commitment does not have a deployable role. However, your liability for call-out remains unchanged and if you were to be called out your oral

health would once again be the responsibility of the British Army.

In future, occupational dental fitness assessments will be rolled out for those preparing to deploy.

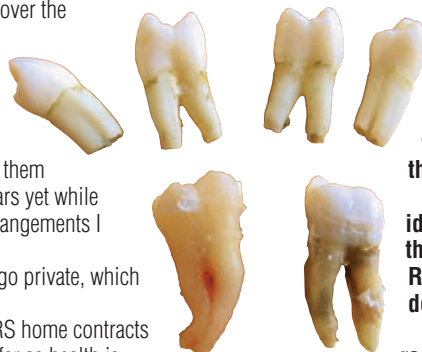
However, any conditions identified will be managed through referral to a Reservist's civilian dentist.

While the military is responsible for all

Reservists in occupational health terms, primary and dental care is inadmissible except for those soldiers on FTRS full commitment.

The Department of Health works closely with the MoD to ensure that Service personnel and their families can access NHS dentistry in the same way as the rest of the population.

However, health is highly devolved and policies for funding of treatment and eligibility are based on local considerations. Through the Armed Forces Covenant, the MoD is doing what it can to encourage all UK health practitioners to recognise the effects of Service life and be as flexible as possible.



# Cleaning expense concern

I HAVE recently been issued with the Future Army Dress (FAD) for a public occasion.

I had the jacket and trousers fitted by a contract master tailor who, on completion of the fitting, wasn't very positive about the new Service dress in comparison to the previous version.

I enquired further and he simply told me to look at the cleaning advice label.

The tag inside the trousers displayed the usual "no wash, tumble dry, dry clean only" warning but to my surprise it also stated "do not iron". Was this a Friday afternoon project in the procurement office?

I am aware that in the 1980s the issued lined combat jacket was dry clean only. However, we all knew this wasn't realistic.

Thinking logically, FAD can now only be dry cleaned and pressed.

Is this uniform to be maintained at public expense or do I take on iron operations on my FAD at risk? – WO2 A Stephens, 1 RSME Regt.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies:**

The new No 2 dress (previously called FAD) jacket and trousers are made from 100 per cent wool.

The fabric is the same as that used by the other Services for more than 15 years.

It should not be ironed directly on the fabric as this will compress the fibres and give an unsightly sheen.

Creases from normal wear should disappear overnight if the uniform is hung properly.

If necessary it can also be pressed carefully using an iron on a damp cloth, which will not damage it.

Officers have to pay to dry clean their uniforms but soldiers may have No 2 dress treated at public expense.

The new barrack dress trousers are a wool/polyester mix and the care label states that a warm iron can be used.





## DIGITAL DOSSIER

THIS MONTH'S ELITE TWEETS

## #DESERT RATS (P 16)

@GilesOHalloran

@BritishArmy – what an admirable history they have created over the last 75 years

@PoplarsPenny

@BritishArmy Congratulations, long may the Desert Rats continue

## #SANDHURST (P 24-25)

@michaelredcap

Just back from Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst and lunch in sergeants' mess. Wonderful day

@wigjohn

Well done! Do the other ranks still refer to them as 'Ruperts'? #oldsoldier

## #CIVVY LIFE (P 7)

@andywasley

Last week in civvy street. Might not be long enough to lose my summer spread but I'm going to try... Need to look slim and punchy in uniform!

@FindingRecruit

A big thank you to all those so far that have agreed to meet Service leavers and help our heroes find a career in civvy street #hiringheroes

@WeeYln

Goodbyes don't get easier. Roll on civvy street #soldierlove

@PoppyLegion

Having trouble finding work? Our civvy street job and careers service is here to help – [www.civvystreet.org](http://www.civvystreet.org)

@TaylorFearon

Would love to be a civvy #easylife

@Munchkin75

It's good to hear of ex-military succeeding in civvy street, I know a few that have managed to come away unscathed... ish

## #AND FINALLY...

@Missionmotorspt

*Soldier* is always a good read but August pages 11 and 78, 79 have fantastic coverage of Mission Motorsport work....

@chris\_bradford

Reading a fascinating *Soldier* VE Day edition from May 8, 1945

@soldiermagazine

## Misinformed on medal policy

WHAT are the qualifying criteria for the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal?

I have completed four full campaign tours – Telic 4, Telic 9, Herrick 12 and Herrick 17 – and realise this question has been raised in your magazine previously but as far as I can recall it is two years.

However, having addressed this with my squadron clerk I have been told the criteria is 1,080 days.

I am fairly sure this isn't the case. – Name and address supplied.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies:** I assume your question refers to the 2011 Accumulated Campaign Service Medal.

The qualifying period for the decoration is 24 months (720 days) with a bar awarded for each subsequent qualifying period of 720 days.

It sounds like you have been awarded the Iraq Medal and the Operational Service Medal Afghanistan so you need to refer to your JPA record to find out the number of months and days that you were officially deployed.

The detailed criteria, including what service counts and certain exclusions, can be found in DIN 2011 DIN09-008, which your squadron clerk will be able to source.



## In a lather over local staff rates in Cyprus

HAVING just returned from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus as part of a recce team for a forthcoming exercise, I was astounded when we were assessing the catering for the support staff who were not in the field.

This was mainly to comprise 24-hour ration packs during the exercise and a combination of our own field kitchen and in-base pay-as-you-dine facilities.

I could not believe what we were told it would cost for one locally employed civilian to clean pots and pans over a seven-and-a-half hour shift and the weekend rate.

Base standing orders tell us we must use the contractors and not save cash by doing the washing up ourselves.

Given the far lower level of the UK's minimum wage, who on earth negotiated this as being value for money?

How can this have happened? What planet were they on?

Only today I received a DII email from the permanent secretary Jon Thompson advising us of the next round of cuts and savings.

I strongly suggest negotiating contracts is a weak area in the Ministry of Defence that needs addressing urgently.



I have spent 26 years in the Regular Army. We are all gradually becoming budgeteers in this modern Service in line with the austerity measures across defence.

This may not be a bad thing at all as it makes us appreciate the cost of the hardware we use in the job.

During my time I have not once seen anything more than barely adequate contracting (especially catering and MoD camp management) in a variety of locations and countries.

Maybe I will consider becoming a pan basher in my second career or better still, a government contractor! – Name and address supplied.

**Karis Oram, Sovereign Base Areas Administration Policy and Plans Officer, replies:** The Ministry of Defence has a

strict process of seeking value for money whenever commercial contracts are awarded.

It would be inappropriate to release the details of any commercial contract but I can reassure you that the one you refer to was awarded after fair and open competition with industry and that all options were fully considered.

The department is committed to ensuring that all contracts deliver value for taxpayers' money.





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## BOLD CAP BADGE CLAIM

■ I WONDER if, quite legitimately, I've worn more regimental cap badges than anyone else.



Way back in 1941, at the age of 15, I was an Army cadet wearing the flaming grenade badge of the Royal Artillery in my cap.

A year or so later I had fibbed about my age so that I could serve in the Home Guard for a year,

carrying the regimental emblem of the Royal Sussex Regiment.



At the end of 1943 I was in the Army. The first ten weeks consisted of infantry training while stationed on the outskirts of Derby.



Here we wore the awful brown plastic cap badge (pictured left) of what was then known as the General Service Corps – it showed the Royal Coat of Arms.

At the end of this training I was posted to the Royal Artillery on Salisbury plain. When there I sported the well known "field gun".



After a six-month spell in that role I was posted to 6th Regiment, Royal

Horse Artillery – a different cap badge again.



Later I was sent to India with the same regiment. After a year in the country, a notice went up asking for volunteers to join 2nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment which apparently was down on numbers.

I took up the opportunity and moved to Madras, where I wore the regiment's fleur-de-lys badge.

A year later I was demobbed and back in civvy street.

Living and working in London, I eventually volunteered to become a civilian instructor at the Army cadet unit in Battersea; my speciality in the Army had been signals.



In due course I was asked to take a commission in the Army Cadet Force, which I agreed to. I soon found myself donning the cap badge of the Royal Tank Regiment.



In total that's seven different cap badges. – John Rackham, Brighton

## 'Clothing costs need ironing out'

OVER the last few years the British Army has brought in several changes to its uniforms.

The reason for this, I am led to believe, is to have clothing which can be used on operations and also when in barracks, therefore reducing overall costs.

I fully support this in the current climate. With the cuts to defence and redundancies it makes perfect sense.

However, I would like to question how certain units can justify the need to wear barrack dress on a Friday.

The question, which I am sure will affect many regiments within the Army, refers in particular to Brunei, where they have now decided that both the resident battalion and garrison will wear No 6 dress on this day.

How can the Service justify the extra expense of ordering



new uniforms for in excess of 200 personnel to wear for just one day a week?

I am told that the shoes for warrant officers and officers alone are around £90 per pair.

Surely when units are crying out for equipment for their normal day-to-day activities, this kind of expense is ludicrous.

If this is deemed acceptable, then what is the point in Future Army Dress (FAD) clothing?

It just means Servicemen and women have even more kit to carry around with them each time they move. – Name and address supplied.

**Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies:** Barrack dress was reintroduced to save wear and tear on expensive Personal Clothing System combat uniforms and to be more comfortable around barracks.

Some units elect to wear this on certain days and in Brunei you sport the No 6 trousers as barrack dress.

Officers buy their own shoes and warrant officers are issued with identical pairs. Those who have brown footwear must buy this themselves.

Items introduced as part of the FAD project and new combat uniform have yielded considerable savings.

## Sent nutty by serial offence

I WRITE as an old duffer who retired in 2008 after 37 wonderful years in the Regular Infantry and who continues to enjoy *Soldier* as an excellent way of keeping in touch with changes to the British Army.

It is an outstanding publication and I especially enjoy the editorials.

However, there is one minor irritant of content that I can no longer ignore and which I feel I must draw to your attention.

It is the repeated misuse of the word "serial" in place of "exercise" – scattered liberally throughout every issue.

Never in my service did I ever hear exercises called serials.

In this context, the word was merely used to describe individual events on the exercise, which were set out on the main events list drawn up by the planners.

Of course, it is quite possible that I am out of date on this and that usage has changed, in which case I stand by to be ignored.

But if not, I wonder if you would like to inform your writers of this before I again lose my monocle in my soup and splutter my false teeth across the room in frustration.

Then again, perhaps I just need to get out a bit more. – Ian Tritton, Malmesbury.

**The editor, retreating into her well-thumbed thesaurus, replies:** Thanks for



your entertaining note.

It is pleasing that our readers take such an active interest in the magazine's use of the English language – even if we do not agree with you 100 per cent of the time.

