

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SOLDIER - MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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ARMY

Flexible friends

“WE can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

When Alan Turing, the legendary Second World War cryptanalyst who cracked the Enigma code, penned those words I'm sure even he, genius that he was, couldn't have known how enduring they would prove to be.

More than five decades on a group of his spiritual successors, based at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, are facing very similar obstacles as they work to improve the Armed Forces' defences against the ever-growing peril of cyber attack.

As we report on pages 23-26, trying to neuter this unpredictable menace is a huge task and one that will require many more resources in the future.

The malicious geeks are still out there but they have been joined by highly trained foreign specialists with pips on their shoulders. The threat is such that, potentially, the outcome of a battle could now be decided before a shot has been fired.

On page 42 we also report on troops facing a task that's about as different as you can get from cyber warfare; the very physical challenge of aiding the Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

Not for the first time, British personnel were among those to respond quickest to a major humanitarian disaster, and we have endeavoured to bring you the latest news on the Service's involvement in this rapidly evolving situation.

Both these teams face a future full of unknowns and uncertainties but, thankfully, these days that is just what the Army is training for. ■



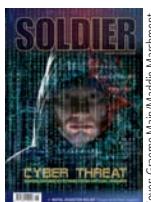
Steve Muncey • Managing Editor

>> Transgender officer speaks out to Soldier, pages 32-35 >>



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Picture: Sgt Neil Bryden, RAF

"It's a way of bringing us closer to the people who went before"



Picture: Richard Watt

**"The Army
cares about its
employees more
than most other
professions"**

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**"We just keep thinking about
how lucky we've been"**

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p42

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p23



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Picture: Sgt Neil Bryden, RAF



Planning pays off for Gurkhas

Army team's disaster strategy was rehearsed prior to earthquake

THE Army prides itself on preparing for almost any eventuality and the recent earthquakes in Nepal demonstrated all too starkly why such a philosophy should never be discarded.

When the first devastating tremor hit the country on April 25, HQ British Gurkhas Nepal not only became a refuge for hundreds of tourists and backpackers in the Kathmandu area but also for staff from just about every foreign embassy in the region.

Just three months prior, Col Sean Harris, commanding officer of the unit, had organised a symposium for other overseas missions and diplomats based in the city, during which he briefed them on plans developed over an 18-month period specifically to deal with the chaos caused by a major earthquake.

"We emphasised that we were not strutting but had thought about the issues," the officer told *Soldier*.

"We offered a redacted copy of our plan to all attendees and subsequently provided advice for them on provisions and communication systems."

"To be hit by three major earthquakes only weeks later was more than a little ironic."

"Embassies, which had yet to put in place our recommendations, turned away their own nationals and directed them to us."

The officer added that many of those seeking assistance were in shock. Some were backpackers who had been staying in the rambling old Thamel district of the city.

Many had witnessed the carnage of the initial earthquake as buildings collapsed and they saw tourist sites like the historic Dharahara tower levelled with a significant loss of life.

In those first few harrowing days the Gurkhas' well-rehearsed plan allowed them to not only look after hundreds of displaced people but also help coordinate the mushrooming British relief effort.

"Around 100 Gurkha engineers who flew in from the UK at the end of April have now distributed more than 2,000 emergency packs, including tarpaulin, high-energy foods, cooking utensils, blankets and solar lamps with USB rechargers," added Col Harris. "They've also built shelters for more than 200 people who lost their homes in the disaster."

The officer and his team have been involved in other missions too, including rescuing a team of Royal Engineers who were trekking near the Tibet border.

He added: "Helicopters were scarce at the time but thanks to our close relationship with the Nepalese Army we managed to source two Indian platforms to evacuate them."

Meanwhile, his well-drilled staff also helped arrange slots for incoming military and charter aircraft to import much needed resources and evacuate foreign nationals.

"The circumstances are terrible but I'm chuffed to bits our preparations paid off," he said.

● Keeping calm in a crisis – pages 42-45

Survival story: Service personnel have played a vital role in the relief effort in Nepal



THIS MONTH IN BOOKS...



"We are all praying for our friends and relations" – author reflects on disaster

PAGES 72-73

Service shows its support

How Army personnel have been boosting the aid effort for Nepal...



LOGGIES LIMBER UP

■ SUPER-FIT soldiers from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps took part in a week of physical challenges to raise more than £8,000 to help victims of the earthquakes.

The Colchester-based troops started their quest by racking up the miles on exercise bikes and rowing machines at their local Tesco store, where they collected donations from shoppers.

They continued with a 24-hour treadmill run at Merville Barracks while colleagues carried out weightlifting and step exercises to simulate climbing Everest.

And their efforts concluded with a race between the unit's squadrons to pull an ambulance round the camp.

CURRY ON THE MENU

■ MAJ Peter White (R Welsh) joined the relief effort by organising a curry night at his local pub.

Customers at The Nags Head in Warminster lapped up the cuisine, while also showing their support in a raffle, to help raise £2,162.

TROOPS TUCK IN

■ CURRY was also on the menu at British Army Training Unit Suffield.

Personnel served the spicy meals to exercising troops, Batus staff, family members and their Canadian counterparts.

The appetising menu raised more than £6,500 for the cause.



1 ISLE OF MAN ONSIDE

WITH the Army looking to establish a new Reserve unit on the Isle of Man, a recruiting event featuring displays of engineering vehicles, light artillery guns and a field hospital was held in Douglas last month.

It is hoped the dependency will form a force comprised of various military trades.

"The Isle of Man has always been a strong supporter of our work in defence," said Col Philip Harrison, deputy commander of 42nd Infantry Brigade and Headquarters North West.

"As we look to grow our Reserves this is a perfect opportunity for us to work more closely with those on the island."



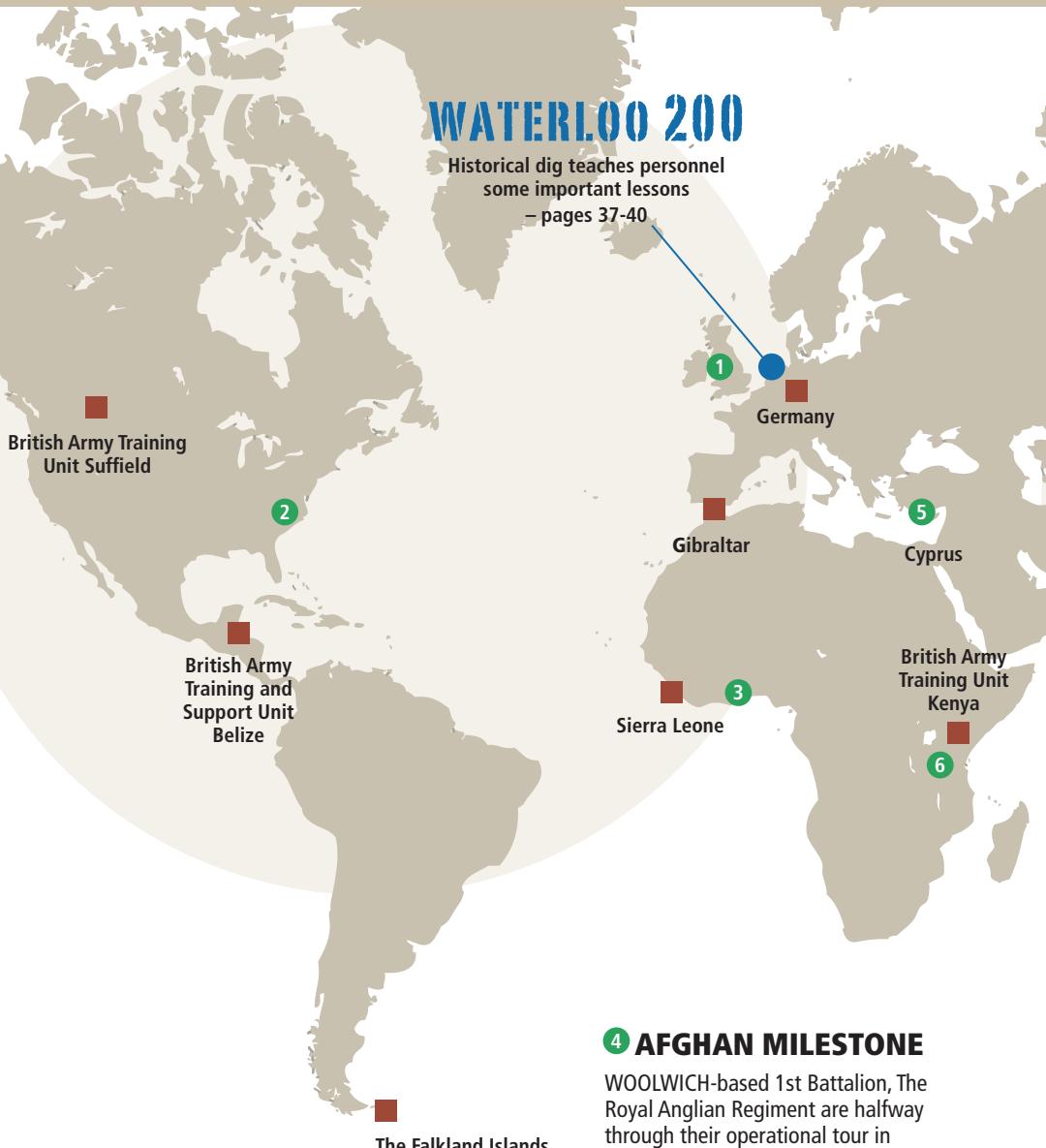
Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

2 SAPPERS ON SONG

BOMB disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment have been working with their US counterparts to hone the skills needed to deploy as a joint force in response to international crises.

The troops operated alongside personnel from 192nd Ordnance Battalion during the exercise at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which saw them showcase their skills and equipment before tackling a range of search-related serials.

Sgt Richard Gardiner said: "It was a really good experience for the guys and the relationship with the Americans has worked well."



3 GHANA VETS' GIFT

A SOLDIER from 6 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps is supporting ex-personnel in Ghana by refurbishing veterans' residential homes.

Gütersloh-based Cpl Solomon Addei founded the charity Forces Help Ghana with former RLC corporal Derrick Cobbinah and together they arranged for 18 hospital beds and 23 mattresses that had been donated by two German clinics to be delivered to a special facility in Accra.

The Amasaman Legion Village is the first of ten such centres around the country they plan to renovate in order to improve the welfare provision for former Servicemen and women.

“
Everyone
was
desperate
to win
this one
”

4 AFGHAN MILESTONE

WOOLWICH-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment are halfway through their operational tour in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The unit is providing force protection in order to allow the Afghan National Army Officer Academy adviser mentors to carry out their duties.

Meanwhile, on another continent members of the same unit (pictured below) have been deployed as part of a European Union mission to Mali to train its army to carry out operations against rebel factions in the north of the country.





IN NUMBERS: **2,000**

The number of survival packs that have been distributed to Nepalese citizens at the time of writing by Gurkhas helping out the relief effort in rural areas of the country. See page 7 and pages 42-45.



4
Afghanistan

Brunei



5 TIGERS TOP CHARTS

MARKSMEN from 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment swept the floor at the recent Cyprus Operational Shooting Competition.

Personnel from Z and C Companies claimed a host of prizes while the Tigers' sniper platoon were declared overall team winners.

"It was a really good day and everyone was desperate to win this one," said commanding officer Lt Col Chris Davies.

The team will go on to compete at the Army Operational Shooting Competition in Bisley on June 15.

Tiredness and thin air played a part

“ ”

“ ”

Tiredness and thin air played a part

“ ”

6 SCOTS ON SUMMIT

A TEAM from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland has scaled the frozen heights of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania via the less travelled Western Breach.

The 14-strong party battled unexpected wintry conditions – with temperatures dipping below -10 degrees Celsius at times – as members scaled the 5,895m summit in just eight days.

"Tiredness and the thin air played a part and it became a battle to stay warm and hydrated for the final summit attempt," said expedition 2iC Lt Kris Knott.

"But after a long week on the mountain we made it in time to view the sun breaking over the eastern edge of Africa."



Picture: Cpl Mark Lamer

7 DISASTER DRILLS

SPECIALISTS from 77 Brigade have been in the Philippines on the annual disaster relief package, Exercise Civil Bridge.

The two-week serial saw 40 soldiers examining the country's existing contingency plans and working with local authorities to identify ways in which more lives could be saved.

With the 1,700 islands that make up the Philippines vulnerable to active volcanoes, earthquakes, typhoons, hurricanes and tsunamis, exercise commander, Lt Col Jem Blades (RE), explained that the training was a useful opportunity for the British troops to work alongside experts from government departments, non-governmental organisations and Filipino forces.

"Our teams include individuals who bring specialist knowledge of earthquakes, humanitarian relief and disaster recovery, and we hope to share our experiences as well as learn from others," he said.

TRAVELLERS' TALES



LAST month we charted the globetrotting exploits of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland as they staked a claim to be among the best travelled units in the Army.

However, some new contenders have now entered the fray. Since completing their commitments on Op Herrick 19 personnel from **3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery** have deployed on Nato exercises in **Norway, Latvia, Romania, Estonia and Spain** along with further training in **Kenya, Canada** and the **Falkland Islands**.

They were also part of Op Gritrock in **Sierra Leone** and have been working alongside the United States Air Force in **Guam**. The list is completed with adventurous training and sporting pursuits in **Cyprus, Austria, France** and the **USA**.

Lt Col Toby Till, commanding officer of **1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards**, championed his soldiers following their efforts in **Kenya, Oman, Romania, Norway, the British Virgin Islands, Belgium and Germany** while others have been to **Brunei, Belize, Portugal, Canada** and the **USA**.

Can your unit compete? Email us at news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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“THERE'S A LOT OF PENT UP FEAR YOU HAVE TO KEEP HIDDEN” - TRANSGENDER OFFICER, PAGES 32-35



Picture: Graeme Main

Demand for skills soar Army's offer proves huge hit in its first year

A TRIAL scheme to convert troops' military qualifications into civilian equivalents is proving popular with personnel.

Launched last year, the Army Skills Offer provides funding for civilian studies that have been linked to mandatory career management courses. These range from GCSE to PhD and include academic and vocational qualifications for training and service.

More than 14,600 applications have been received to date and nearly 13,500, including more than 500 from Reserve personnel, have been successfully processed.

The trial will run until May 2016, when an assessment will be made of the uptake and a decision taken on its continuation and funding.

“The Army has been recognised

as a leading employer for the development opportunities it creates for its people and these figures further endorse how successful we are at helping individuals reach their

IN NUMBERS Army Skills Offer as of May 14, 2015

14,608	13,463
applications	participants
10,833	2,630
other ranks	officers

potential and in preparing them for when they eventually leave the Service,” commented Brig Gary Morris, Director Educational Capability.



BURRELL FACES FITNESS TEST

ENDURANCE athlete SSgt Anthony Burrell (RLC) will attempt to complete all of the Service's fitness tests within 24 hours to raise money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

The senior NCO, who is part of the Army Engagement Team based at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, has added to the difficulty by vowing to wear his helmet, body armour and daysack in the process.

His attempt begins at Sandhurst on Thursday, July 23 and each test will be conducted at different military locations before finishing at Headquarters Land Forces in Andover.

To donate money to SSgt Burrell's cause visit www.justgiving.com/Anthony-Burrell1

Upping the skills ante: Servicemen have until next May to take advantage of the popular scheme



APACHE RESERVE SERIAL

■ SOMERSET-based Reserves who transferred from the Infantry to the Army Air Corps under Service restructuring have been training in their new role as ground crew for the Apache helicopter.

Members of 675 (The Rifles) Squadron, AAC – formerly B Company, 6 Rifles – practised arming and refuelling the aircraft during a package at Carters Strip, Bulford.

The formation's communications specialists were also tested on establishing secure links between ground crew and pilots.

A successful recruiting programme has so far seen the unit almost double in size from a starting point of 44, with an eventual target of 100 members.

NEW PLUGS IN PIPELINE

■ TROOPS will soon be receiving the latest dual mode hearing protection, the MoD has announced.

The new plugs reduce continuous noise from tracked vehicles and air platforms to a safe level while also guarding against high impulse noise from small arms or artillery.

They are also very low profile when fitted and have been tested for compatibility with all in-service helmets, headsets, glasses and goggles.



LAND ROVER DONATION

■ A CAR giant has donated an off-road vehicle to enable a charity to transport vital equipment and basic necessities to soldiers staying at MoD hospitals.

Jaguar Land Rover's Solihull manufacturing plant handed over a Defender to Troop Aid to assist with the distribution of kit such as “grab packs”, which contain essential items for soldiers arriving at medical units straight from operations.

Peter Gray, the company's manufacturing manager, said: “We are hugely proud to donate this vehicle to such a worthy local cause.”



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Colchester:	29 Jun - 10 Jul	Barnstaple:	13 - 24 Jul
Chatham:	13 - 24 Jul	Tidworth:	27 Jul - 07 Aug
Tidworth:	07 - 18 Sept	Aldershot:	07 - 18 Sept
Kinloss:	28 Sept - 09 Oct	Paderborn:	21 Sept - 02 Oct
Maidstone:	21 Sept - 02 Oct	Chester:	05 - 16 Oct
Colchester:	12 - 23 Oct	Catterick:	19 Oct - 30 Oct
High Wycombe:	19 Oct - 30 Oct	Paderborn:	16 - 27 Nov
Aldershot:	16 - 27 Nov	Tidworth:	23 Nov - 04 Dec

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Paderborn:	22 - 26 Jun	Colchester:	27 - 31 Jul
Aldershot:	03 - 07 Aug	Barnstaple:	07 - 11 Sept
Aldershot:	12 - 16 Oct	Catterick:	09 - 11 Nov
Paderborn:	30 Nov - 04 Dec	Tidworth:	07 - 11 Dec

NEBOSH National Certificate in Environmental Management (£900 +VAT)

Aldershot:	22 - 26 Jun	Aldershot:	05 - 09 Oct
Aldershot:	14 - 18 Mar		

NEBOSH Certificate in Construction Health and Safety (£1460 +VAT)

Tidworth:	29 Jun - 10 Jul	Tidworth:	26 Oct - 06 Nov
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**"I COULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED IT
WOULD BECOME AS BIG AS IT HAS"**
- AUCTIONEER ON STORAGE HUNT, PAGES 46-47



QUEST FOR CARE

A CALL to arms has been launched to fund nursing care for an Army veteran who served his country for 40 years and is now suffering with a malignant brain tumour.

Gary Anglin, a former captain with The Princess of Wales's Royal



Regiment who served on eight operational tours, has been given just one year to live and is unable to receive medical assistance while at home.

Now his daughter, Marsha

Anglin, is appealing for donations of any size to help make his life as comfortable as possible.

"The hospital are ready to discharge him as he is medically stable but he requires 24-hour nursing and care," she said.

"I want to raise funds for him to be able to see his end of life in a military-based care home."

To donate go to www.gofundme.com/Captain-GWA



Picture: SSgt S Longworth, RLC

Lancers celebrate new dawn

THE merger of The Queen's Royal Lancers with The 9th/12th Royal Lancers was given the royal seal of approval when the Queen attended the regiments' amalgamation parade at Richmond Castle.

Around 400 officers and soldiers from the new formation – known as The Royal Lancers – marched through the market town in number one dress uniform while carrying lances.

Commanding officer Lt Col Marcus Mudd said: "To be formed in the presence of the Queen is

a very special honour indeed and continues a relationship of patronage from the monarch with our regiment.

"But we will not stand still after this amalgamation. We move straight into live firing using our armoured vehicles, which will provide the opportunity for new crews to integrate and the regiment as a whole to build strong bonds."

As part of the Army's 3rd Division The Royal Lancers will provide an armoured reconnaissance capability to 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade.

FEARLESS

FUNDRAISING

BRENTON'S BATTLE

SUPER-FIT soldier WO1 Paul Brenton (AGC (SPS)) tackled the 15km Rock Solid Race in Exeter wearing his helmet, body armour and issued respirator. The punishing obstacle course featured an array of arduous challenges and he finished the route in 4hr 15min.



Money raised:
£1,075
For:
St Cuthbert's Hospice
and Cancer Research

PEDAL POWER PAYS OFF

A SIX-STRONG team from 7th Air Assault Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers cycled 500 miles on exercise bikes in 12-hour stages outside local supermarkets near their base in Wattisham.



FACEBOOK FAVOURS

Facebook group Sangin Valley Gun Club sold a range of clothing via its online store, with proceeds going to Hounds for Heroes.

GEARING UP FOR PEAKS PUSH

BLESMA chief executive Barry Le Grys will lead a team of adventurers as they take on the Three Peaks Challenge this month.

The former brigadier will attempt to summit Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in the space of



24 hours as part of the charity's annual week of fundraising activities. To donate to the cause visit www.justgiving.com/Barry-Le-Grys-Three-Peaks

GOT AN EVENT?

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"The generosity of the public kept our morale high," said organiser Sgt Steve Parnell. "They were putting £20 notes in our collection buckets, but even the smallest chink of small change lifted our spirits."



“IT IS AMAZING HOW FAR AZERBAIJAN HAS COME IN 23 YEARS”

- DELIVERING THE GAMES, PAGES 48-49

VOTERS MISS OUT

■ SOME soldiers and their loved ones currently serving overseas have contacted the Army Families Federation (AFF) after they failed to receive their postal voting forms in time for the general election.

“The voting window was extended to 20 days to make it more possible for votes to arrive on time,” Catherine Spencer, the body’s chief executive, said. “It seems that in some cases there are still issues despite the significant measures put in place by the BFPO.”

The AFF plan to raise the matter with the Electoral Commission.

For voting and any other overseas concerns contact overseas@aff.org.uk



WELFARE REWARDED

■ THE Gurkha Welfare Trust has won the People’s Choice category at the Soldiering On Awards in London.

Dedicated to relieving poverty among Nepalese veterans, the charity received the most votes from readers of the *Daily Telegraph*, ahead of five other nominees.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to the Guinea Pig Club, which was set up to help rehabilitate badly burned airmen during the Second World War.

Also honoured were ex-Army personnel Andy Reid and Murray Hambro, who won the Against All Odds and Sporting Endeavour categories respectively.

The ceremony was organised by The Soldiering On Through Life Trust, which celebrates the achievements of injured troops and their families.

HELPING THE HELPERS

■ THE charity Royal British Legion Industries is recruiting more volunteers to support its work with veterans and disabled people.

Helpers are needed for a variety of roles, including drivers, gardeners and so-called befrienders, who assist with events or activities, accompany people on trips or just sit and chat with them.

The scheme will also promote voluntary work as a pathway back to employment for those undergoing rehabilitation or in need of support.

Email volunteer@rbl.li.co.uk, visit www.rbl.li.co.uk or call 01622 795924.

HOME TRUTHS



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



Picture: Steve Dolk

Election uncertainty

LIKE many Army families I am intrigued and concerned by the impact the result of the general election will have on our income, housing and opportunities.

Despite strong signs that the economy is improving any further cuts to the defence budget could see more frantic measures to save money across the MoD.

I am not alone in feeling scarred by four rounds of redundancy and ongoing austerity and am uncertain that the Service will offer our family the secure future we need.

Perpetual pay restraint over the entirety of the last parliament has certainly led to us reducing our expenditure and leading a much more frugal life.

While civilian families may now be feeling more comfortable I doubt the same can be said for those in the Army – unless the non-serving partner has a significantly better paid job to supplement the household income.

The very positive changes as a result of the Justice for Widows campaign has not lessened the downward changes to the military pension. Although it is still regarded as very good in comparison to many civilian schemes it is not as valuable as previous plans.

Increasing the amount of childcare available through £20 million of Libor money is an improvement – but the spouse’s ability to earn

continues to be affected by the soldier’s unpredictable work pattern.

The Forces Help 2 Buy scheme has had a positive impact in enabling families to move out of Service family accommodation and securing a home for the future – but there is no doubt that the elevated costs of homeownership gnaws away at their income.

I remain concerned that unexpected house maintenance costs may put families into debt.

There have certainly been improvements to the availability of training and assistance for spouses who want to return to work through schemes such as the RBLI’s Lifeworks and X-Forces, which offer start-up business help for Service leavers and their partners.

I am hopeful as well that an increase in virtual and online work will ensure spouses have more access to sustainable and mobile forms of employment.

In summary, the progress which the Armed Forces Covenant has made through policy changes and Libor-funded schemes has not been matched by pay and pensions.

The decrease in disposable income, increased working hours due to gaps in the organisational structure and fear of future redundancies will continue to concern families.

www.aff.org.uk

“THE GUYS NEED TO STEP AWAY AND GET RID OF THEIR TESTOSTERONE AND ANGER”
- KICK-BOXING’S PUSH, PAGES 78-79



CENTENARY GIFT

■ NEW colours have been presented to 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards to mark the formation's centenary.

The Queen was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall during a ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Maj Gen Robert Talbot Rice, Regimental Lieutenant

Colonel of the Welsh Guards, said: “The colours represent our pride in past achievements, and our steadfast loyalty to the crown.

“They embody the resilient Welsh Guards spirit which holds all of us together as a tight-knit family, and will be carried forward with pride.”



Picture: Rupert Frere, RLC



Picture: Shane Wilkinson

Memorial cup tribute to Tull

THE Army has renamed one of its major football competitions in honour of a special soldier and footballer.

The Infantry Cup became the Walter Tull Memorial Cup this year as a mark of respect for the first non-white officer in front-line Service.

Tull, whose father came from Barbados, enlisted in 1914 and served with such distinction that he was commissioned from the ranks in 1917 before being killed in northern France.

Prior to the war he had been the first mixed-race outfield player in English football's top flight, representing Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town.

One of the officer's few surviving relatives, Graham Tutthill, a former newspaper journalist from Dover, was at the final to present the inaugural trophy to 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment after they beat 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh 2-1 at the Military Stadium in Aldershot.

“It's great that 100 years after he died he's being remembered and honoured in this way. I'm very proud,” he said.

Title winners:
1 Yorks downed 1 R Welsh to lift the Walter Tull Memorial Cup

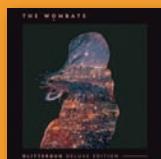


SOLDIERS SALUTE

■ ROYAL Artillery troops celebrated the arrival of the Royal baby with traditional gun salutes.

Reservists from the Honourable Artillery Company marked the birth of Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge by firing 62 rounds at the Tower of London, while simultaneously across town The King's Troop fired 41 shots in Hyde Park.

IN MUSIC...



“The tracks instantly feel more grown up”

★★★

PAGES 70-71



Picture: Sgt Ross Tilby, RLC

Remembering Anzac heroes

THE nation commemorated Anzac Day and the centenary of the First World War's Gallipoli campaign during a day of events in London.