## DISAGREE?

Contact Talkback

mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk  
@soldiermagazine



# 'Please heed pension pain'

**A**S a company commander and having witnessed first-hand what a pension rule change can do to a man, I felt I had to write and tell the story of my company sergeant major.

I have no doubt that the tale I'm about to tell is familiar to others but I feel strongly that an injustice is happening and nothing is being done to help.

The soldier concerned is approaching his 22-year point, including a five-month spell where he left the Army and then rejoined. Unfortunately for him this was around 2005.

Yes, you guessed it, he was enlisted back into service not on Armed Forces pension scheme 75 but on 05 instead.

This colleague has all the original paperwork stating the facts and figures of aggregated service and forecasts of his 22-year service payout, which until recently (as you do) he had planned to transition into civvy street with.

To discover at this stage of his career that in fact he has no lump sum or immediate pension due to a five-month gap in service has caused him and his family extreme upset.

He has exhausted the appeal system and his hopes now lie with a last-ditch attempt of a Service complaint.

I was only blessed with half a brain but surely even a complete fool can see this is no way to treat a warrant officer who has loyally served Queen, country and regiment at home and on operations for 22 years.

No doubt some expert will answer this with the party line on the changes

which will mean little to these soldiers.  
– Name and address supplied.

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), writes:** I have recently responded on this issue and I confirm that under early departure (EDP) payment scheme rules only service after April 6, 2005 or qualifying service transferred under the 2006 offer to transfer can count as "relevant" towards the EDP lump sum and income.

An individual is entitled to aggregate their preserved scheme 75 pension with current scheme 05 pensionable service but this will count towards pension only, not early departure payment.

The situation this warrant officer finds himself in is highly regrettable and he is not alone.

We are working to establish exactly how many people (and this is a tri-Service issue) will be affected and we are engaged with the MoD to see what can be done.

An Army briefing note (72-13, dated July 22) has been issued explaining the situation and requesting that personnel affected by this issue contact their unit administrators.

As soon as we have an update this will be communicated throughout the chain of command.

In the interim, if this warrant officer has received an incorrect forecast in the past then he must submit a Service complaint and I hope his chain of command will render him every assistance to do so.

**Shedding light on the issue:** A recent Army briefing note explains the matter of early departure payments

Picture: Graeme Main



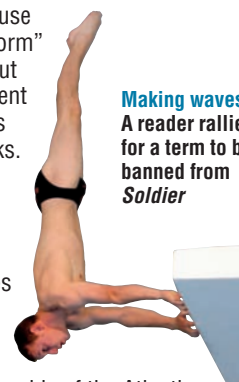
## A PLATFORM TOO FAR?

■ IF I was the correspondent behind "Pedant's corner" in August's issue I do not think I would be happy with your editor's somewhat cavalier response.

I too have been annoyed with the use of the word "platform" when reading about a piece of equipment that flies or moves on wheels or tracks.

I assume that the use of this word and other similar words, jargon and phrases that have come into use recently have their origins at the other side of the Atlantic – where they should have stayed. –

**Martin Hopkins, Ely.**



**Making waves:** A reader rallies for a term to be banned from *Soldier*

## 'WE ARE SOLDIERS FIRST'

■ REGARDING your article on *Out in the Army: My Life as a Gay Soldier* (Books, August) I take great issue with the term "gay soldier".

We are troops who happen to be gay, and there is a difference: we are soldiers first, before we are gay or straight.

Could your magazine please make efforts to present the true voice of the Army Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum and focus on the good work of so many personnel, friends and colleagues who do not seek special attention but simply get on with their job out of honour?

For Mr Wharton (pictured below) to claim that there is no senior figurehead to look up to is a complete untruth.

I have had the pleasure in conversing with a number of officers and multiple ranks who happen to be gay at London Pride, who were more than happy to discuss any issues that people may have.

To make such a claim is insulting to the hard work of these personnel, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes ensure that all serving LGBT members (whether out or not) are offered the appropriate support when needed.

I respectfully urge you to research and report the majority, not the individual. –  
**Name and address supplied.**







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## CAREERS

**Royal Artillery Networking Fair** on September 11, 2013 at Newcome Hall, Artillery Barracks, Larkhill, 1300 to 1630. For soldiers and officers leaving through redundancy, retirement or early release.

**The London Transition Fair** will be held on September 26, 2013 from 1000 to 1300 at RMR Barracks, Wandsworth. This event is open to all serving and former soldiers and their families who are considering living and working in London. The fair will feature more than 50 stands, including those of local and national employers. Advice will be available on education, employment, health, housing and welfare. For more information contact **Londist-S02Transition@mod.uk**

**The Logistics Guild** works with the British Army and in particular the Royal Logistic Corps, helping ex-military personnel find work within the civilian logistics industry. For more information contact Carly O'Donoghue via **carly.odonoghue@logisticsguild.com**

## COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winners:** LCpl Steven Wood, BFPO 31; WO2 Dan Williams, MoD Abbey Wood; Cpl Ronnie Grundy, ACC Doncaster.

**Marmot jacket:** William Goddard, Wigston, Leicester; Ian Yates, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

**The Manner of Men:** R Clift, Cradley Heath, West Midlands; D Woolmer, Whitehaven, Cumbria; C Duckworth, Chicksands; Maj K Fisher, BFPO 140; Paul Nixon, Hameln, BFPO 31.

**Untold History of the US:** WO2 V Bannister, RA Barracks, Woolwich; SSgt Taff Watkins, BGS CCF, Bangor; R Whelan, MoD Abbey Wood; Sharon Jackson, Kempston, Bedfordshire; Pte P Sutton, 1PWRR, BFPO 22.

## DIARY

**September 1: Poppable**, an Afro-expressionism exhibition by former soldier Adjani Okpu-Egbe, reopens to the public for two weeks in Brixton, London. For details visit **www.knightwebbgallery.com**

**September 7-8: Points on a Compass exhibition**, IWM HMS *Belfast* 1100-1230 and 1400-1600. From bananas in Borneo to a 21-gun salute in San Francisco harbour, explore the countries that HMS *Belfast* encountered as she sailed across the globe. Hear stories and handle some of the objects that helped the ship and her sailors on their journeys.

**September 10-April 27, 2014: War Story – Supplying Front-Line Afghanistan.** The IWM London's new interactive display. Visitors can discover the complex world of

military logistics, the cornerstone supporting front-line troops over the last 12 years. Free admission.

**September 21-22: Introduction to the Holocaust**, IWM London, 1130-1230 and 1430-1530. A starting point for families to reflect on key themes of the Holocaust, including identity, loss and friendship, through replica objects, discussion and archive photographs. The sessions do not contain any graphic imagery. Recommended for children aged 14 and above. For more information contact Grant Rogers on 020 7416 5329 or via **grogers@iwm.org.uk**

# BULLET POINTS

**September 15: Battle of Britain service.** Royal Air Forces Association (Germany Branch) will be holding this year's service in St Nicholas' Church, Javelin Barracks, Elmpt. For further information contact Pete Richardson on +49(0) 2161 558037 or via **pete.richardson@t-online.de**

**September 15: The Waterloo Show and Military Fair** at Shaftesbury Estates, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset from 0900 to 1800. Charity event in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The Defence Medical Welfare Service, SSAFA, Combat Stress, Caring for Courage and Scotty's Little Soldiers. The show features The King's Troop RHA, White Helmets motorcycle display team and the Red Devils parachutists. Adults £15, children (5-13) £5. Further details via **n.oliver@scotsdg.co.uk**

**September 19: Charity Ball** in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Black tie dinner dance. Three-course meal with wine and music from The Stewart Reid Band. From 1900 to 0030 at The Royal Scots Club, Abercrombie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE. Single tickets £55, table of ten £500. To reserve your place phone 07855 704142 or contact **gspence@soldierscharity.org**

**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**

**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 349381

**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](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**Stoll:** (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation) 0207 385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk); [www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

**The Not Forgotten Association:**  
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## INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 77/13:** Civilian staff performance management PSC response

**ABN 76/13:** Initial operating capability of HQ Force Troops command

**ABN 75/13:** Improvements and changes affecting the non-EEA Service community

**ABN 74/13:** Continuity of education allowance – rates for academic year 2013/14

**ABN 73/13:** The future of Army music in 2020 era

**ABN 72/13:** Impact of breaks in service on early departure payment

**ABN 71/13:** Long Look exchange programme

**ABN 70/13:** Captain warfare course

**ABN 69/13:** Revised list flag stations

**ABN 68/13:** ODR DLP training

**ABN 67/13:** Briefing for Gurkhas and CW personnel T3

**ABN 66/13:** CEA revision

**ABN 65/13:** Commonwealth recruiting

**ABN 64/13:** FC criminality

**ABN 63/13:** University short course programme

**DIN 2013DIN01-167:** 2013 Consolidated pay award for MoD civilian staff below SCS

**DIN 2013DIN01-166:** Future Integrated Soldier Technology project thermal sight, use of correct batteries

**DIN 2013DIN01-165:** Information Excellence Awards 2014

**DIN 2013DIN01-164:** Entry into the Maritime Reserves for all tri-Service serving personnel and ex-personnel

**DIN 2013DIN01-163:** New average property price list – January 1, 2013

**DIN 2013DIN01-162:** Armed Forces Muslim Association – executive committee elections 2013

**DIN 2013DIN01-161:** Armed Forces allowances – suspended until after NEM consultation process is completed at the end of September 2013

**DIN 2013DIN01-160:** Tactical air traffic control recruitment policy

**DIN 2013DIN01-158:** Arrangements for NHS infertility treatment where Armed Forces compensation scheme award applies

**DIN 2013DIN01-157:** Changes to grading assessment during recruitment

**DIN 2013DIN01-155:** BR3 – Issue of June 2013 edition

**DIN 2013DIN01-154:** AFPS 05 and RFPS 05 Death In Service pension benefit – nomination form

**DIN 2013DIN01-153:** Survey for LGB military personnel

**DIN 2013DIN01-152:** Defence recovery capability

transition policy

**DIN 2013DIN01-151:** Officer service with the Pathfinders, 16 Air Assault Brigade

**DIN 2013DIN01-150:** Service with the Pathfinders, 16 Air Assault Brigade, selection cadre details

**DIN 2013DIN01-149:** Recruitment of Commonwealth personnel into the Armed Forces

**DIN 2013DIN01-148:** Implementation of changes to Army appraisal reporting

**DIN 2013DIN01-146:** The Smallwood Electronic Warfare Trophy

**DIN 2013DIN01-145:** Continuity of education allowance – rewrite of CEA regulations

**DIN 2013DIN01-144:** Support available for staff giving evidence in legal proceedings

**DIN 2013DIN01-143:** Support available for staff facing legal proceedings

**DIN 2013DIN02-004:** Withdrawal of defence identity cards without expiry dates

**DIN 2013DIN03-014:** Implementation of Cabinet Office's consolidated guidance

**DIN 2013DIN04-126:** Universal cleaning kit, SSP, lethality delivery team demand management

**DIN 2013DIN04-125:** Calor gas cylinder stock state and return

**DIN 2013DIN04-124:** Physical training equipment procurement process 2013

**DIN 2013DIN04-123:** Declaration of obsolete – Clansman

**DIN 2013DIN04-122:** Declaration of obsolete – Bowman VHF Mk 1 lithium-ion rechargeable battery

Continued on page 58

NO. 862

## JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN  
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TEN details have been changed on Mark Owens' picture of musicians from The New Zealand Army Band performing the Hakka during rehearsals for the 2013 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 862, Soldier, Ordnance**

Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by September 30.