Wreaths were laid at the New Zealand and Australia memorials at Hyde Park Corner during a poignant dawn service to mark 100 years since troops landed at the Turkish battlefield.

The Gallipoli Association led a service of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral while thousands gathered at The Cenotaph to pay homage to the troops who fought and died.

PASS CHECKS OUT

■ EX-SOLDIER Anthony Pass raised more than £500 to help bring the growing sport of disabled darts to residents at the Phoenix House Recovery Centre in Catterick.

The veteran, who served with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, organised a prize raffle for the cause and used the money to purchase a rotating board, lighting equipment and darts.

“This donation will enable others to enjoy my passion,” the 45-year-old said. “I hope to run training sessions at the centre and also organise fun competition nights.”





"I'M COMING OFF THE BACK OF A REALLY GOOD WINTER" - ROWER SETS THE PACE, PAGE 77

AUCTION ACTION

■ A RETIRED colonel has launched an appeal for a charity auction to raise funds for blast injury research at London's Imperial College.

David James has been inundated with old bayonets, swords, medals and more than 500 uniforms for the auction at Fakenham Racecourse on June 28.

"We hope to raise a substantial sum but we are still seeking valuable medals – even a Victoria Cross – and we are also appealing for national sponsors," he said.

If you have items to donate email admin@jamesandsonsnorfolk.com



CAREER CHAMPION

■ CAPT Simon Thompson (3 Rifles) has been named as the winner of the inaugural Regimental Career Management Officer of the Year award, given to the person who best championed education in their unit and enhanced the qualifications of their personnel.

His citation says: "He has been simply superb in this role. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the men across the battalion and is instinctively trusted by those both above and below."

The officer also ensured that, since July 2014, every Service leaver in the formation had completed a familiarisation visit to 3 Rifles' paired Reserve unit, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Consequently, 23 Regulars transferred to the Reserve in the last year from a pool of 49 eligible leavers and against an annual target of just six soldiers.



Pictures: Cpl Jamie Peters, RLC

Nation marks special VE Day

HUNDREDS of Second World War veterans and serving personnel marched through London to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The procession, which also included a fly-past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the Red Arrows, capped three days of national events to commemorate the historic date.

Starting at 1500 on May 8, exactly 70 years on from the moment Winston Churchill announced that the conflict was over, the programme included services of remembrance at The Cenotaph and Westminster Abbey, as well as a star-studded 1940s-themed concert on Horse Guards Parade featuring Katherine Jenkins, Pixie Lott and Status Quo.

The skies above London were illuminated by V-shaped beams of light, while 200 beacons were

ignited across the country and church bells tolled in unison.

Musicians from The Band of the Grenadier Guards also performed in Trafalgar Square, the scene of jubilant celebrations in 1945.

IN NUMBERS

54

per cent of people aged between 18 and 25 who, according to a survey by SSAFA, did not know that VE Day marks the end of the Second World War in Europe.

7

per cent thought it was President John F Kennedy who declared victory on May 8, 1945.

4

per cent said it was Tony Blair.



Army veterans in sharp focus

THESE portraits of British Army veterans have been captured by an ex-Serviceman in a special project to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

Photographer and ex-WO2 Stephen Porteous, who served with the Royal Engineers, toured various locations across the UK to immortalise the faces of former personnel before exhibiting the results in different venues and museums.

Among those to be photographed for the

initiative – named the Veterans Portrait Project – were Chelsea Pensioners George Baylis and Wayne Campbell (pictured left).

"These people do not ask for thanks or expect gratitude but as members of the public this doesn't mean we can't show our respect," said Mr Porteous. To find out more and see the full range of pictures visit www.veteransportraitproject.uk or follow @vpp_uk on Twitter.

“ARCHAEOLOGY IS THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY OF ENGAGING WITH HISTORY”

- TROOPS RETRACE THE PAST, PAGES 37-40



Picture: Steve Portelli, Surrey Advertiser



Picture: PA Hammond

Blaze consumes memorabilia

A FOOTBALL kicked towards enemy trenches by British soldiers at the Battle of the Somme was among the unique artefacts lost in the blaze at Clandon House last month.

The National Trust property, near Guildford, was home to the Surrey Infantry Museum, where many medals, uniforms and irreplaceable military items spanning three centuries were destroyed.

The leather ball was one of several given to Capt Wilfred Nevill and personnel from 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, on the morning of July 1, 1916 – the first day of the brutal battle.

Their charge towards enemy lines while dribbling the footballs became legend as an example of plucky British determination in the face of adversity.

Former soldiers among the 80 firefighters on the



scene recognised the historic value of some of the memorabilia and they frantically cut paintings from their frames and grabbed military colours from the walls before they burned.

But much was also lost and John Davidson, formerly of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and closely involved with the museum, said he was devastated by the fire.

"There were so many things," he said. "The football had survived for 99 years. It was just a piece of old leather but hugely significant."

"When ordinary people like me die their families often give the medals to museums."

"We had one presented to us only the other day by a lovely old man who donated his father's collection."

"They were in a display cabinet on the wall."

"I'm distraught. It is 352 years of history gone up in smoke."

Lost without trace:
The fire at Clandon House consumed many irreplaceable military items

IT'S A MARATHON TASK

A DETERMINED officer has smashed his own world record time for completing a marathon wearing a bomb disposal suit.

Maj Iain Church donned the 30kg high-threat outfit for the London event to raise funds for The Royal British Legion.

The Royal Engineer crossed the line in 6hr 28min – beating his previous benchmark by almost half-an-hour.

So far the Serviceman has raised more than £7,000 and donations can still be made at www.virginmoneygiving.com/BombSuitChallenge

FINES FUND BREAKS

SERVICE families affected by disability can enjoy cut-price adventure breaks thanks to cash raised from banking fines.

For the second year running, the Calvert Trust is offering budget weekend getaways to disabled members of the military community and their loved ones.

Costing just £50 per person the retreats are subsidised by money from the Armed Forces Covenant Libor fund.

The deal is open to Serving personnel, veterans and their dependents throughout 2015 at the organisation's three centres in Exmoor, Kielder and the Lake District.

Visit www.calvert-trust.org.uk for details.



TROOPS TEST SKILLS

RESERVISTS from the UK pitted their skills against foreign counterparts in an annual military skills competition.

Exercise Altcar Challenge saw 45 teams of four go head-to-head in 16 tasks, including an assault course race, a simulated casualty evacuation, firefighting and shooting.

The best Army team was 75 Engineer Regiment.

Picture: Razvan Donca / Shutterstock



CLICK FOR CASH PRIZE

A GRAND prize draw to win cash and camera equipment has been launched as part of the national Blesma Week fundraising campaign. The competition has been organised by The Limbless Veterans charity and a book of five tickets costs £5 with the first prize being £1,000. The closing date for the draw is June 17, with the winner picked on June 30. For tickets or a fundraising pack, email fundraising@blesma.org



"WE GOT THE EARLY GOAL BUT THEY KEPT COMING AT US"

- LOGGIES WIN CUP THRILLER, PAGE 89



MILIFEST TAKES SHAPE

■ A FESTIVAL of music and sport has been launched by an ex-Royal Marine to celebrate the Armed Forces.

Milifest 2015 will see top music acts including Labrinth, Rixton and Sigma playing across three stages in the impressive grounds of Silverstone Woodlands from August 6 to 10.

The five-day extravaganza will also feature top-level rugby sevens, boxing, zorb football as well as survival camps and a mud-run assault course.

"We're truly proud of our Servicemen and women and this will be a unique celebration for everyone in and connected with the Armed Forces," Nick Smart, the festival's founder, said.

For tickets and more information visit www.milifest.co.uk

TIME TO CELEBRATE

■ GUILDFORD will play host to the annual Armed Forces Day celebrations this month.

The town will offer a range of events including a service in Guildford Cathedral, a parade along High Street and a music and entertainment show in Stoke Park.

A variety of military displays will be staged with fly-pasts from the Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight among the many attractions on Saturday, June 27.

A national Reserves Day will also be held on Wednesday, June 24.

For more information on events in Guildford and across the country visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk

BT REACHES OUT

■ MILITARY charity SSAFA has teamed up with BT Openreach to help Service families across the country.

The business network telecommunications provider is backing a number of major fundraising events during the year, including this month's Big Brew Up.

Openreach staff will also boost SSAFA's community initiatives by volunteering on a range of tasks, from digging out ditches to brainstorming in boardrooms.

A strong supporter of the Forces community, the BT Group actively recruits ex-military personnel and also employs around 400 Reservists.



Cyber soldiers to boost missions

Online activity:
Computer experts
hope to bolster the
Army's strength

SMALL groups of cyber warriors could soon be deploying on operations in a bid to stop Army networks from coming under attack.

The Service has begun a two-year trial of so-called cyber protection teams, larger versions of which can already be found across the US Army.

Capt Chris Goslin (R Signals) is the officer leading the initiative and he told *Soldier* that a collective of seven Regular troops were currently undergoing specialist training to test the idea out.

"There is nothing new or secret about this," he added.

"Other organisations such as banks and engineering companies already have individuals to respond to cyber attacks and we are looking at developing our own experts to ensure we are secure on operations and at home, and can respond when an incident occurs."

If rolled out, the teams will enhance the hi-tech work already being undertaken by Corsham's Joint Cyber Reserve and the Land Information Assurance Group, a formation of Army volunteers who are IT specialists.

"Now cyber issues are becoming more prevalent this kind of work also needs to be done by Regular personnel for more persistent effect," Capt Goslin added.

"We need a permanent group of individuals who can be at high readiness to deploy."

The pilot cyber protection team, which is made up of signallers and Intelligence Corps personnel, was due to undertake its first training exercise as this issue went to press.

● **Cyber Attack:** Meet the computer experts helping to protect soldiers – pages 23-26



Summer festival tickets

LAST month's spine lines clues would have been a piece of cake for Second World War historians.

(Gen Alfred) Jodl, (Gen Francois) Sevez, (Walter Beddell) Smith and (Gen Ivan) Susloparov were the military leaders to sign the official document marking the end of the conflict.

This month, courtesy of our friends at the Electric Daisy Carnival (www.electricdaisycarnival.com), we are offering two pairs of tickets for one of the summer's hottest dance music festivals.

Held at Milton Keynes Bowl on Saturday, July 11, this event promises to take revellers by storm with an impressive line-up of world-class DJs including Paul van Dyk, Pendulum and Tiesto.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of passes worth £120 tell us what links the clues on the side of this issue.

Answers to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by Friday, June 19. Over 18s only.



How does the new 2015 Armed Forces Pension Scheme affect you and your family?

The Forces Pension Society can tell you and will help you get the most from your pension.



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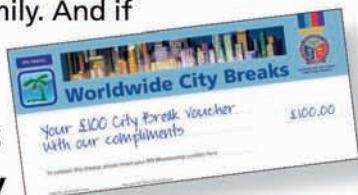
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THE BIG PICTURE

> CHARLTON PARK, LONDON

FIT FOR PURPOSE

THE King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery has been declared "fit to represent the nation" after successfully passing its annual inspection. Personnel performed a demonstration of the world-famous Musical Drive during the test and they will continue to carry out ceremonial and public duties over the next 12 months. Picture: Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC

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Purchase Fee (included in monthly payments)	£0.00
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34 Monthly Payments	£301.84
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Model featured is a new 16MY five door Range Rover Evoque Fuel economy figures for the new Evoque in mpg (Coupe/five-door) Combined: 68.8/65.6 - 36.2/36.2 Combined CO₂ emissions g/km: 181 - 109.[†]All data subject to official tests and certification. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. *Finance is subject to status and only available to serving members of HM Forces only, aged 18 and over resident in Mainland UK and N.Ireland. Indemnities may be required. This finance offer is available from Black Horse Limited trading as Land Rover Financial Services, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. This offer is available on new Land Rover models at Marshall Military Sales only. Promotions are not available on used cars. Prices correct at time of going to press.

MEET THE FRONT-LINE EXPERTS HELPING TO PROTECT ARMY COMPUTERS FROM CYBER ATTACK

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe
Pictures: Graeme Main

WITH the cyber threat now on a par with terrorism when it comes to national security risk, there is no doubt that safeguarding the Army's various computer systems is high on the agenda for military chiefs.

As with any modern defence force, the Service relies heavily on online networks during combat operations.

But if those are interfered with in any way, missions can be compromised and soldiers' lives lost.

Across government, £860 million has been committed to tackle the cyber threat. Defence is playing its part in the challenge too, with the Joint Forces Cyber Group established to coordinate the military's growing role.

And with the first Reserves welcomed into that military fold last year, their hi-tech work continues at pace.

However, one lesser-known player in the fight against online attack is the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), home to some of the MoD's most important scientific brains.

Here, members of the newly established Cyber Evaluation and Assessment Laboratory are busy working out which military networks could be most vulnerable and how that can be countered with special software or other measures.

"The nasty guys out there who want to get at us are becoming better at what they do," says Ed Moxon (ex-R Signals), the individual responsible for the lab's technical work on operational cyber defence.

This former Serviceman is well aware of how high the stakes are when it comes to tackling "virtual" enemies.

"Cyber attacks could instantly stop operations happening," Mr Moxon continues.

"For example, if a brigade is planning a mission it needs information on the availability of certain assets such as air support.

"But if someone has got into your computer system and changed the way you plan, that's going to create a real problem.