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

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

The results will be announced in the November issue.

Usual rules apply. **July's winner:** First correct entry drawn at random was CSjt N Graham, 7 Rifles, Reading. **Runners up:** Mrs V Heath, Ashford, Middlesex and John Malone, Tayforth, Dundee.





**DIN 2013DIN04-121:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents (June 2013)

**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 2013DIN05-030:** Creation of Service and civilian posts at one-star level and above

**DIN 2013DIN05-029:** MoD Operations Directorate restructure

**DIN 2013DIN05-028:** Revised contact details for APHCS medical facilities

**DIN 2013DIN05-027:** The Maritime Warfare Centre – tasking process

**DIN 2013DIN06-027:** Duty radiation medicine specialist contact details

**DIN 2013DIN06-026:** Change to the cross-government contract with Specsavers for the provision of display screen equipment eyesight tests and where necessary spectacles

**DIN 2013DIN07-108:** Exercise Rucksack 14 – exercise instruction

**DIN 2013DIN07-107:** Production of JSP 926: *Counter-chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear aide memoire*

**DIN 2013DIN07-104:** Exercise Pipedown 2014

**DIN 2013DIN07-103:** Strategic leadership and management courses at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom

**DIN 2013DIN07-102:** 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 2013DIN07-101:** Instructor training courses for FOAP(T) staff

**DIN 2013DIN07-100:** Cyber awareness course dates and application process for 2014

**DIN 2013DIN07-099:** Army European winter activity instruction

**DIN 2013DIN07-098:** Revised policy on the delivery of the junior officers leadership programme 2

**DIN 2013DIN08-009:** Claims for loss of, or damage to, personal property (regulation claims)

**DIN 2013DIN09-009:** The City of London Sheriff's Award for Bravery

**DIN 2013DIN09-008:** Birthday Honours List 2013 – MoD civilian recipients

**DIN 2013DIN10-035:** Army Waterski and Wakeboard Championships 2013

**DIB 42/13:** 2013 Pay award for MoD civilian staff below SCS

**DIB 41/13:** Publication of the results of the Armed Forces continuous attitude survey 2013 report

**DIB 40/13:** Message to staff from the new chief of the defence staff



## REUNION

**22nd Annual Eden Camp all Services remembrance parade** takes place at the Eden Camp museum on Sunday, September 8 from 1000 to 1700. The camp will be open free to veterans and their partners. Those wishing to attend are requested to contact the museum director with approximate numbers and whether travelling by coach or minibus. Telephone 01653 697777 or send an email to [admin@edencamp.co.uk](mailto:admin@edencamp.co.uk)

**Royal Hampshire Regiment annual reunion luncheon** for all Territorial battalions and successors in 1 and 2 Wessex on Saturday, September 28 at Newburgh House, Winchester, 1200 for 1300. Contact Maj Ian Taylor at 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh. Email [ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com) or phone 023 8069 4771.

**8 Regiment RASC/RCT/RLC 12th anniversary reunion dinner** on October 19 at the DW Stadium, Wigan. Open to any ex-member of 8 Regiment of any cap badge who served between October 1962 and July 2012. For further information contact Jimmy Aspinall via [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com) or David Southall via [dcsouthall@aol.com](mailto:dcsouthall@aol.com)

**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 [rffhqwark@btconnect.com](mailto:rffhqwark@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](mailto:michael.mccran@ntlworld.com)



## 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](mailto:apt.mod@btconnect.com) with the event you are interested in attending.

**September:** 25, Birmingham; 26, Coventry.  
**October:** 22, Chichester; 23, Haslemere; 29, Kensington & Chelsea; 30, Greenwich; 31, Newham



## SEARCHLINE

**Novelist seeks general unclassified information** about flying/maintaining Apache helicopters for her next book. If you can help please email [kate@katelace.co.uk](mailto:kate@katelace.co.uk)

**A Coy, 3 R Welsh is to be removed from the order of battle in November.** The unit is looking to return presentation items to the original donating members. If you would like your item returned contact the PSAO on 01978 316149 or email [3rwelsh-acoy-psao@mod.uk](mailto:3rwelsh-acoy-psao@mod.uk) with all the relevant details by September 30.

Dugald McMillan is looking for information about his great uncle, **James McMillan**, born in Campbeltown in 1880, and who served with 15th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and the RASC during the First World War. His Army ID card has the number R/4257514. If anyone has information please contact Mr McMillan via [dugald123@plrliving.com](mailto:dugald123@plrliving.com)

**Harj Hutchings from Canada is looking for Leli Cypriani from Malta**, who served with the British Army in Rochdale in 1970. Anyone with any information is asked to email [harj@mymts.net](mailto:harj@mymts.net)

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# HOME TRUTHS

A PERSONAL view from Catherine Spencer, chief executive of the Army Families Federation. Log on to [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk) for more information



In the thick of it: Results of the latest attitude survey were hardly a surprise given the current period of uncertainty



Picture: Steve Dock

## ADDRESSING ATTITUDES AND IMPROVING LIVES

**D**ECISION-making relies on evidence, which Forces personnel and their families, often bombarded with surveys, will be no strangers to.

The recent publication of the Armed Forces continuous attitude survey (pages 34-35) demonstrates that within the Army morale has declined.

I doubt that anyone will be particularly surprised by this. Life in the military in recent months has often seemed akin to being on the game show *Survivor*, as many soldiers found themselves wondering whether they would be made redundant and restructuring removed some historic regiments and units.

The Service and its families, tired by years of deployment, have endured a rapid "change management" programme and, as such, reports of lower morale are to be expected.

The Army Families Federation (AFF) plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the views of families are always taken into consideration by those

working to change these latest statistics.

I have certainly been encouraged by the number of initiatives which, even during challenging times, are helping to make life better for us all.

The reference group that oversees the implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant is demonstrating real progress in ensuring soldiers and their loved ones get a fair deal and, importantly, identifying areas which need further improvement.

I also get a sense that greater chunks of government understand the needs of Army families as a result of better cross-departmental communication.

The Partner Employment Project will help to highlight what needs to be done to improve access to jobs for spouses, thereby improving the family income, and home-buying initiatives can help many more get their foot on the housing ladder.

The AFF works on a wide range of issues including (but not exclusively) housing, education, childcare, employment training, allowances, money and foreign and

Commonwealth personnel.

Recent work we have done has encouraged the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Modern Housing Solutions to look more closely at Service accommodation which is mouldy and we frequently brief the minister for defence personnel welfare and veterans.

In the last few weeks my team has dealt with problems including a soldier who has been told he has to move out of his quarter because his wife commutes for work and a family struggling to get childcare in the London area. We have also assisted spouses trying to get funding for various training courses.

We work at a local level but represent these views to government, higher Army command and the media.

While morale is likely to start climbing again as we move towards the end of redundancies, unit changes and rebasing, statistics will soon show us if the package on offer is enough to retain soldiers and their families in the future. ■

## Are you the next Alan Sugar?

AT a recent meeting attended by politicians and the prime minister to discuss the next Armed Forces Covenant report, I was delighted to learn more about X-Forces, an organisation which will help Service personnel, their partners and even children start up their own businesses.

Working in conjunction with an impressive range of commercial organisations and the government-funded scheme Start-Up Loans, the initiative will provide the military community with mentoring and advice

to ensure that their business dreams are a success.

While this will be of interest to those of you considering what you'll do when you leave the Army (and remember you should always be planning to leave), it can also help the partners and offspring of those still serving who want to start a company.

So if you have ever watched *The Apprentice* or *Dragon's Den* thinking that you could be an entrepreneur, the pathway to that dream will now be considerably better supported. And with a growing economy, the time is ripe.

Visit [www.x-forces.com](http://www.x-forces.com) for more details.



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and hopefully we can organise outings once or twice a year. I am founder and president, Ben Martin (ex-Royal Scots), secretary is Kath Laffin and treasurer is Laurie Hegarty (ex-2 Para). Anyone who is interested please contact Kath on [kaf1af@hotmail.com](mailto:kaf1af@hotmail.com) or call on mob 0410142883 or 024578-1369.

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# reviews

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COOL CUTS

P68 MOVIES **HOSTAGE HOTSHOT**


P70 MUSIC **MASTERS OF MELODY**

P72 BOOKS **SECURITY SPECIALIST**

P74 TOP GEAR **TOUGH TOOLS**

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



A movie poster for the film 'Hostage Hell'. The background is a photograph of a tense scene. In the foreground, an elderly man with a long white beard and a brown headband looks off to the side. Behind him, a man in a blue patterned shirt is being held. In the background, a soldier in a grey uniform is aiming a rifle. The word 'movie' is written in large, semi-transparent letters at the top.

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PICK OF THE MONTH: REBELLION

# HOSTAGE HELL

TITLE HIGHLIGHTS THE COMPLEXITY AND  
PERILS OF CRISIS NEGOTIATION



## VIVACIOUS VIEWING

Interview: Joe Clapson

**R**EAL-life events often provide the most gritty storylines and *Rebellion*, an action drama based on the catastrophic story of a French tribe that took 30 policemen hostage, certainly fits into that category.

Directed by lead actor Mathieu Kassovitz (*La Haine*, *Munich*) the title is based on a memoir by Philippe Legorjus, a captain in France's Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale – the elite unit charged with quashing the colonial uprising in New Caledonia.

True to the words of the 1990 book, the movie paints the French military in a brutal light as they kill 19 indigenous Kanaks, including some who were executed post-capture.

Legorjus, played by Kassovitz, is the chief hostage negotiator and finds himself faced with rebels who have nothing to lose in an environment that is becoming more hostile and politically significant by the second.

Working as an expert adviser to those shooting the film was ex-Fusilier Richard Mullender, a renowned negotiator who has worked with crisis units across the world.

Speaking to *Soldier* about the depiction of his role in the movie, the former Scotland Yard mediator said: "It was very interesting to learn how the French did things.

"Brits would normally talk to hostage-takers via the telephone and wouldn't negotiate face-to-face, whereas the French are shown to be more paramilitary here."