"And it's one thing pinching information, but by making changes to it the enemy is also influencing decision making."

With a background in military communications that saw him help roll out DII during his time in uniform, Mr Moxon is ideally placed to oversee the various assessments that go on inside DSTL's cyber lab.

One recent piece of work saw him take on the role of an "ethical hacker" – someone who, with permission, attempts to break into a network to assess how vulnerable it is.

"There are a number of things a hacker has to do to get in your computer system," he continues.

"The way I would start is to gather as much information as I can from internet searches.

"That allows you to start harvesting website addresses and emails; and it's amazing how far you can get from there."

Spearphishing is just one of the devious online activities currently on his radar – and the playful name certainly belies the danger it poses.

Targeted emails are sent to senior personnel in the hope they will click on a link and unwittingly download software, which could then disrupt their computer or steal sensitive data.

"Just like in the physical environment, hackers do a recce," Mr Moxon explains. "We need to send people on foot patrol and it is the same in cyber space.

"Hackers will do their best to understand your computer network by throwing information at it and hoovering up bits of information."

//Cutting edge

This is highly complex work with a perplexing vocabulary to match so it is crucial to have specialists at the top of their game carrying out this research on behalf of the MoD.

"As far as current thinking on cyber is concerned we are on the cutting edge of it," Mr Moxon adds.

"But the cyber problem is getting more complex. Every time the enemy thinks of a new way of getting into our systems we have to come up with a clever way of stopping that.

"And technology moves so fast that we don't get the luxury of a ten- or 20-year planning window as you might do with new equipment for conventional operations."

One of the ways the lab's team keeps up with evolving technology is by working closely with those outside the Armed Forces bubble, such as universities and commercial software companies.

In fact, a large proportion of the team's workforce is comprised of graduates in computer science degrees.

"If someone says they are 'an expert in cyber' they probably aren't being entirely truthful," Mr Moxon commented.

"You can have experts on networks, communications systems or software design... but I don't think there's anyone who understands every area. It's too big.

"Unlike land, maritime and air domains, cyber is a man-made environment and very hard to get your head around.

"As human beings we want to see things as a whole picture but the problem with cyber space is that it's global.

"In Afghanistan, for example, it was relatively easy to understand who the enemy was because there were physical threats there.

"But a cyber attacker could be sitting in Iceland or New Zealand."

“THIS IS A NEW TYPE OF DISCIPLINE THAT WE NEED TO INSTILL”

//Insider threat

The scale of the challenge is not distracting these boffins from the task-in-hand, though, and they must balance their global focus with threats lurking much closer to home.

“The insider threat is one area we are working on,” Mr Moxon says.

“We are currently looking at software that the MoD can use to find out when one of its own people is misbehaving and passing information outside the organisation.

“We are also looking at automation – that is, how technology can take the burden of this work off humans.”

If the threat to operations in general isn’t enough to get soldiers of all cap badges interested in the world of cyber, the part they themselves may be playing in aiding some attacks could be.

Lt Col Clive Cook [R Signals], DSTL’s military adviser for cyber, provides the lab with a direct link to the British Army and says today’s troops should be as mindful of online security at home as they are on combat operations.

“Personnel are used to discipline on a drill square but this is a new type of discipline we need to instill,” he comments.

“Cyber defence is about protecting our information and a soldier has lots of information.

“Part of this whole effort is about getting people to understand the value of what they post online.”

It’s a warning that troops will be tired of hearing, but essential when it comes to defeating the enemy.

“We all have to operate in the online world but we just need personnel to understand the risks,” he adds.

/>>

//Dangerous behaviour

However, for these experts cyber safety is not just about getting to grips with highly complex emerging technologies.

"It's about people," Mr Moxon reveals.

"We have behavioural scientists working in our team who think about what cyber enemies look like."

And what do they look like? The two experts exchange knowing smiles but, perhaps not surprisingly, disclose very little.

"Let's just say we have a better idea than most," Mr Moxon says.

"This idea that to be a hacker you have to be a spotty Iron Maiden fan who never leaves his bedroom is outdated.

"This isn't something for geeks – these folks are selling their hacking services to those who want to buy it."

With operational security preventing DSTL's cyber squad from talking about their specific achievements to date it is difficult to accurately estimate the value of their work.

But that does not put them off. The team are quietly determined to play their part in protecting today's troops from a shadowy but persistent enemy.

//Future fight

"This work is not too dissimilar from being involved in an urgent operational requirement," Lt Col Cook continues.

"Bright ideas from here are getting pulled through into the mainstream of defence very quickly indeed."

"Normally the timelines for brand new technology would be five or ten years out.

"But the world of cyber is about today." ■

Interested in joining the groundbreaking cyber fight?



● ACCORDING to DSTL expert Ed Moxon, the recently created Joint Cyber Reserve is going to prove "crucial" in the fight against online aggressors.

"The skills are pretty specialist," he said.

"It's the sort of job you have to do day in, day out because the threat keeps changing so if you go out for a couple of years then come back things have changed."

For this reason it is hoped that by bringing computer experts into Reservist roles, great use can be made of the expertise they employ in their civilian careers.

The Cyber Reserve recruits these individuals, plus Regulars leaving service and those with no previous military experience.

To find out more search for "Joint Forces Command" on the GOV.UK website.





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GLOBAL CURUS

INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS FORGE A NEW
PATH IN THE POST-HELMAND ERA

Report: Richard Long

WITH last year's Herrick closedown marking the end of a significant chapter in the Army's recent history the Service has found itself looking in a new direction as different challenges arise.

The emergence of Adaptable Force brigades will potentially see soldiers deploying across the globe and with a raft of recent operational experience to call upon their influence is set to spread far and wide.

A number of units have already embraced the change and among them is 1st Military Intelligence Battalion.

The formation has just relocated from Germany to Catterick Garrison but its field of view has stretched much further than the logistics required for such a large-scale move.

Short-term training teams have been sharing their expertise with armed forces in Lebanon, Malawi, Bangladesh and Ukraine while personnel have also been charged with providing intelligence briefings on the various regions covered by the Army's new structure.

Commanding officer Lt Col Fiona Galbraith told *Soldier* the increase in tempo has been welcomed within the ranks and that troops have relished the opportunity to broaden their horizons.

"Our recent focus had been Operation Herrick," she added. "We had multi-functional military intelligence companies on the last two tours.

"They were there to support Task Force Helmand. It was about providing an analysis of the situation on the ground and tasking collectors to go out and gather information.



"We were planning ahead and trying to understand what the local communities and insurgents were doing."

"A lot of people learnt their trade while deployed in Afghanistan but they are now enjoying the opportunities presented by a fresh challenge."

The arrival in Catterick coincided with the battalion's new priorities under the Army 2020 structure.

As a result, a company-strength team has been attached to 16 Air Assault Brigade and bespoke military intelligence components support the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Joint Force Headquarters and 3 Commando Brigade.

The set-up offers commanders an easy link to the intelligence specialists as they seek to gain greater knowledge of the varying global regions that fall within their remits.

"It is great to have a close relationship across these formations," Lt Col Galbraith said. "We can harness expertise from places like the Land and Defence Intelligence Fusion Centres and other elements of the new Intelligence and Surveillance Brigade to gather the information and academic or cultural expertise they need."

"The basic understanding of what makes a country tick is a collective effort between ourselves and the Defence Cultural Specialist Unit.

"We will then look at the pressures that exist within a particular nation or society. From there we can assess what will happen in certain scenarios and that helps commanders choose what course of action to take."

"We are really busy. As these brigades step up and take on their new roles the first thing they want is an understanding of the region they are responsible for so we have to be ahead of the game."

"But it is really exciting; my soldiers are living in a very interesting time."

The variation continues within the battalion's short-term training teams.

Defence attaches identify where personnel could potentially help and plans are formed once an initial recce has been completed.

Lt Col Galbraith explained: "It could be classroom based or even us running an exercise. It is a bespoke package."

"Some people have found themselves training officers at a strategic level while others have been working with recce troops at company level."

"We also found ourselves providing intelligence support for Operation Gritrock in Sierra Leone. We discovered that the analytical processes used in conventional warfare were applicable to tackling a deadly disease and helping to keep an economy running."

"But the real challenge for me has been balancing the move back to the UK with treating people as individuals as they step up in this new role. I'm proud to have achieved that while having 50 per cent of the unit committed to operations around the globe."

Planning ahead:
Intelligence Corps troops such as LCpl James Sawle have been tasked with supporting Adaptable Force brigades

Picture: Graeme Main



THE SET-UP OFFERS COMMANDERS AN EASY LINK TO THE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS



IT IS
IMPORTANT
THAT WE
TAKE THE
EXPERIENCE
WE HAVE
TO OTHER
PARTS OF
THE WORLD

→ PERSONNEL,
BOTH REGULAR AND
RESERVE, WHO ARE
INTERESTED
IN A CAREER IN
THE INTELLIGENCE
CORPS SHOULD
VISIT
[WWW.ARMY.MOD.UK/
INTELLIGENCE](http://WWW.ARMY.MOD.UK/INTELLIGENCE)

OVERSEAS ADVENTURE

TROOPS OFFER EXPERTISE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

TO help achieve its goals the unit has forged a strong link with the Army Reserve.

A lieutenant from 6th Military Intelligence Battalion, who cannot be named for security reasons, was part of a five-man team that recently deployed to Lebanon to deliver a five-week package to the nation's commanders.

"They've had basic training but this was a chance to enhance things further," he explained. "Given our efforts around the world we have a lot of experience to draw upon and that is valuable to these people.

"A commander wants to know how to best employ his forces and we can help him understand the situation on the ground and the enemy's capabilities.

"He can then be precise with the limited resources he has. That is key to what we do. These countries will always be crying out for more manpower and equipment but that may not happen so we have to show them how to use what they have effectively."

The officer explained how Lebanon has received a lot of input from supporting nations in recent times but he believes the experience stemming from the British Army will hold them in good stead.

He added: "They have been getting lessons from all over the place so they have to marry all these different methodologies together.

"The US military has an abundance of manpower and big budgets while we are known for being effective with what we have. That suits the Lebanese very well."

And he also spoke about the positive influence of the Reserve elements within the battalion.

"The CO is really keen on the integration and that played a big part in me going on the trip," the lieutenant said.

"The transferable skills we have are a big advantage for the Intelligence Corps. The work we do in our civilian jobs really lends itself to what the Army is trying to achieve and regiments are now realising that can be exploited."

While this effort represented a first overseas deployment for one officer a similar opportunity in Malawi added to the breadth of experience garnered by a Regular colleague.

The staff sergeant, who again cannot be named, has completed numerous deployments, including Afghanistan and the Balkans, but said working in Africa was one of the highlights of a lengthy Army career.

"We were there to teach the battalion headquarters how to function based on the Herrick model," he said.

"They responded really well. Their ability to listen and learn was fantastic and to work with them was so rewarding.

"By the time we finished the standard was similar to that of the British Army."

The trip was aimed at preparing the Malawi Defence Force for a deployment to the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the United Nations' stabilisation mission.

With a lengthy campaign ahead the home-grown forces embraced the assistance on offer and the senior NCO said their positive attitude was a real benefit.

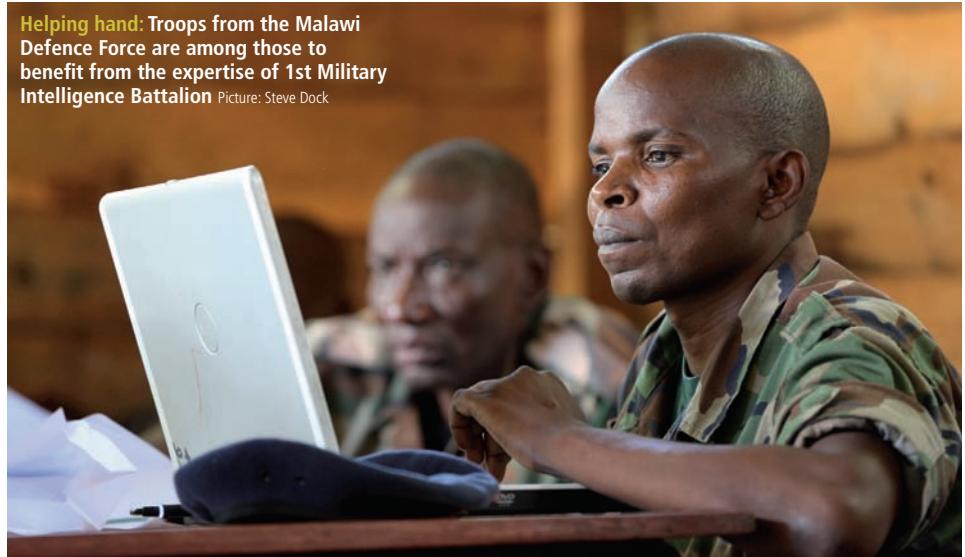
"These guys knew what they were going into and knew they would sustain casualties if things went wrong," he added.

"They wanted to use the experience they had in the room to improve as a headquarters.

"For defence engagement to be effective it has to come from a country that 100 per cent wants us there.