On the realism of the title, Mullender added: "There are a couple of points in the story where Legorjus talks to himself and for me they were the most notable.

"That is exactly how it is – you talk to yourself while trying to find out what has motivated these people to act."

Far from being an all-guns-blazing action-fest, *Rebellion* is an excruciatingly tense affair with the French troops trying to end an attempted revolution.

And according to the soldier-turned-film consultant, scenarios such as those skillfully portrayed here are still commonplace in certain parts of the world.

"In some areas the indigenous people are being moved out of their homes because they happen to live on top of oil or gold," he said.

"Their whole life is about to be changed so they resort to taking people captive.

"If there is a message to be gleaned from this film it's that hostage negotiation is very complicated and not just a case of good against bad.

"I think *Soldier* readers will relate to the scenes featuring squaddies more than anything." ■



### EXODUS out now

THIS Russian-made film tells the story of the German invasion of Stalin's communist country in 1941-42. It starts slowly but unfolds to be a gripping first half of a two-part movie. It's a classic war flick with nasty Germans, big sets, action, drama, blood, gore and plenty of emotion. However, the film is very intense and at times the plot is difficult to follow.

**Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC**

**VERDICT:** Decent if you enjoy world cinema and classic war films ★★☆☆☆



### PHANTOM out now

DESPITE a top-notch cast including **Ed Harris** (*A Beautiful Mind*) and **David Duchovny** (*The X-Files*), this Cold War thriller is a damp squib. Inspired by true events, it tells the story of a Soviet submarine captain who, haunted by his past, is forced to lead a covert mission that could spark a nuclear war. Unfortunately, the action and storyline do not provide any fireworks.

**Joe Clapson, Soldier**

**VERDICT:** A cliched plot and cheesy flashbacks sink this movie ★★☆☆☆



### STOLEN out now

THIS film had so much potential but was clearly rushed and distributed before the whole thing was ready. With many details left unexplained and characters who are not properly introduced, it leaves the viewer wanting something more. I would recommend this title to anyone looking for a good action movie that doesn't require you to think too much about it.

**Sam Fisher, civvy**

**VERDICT:** Standard Nicholas Cage fodder and nothing more ★★☆☆☆



### DEAD MAN DOWN out September 23

AS an action-packed tale of love and revenge this is a real treat. With an impressive cast it delivers the hard-hitting messages that director **Niels Oplev** (*The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*) is famous for. **Colin Farrell** plays the husband of a murdered family who infiltrates the gang that slayed his loved ones and, with a highly believable plot, it keeps you right on the edge of your seat.

**Sam Fisher, civvy**

**VERDICT:** A surprisingly great film with something for all tastes ★★★★★

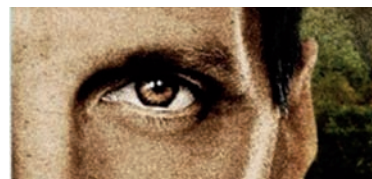


### FORBIDDEN GROUND out now

WITH the centenary of the First World War being marked next year this incredible story set in 1916 really alerts the senses to the remarkable feats that occurred. Written by **Johan Earl**, the plot focuses on a trio of British troops trapped in no-man's-land on the Western Front who have to find a way out past grenades, gas and machine gunfire. For war-movie fans this is compulsive viewing.

**Richard Long, Soldier**

**VERDICT:** Impressive effects and a stunning First World War story ★★★★★



### WIN... REBELLION

THE astounding account of the hostage crisis in New Caledonia sees a return to form for director **Mathieu Kassovitz**. It has taken ten years to make but now the story will finally receive wider recognition. *Soldier* has teamed up with Lionsgate Home Entertainment to offer a copy of the DVD to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning, just tell us where the film is set. Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

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SEPTEMBER'S  
STUNNING  
SOUNDS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

# BACK IN THE GROOVE

ROCKERS RETURN AFTER  
FIVE-YEAR HIATUS



C

Review: Richard Long

WITH two number one albums, three Brit awards and five top-ten singles to their name, it's fair to say Travis have had a successful career.

However, the Scottish quartet have been less prolific in recent times as family life, other musical projects and the need for a well-deserved break took greater importance.

But after a five-year absence the soft rockers have returned with new album *Where You Stand* – a record packed with the group's trademark melodies and stripped-back sound.

"It's a lovely life," said bassist Dougie Payne as he reflected on a career in the music industry. "But you do it relentlessly and there's a point when it just snaps you somewhere along the line."

"You stay away as long as it takes, so you feel that hunger and desire to get back to it the same as you did at the start."

With the timing right for a comeback the band headed to a tiny island off the north-west coast of Norway, where they spent three weeks recording new material under the watchful eye of producer Michael Ilbert.

The backdrop proved to be inspirational in many ways, as singer Fran Healy discovered when he struggled to hit the high chorus melody on the track *Moving*.

"I remember being told that if you get adrenalin it opens your vocal chords," he recalled. "And I thought 'well, there's the North Sea, it's like seven degrees, I'll just run into it and, with the shock, my body will get the adrenalin it needs'."

"So I went in for a minute or so, then I ran out and up the beach and straight into the room, put the headphones on and got the note I needed."

While such commitment to the cause should be admired it is hard to escape the notion that we've heard it all before as Travis stick to their trusted formula.

*Warning Sign* offers a slight diversion from the norm thanks to some subtle tweaks in production, while the album's title track and lead single is packed with emotion and a sober undertone.

There are other highlights to enjoy as Healy's dip in the brisk waters pays dividends and *Different Room* benefits greatly from the use of layered synthesizers.

On the whole, this is a continuation of what we have come to expect from the band and, while this effort is unlikely to match the commercial success of previous offerings, it will keep hardened fans happy. ■

# TUNES FOR THE TROOPS

## The Weight of Your Love by Editors

ALTHOUGH every song starts your toes tapping, I couldn't help but feel let down by *The Weight of Your Love* as its dramatic but quite repetitive tunes offer nothing special compared to the band's previously impressive works. This album would be fantastic as background music but a lot of the songs sound the same with only one or two tracks, such as *Nothing*, standing out. Was it worth the three-and-a-half year wait? I don't think so.



## Sam Fisher, civvy

**VERDICT:** Would be a relaxing listen on a chilled night in ★★☆☆

## Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa

THE Partridge film finally arrived this summer and proved to be well worth the wait. The not-so-hotly-anticipated movie soundtrack is, however, a bit of an oddity. Perhaps this is the ideal accompaniment for a bare-footed drive to Dundee, but I found the most entertaining aspect to be the quotes from Alan that loosely connect the tracks. This is an eclectic mix that doesn't stand alone in musical terms and, although amusing, is not a patch on the film.



## Maj Fraser Dowling, AGC (ETS)

**VERDICT:** One for the fans but there's more to Alan "dan dis"! ★★☆☆

## Electric by Pet Shop Boys

IT is hard to believe this iconic eighties pop duo are still as active as ever. Having finished their 28-year contract with Parlophone, the pair have gone back to what they always did best – catchy, dance floor, synth pop-style music that just about everyone knows. *Electric* features eight new tracks and from the word go the boys are straight into their signature sound, albeit tuned in with the latest digital mixes, which creates a cracking album from start to finish.



## Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

**VERDICT:** Still up there and able to compete with the best ★★★★★

## Half Blind by McMahon

THIS release from Irish artist **McMahon** is not your average contemporary pop album in the sense that modern records don't tend to come with jazz horns, cellos and pianos as backing music. *Everyday* seemed like it was trying to be a B-side to a **Jack Johnson** single and *Foolish Love* wasn't much better. The songs were all a bit moody and didn't really have any effect other than to make me want to find something more interesting to listen to.



## LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

**VERDICT:** A perfect album if you find James Blunt a little too edgy ★★★★★

## The Civil Wars by The Civil Wars

AFTER their Grammy Award-winning debut *Barton Hollow*, **Joy Williams** and **John Paul White** have released their second ensemble of songs in this melodramatic cocktail of vocal and acoustic emotions. Although not one of the greatest sounds to originate from Tennessee, the pair have a knack of passing off their performances with obvious talent and chemistry as if they were a couple, which they are not. Highlights include *The One That Got Away* and *Dust to Dust*.

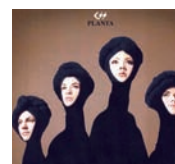


## Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldm Gds

**VERDICT:** Good lyrics and percussion but it is all too gloomy ★★★★★

## Planta by CSS

BRAZILIAN pop outfit **CSS** may have lost lead guitarist **Adriano Cintra** from their line-up but they still have enough talent on-board to produce a fourth album – *Planta*. The quirky, synth-driven sound remains strong and tracks such as *Too Hot* and *Into The Sun* offer a throwback to the group's glory days. Unfortunately, the absence of Cintra – who penned a number of the band's early hits – is obvious throughout making this average rather than outstanding.



## Richard Long, Soldier

**VERDICT:** Decent enough but fails to hit earlier highs ★★★★★





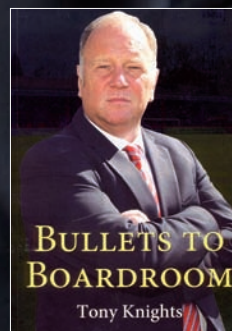
# BOOKS

SEPTEMBER'S  
STARS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

## SCORING BIG ON CIVVY STREET

FORMER SOLDIER ON FINDING  
YOUR FEET AFTER THE FORCES



Business savvy: *Bullets to Boardroom* is available online now priced £13



## Interview: Becky Clark

**F**OR soldiers making the transition to civvy street, regardless of how many years they have served in the Army, carving out a successful second career can seem a daunting prospect.

An ex-warrant officer who did just that is hoping that publishing a book about his experiences might help those preparing to make the leap.

In 2006 Tony Knights turned down the offer of a commission as a late-entry officer and left the Service to start his own security firm.

*Bullets to Boardroom* tells the story of how he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a young recruit, made his way up the ranks and later became a self-made millionaire.

Reflecting on his pivotal decision to sign off, the former sergeant major said: "The security blanket of the Army was pulling me towards staying but my fear was being 50 years old, getting out and not having much to my life.

"I came into business knowing nothing but as I say in the book, the desire for success has always got to be greater than the fear of failure.

"I don't say 'no' to anything. I will say 'yes', walk away and then think 'how the hell am I going to manage that?'

"It's what I call the swan effect – gliding on top while flapping underneath. That's what has got me through business."

Luckily the 48-year-old's gamble paid off and in its second year the venture made £3 million.

*Knights Group* continued to expand and now employs nearly 5,000 people at venues such as Wembley and Twickenham.

The company was a major supplier of personnel to last year's Olympic Games in London, something Knights describes as the highlight of his career since leaving the Army.