"It is important that we take the experience we have to other parts of the world." ■

Helping hand: Troops from the Malawi Defence Force are among those to benefit from the expertise of 1st Military Intelligence Battalion Picture: Steve Dock



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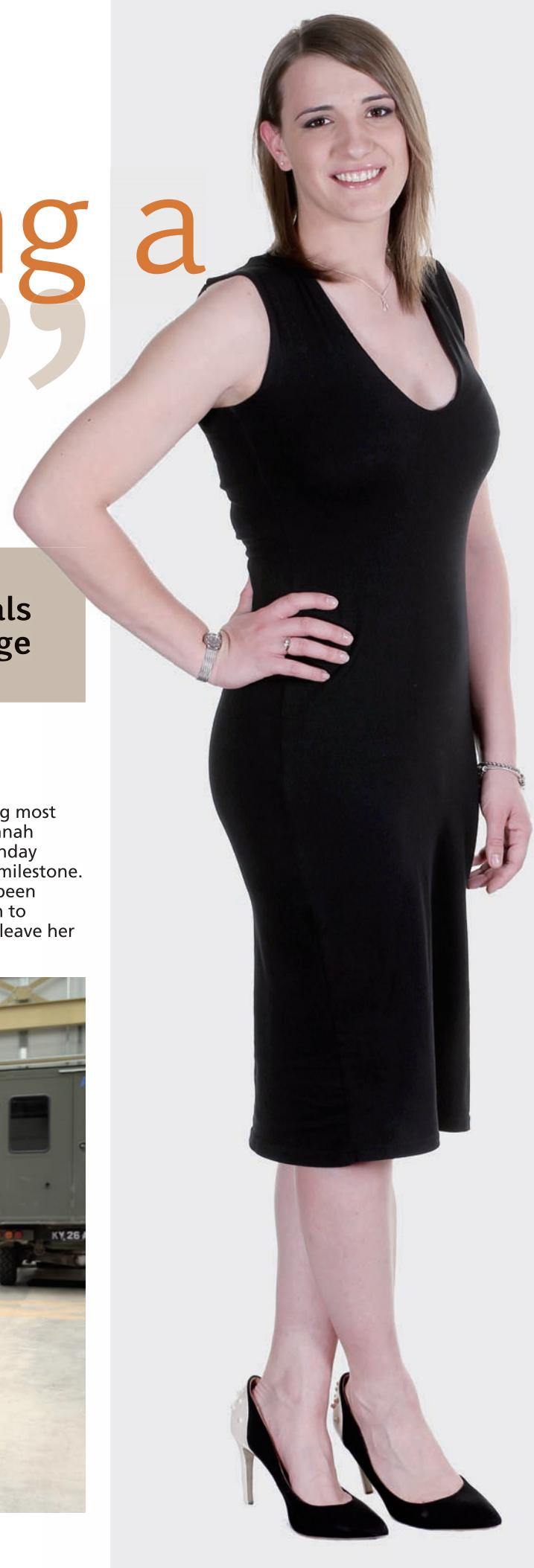
“I was living a lie”

Army's highest ranking transgender officer reveals how she found the courage to be herself

Interview: Becky Clark
Pictures: Graeme Main

BEING saluted as "Ma'am" by a soldier is something most female officers take for granted but for Capt Hannah Winterbourne the first time it happened one Monday morning back in 2013, it marked something of a milestone.

Up until the previous Friday the then 23-year-old had been known as "Sir" to her subordinates but with her decision to formally come out as transgender, the time was right to leave her male identity behind and live openly as a woman.



“
I'm still me,
I'm just
expressing
myself in
a different
way
”

It was a move that had been many years in the making. Since childhood Capt Winterbourne had struggled with the growing realisation that she didn't feel comfortable in the male body she was born with.

Throughout her fledgling military career, from Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College and an Army-sponsored university degree to officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, her sense of turmoil grew until she knew she had to act.

“I decided to stop living a lie and be true to the person I am, not the person I thought everyone else wanted me to be,” she told *Soldier*.

“Being in the Army I felt I had to put on a veneer of confident, outgoing masculinity.

“I played a good game. I suppressed a lot of feminine characteristics and learnt to behave in a very masculine way because that's how society had conditioned me to be.”

Having completed a tour of Afghanistan on Op Herrick 14, Capt Winterbourne was serving in Germany when she confided in her doctor that she thought she could be transgender.

BIG DECISION

The final trigger for her decision to seek help was seeing examples of young people in the media and online who had gone through the same thing.

“These individuals were showing outstanding bravery,” recalled the officer.

“There was a teenager who had come out to their whole school and here I was, a 23-year-old in the Army – an organisation that prides itself on integrity and courage – and I'm the one who's sat behind a locked door, not telling the world who I am.

“I thought 'that's not what the Service is about'. That was the turning point for me.”

Officially diagnosed with gender dysphoria, Capt Winterbourne set about educating herself on the MoD's policy regarding transgender personnel and by the time she arrived at her next posting at Catterick-based 1 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, she felt ready to inform her chain of command.



Free at last:
After years
of feeling
trapped, Capt
Winterbourne
finally feels
comfortable in
her own skin

"I'd read up on the rules so I knew what they needed to do to support me and what I needed to do to support them," she commented.

"It was very much a dialogue and moving forward together as a team.

"Eventually we sat down and decided when to tell the rest of the battalion.

"When the moment came my commanding officer briefed all of the officers, the RSM briefed all the NCOs and the platoon commanders briefed their soldiers so there was no shock or awe when I turned up the following Monday as a woman.

"It wasn't as nerve-racking as I thought in the end – it was almost an anti-climax, but it was very liberating to walk into my workplace as the person I know I am."

However, while Capt Winterbourne's comrades now knew of her change in identity, she had yet to tell the people closest to her – her parents and older brother.

"The fear of them pushing me aside is the most terrifying prospect I've ever had to deal with in my life," she said.

"If a friend shuns you, you can make new friends, but your family will always be your family.

"There's a feeling you've let them down and I think they went through a grieving process but eventually they realised they hadn't lost a son and now I think they're more proud of me than ever."

SUPPORT SYSTEM

Far from conforming to stereotypes about the military as an inflexible, macho environment, the Service made Capt Winterbourne's transition as easy as possible.

As she described it: "The Army cares about its employees more than most other professions.

"It's a people-based organisation and we understand the importance of making sure our soldiers have no welfare issues overshadowing their job.

"Being transgender you have a lot of pent up fear buried within yourself and you do have to keep it hidden.

"It's really hard and we spend so much emotional energy suppressing our inner feelings that we can't focus on what we're here to do, which is to provide operational effectiveness at the sharp end of the stick.

"I'm a better officer now than I was prior to transition, firstly because I'm channelling all my energy on my job and secondly because the process has made me a more empathetic person, so when I command soldiers and they come to me with issues I'm more open-minded about how to deal with them.

"That's why we should be celebrating diversity."

Now a passionate champion of the transgender community, Capt Winterbourne is a spokesperson for the Army's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Forum, a role that recently saw her presented with the Judges' Choice Award at the British LGBT Awards in London.

For more information on LGBT issues visit www.armylgbt.org.uk

To contact either of the organisation's transgender representatives, Capt Winterbourne or Spr Mel Scott (RE), email t@armylgbt.org.uk



Pride not prejudice:
Hannah with her British LGBT award

She has also appeared on programmes such as *Lorraine* and *The One Show* in the hope that talking about her experience might encourage other young people struggling with gender identity issues to feel supported in coming out.

Another priority is to dispel misconceptions, not least the idea that being transgender is a form of homosexuality.

"There's a fundamental difference between being transgender and being gay or bisexual," she commented.

"Gender is how you identify yourself and homo or bisexuality is how you find people sexually attractive."

"Sometimes they get lumped together but this is not about being gay or an extension of it.

"That's the biggest myth of all."

SPEAKING OUT

As a figurehead for transgender personnel, Capt Winterbourne is happy to speak openly about her transition – she is planning to undergo full reassignment surgery in the future – however she warned that if troops come into contact with a transgender colleague they should be careful not to let their curiosity about the process cause offence.

"I'm not bothered by people's questions, but it's completely irrelevant for them to know about the details of someone's transition," she said.

"It's a very personal thing, so unless you're closely involved with them, asking them whether they've had lower surgery is highly inappropriate."

"It's like asking somebody how big their penis is – it's no one's business."

But the officer also acknowledges that those who aren't transgender cannot fully understand what it is like.

Describing how she explains the concept of gender identity, she said: "I liken it to a spectrum, where if you imagine on one side you have female and at the other male.

"Your sense of self can be right at either end or somewhere in the middle.

"It doesn't matter where you lie on it and some people can even identify as both –

“

There's a difference between being transgender and being gay or bisexual

”

sometimes they feel more male and sometimes they feel more female.

“Some may choose not to have anything done at all. They say 'I want to identify as the opposite gender and I want you to refer to me as female and this is my new name.'

“For them that might be all they need to feel aligned.

“Others want to go further and have hormone replacement therapy and then surgery – mastectomies, or boob jobs and then perhaps lower surgery.

“But at no point do those things define your identity.”

Despite lingering misconceptions, Capt Winterbourne believes firmly that the days of institutional bigotry are a thing of the past, something she attributes not only to the hard work of the LGBT soldiers who came before her but to the fact that society as a whole is more diverse.

“People don't care as long as you're doing your job and that's testament to the Service moving forward,” she added.

“You see it most in the younger generation – they come from backgrounds where they went to school with a mixture of different races, religions and sexualities.

“But the chain of command and the policy makers absolutely get it too.”

Having left her male identity behind, the officer chooses not to divulge her old name, but not because remembering causes painful memories.

On the contrary, she remains proud of what she achieved as a man.

“I don't mind looking back at myself as a male because it reminds me just how far I've come,” she explained.

“I went to uni, got a degree, joined the Army and made some great friends. All of those things are still my accomplishments.

“And I'm still me, I'm just expressing myself in a different way.

“The hair, the make-up and clothes don't define a person, what defines them is their personality and what they do with their lives.” ■



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UNEARTHING THE PAST

**Two centuries on from Waterloo, personnel
retrace the steps of their ancestors during
major archaeological project**

Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock

SUNDAY afternoon, June 18, 1815.
Hougoumont farm, south of Brussels.

A British soldier from 2nd Battalion, The Coldstream Guards reloads his "Brown Bess" flintlock musket.

He and his comrades have been defending the position from a sustained attack by thousands of French troops since 1100 that morning.

Shooting at the enemy through holes knocked into a brick wall, the highly trained infantryman can fire up to four shots per minute but this time, fatigue or nerves get the better of him.

He fumbles his .75-calibre musket ball and it drops to the ground, where it disappears into the mud, seemingly lost forever.

Meanwhile, the Battle of Waterloo rages on...





Fast forward 200 years and the earth is once again giving up its secrets thanks to a groundbreaking archaeological survey involving the guardsman's modern-day descendants.

The Waterloo Uncovered project sees serving and former members of The Coldstream Guards working alongside leading experts from the UK and Belgium on the first in-depth scientific study to take place around Hougoumont.

Based on the tried and tested format of Operation Nightingale – the scheme that helps injured troops overcome trauma through archaeology – the initiative was founded by Maj Charlie Foinette (Coldsm Gds) and ex-captain Mark Evans.

The hands-on work began in April, when the duo led a party of four rookie archaeologists from the battalion's rehabilitation platoon, together with experienced members of Operation Nightingale, to Belgium for a week-long exploration of the site in order to prepare for more detailed excavations in July.

Speaking to *Soldier* during the visit Maj Foinette said: "Archaeology is the best possible way of engaging with history.

"Rather than someone telling you what happened, you can actually get on your hands and knees and find physical evidence of the battle – musket balls, bits of equipment – things that relate directly to what we know happened here."

Key to the first phase was a detailed geophysical survey carried out by experts from the University of Ghent.

Using the very latest technology – a piece of equipment known as an electromagnetic induction sensor – the team created a subterranean picture of some ten hectares of ground in just three days.

Assisted by archaeologists, the Servicemen then dug test trenches in areas of potential interest.

"The guardsmen are receiving minute supervision and being taught very important techniques to ensure that everything we do stands up to academic rigour," continued Maj Foinette.

"They are recording what they're finding, they're drawing the sections of the trench and then bagging and tagging the artefacts."

Among those taking part was Gdsm Newton Kent, who broke his ankle during a training exercise in the Brecon Beacons last year.

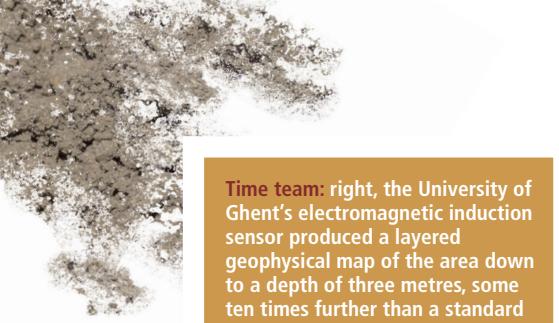
"They told us not to get too excited because we might not find anything straight away," the 24-year-old explained.

"But we quickly uncovered quite a few items and it really sparked our interest.

"We found musket balls, including one that had hit something – you can tell that because it was flattened rather than perfectly round.

"We've also dug up bits of pottery, which we think might be something they ate out of."

Time team: right, the University of Ghent's electromagnetic induction sensor produced a layered geophysical map of the area down to a depth of three metres, some ten times further than a standard metal detector can penetrate. Below, the Coldstream Guards in front of the newly restored north gate of Hougoumont, the exact spot their ancestors held back the French in 1815 as depicted in this painting by Robert Gibb



"One piece had the marking of an old monk with a bald patch.

"It gives me a much broader understanding of what happened here and I do feel more connected to the regimental history as a result."

The defence of Hougoumont, on Wellington's right flank, was one of a series of close calls for the Duke's alliance of British, German and Dutch-Belgian forces.

Had Napoleon's brother, Prince Jerome Bonaparte, not committed thousands of his men to the ultimately fruitless attack on the farm, the outcome of the entire battle could have been very different.

Gdsm Kent explained how every Coldstreamer serving today is expected to know about the formation's role in the pivotal clash.

"It's very important – we get taught it in training and it's one of those things you have to learn in case you randomly get asked to name a battle honour," he said.

"Doing the archaeology has allowed us to get more of an insight into the way the soldiers would have lived, worked and operated.

"It's also given us a clearer idea of the movement of the troops, where shots would have landed and where bodies would have lain.

"I think life was most definitely harder in those days. The courage they must have had to walk in a line and take fire straight on, it's quite amazing.

"But I honestly think today's troops





“
I feel more connected to the regimental history
”



Digging deep: above and left, the Waterloo Uncovered team excavate a trench before tagging and recording the artefacts, such as this brush which would have been used to keep the pan of a musket free of dirt

Waterwho?

Three quarters of Brits have little or no knowledge of Waterloo, according to a survey by the National Army Museum. One in ten 18-24-year-olds polled had never heard of the battle at all, while 47 per cent associated the name primarily with the song by Abba.

could do that – I like to think we're well disciplined on the battlefield too. Our training teaches us to properly follow the orders."

Although warfare has changed beyond all recognition in the 200 years since Waterloo, Maj Foinette believes that studying the battle reveals common threads that still apply to service in the 21st century.

"At that time life was cheap," commented the officer.

"It was an era when men would spend all afternoon trying to bludgeon or stab each other to death with no expectation of any coherent medical treatment at the end of it."

"I'm not saying every soldier was a superman but they had a very different outlook back then that is quite hard for us to understand."

"But some things are the same – the importance of looking after the man next to you, of good weapon drills and understanding what to do in the face of the enemy and how to fight."

"That's timeless and there's an awful lot we can learn. It's a way of bringing us closer to the people who went before us through the physical remains of their presence on this battlefield."

The need to retrieve and preserve such evidence is a vital part of the Waterloo Uncovered initiative because traces of the clash are fast disappearing.

Due to the battle's enduring mystique, tourists and amateur historians have already removed a vast number of artefacts from the area.

"Unfortunately, metal detectorists have been visiting the site for many years and even though it's illegal in Belgium they've taken a lot of material," explained the project's lead expert, Dr Tony Pollard, Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow.

"That's key evidence – every piece tells a story."

"So we didn't know how much was left and the sad truth is that a lot of it has gone."

"It's been said that the French alone fired some 190,000 rounds while attacking Hougoumont."

"We've only recovered maybe 50 musket balls over the last couple of days."

"This is the first scientific analysis and it's very timely because unless we do as much as possible, very soon – I would

say within five years – there will be very little remaining."

Despite the difficulties, Dr Pollard was confident that the dig would build a much more detailed picture of the battle and help to challenge perceptions.

"We aren't going to change the course of history," he said. "But the information we find, added to eyewitness reports, will add clarity."

"There could also be some revelations. For example we know there are a lot of men buried in pits around here and some of the features on our geophysical survey probably do relate to burial sites."

"As the project develops I think we have a duty of care to identify where the graves are and make sure they're marked and preserved for future generations."

"I think British visitors in particular tend to get very excited about the bravery and derring-do but forget that thousands of men died."

"If they could be confronted with a mass grave of 500 soldiers it would probably add an extra level of contemplation and immediacy."

Wellington called Waterloo the "nearest run thing you ever saw in your life". His narrow victory brought an end to 23 years of war and secured a century of relative peace in Europe.

In spite of its place in history however, 1815 has seemingly faded into obscurity for most of us.

A recent survey by the National Army Museum found that some 67 per cent of Britons are unaware that June 18 marks the battle's bicentenary.

Given the passage of time this is perhaps inevitable, but it illustrates the vital contribution of projects such as Waterloo Uncovered in safeguarding what little remains of those who fought there – right down to the humble musket ball. ■

» To find out more about Waterloo Uncovered visit www.waterloouncovered.com



Horrible History

The staggering statistics behind the Battle of Waterloo

● BY the end of Wellington's nine-hour showdown with Emperor Napoleon some 50,000 men lay dead or wounded.

Without a reliable system for recording casualties, accurate figures are hard to come by but, even so, the numbers paint a stark picture of sacrifice that is all but forgotten today.

Here, former consultant surgeon Michael Crumplin, author of *The Bloody Fields Of Waterloo*, reveals the brutal business of war in 1815...

Combat casualties

100,000
2,200



10,000

Along the 3.5-mile long front there were also some 10,000 dead or injured horses. The density of human and equine casualties made movement extremely difficult

number of men killed or injured during the Waterloo campaign, including the battles of Ligny, Quatre Bras and Wavre

number of dead and wounded men per mile of front line at Waterloo, about ten times that of the first day of the Battle of the Somme

First aid

2,000 amputations

carried out by surgeons in the aftermath of the battle. If limbs were removed quickly, soldiers

had an **80 per cent chance of living**.

If swelling and infection had set in the odds fell to around 60 per cent. Those who survived the journey to hospital in the first place had a 90 per cent chance of surviving. Most died on the way



12-15 mins

in which a skilled surgeon could complete a full amputation, including removing the bone and tissues and sewing up the stump. The record time to complete the removal of the limb alone is thought to have been achieved by Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey at the Battle of Aspern-Essling in 1809, when he took off Marshal Jean Lannes' leg in 1min 40sec. Surgery was performed without analgesia but men knew it was often their only chance of survival

War wounds

62 per cent of the surviving injured who sustained small arms wounds

Some 18 per cent suffered sword or sabre injuries

Only 15 per cent had wounds inflicted by cannon fire – anyone hit by canister or round shot had a very small chance of survival

Recovery

75%

of the 6,000 plus injured survivors recovered well enough to rejoin their regiments just a year after the battle



ABOVE & BEYOND



Fighting talk from Aaron Long as he introduces Military Discounts at Westover Land Rover

Westover Land Rover in Salisbury is one of just two Land Rover showrooms in the UK approved to sell discounted Land Rover vehicles to serving military personnel. With a strong military community in place and an influx of troops about to return to Salisbury Plain, the Old Sarum-based showroom has appointed a dedicated specialist to handle its military business.

Aaron Long, the showroom's new military contact, comes with a strong pedigree. He's worked with Westover Land Rover for more than 12 years and has been chosen as one of Land Rover's top 10 showroom staff many times in recognition of his commitment and professionalism, so there's no question over his attention to detail or his knowledge of the Land Rover range.

Forces reductions of up to 12.5 per cent are available across the Land Rover range, on all Defender, Discovery, Discovery Sport and Range Rover models, from Westover Land Rover in Salisbury. The special military prices are available to all military personnel, not just those posted overseas.

Westover Land Rover service facilities are second to none. Our manufacturer trained technicians using only genuine Land Rover parts are your guarantee of a first class job, every time. We also offer discounted servicing rates to all military personnel and a complimentary collection and delivery service – so there's no need to worry about fitting service and MOT appointments around time spent working away from home.

"The reduced prices apply universally to all servicemen and women, including



those who are currently – or are about to be – posted overseas," says Aaron. "It's a genuine reduction that seeks to bring a cash benefit to members of the British Army, Navy and Air Force – we can help with registration, delivery and shipment paperwork, so the process is just as straightforward as any other car purchase.

"This is a simple opportunity to own one of the most iconic vehicles on the road at a big discount and we're trying to spread the word so that members of the Armed Forces can make the most of the chance we're offering.

"The vast majority of members of the Armed Forces will have come into contact with a Defender during their military career, so they know all about the robustness

and capability of our vehicles already. Many are surprised by how luxurious the civilian models are though!"

With a strong local heritage spanning many years, Westover Land Rover is ideally located just to the north of Salisbury with easy access to the A303.

The showroom supports local charity, Help for Heroes, as well as Race2Recovery, an organisation providing opportunities for servicemen and women who have experienced life changing injuries to participate in a professional off-road rallying team. You can also see Westover Land Rover supporting military point to points around the Salisbury area, as well as at Tidworth Polo Club.



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The dramatic accounts from British Army personnel who managed to survive Nepal's deadliest earthquake

KEEPING CALM IN





Pictures: Sgt Neil Bryden, RAF

A CRISIS



Reports: Steve Muncey and Joe Clapson

WHEN Nepal's largest ever earthquake struck on April 25 the British Army Gurkhas based in the country swung into action with an emergency plan that had been 18 months in the making.

The initial shock of 7.8 magnitude wrecked houses, flattened centuries-old temples and triggered devastating avalanches and landslides.

In Kathmandu the general population was in a state of disarray, power and water were in short supply and many of the large buildings that were left standing teetered on the edge of collapse.

One oasis of relative calm and stability in the capital though was HQ British Gurkhas Nepal, home to around 50 Army personnel.

It quickly became the sanctuary for just about every foreign diplomat, embassy worker and government contractor living and working in the city.

Just three months before the team had hosted an "earthquake symposium" at their barracks, during which they briefed numerous foreign embassies on their contingency plans for a major earthquake (see page 7).

"We had been rehearsing every single month for a year-and-a-half," Col Sean Harris, commanding officer of British Gurkhas Nepal, told *Soldier*.

"We practised how to evacuate families from their houses and how to get the children quickly and safely out of the school.

"We also established procedures for setting up an emergency ops room, generating and purifying water from our reserve tanks, operating without water if those tanks were ruptured and even erecting chemical loos and shower units.

"Then, twice a year we staged major earthquake exercises, where soldiers from our sub-unit in Pokhara would come down to test and assess our efforts and then we would go up to their base to test and assess theirs.

"So after that first major

earthquake struck, within 30 minutes we had accounted for all our people, deployed six Gurkhas to secure the British embassy and by the end of the evening were feeding and accommodating 150 foreign nationals who had been directed to us by the other embassies and missions across the capital."

In the days that followed, the troops provided care in two main areas, one in the British Embassy and one in their main Kathmandu barracks.

In total, more than 500 distressed people were fed, watered and given shelter, including civilian tourists, teaching staff from the British school and diplomats from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Belgium, among many others.

The Gurkha team were helped out by a small group of instructors from The Royal Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot, led by Capt Lee Sawyer, who happened to be in the country tutoring Nepalese soldiers.

"They were quite exceptional," continues Col Harris. "They maintained morale, cooked the food, organised litter parades, enforced discipline and provided much succour and support to the youngsters."

However, while they were caring for others, the British personnel also had to deal with the trauma of the situation on a personal level.

"It wasn't easy at all," adds Col Harris.

"For the first few nights we all slept outside and were woken many times by lots of aftershocks, sending millions of birds screaming into the air. For ages after each tremor sleep was literally impossible."

"Also, as a soldier, I'd been to places before that had been devastated but I had usually been dropped in fresh and was fully prepared for dealing with the challenge."

"However, we really have been part of this disaster. The British compounds weren't damaged but outside there were bodies all over the place."

"We just keep thinking to ourselves how bloody lucky we've been." >>



Pictures: Jonny Fenn, Alun Richardson and Serve On

Army Everest team blocked off

- AN avalanche on Mount Everest caused by the devastating first earthquake in Nepal left a team of Service mountaineers cut off from civilization.

The British Army Everest 15 expedition had set off from Tibet to conquer the world's tallest mountain on the dangerous north face.

They were at an advanced base camp at 6,400 metres when the huge tremors caused dangerous masses of snow and ice to fall in their direction. WO2 Simon Naylor (RAPTC), the expedition leader, said: "It was surreal when the ground beneath us lost its stability.

"Although we weren't in the middle of it we could see avalanches and rocks falling.

"We saw ice collapse close by one of our team, Maj Rab Black (RAPTC), who was attempting to cross a glacier.

"A couple of huge cracks opened up around him – thankfully he got away unharmed."

The six-person group decided to cancel their bid to scale the peak, which had come at the end of two years of training.

"It took us five days to get off the mountain and then we couldn't get to Kathmandu because a bridge had been wiped out."

That meant they had to travel eastwards through China before returning to the UK.

Trekkers have a narrow escape

- THE first earthquake that hit the country killed two members of the Nepalese trekking company, Gurkha Adventures, who were assisting troops from the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) as they trekked across the Himalayas.

They were the third of an eight-leg team on an expedition to trek the 1,600-kilometre expedition along the Great Himalaya Trail when all hell broke loose.

"The day that the earthquake struck was by far the toughest day of the trek for this section of the expedition as the team had to cross the 5,755m Tashi Lapsa Pass," explained the expedition's organiser, Maj Andy Gooch (3 RSME).

"They were on their way down towards the village of Na when they were caught in an avalanche that was triggered by the earthquake.

"Very sadly one of the Nepalese guides and a Nepalese porter were killed.

"In addition four of the British soldiers and four Nepalese

porters also suffered a range of minor injuries."

As the tonnes of snow, ice and rocks passed over the group in a wave, all of their equipment was swept away leaving the Service personnel with nothing other than the clothes and kit they were wearing.

The survivors reached safety in Na where they were able to secure food and shelter some 23 hours after setting off. They spent four days in the village before being flown by helicopter to Kathmandu, where members received medical treatment and were accommodated by HQ British Gurkhas Nepal.

On returning to the UK, Maj Gooch added: "This has been a tragic event but through careful planning before departure and a robust communications plan once deployed it was possible to extract all of our personnel safely in a timely manner."