A keen football supporter, the businessman was also invited to join the board of directors for Conference side Aldershot Town Football Club.

However, despite his achievements, Knights cautioned potential Service-leavers against thinking the grass is greener on the other side.

"The Army is a great institution," he commented.

"If you have a good career and you're still enthusiastic, why would you want to come out?

"If you do decide to leave, though, don't be afraid.

"We psych ourselves up over civvy street but it's not a bad place – you just have to prepare yourself for it well.

"The Army gives you a good resettlement opportunity – don't waste it.

"You owe it to yourself to give yourself the best chance for the next part of your life so invest in yourself during your last 12 months."

Having been through the process of making a brand new start, Knights is happy for any soldiers in a similar position to contact him for advice.

"Anyone leaving the military can get in touch with me for guidance free of charge," he said.

"I didn't have a mentor so I've tried to make the book useful to anyone thinking of coming out and starting their own business because it tells you about the hurdles I had to overcome.

"Even if they're not planning to set up their own company they'll know that I was there once and that I had to channel my energy and enthusiasm and have total self-belief in what I was going to do.

"I hope people read it and feel inspired."

*Bullets to Boardroom* is available to buy from [www.tonyknights.com](http://www.tonyknights.com). A proportion of the proceeds will go to ABF The Soldiers' Charity. ■

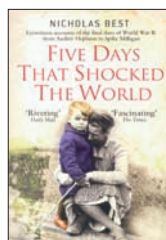
# RECONNOITRING READING

## Five Days that Shocked the World

by Nicholas Best

BOOKS discussing the end of the Second World War are legion but this one is simply outstanding.

**Nicholas Best's** emphasis on the human dimension of Germany's final collapse and the cessation of hostilities is phenomenal. First-hand accounts run the gambit from tragic to farcical. Strongly recommended to those looking to put a personal face on the chaos of the last days of the conflict.



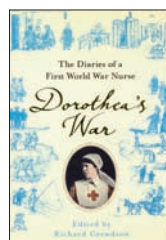
**Maj Chris Buckham, RCAF**

**VERDICT:** An exceptional work but the font was annoyingly small ★★★★★

## Dorothea's War

by Dorothea Crewdson

THIS diary, edited by the author's nephew, sheds light on life as a First World War nurse, from the bravery and optimism of those coping with horrendous injuries, to the frustrations of working with newly-qualified doctors. Before long you'll know your enteric from your erysipelas and your nephritis from your neurasthenics. Blend in the occasional romantic interests and some German air raids and you're onto a winner.



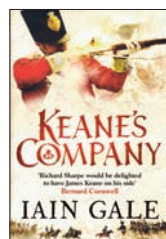
**LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**

**VERDICT:** A good read for those interested in Great War medicine ★★★★★

## Keane's Company

by Iain Gale

ANTI-HERO James Keane is a card sharp and a ladies' man with a court martial for duelling looming. However, his leadership and soldiering abilities see him selected for a mission that could influence the war in Portugal and greatly assist Wellington's campaign. **Iain Gale** has produced a hero in the *Sharpe* mould. There is a cast of mixed characters and a strong plot with much historical research evident.



**John Corr, ex-RGJ**

**VERDICT:** A cracking adventure story and rattling good yarn ★★★★★

## Sabre Six: File 51

by Jamie Fineran

EX-SOLDIER **Jamie**

**Fineran** presents his debut offering. The plot follows Michael Fox – formerly of the SAS and now working as a mercenary – who lands himself in a world of hurt doing a favour for an old colleague. Fast-paced, with squaddie humour shown throughout, this is well worth a read. The author's second novel is due out later this year and should be one to look out for.



**Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para**

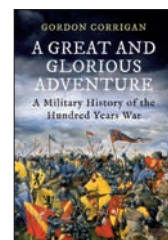
**VERDICT:** Recommended to fans of fast and furious action ★★★★★

## A Great and Glorious Adventure

by Gordon Corrigan

THE Hundred Years War saw outnumbered English archers and men-at-arms win remarkable victories over superior French forces, but eventually succumb to defeat.

**Gordon Corrigan** has done his homework and brings his common sense approach and vigorous prose to the conflict. Unlike many of our dreary historians, he does justice to English successes. Warmly recommended as an introduction for the general reader.



**Dr Rodney Atwood, military historian**

**VERDICT:** A well written, forthright and clear account ★★★★★

## Win... The Combat Series

by various authors

PUBLISHED by Osprey, these new releases pit historic military adversaries against each other. Innovative illustration and expert analysis show how British paratroopers measured up to the German fallschirmjaeger and how the Victorian infantryman compared to the Zulu warrior. *Soldier* has a set of the first four titles to give away. To be in with a chance of winning tell us which conflict saw Union and Confederate forces do battle. Send your answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



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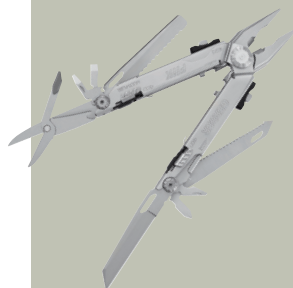
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THERE'S a reason our reviewer couldn't help but mention this multi-tool in his article. Gerber's *Flik* delivers industrial strength along with a compact design that is ideal for everyday use in any possible outdoor situation. You can even add a personalised engraving to it, should you wish.

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**SOLDIER** has teamed up with outdoor kit specialist Ellis Brigham ([www.ellis-brigham.com](http://www.ellis-brigham.com)) to offer readers the chance to win a state-of-the-art multi-tool. To get your hands on a Leatherman *Freestyle* (RRP £39.99) or Wenger *Evowood 14* (RRP £49.99) just tell us one of the tasks that reviewer Cpl Ben Hall put his Leatherman *OHT* to the test with. Send your answer and preferred prize on a postcard to the usual address or by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 30. Good luck!



**VERDICT:** A sound tradesman's tool that is let down by a flimsy knife ★★★★★

Review: Cpl Ben Hall (Rifles)

LEATHERMAN has broken the mould with the *OHT* and produced what appears to be a Gerber-style multi-tool.

With a range of tough and detailed tasks to undertake each week, instructors in the surveillance reconnaissance wing of the Operational and Training Advisory Group put this device to the test.

Military chores it was used for included building observation posts, weapon cleaning and upkeep, general maintenance and fixing bikes and cars.

And the verdict?

The *OHT* has certainly kept the sturdiness of the Leatherman build quality; as soon as you lay your hand on it you can tell this equipment is made to last.

The tools (and there are 16 of them in total) live up to their name and are very easy to access with one hand, even when gloved.

Assets include an impressive set of spring action pliers, both needlenose and regular, two replaceable wire cutters and four different types of screwdriver.

At 11.5cm long, the *OHT* is on the large side, which is probably a good thing if you have spuds for fingers or are prone to losing little things.

However, if you are trying to cut down on the weight of your kit this isn't ideal.

Without doubt this is a tradesman's tool; handy, sturdy and reliable.

Most of the functions are great and do exactly what they need to.

The replaceable wire cutters are fantastic and we had no problems slicing through cable or cord and clipping twigs to create apertures.

However, there are two significant setbacks.

Firstly, the short and rather flimsy knife blade only lasted for one week before it lost its tip – something that lets down the overall robustness.

Secondly, it comes with a hefty price tag of £80.95 ([www.heinnie.com](http://www.heinnie.com)).

This is significantly more expensive than the Leatherman's rival, the Gerber *Flik* (see left), which is pretty much the same piece of kit minus a strap cutter.

As a one-handed tool the *OHT* lives up to its specification. It is an ideal companion if you work in tight spaces, need various devices for a job that requires both hands or indeed if you are an amputee.

But to say it survived its Army test 100 per cent would be inaccurate. ■



# ear

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PICK OF THE MONTH:

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# SOLDIER SPORT

EDITED BY RICHARD LONG PICTURES BY GRAEME MAIN

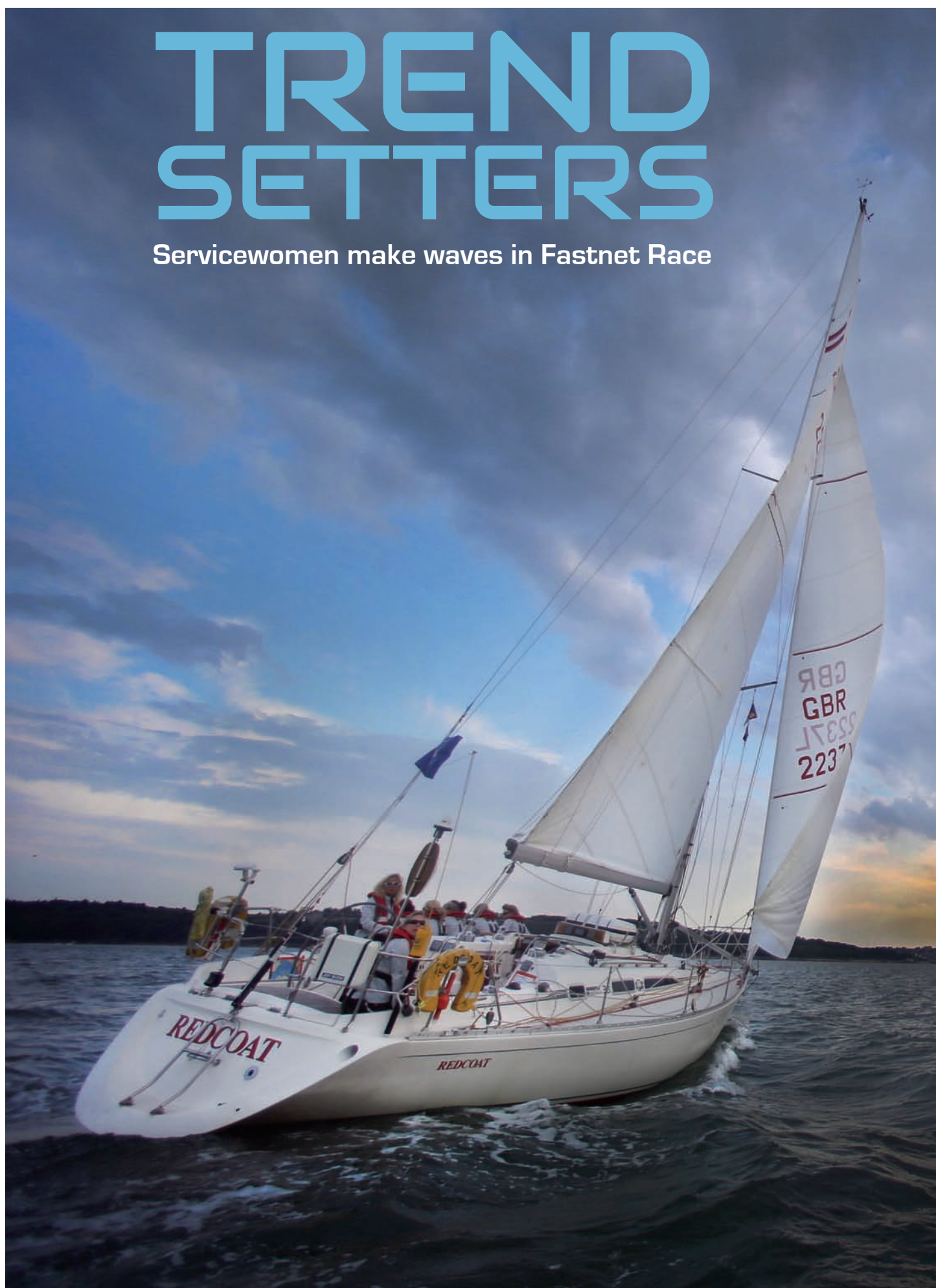
**Captain marvel:** Skipper LCpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE) has enjoyed a trophy-laden season at the helm of the Army cricket team. Read about the side's latest Inter-Services success on page 80...