"We are now focussing our efforts on how we can raise funds to support the families of the two who were killed."



Serve On send in specialists

- THE first British civilian team to arrive in Nepal to assist with search and rescue operations came from the Serve On charity.

The specialists, based in Salisbury, sent an eight-man party made up of civilians and ex-Forces personnel who arrived in Kathmandu 53 hours after the first major earthquake hit the country.

The volunteers assessed a number of collapsed and unstable buildings in the capital before deploying to remote areas.

One member, Simon Thomasson (ex-R Signals), said: "We worked in the east of Kathmandu to assess hospitals and schools before moving to the hills."

The team passed information about the help that was required to aid agencies and also used purification kits to provide up to 8,000 litres of fresh filtered water a day to other rescue teams and affected communities.



Trust wary of monsoon

- THE Gurkha Welfare Trust has deployed its staff across Nepal to provide emergency relief and to assess the level of destruction in the wake of the two severe earthquakes.

The charity has a total of 22 area welfare centres located in the traditional recruiting grounds for the Brigade of Gurkhas and the earthquakes seriously affected five of those regions.

Personnel from the Trust's field arm, the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, also travelled to the devastated areas in order to provide shelters, food, blankets and a range of medicines.

Lt Col Gary Blewitt (R Welsh), the organisation's field director, said: "Homes were flattened and other community infrastructure such as schools, bridges and water projects have extensive damage.

"The oncoming rains of the monsoon are approaching, which will cause landslide damage to the fractured land."

> Disaster profile

7.3 7.8

Magnitude of second earthquake on May 12

000,000

Estimated number of buildings destroyed

Magnitude of first earthquake on April 25

8,600

Estimated number of deaths

2.8 million

UN estimate of number of displaced people



Gurkha 200 climbers shaken up

● THIS mission to climb Everest was supposed to be part of the events marking 200 years of Service by Nepalese troops to the British crown.

The 14 soldiers were attempting to put the first serving Gurkha on top of the world's highest mountain.

They were approaching the summit from the south-eastern side in Nepal and were 4,000 metres up at Camp One when the first earthquake struck.

After finding themselves stuck on the mountain for two days they were airlifted down to Everest's devastated Base Camp, where they spent 48 hours assisting with the recovery effort and salvaging as much of their personal stores and equipment as possible.

Deputy expedition leader, Major Andrew Todd (RGR), (pictured right) recounted the moment the earth moved.

"We were going through our normal morning routine when the glacier started to shake in all directions," he said.

"It was like being on jelly and our immediate thought was that we were about to be hit by a huge avalanche.

"Visibility was completely reduced so we couldn't see anything but we knew the glacier was crevassing beneath us because we could feel it.

"I really thought our time was up and we were about to be swallowed up by the ground."

Following the shocks Maj Todd received a radio message stating that Base Camp had been completely destroyed.

"It was clear that we were stuck on the mountain – the ice field behind us was heavily crevassed and the weather was too bad to get helicopters in," he explained.

"We got down to Base Camp and helped out as much as we could with the clear up.

"We remained calm despite the horrific stories that were emerging; there was definitely a separation in demeanour between the military and civilians at this point.

"As a soldier your training kicks in and you draw on your experience – most of our team have done three tours of Afghanistan and have witnessed some traumatic events before.

"When I think of the casualties that resulted from the earthquake, it is unbelievable our team didn't experience deaths or any serious injuries."



How you can help

Donations to the welfare appeal can be made via:

Gurkha Welfare Trust

Website: www.gwt.org.uk

 @gwtorg

Donate: www.gwt.org.uk/donate/earthquake

Disasters Emergency Committee

Website: www.dec.org.uk/appeals/nepal-earthquake-appeal

 @decappeal

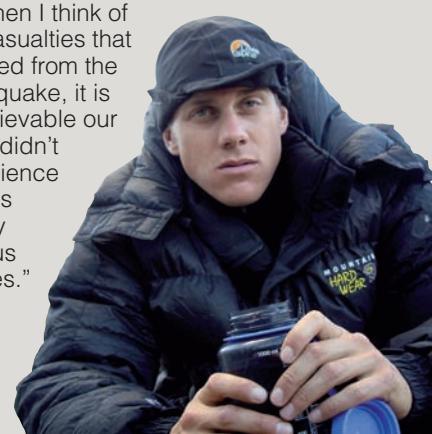
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Serve On

Website: www.serveon.org.uk/

 @serve_on

Donate: bit.ly/1c3gzpp



Interview: Richard Long

Tis one of the biggest questions facing personnel as they approach the end of their Service careers – what to do next?

For one such individual the solution was simple: take a roll call of larger-than-life characters, add an array of storage units packed full of intriguing items and film the subsequent bidding war.

The result is *Storage Hunters*, an auction-based television programme that is now broadcast in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Creator and auctioneer Sean Kelly came up with the concept after leaving the US Army and he spoke to *Soldier* about its success ahead of the new series of *Storage Hunters UK*, which starts on June 2 on Dave.

» Tell us about your military background? How did you find your way into the US Forces?

As a kid I grew up in Germany. My father was an insurance salesman, I went to school there and I spoke fluent German. I later worked on a US base in Italy, I got talking to an Army recruiter and he suggested I could get into military intelligence with my language skills. It sounded like an intriguing career move. After completing my training I served with 533rd Military Intelligence Brigade in Frankfurt, Germany.

» What was your role and where did it take you?

We were listening in on East German communications during the Cold War and then Kuwait was invaded. At the time the Army did not have enough Arabic linguists but they had lots of German speakers. After the East and West unified we were sent to Saudi Arabia and paired up with local college kids to do similar work. They knew Arabic, we knew what intelligence was important. I was then part of the initial ground invasion of Iraq and spent time in Basra. We manned the furthest deployed checkpoint and had to search people fleeing from Baghdad.

» How did Service life shape you for the future?

I went in at 19 and to be given so much responsibility as a young soldier was a big thing. A lot of civilians do not realise the amount of hard work our troops do. Nowadays, if you meet a 19 or 20-year-old kid they generally have no idea what they want to do with their life. The difference between them and someone of a similar age with a combat tour behind them is amazing. I would not trade my military experience for anything, it gave me a sense of confidence and when I left the Armed Forces I knew I could be successful.

» Discuss your career path after leaving the Army? Did you head straight to the auction room?

After Desert Storm I spent a year as a military instructor but when I left the Army I didn't know what to do with my life. I ended up working in advertising sales and really enjoyed it. I got recruited by a newspaper in San Diego and then started stand-up comedy – I was doing seven shows a week as well as the day job. I also got involved in auctions, which I immediately loved.

» What was the attraction of life as an auctioneer?

It was the excitement of not knowing what was in the next bin and what you might find. As an auctioneer I can be the star of the show without taking any risk. I make 30 per cent on each sale and am in the thick of the action. I have a style that is slightly unorthodox and I like to wind people up.

» So how did an up-and-coming auctioneer become the star of *Storage Hunters*?

I filmed my first ever auction in 2009 and took the tape to Los Angeles with a view to making a television show. The production companies I spoke to didn't know this kind of thing existed; it was a fresh, original concept and they were instantly hooked.

» Has the success of the show come as a surprise?

I could never have guessed it would become as big as it has, especially in the UK. I love the show but to see it in 44 different countries around the world is amazing. I was recently in Budapest and strangers were coming up to me to shake my hand, it was crazy but really exciting. I enjoy meeting the fans.

» *Storage Hunters* is famed for its array of feisty characters. Were they handpicked for the series and how did they get involved?

I had regulars who would come to my auctions in San Diego. *Storage Hunters* did not become a show until 2011 so I had plenty of time; I was doing 25 auctions a month so I met a lot of people. I already knew guys like Jesse and "Papa Bear" and Tarrell "T-Money" Wright had been a friend for 17 years. The production company wanted interesting characters who were either annoying or who really knew what they were doing.

'I WOULD NOT TRADE MY MILITARY EXPERIENCE FOR ANYTHING'

BACK IN

Auctioneer reflects on Forces career as new series hits the small screen



>> Did you follow the same formula when creating the British show?

We went to auctions across the UK in an attempt to find people. One of my favourite couples is John and Nat. They have a second-hand store and work really hard. She is loud and boisterous but they are great people who are trying to make a living. The key for us is finding individuals who are good at this and know what things are worth but have a personality as well.

>> Why do you think the programme is so popular over here?

Now I'm filming in this country I've got to know a lot of people and I believe this format is perfect for UK auctions. There are guys who enjoy the dramas but they also like to roll the dice and gamble. I've always been an entrepreneur and I like the idea that you can get ahead in life in this way.

>> Finally, as a former soldier is it the military items at auction that are of the most interest?

Yes, they usually open my eyes. We have guys who have toured Iraq, Afghanistan and other places round the globe and they bring things back with them. We come across some really crazy stuff that the previous owners forget is even in there. I've seen bayonets, weapons they really should not have and even an anti-tank device. In Iraq I saw guys trying to find ways to sneak different stuff back.

■ Sean Kelly will also bring a new series of stand-up shows to the UK this autumn.

Follow [@SeanKellyComedy](#) for more details.

Interview: Richard Long

A

S the inaugural European Games get under way this month audiences across the continent can expect the event to run with ruthless military precision.

The multi-discipline athletic festival will be staged in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, but the operation will have a British feel as its chief operating officer is ex-Army man Simon Clegg.

After a military career that included spells with The Parachute Regiment and 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, the former Serviceman progressed to the world of sports administration and his new path has included spells as chief executive of the British Olympic Association and Ipswich Town Football Club.

Soldier spoke to Clegg on the eve of the opening ceremony to learn more about the Games and how his background in the Armed Forces helped him in his new role.

Tell us about the European Games and how they came about...

Europe is the only continent that does not have its own games. Despite the athletic prowess and strength we have there has never been an Olympic-style event for competitors in Europe. We will have 20 different sports, 16 of which are Olympic events. Of those, 12 will carry either direct or non-direct qualification for Rio 2016. For example, the winners of the triathlon, table tennis and some shooting events will qualify automatically. There will be 6,000 competitors from 50 different countries and most disciplines will feature the best athletes. This is one of the most important new global sporting events of the last 50 years.

How was Baku selected as the host city?

The Games have been a long-held aspiration for Europe's Olympic committees.

The real catalyst for the event coming here was the President of Azerbaijan, who understands sport and realises its political impact. This is a young and forward-thinking nation that has benefited greatly from its oil resources. They see sport as part of the cultural shift as the country moves in a new direction and away from an over-reliance on energy.

Explain your role as chief operating officer. What does it entail?

I oversee 20 different departments from the sale of broadcasting rights to the development of infrastructure. When I arrived there were only 150 staff but that has grown considerably. We have built five brand-new venues including a 65,000-capacity athletics stadium and an aquatic centre.

What challenges have you faced since taking the job?

You would normally get seven years to plan and prepare for something like this. Baku has had just 30 months to compress the planning and lead-in time together. I would not say it has been plain sailing and we need every one of the remaining days to make sure we can deliver. You do not organise events on this scale without encountering problems along the way so you have to find quick solutions.

How has your military background helped in the role?

Delivering such an operationally focused timeline event has had a certain degree of compatibility with the organisational skills needed in the Services. In the Army you get opportunities to develop your leadership and managerial abilities. That has given me a bedrock for the way I lead projects such as this.

Most of my colleagues say I'm fairly military in the way I go about things but I think that brings great strength to the organisation. Having served as an Army officer in Germany during the Cold War here I am in an ex-Soviet country. It is amazing how quickly the world changes and just how far Azerbaijan has come in 23 years. In the days of the Soviet Union there was not much investment in top-class sports facilities, they have been playing catch-up.

What are the interest levels in the Games?

We have now secured 75 per cent market penetration in terms of television coverage across Europe, but like any new event it takes time to register in peoples' consciousness. We have started our advertising campaign and interest levels are growing fast.

» The European Games will be broadcast live on BT Sport from Friday, June 12



Picture: Getty Images



In numbers:

£65 million

secured by British businesses as a result of staging the Games

1,576

members of full-time staff on the Baku team

15

ex-Service personnel involved, many of whom are heads of departments



GAMES master

Former Serviceman takes leading role
in new European sporting showcase

**'We will
have 20
different
sports,
16 of
which are
Olympic
events'**

**Man with a
plan: Ex-officer
Simon Clegg has
been a driving
force behind the
European Games**

Pictures: Christopher
Lee/Getty Images





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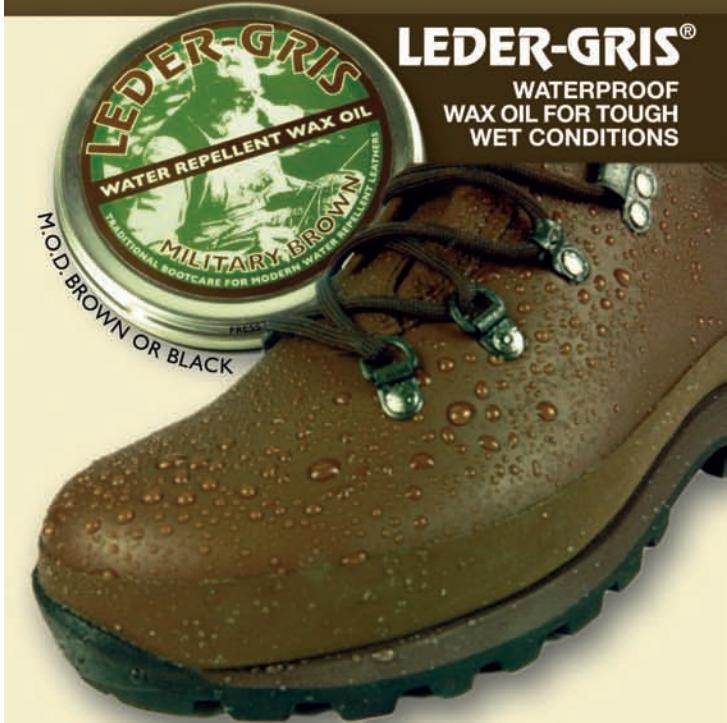
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DRAGON SUPPLIES Colchester | JJ SUPPLIES Brecon | HENRY DUBORA Aldershot
MILITARY KIT Manchester | TAUNTON LEISURE Exeter, Bristol, Taunton
SOLDIER OF FORTUNE N. Wales | TOP OF THE RANGE Tadcaster
ENFORCE LOGIC Windsor | ATR BASSINGBOURN Royston
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TALKBACK

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

”



“

THE
FACILITIES
LEAVE A
LOT TO BE
DESIRED

”

Room rent rant

I AM a single soldier living in Aliwal warrant officers' and sergeants' mess on Tidworth Garrison.