# TREND SETTERS

Servicewomen make waves in Fastnet Race





**W**ITH soldiers being famed for their sense of adventure it is no surprise that sailing figures prominently on the Army's sporting roster.

For those seeking a nautical challenge which falls well outside the comfort zone the biannual Fastnet Race ticks all the boxes and this year's leg saw the Service making history as its first all-female crew reached the finish line.

Skipped by Capt Lucinda Allaway (AGC (SPS)), the *Redcoat Sigma* 38 craft came 57th in a class that featured more than 80 boats and was also the fourth ranked military vessel in the event.

The officer is hoping entry in the race will raise the sport's profile among fellow Servicewomen and encourage greater participation, especially by junior soldiers.

"The Army is ten per cent female but there is not the same representation in sailing," she told *SoldierSport*.

"Having completed the Fastnet in the past I was looking to enter as a skipper and mentioned I quite fancied doing the race with an all-female crew.

"I am hoping to make women realise they can do this as well. Sailing and racing are one of the few sports where men and women can compete on a completely level playing field."

The *Redcoat* crew comprised eight soldiers from varying backgrounds but an extensive training week ahead of their quest ensured they were on top form for the 600-mile challenge.

"It has been a pleasure to get to know the girls," said mate Maj Saskia Hart (RE). "Whenever you take over a boat there are always things that need to be fixed and tweaked.

"Mechanical issues needed ironing out and people had to get used to changing sails and how to get the most out of the craft.

"This is what adventure training is about. It's all very well getting a load of yacht masters together but we want individuals to go away saying they want to do more of this.

"We want to raise awareness and the

profile of the sport. It is not about us saying we should have all-female crews. Anyone who wants to sail should do."

Allaway added: "The team has been absolutely brilliant. The main challenge for us as women is the height and strength difference, but in terms of sailing ability we are equal to men.

"We had to adapt some jobs to make them two-man instead of one but it was not a problem.

"At the end of the day we are soldiers and soldiers pick things up, take instructions well and quickly put them into practice."

The race sees boats depart from Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, on a course for the Fastnet Rock off south-west Ireland. They then sail round the Isles of Scilly before heading for Plymouth.

It has a history of wild weather and treacherous conditions, meaning the team's initial target was to simply reach the finish line.

"Tacking out into the Solent was exhausting," said crewmember Maj Heidi Spencer (AGC (SPS)).

"There were so many boats around and we were literally passing them with inches to spare.

"Once we got out we could breathe a sigh of relief.

"We had good winds for most of the trip and everyone played their part, the crew was brilliant.

"To finish 57th in our class is a great achievement, especially as we were in the 70s at one stage.

"It has been a huge success. For us it was like being on exercise, we are used to the sleep deprivation and just crack on with the job at hand."

The *Redcoat* team were not short of Service rivals in what was a highly competitive IRC 4 class.

The Royal Armoured Corps finished 41st in their boat *White Knight 6*, with the Royal Engineers 44th in *Ilex of Upnor*. Sailors from the Royal Signals and Royal Artillery also completed the gruelling course.

For more information about Army sailing visit [www.sailarmy.co.uk](http://www.sailarmy.co.uk) ■

**"I AM HOPING TO MAKE WOMEN REALISE THEY CAN DO THIS AS WELL"**



## ARMY'S HIGH SEAS ADVENTURE IN NUMBERS

**57**

**THE POSITION ACHIEVED BY THE CREW IN THE IRC 4 CLASS – THEY WERE ALSO THE FOURTH RANKED SERVICE BOAT**

**8**

**MEMBERS OF THE REDCOAT TEAM, WHICH BOASTED A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE INCLUDING A YACHT MASTER OFFSHORE**

**22**

**COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE 2013 FASTNET RACE – GIVING THE EVENT ITS LARGEST EVER NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**





# Reds toast double delight

RAF 264-6 beat the Navy 157  
Navy 178-8 lost to the Army 179-1  
Army 250 beat the RAF 196

**Army are 2013 champions**

**T**HE Army completed a dominant season at the wicket with a commanding victory in cricket's **Inter-Services 50-over Championship**.

Having triumphed in the Twenty20 showdown at Lord's the Reds headed to Portsmouth in confident mood and two ruthless bowling performances laid the foundations for back-to-back wins over their rivals.

With the Royal Air Force downing the hosts in the competition's opening match, the Royal Navy needed to sink the soldiers in their second fixture to retain any hope of lifting the trophy.

But a stuttering performance with the bat ended their title aspirations as medium-pacer Cpl Ian Redfern (170 [Infra Sp] Engr Gp) returned superb figures of 5-30 to restrict them to a below-par 178-8.

The soldiers made short work of the run chase with Sgt Dan Webb (HQ DIC) – playing in his last Inter-Services campaign – smashing 90 and Capt Storm Green (HQ 101 Log Bde) finishing unbeaten on 78 in an emphatic nine-wicket win.

The result created the platform for a tournament decider between the RAF and Army and, after winning the toss,

the Reds set about posting an imposing total with the bat.

However, Green was trapped leg before by Cpl Graeme Cessford for just one and when Webb, who looked in fine form, was caught behind for 28 the defending champions slipped to 41-2.

His dismissal brought Capt Ian Massey (LD, pictured) to the crease and the middle-order batsman set about restoring the early damage alongside the impressive Pte Brannon Varley (3 Med Regt).

The latter played the more aggressive role and a flurry of boundaries saw the right-hander race to his half century with relative ease.

The duo shared a 95-run stand for the third wicket before Massey perished at the hands of Flt Lt Jim Iago for 29.

Varley followed soon after for a well-constructed 75 but useful contributions from LCpl Jay Boynton (1 CS Bn REME) and LBdr Sherwin Govender (47 Regt RA) kept the scoreboard ticking.

Redfern held the innings together with a brisk 40 as the Army were eventually dismissed for 250.

The RAF made a positive start in reply and a 73-run partnership between SAC Ross Diver and Flt Lt Matt Compton moved them into contention at the midpoint in their innings.

But Redfern bowled Diver for 56 and when Compton fell to the spin of Boynton the contest tipped in the Army's favour.

Boynton and skipper LCpl Jacques Prinsloo (39 Engr Regt) then ripped through the middle and lower order to claim three wickets each as the RAF crashed to a disappointing 196 all out to hand the trophy to their opponents.

"The batters went out and showed we can put down a decent total,"

Prinsloo told *SoldierSport* at the close of play. "It is always a good game against the RAF but we showed the same hunger that we had at

Lord's and it was a great team effort.

"We took wickets at the right time. We had a game plan and stuck to it; everything came together in the end."

Prinsloo also reflected on a fantastic first season as captain and predicted a bright future for the Service squad.

"It is a brilliant achievement," he said. "I never thought I would have the privilege of being the Army skipper."

"The support staff have been fantastic and the older players have given me the benefit of their experience. It is quite humbling.

"We lost a few guys to deployments but new lads have come in and really held their own." ■

**"I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE ARMY SKIPPER"**



## League leaders

INTER-Services rugby league action returns to Aldershot this month as the Army launch their campaign against defending champions the Royal Air Force.

The Reds drew 22-22 with the airmen last season before suffering a 32-6 defeat at the hands of the Royal Navy in what was a disappointing title defence.

A number of players were involved in the Combined Services squad that lost in the semi-finals of the Armed Forces Rugby League World Cup (pictured) in July but have now returned to the Army fold in a bid to secure bragging rights over their rivals.

The RAF clash will be staged at the Army Rugby Stadium on Friday, September 13, with kick-off at 1930. The soldiers face the Navy in Portsmouth on Friday, September 20.



**Running hot:** The Army team mounted an emphatic defence of their World Masters trophy in Italy

## Masters retain world crown

**T**HE all-conquering Army Masters rugby union squad have added another trophy to their increasing haul following a comprehensive campaign on Italian soil.

Having won the Inter-Services crown in emphatic style earlier this year the soldiers travelled to the continent in confident mood as they sought to retain their World Masters trophy.

The team made short work of the pool stages to qualify for the semi-finals with ease, where they downed the Old Highlanders 35-0.

Thakatani Asti formed the opposition in the final but they were no match for the soldiers, who romped to a 45-0 win.

SSgt Billy Moore (3 RSME) was named

Army player of the tournament, while Cpl Bruno Green (RE), Capt Mark Bragg (RLC) and SSgt Jim Newton (REME) caught the eye with some impressive performances.

"The boys carried on their form from the Inter-Services," said assistant manager WO2 Jim Evans (HCR).

"They trained hard and were really up for it. The reputation of the Army rugby team was enhanced on this trip and there was a lot of interest in us.

"We are delighted to retain our title and the marker has now been set for the next tournament in Auckland."

The Army Masters are looking for new players aged 35 or over. For more information contact manager Capt Dave Boocock (RAPTC) on 07791 318919. ■

## PARALYMPICS

### Service talent on show

INJURED soldiers have been trying out for a potential place in the Team GB squad for the 2016 Paralympics at the first talent event in the Front Line to Start Line programme.

Around 40 wounded personnel took part in the two-day sporting trial at Tidworth Oval, which included coaching sessions from members of the British Paralympic Association and fellow Servicemen and women who compete at international level.

"Sport is one of the best rehabilitation practices there is – both mentally and physically," said Paralympian LCpl Derek Derenalagi (2 Mercian), who finished 11th in the discus at London 2012.

He had never considered competing until he lost his legs while serving in Afghanistan. The soldier watched the Beijing Games while at Headley Court and was immediately hooked.

"Seeing guys with one leg or no legs or using a wheelchair made me realise I could do that," he explained. "I took every opportunity I had to train before I went to my first talent event and I just kept going to them."

In total, 16 of the 22 Paralympic sports were represented at the camp, including discus, javelin, track athletics and triathlon.

"All soldiers are competitive and enjoy sport so days like this allow us to try things we might not otherwise have thought to try," said Spr Clive Smith (33 Engr Regt, pictured with Derenalagi), who lost both his legs above the knee in October 2010.

"I'll give anything a try and the advantages of the coaches being here is that they can see if you have talent in a sport that you might not otherwise have seen."



Picture: Richard Watt



Picture: Steve Dock



**Taking the strain:** More than 40 personnel were put to the test at the recent Army Championships

## Powerlifters raise the bar

**S**UPER-strong soldiers showcased their explosive capabilities at a keenly contested Army Powerlifting Championships in Tidworth.

More than 40 athletes were in action at the event, which saw Sgt Aaron Hull (R Signals) and Cpl Sonia Perez-Baeza (CAMUS) win the men's and women's competitions, with CSgt Tony Moreland (ACF Wiltshire) and WO2 Kate Adey (AGC [SPS]) taking the masters' titles.

"The standard this year was really good," said Adey, who is secretary of the Army Powerlifting Union.

"Some of our past and present athletes hold world and European titles and others

compete on national and international circuits. We have a lot of experience in the ranks but there is some good talent coming through as well."

Powerlifting is also attracting a number of female participants, with around 15 Servicewomen now competing on a regular basis.

"In the past it has been seen as something of a taboo," Adey explained. "But you do not have to be muscle-bound, this is all about raw strength."

The Army team will be in action at the Inter-Services later this month. For more information on how to get involved in the sport email [michelle.adey148@mod.uk](mailto:michelle.adey148@mod.uk) ■

■ A TEAM of football fanatics are planning to visit 92 clubs in 92 hours in a Help for Heroes fund-raising challenge.

The four-man squad will leave Wembley Stadium after England's World Cup qualifier with Montenegro on Friday, October 11 and aim to be back in time for the game with Poland on Tuesday, October 15.

They will take turns in driving the 2,600-mile route that will incorporate every Football League ground in the country, collecting donations on the way.

Included among those taking part is Royal Air Force firefighter Mark Burns and Darren Young, who also served in the RAF. For more information visit [www.92plus1.co.uk](http://www.92plus1.co.uk)

■ THE Army polo team battled their way to a narrow victory over the Royal Navy in the annual Rundle Cup match at Tedworth House.

Having seen their rivals lift the trophy last year the Servicemen took to the field in a determined mood and celebrated a 7-5 win.



■ THE newly-formed Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry cycling team pushed themselves to the limit by completing the most gruelling and prestigious stage of the Tour de France.

Set in the Alps, L'Etape Du Tour saw the soldiers cover 130 kilometres on a route that included three summits.

## ARMED FORCES STRONGMAN

# Military musclemen make their mark

A NEW muscle-flexing discipline has celebrated its successful addition to the Army's sporting landscape.

Strongman has rapidly evolved over the past few years and the Armed Forces have followed suit by staging two contests in recent months.

At the open novice event at MoD Corsham athletes tested themselves in challenges such as the carry and drag, car deadlift, truck pull and log lift before the action shifted to Dishforth later in the summer.

The top three novices joined the Forces' more experienced competitors in a qualifying leg for Britain's Natural Strongest Man, which featured three different weight categories.

Having started with the farmer's walk (competitors race along a course while carrying a heavy weight in each hand – pictured right) the personnel were tested further in the truck pull, where WO2 Matt France (9 AAC LAD) was the man to beat as he covered the 20-metre course in a time of 45 seconds.



LCpl Steve Baldock (3 RSME, pictured) was among the star performers in the deadlift before LCpl Jason Clark (9 AAC) justified his tag as favourite in the log press.

The event ended with the sandbag loading race, in which Clark gave another strong performance.

The soldier joined Cpl Karl Malarky (RAF) in qualifying for this month's British finals from the under-90kg category, while Baldock, France and Sgt Gareth Slinger (9 AAC LAD) progressed from the under-105kg division. Cpl Richard Bessant (ITC) also succeeded in the open class.

"The continued growth of the sport is solely down to the support from those who compete and we are always looking for newcomers – male and female," said organiser SSgt Dan Wall (REME).

"With the new season upon us, this year will see a full strongman calendar."

The next competition will be held at 21 Signal Regiment in Colerne on Wednesday, October 2. Anyone interested in taking part should call SSgt Wall on 94660 5452 or email [daniel.wall109@mod.uk](mailto:daniel.wall109@mod.uk) ■





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## SPORT SHORTS



■ **BOXING** sensation Pte Ashley Williams (2 R Welsh) has won his first international tournament since being included on the Great Britain performance programme.

The 49kg star claimed gold at the Popchenko tournament in Russia, which featured athletes from the Ukraine, China, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Wales and Scotland, as well as the host nation.

Williams defeated a home fighter in the semi-finals before downing Scotland's Aqeel Ahmed in the final.

His efforts also saw him crowned boxer of the tournament.



■ **THE** Army motorcycle trials team has celebrated another successful season following a strong showing north of the border.

Having travelled to Fort William for the annual Scottish Six Day Trial the squad produced a string of fine individual performances and encountered very few problems.

Their efforts saw them secure two first-class and two second-class awards before lifting the John Bull Trophy – which is presented to the best Services team – for the fifth consecutive year.

The trial is one of the most prestigious events on the sport's calendar and features sections on mixed terrain including moors, forests and roads. The Army has been a firm fixture in the competition since the end of the Second World War.



**Making waves:** The Army secured comfortable victories in the men's and women's team events

## Soldiers' double delight

**A** RMY athletes maintained their stranglehold on the **Inter-Services Triathlon Championships** with a superb double showing in the Gloucestershire countryside.

The men's and women's teams both emerged victorious from the gruelling event, which featured a 1,500-metre swim, followed by a 40-kilometre cycle stage and a ten-kilometre run in the grounds of the Cotswold Water Park.

Lt Elysia Ridley (RLC) led the charge for the defending champions as she edged past fellow soldier Cpl Becky Hoare (REME) to take gold in the female race and create the bedrock for a commanding win.

"The girls had an awesome race today," she said on reaching the finish line. "Becky was absolutely flying on the bike so I was really fortunate to catch her on the run."

"I nearly drowned on the swim as it was so choppy. Everyone was fighting for a position in the water and then to bike in the wind and rain was just hard work."

"I was lucky that my run saved the day. I managed to get back a few places and just got the win."

Ridley will now turn her attention to the world championships

this month, although she admits similar success may be out of her reach.

"I'm at a reasonable level but I'm nowhere near fit enough to race at the moment," the officer added.

"I do have a niggler after this race so I might have a few days off and see the physio. I don't think it's serious and, touch wood, I'm doing quite well."

While Ridley (pictured below) and Hoare took the top two spots in the women's race the depth of the men's squad saw them achieve team glory.

Royal Marine Maj Charles Pennington crossed the line in first place but Lt Col Chris Stuart (RLC) secured a podium spot

for the Army as he finished third, with LCpl James Gibson (Int Corps) fourth.

Strong efforts down the field also helped the cause.

"The success of the team is due to the high level of commitment from individuals who race all season in Service and civilian events," Maj Lloyd Keenan (RAMC), secretary of the Army Triathlon Association, told *SoldierSport*.

"A lot of our athletes compete in iron man distances as well and this has been a pleasing end to the season." ■







**Pain game:** LCpl Lawrence Tere (RAMC) celebrated back-to-back wins in the singles and doubles despite taking to the Wimbledon courts with an arm injury

## Mixed verdict for court stars

### Inter-Services Tennis

Men	Women
Army 9	Navy 9
RAF 6	Army 7
Navy 3	RAF 2

**T**HE lush courts of Wimbledon offered mixed fortunes for the Army's racket stars at the **Inter-Services Tennis Championships**.

A strong showing from the men's team saw them defend their title from 2012 but the women narrowly missed out on glory at the hands of the Royal Navy.

The tournament started with an action-packed singles draw and WO2 Jamie Friend (RLC) hit top form to secure back-to-back wins over his rivals.

After a tight opening set the third seed cruised to victory against Navy opponent Lt Martin Shortt before recording an impressive 6-1 6-1 triumph over Cpl Martyn Ledbury of the Royal Air Force.

"I've been playing well recently and have trained hard for this competition," Friend told *SoldierSport*.

"But the crosswind made conditions difficult and it was hard to establish a routine and pattern. I was up against two tough opponents so I'm really pleased with the score and how I performed."

While Friend progressed with relative ease, second seed LCpl Lawrence Tere (RAMC) had to dig deep in his match with RAF player Fg Off Andy Keeley.

An arm injury hampered the Army champion and after winning the opening set he lost the second 6-4. However, Tere showed his class to take the decider 6-1

and seal another win for the soldiers.

"The injury hasn't helped but I'm trying to cope with it and do the best I can," he said afterwards.

Tere completed a personal double with victory over his Senior Service rival and then maintained his 100 per cent record with consecutive wins in the doubles.

Top seed OCdt Ben Rogers was unlucky to taste defeat in a superb match with Navy number one LET Scott Nicholls and also missed out in his clash with the RAF's main man. But victory in five of the six doubles rubbers ensured the team lifted the trophy once more.

The women showed a marked improvement from last year but it was the

Navy who dominated proceedings in the singles, claiming six wins.

Lt Katie Ward (REME) and Sgt Abi Hanafin (Int Corps) captured the only points for the soldiers but the doubles competition proved to be a much happier hunting ground.

Capt Liz Court (RA) and Capt Cornel Oosthuizen (AGC [ETS]) secured both matches as the Army's second string, while third seeds Maj Charlotte Jacques (RAMC) and Cpl Hannah Bacon (AGC [SPS]) celebrated two convincing wins.

"This result shows that the Army ladies are inching ever closer to bringing home more silver," said women's team captain Oosthuizen (pictured below). ■





# JUDO'S RENAISSANCE MAN

**H**AVING seen his Olympic dream dashed in the early stages of London 2012, judo star Tpr Emmanuel Nartey (1 RTR) has returned to competitive action in determined mood.

The soldier took a six-month break from the sport following his Games disappointment but with a string of impressive results to his name he is hoping to capitalise on his recent fine form at the World Championships.

The 73kg player was in action in Rio de Janeiro as this issue went to press but *SoldierSport* met up with the 30-year-old on the eve of departure to talk about his tournament expectations and to learn more about his progress over the past year.

"Things have gone really well since the Olympics," the Ghanaian said. "I have been consistent in achieving high places and medals in world ranking events.

"After the Games I wanted a break from the sport. I have been competing for four years with training every single day so it was good to go away and see if I had the hunger and desire to come back.

"But I knew I had some unfinished business so I made the decision to continue with judo."

Nartey's sabbatical saw him return to unit life after a lengthy spell as a full-time athlete and he was happy to immerse himself in the military environment once more.

"It was good to go back after a few years away," he explained. "It was a big shock to the system but everyone was pleased to see me.

"The discipline of the Army is similar to what is required as an elite sportsman so there was not much difference. I am also a lot more mature now and that helped a lot."

With his time away from judo complete the Serviceman made a superb comeback by coming third at a World Cup event in Argentina.

An impressive third-place finish followed at the African Championships and he was fifth in another World Cup leg in El Salvador.

"At the moment a lot of the top players are losing to me," the current Army and Combined Services sportsman of the year said.

"Within six weeks of coming back I was getting results, which shows my level has not dropped that much.

"My attention now turns to the World Championships. The draw does

not bother me; I will just wait and see what happens when I get on the mat.

"Previously it has been a factor but now it is about focusing and being prepared on the day.

"I have been to three quarter-finals in the past so its time to step up and produce a result. Before I retire I need

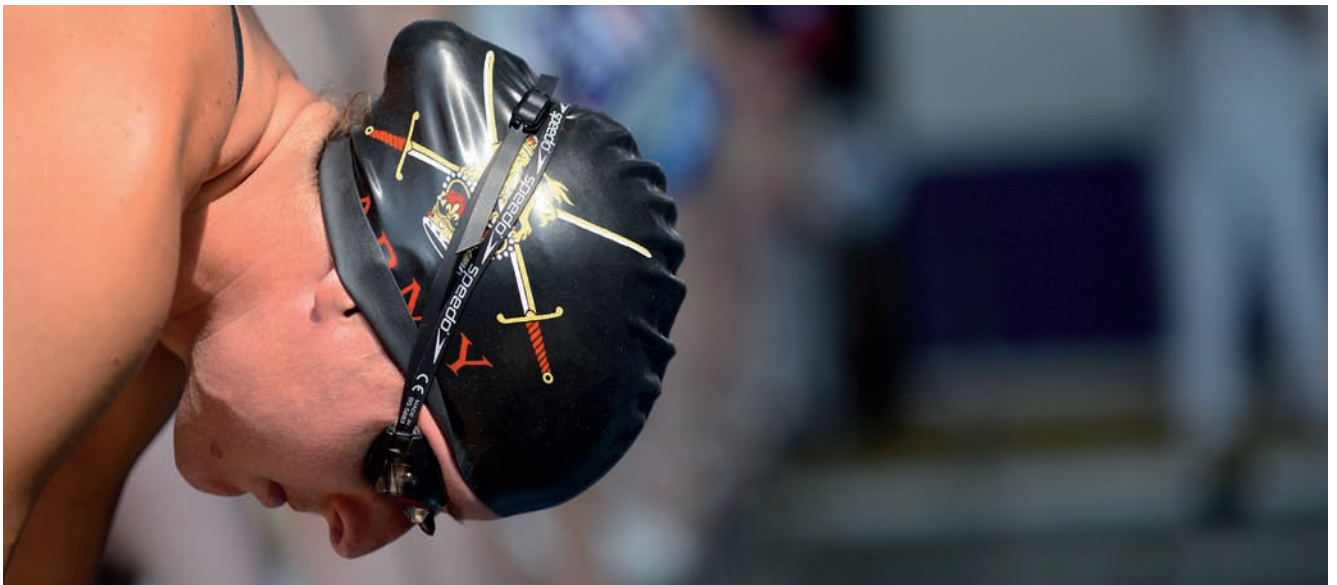
to win a major title, I know I can beat anyone but I just have to get it right on the day.

"My confidence is pretty high and my preparation has been great. When you feel good in training you know you are at a stage where you can do better in tournaments." ■





Pictures: Cpl Lu Scott and Garry Mitchell



**On the block:** Army ace 2nd Lt Lucy Powell (RLC) gets ready for action in the 200-metre freestyle at the Inter-Services Swimming Championships

## Swimmers shine in Services showdown

**A**RMV athletes have continued their progress in the water with a strong showing at this season's **Inter-Services Swimming Championships**.

Considerable time was invested in planning a training camp in Gibraltar ahead of the competition and the effort clearly paid off as the women's pool team dominated the field at RAF Cranwell.

Pte Kath Baker (AMS) led the charge as she smashed the 200-metre breaststroke record by ten seconds to claim victory in a time of 2min 49.32sec.

She also broke the record in the 200-metre individual medley and Cpl

Belinda Veasey (REME) celebrated an emphatic win in the 100-metre butterfly.

Their efforts helped the squad maintain its 15-year Inter-Services winning streak and while the men failed to match their achievements, they still produced some notable individual performances.

LCpl James Gibson (Int Corps) took silver and bronze in the 800-metre and 400-metre freestyle and OCdt Marcus Roberts secured second place in the 100-metre backstroke.

The water polo squad was also put through their paces at a ten-day training camp in Gibraltar and the meticulous

preparation saw them beat the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy to lift their first trophy since 2004.

"I have been running the team for five years and this has been our most successful championships across the board," said Army Swimming Union manager Lt Col Rob Healey (11 Sig Regt).

"Swimming and water polo is on the up and we just need to get a few more people involved."

The Inter-Corps Championships will be held in Aldershot on December 4 and 5. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Lt Col Healey on 94371 5257. ■



## DECATHLON

### Muskwe marches to medal win

ARMY athletics star LCpl Osman Muskwe (3 LSR) maintained his fine form this season with victory at the **Inter-Services Decathlon Championships**.

The soldier [pictured] triumphed over Mne Richard Reeks, who was previously ranked number four in the UK, and teammate Gdsm Peter Moreno (Coldm Gds).

Maj (Retd) Jim Wood, secretary of the Army Athletics Association, said: "We have had a recent influx of new athletes which has strengthened the squad, while the Royal Navy has also had some quality sportsmen join their ranks."

"Athletics can now probably boast more national standard competitors between the three Services than most sports. The Army in particular has some exciting prospects within the various disciplines of track and field."





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# Final word

Following the results of the Armed Forces continuous attitude survey (pages 34-35), we asked Service sportsmen and women about the rewards and challenges of being a soldier in 2013



## Cfn Barry Rauwerda (REME)

I absolutely love my job. Sport was a massive influence on me joining the Army but I've recently returned from an exercise in Kenya where I was working as a vehicle mechanic. I've been all round the world so I'm grateful to the Service for that. My biggest concern is redundancy; I was in the bracket last time and was quite worried but I came through and I'm now looking at the positives.

## Rfn Robert Hislop (Rifles)

I wanted a new challenge in my life and the adventurous side of being in the Army appealed to me. At the moment I've been fortunate to have time off to play cricket. I've done quite a lot in my two years in uniform including a tour of Helmand province. In terms of demands, I think people are keen to know where they stand following the cutbacks. In addition, nobody knows where we will be serving after Afghanistan.

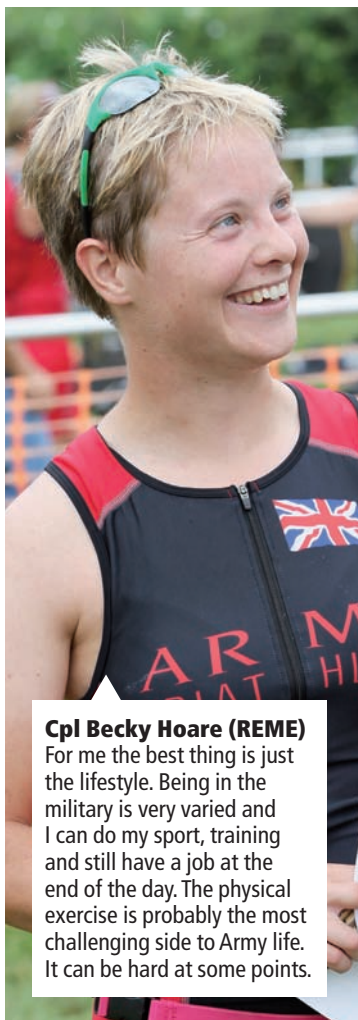


## LBdr Ben Houghton (RA)

The amount of sport that's available, especially with triathlon, is a bonus for me. You get to represent at quite a high level and are given plenty of time to train, which is really encouraging. The hardest part of being in the Service is waking up with your uniform on – that is, never really being off-duty.

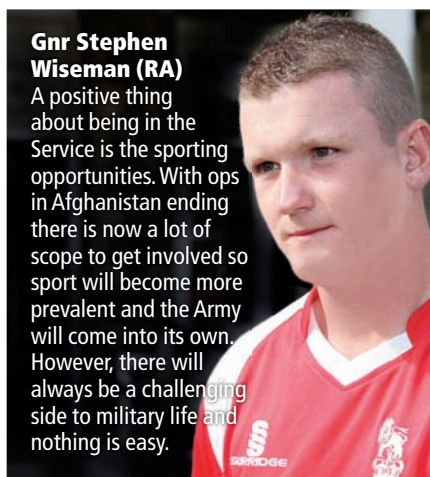
## Gnr Dan Graham (RA)

I enjoy the entire lifestyle. I like being part of something; part of a big organisation. It's all a challenge and that's why I like it. I wouldn't want to wake up to an easy job.



## Cpl Becky Hoare (REME)

For me the best thing is just the lifestyle. Being in the military is very varied and I can do my sport, training and still have a job at the end of the day. The physical exercise is probably the most challenging side to Army life. It can be hard at some points.



## Gnr Stephen Wiseman (RA)

A positive thing about being in the Service is the sporting opportunities. With ops in Afghanistan ending there is now a lot of scope to get involved so sport will become more prevalent and the Army will come into its own. However, there will always be a challenging side to military life and nothing is easy.

## Lt Elysia Ridley (RLC)

I love this job. I love being a troop commander and love leading soldiers so that's the buzz for me. Obviously I adore my sport as well. The Royal Logistic Corps gives me a lot of opportunity to do various activities. The lifestyle is probably the most demanding side to the job. You never know what's going to test you on any given day. Report writing is really difficult too.



## Pte Marlon Simon (R Welsh)

I joined up to play cricket and I'm in my first year with the Army team. I was lucky enough to play in the Inter-Services Twenty20 at Lord's and to win made it even better. I also love the fitness work we do back at my unit. The only downside has been an exercise we did in Scotland, where it was windy and raining. I like good weather.

## Maj Lloyd Keenan (RAMC)

The best part of being in the British Army is the diversity of the job and the satisfaction you get from doing it. I've been in for 32 years now and over that period there's been some highs and lows. When I was a lot younger one of the hardest things was being away from the family. Now it is the expectations and what's required of you. The Service wants more of its soldiers these days, that's the biggest challenge.





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