I have been here for just under a year and am still amazed at the charges for my accommodation.

When I arrived from Blandford Garrison my standard of living reduced significantly but my monthly charges increased fourfold.

I currently pay for a grade one unit

and while it may have been given this rating when it was built it certainly wouldn't justify it now.

I've asked the chain of command about the scale of charges but they have not provided an answer.

The accommodation is not poor but the facilities leave a lot to be desired.

For example, there's only one washing machine and one tumble drier for up to 15 people.

Being at a unit that conducts physical training each day, this lack of provision is keenly felt by us all.

The rooms are also furnished to a basic level at best.

Not only that but I currently pay more for my single room than some married soldiers pay for their Service families accommodation each month.

— Name and address supplied.

Col James Denny, garrison commander, HQ TNB Garrison, replies: This accommodation was last assessed in January 2012. It meets the tri-Service accommodation regulations (TSARs) and is some of the best across the Army.

The scaling for white goods and furniture are stipulated in TSARs 464 as a general guide.

This was changed a couple of years ago and we had to get funding for additional items and also for plumbing and electrical connections for all the utility rooms and a programme of works.

That is now complete and white goods are being delivered in the near future.

As for your charging concerns, some family units are grade four and, indeed, cheaper than grade one single living accommodation.

'MY COLLEAGUES HAVE THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND'

I WOULD like to applaud the very measured and reasonable response by Brig John Donnelly to the letter in the March issue, "*I feel like a second-class soldier*".

I have been in full-time Reserve service (home commitment) for the past seven years and am embarrassed by the level of ignorance displayed by some of my fellow personnel.

The offer and commitment is clear and if you're not happy with the proposition you shouldn't sign up.

There is no room for interpretation of the terms and conditions of service although at times you can receive conflicting advice from various parts of the chain of command.

For instance, I was told to apply for home to duty travel allowance and I had to point out that troops in my category aren't allowed to.

As regards this type of service being considered a career, that is clearly wrong but being denied the opportunity to apply for advancement should perhaps be reviewed.

— Name and address supplied.

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:
We now employ

approximately 2,500 personnel in these type of appointments, the majority of whom are former Regular soldiers.

I am sorry that there are still some parts of the Army that do not fully understand the terms of this form of service but we must redouble our efforts to ensure that unit and formation administrative staff are aware of the differences.

I can understand your frustration at the current lack of career advancement but this is to ensure that there is no impact on the Reservist career structures and management.

That said, as the Force is now making greater use of all elements of the Reserve, we will be reviewing this and all other aspects of part-time service during the course of the summer.

“
IF YOU'RE
NOT
HAPPY
YOU
SHOULDN'T
SIGN UP

”



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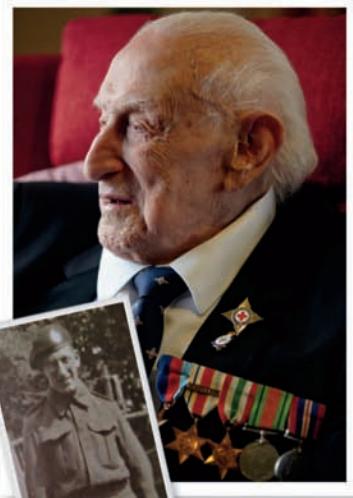
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“We went to the cemetery and the first grave was one of our soldiers. It broke me up.”

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

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

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Out of Africa and out of pocket

AM currently on a six-month attachment to the British Army Training Unit Kenya (Batu) where all temporary duty staff are entitled to take two weeks off.

This is usually deducted from their individual leave allowance. However, the tempo of the work and the long hours here, including over many weekends, are not taken into account.

I'd like to know why we don't get any extra allowance, including post-operational tour leave?

After all, it does say "operational requirement" on my assignment order.

Secondly, I was fortunate enough to take some time off over Christmas but had to pay for the flights back to Kenya at my own expense, which cost me more than £800.

Strangely, if I had wanted to fly my family out I would have been entitled to claim families assistance for visits abroad (FAVA).

How can we obtain that but nothing related to my own passage back to the UK?

When I first raised this with my chain of command their reply was that we are expected to take our leave in-country. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: Permanent Joint Headquarters is responsible for deciding which assignments are operational deployments and so qualify for rest and recuperation and post-operational leave.

At present, temporary assignments to Batu are not

classified as operational. The policy on taking annual leave is that, wherever possible, individuals should be able to take it when they want to within the leave year in which it is granted.

However, this is not always possible and there may be occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, when commanders need to direct personnel to take time out.

On the issue of extra leave in recognition of working long hours, this facility already exists.

If the circumstances warrant it, commanding officers are able to grant a stand down of up to one week, and this is not deducted from the standard leave allowance.

As for FAVA, this does not reimburse the cost of travel but aims to provide a token level of financial assistance towards food and accommodation costs incurred by your family on a visit during an extended period of deployment.

When it comes to additional allowances, though, remember you are entitled to the longer separation allowance (LSA).

For an individual on the lowest rate this would amount to £1,249.89 for a 183-day assignment, while personnel on temporary assignments receive temporary duty rates of local overseas allowance, which for a sergeant amounts to £1901.37 tax-free for 183 days.

The fact that you could claim FAVA while on your temporary assignment is another benefit.

LEAVERS FACE A BUMPY ROAD

● I WAS employed by the Army as non-Regular permanent staff for 16 years and then on full-time Reserve service for 16 months. I will be shortly coming to the end of my term.

Having attended a resettlement interview as an early leaver I found that all I am entitled to is two briefings.

I attempted to book myself on a Career Transition Partnership workshop that would have been useful but was informed I wasn't entitled because of MoD policy.

So is the following statement I saw in a transition fair programme not applicable to all Forces leavers?

"The Army is not just a normal job, so leaving the Service and starting a new life is not the same as changing jobs as a civilian. Therefore, helping those who are leaving to get the best possible start is just one way of recognising the loyalty and commitment they have shown to the Army. These values are also recognised through the Armed Forces Covenant that ensures a fair deal for those who have served and sacrificed most. As well as the obligation to our comrades we also have an obligation to wider society. The Army 'borrows' people from civil society and has a responsibility to return them in a way that allows them to settle quickly into their new lives and to make a positive contribution."

Does this mean Reserve regulations are outdated and in need of amending?

Surely, having been committed and made sacrifices, we deserve a better resettlement package. – **Name and address supplied.**

Maj Patricia Ridley-Jones, SO2 Pers Ed, Directorate of Educational Capability, responds: Personnel serving under Reserve terms and conditions are not entitled to resettlement help unless they are mobilised in a full-time appointment – and they must complete the same length of service, with a minimum of six years, as Regular soldiers before becoming eligible.

Non-Regular permanent staff are part of the Reserve and are usually recruited for a specific role and appointment in a specific location.

They are not mobilised and as such are ineligible for the resettlement package.

For more information refer to chapter 6 of the Army Reserve regulations or the tri-Service policy document JSP 534.

Personnel should always be made aware of their entitlements before the start of employment and while we appreciate your views on the matter, the MoD has advised there is no intention to widen access to the resettlement service at the moment.

However, you can contact The Royal British Legion through their website to obtain support at www.britishlegion.org.uk/can-we-help/civvy-street



Picture: Graeme Main

DIGITAL DOSSIER

Your views from the web...



@soldiermagazine

#NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

@Broadstone8641

Just heard from our bro in Nepal, after the Gurkha 200 Expedition. He said: "I'm alive again, but running out of cat lives and underpants"

@KimSengupta07

Gurkhas to the rescue in Nepal, ignoring injuries and rejecting flights home

@PopSci

The giant earthquake in Nepal left the Himalayas almost five feet shorter

#TRANSGENDER (P32-35)

@SuziMichelle

So much respect for transgender Capt Hannah Winterbourne. So inspiring and courageous

@stuwystv

Chuffed to see Capt Hannah Winterbourne of my Dad's regiment

@miw3663

The British Army embraced Capt Hannah Winterbourne & so I expect the blokes down my local 2 do the same towards #LGBT community

#ARMY RUGBY

@rickyreeves1982

What an amazing day. Such a privilege to play with all the lads yesterday. @ArmyvNavyRugby can't wait for next year

@rocco3225 (semesa rokoduguni)

Great win today boys. Special mention to man of match @JonasaBulumakau great stuff brother!! Well deserved!! Will/ mundy/owen boys world class!!

@cme_7

Just about recovered from @ArmyvNavyRugby weekend, shall we do it all over again now?

“
THIS
LEAVES ME
WONDERING
WHERE MY
PAYMENT
GOES?
”

Pricey post 'not delivering'

I RECENTLY sent a parcel to the Joint Warfare Centre in Jatta from my local British Forces Post Office.

While I expected to pay for the service, I did not anticipate handing over more than £10 for a second-class recorded delivery.

I questioned how Royal Mail could justify charging me anything for sending my parcel from one Forces post office to another as they had no hand in the parcel's transportation.

I was told the item is shipped from our base in Germany to a central sorting office elsewhere in the country and then on to BFPO HQ in Northolt before heading to Norway via the postal and courier system.

This leaves me wondering where my payment goes exactly?

My frustration was further compounded when I realised that if I had sent the same parcel to another BFPO number in Germany the cost would have been pennies due to an agreement with Deutsche Post.

I feel Royal Mail are making money from services they are not providing.

A case in point is special delivery charges, which provide nowhere near the transit time we are charged for.

When my wife posted an important document back to the UK last year she paid for guaranteed delivery within 24 hours but it took five working days for it to arrive at the other end. — **Name and address supplied.**

Lt Col Simon Watkins, SO1 plans and policy, HQ BFPO, responds:
It may help if I explain the route your parcel took.

From your local BFPO, it was taken by road to the sorting office at RAF Northolt before boarding one of our sub-contracted flights from Heathrow to Norway.

Upon arrival in the country the mail was collected from the airport by the unit.

You have correctly identified that, with this particular transaction, Royal Mail was not involved in the carriage.

However, it did facilitate it by providing the system and equipment needed.

BFPO works closely with Royal Mail Group, Post Office Ltd and Parcel Force to provide the high quality and value service that Army personnel expect.

In areas such as yours, that are not covered by the Enduring Families Free Mail Service (EFFMS), soldiers pay the equivalent inland UK Royal Mail rate, or a special subsidised Armed Forces Parcel Force rate.

As part of the arrangement, it has been agreed that charges will be levied to Royal Mail for the UK inland rate for all eligible (non-EFFMS) transactions, though BFPO does receive a portion of the stamp sales to offset costs.

Therefore, while not directly involved in the handling of your item, it is this arrangement that ensures we can keep our prices in line with Royal Mail's, as well as receiving a far greater level of service, especially internationally, than might be expected having only paid the UK inland rate.

This is also far cheaper than it would be to send your item independently via other carriers.

Regarding your special delivery item, the 24 hours quoted refers to the period after its arrival in the UK, not from posting. It also offers the additional peace of mind of its tracking and compensation service.

We apologise if this was not made clear at the point of sale.



“I cannot understand how this can be justified”

TALKBACK

“MORALE IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW”

‘It’s the latest twist of the knife’

I JOINED the ranks of non-Regular permanent staff (NRPS) from a good civilian job some time ago, having left the Regular Army a year previously.

I did so after looking at the whole package on offer and didn’t make the decision lightly.

Since then I have lost my home to duty travel (HDT) allowance, effectively cutting my take-home pay by around £2,500 per year.

I would like to mention that when this subject was raised on a visit from the CGS’ briefing team the response was that individuals affected should either “move home to be closer to work” or “move their work to be closer to home”.

Neither of those are an option for many of us.

Not only that, I receive no X-factor, even though I am subject to many of the disadvantages of Service life that are taken into account when it is given to those who are eligible.

This includes members of the Reserve and the Military Provost Guard Service who receive an additional five per cent even though their terms and conditions are very similar to mine.

Then there’s the NRPS redundancy package, which was revoked in 2011 and replaced with a new scheme with drastically reduced benefits.

Should I be made redundant this year, the difference between the two schemes is in the order of £65,000 over the six-and-a-half years up to my 60th birthday, with an annual shortfall of around £3,000 thereafter.

It was also highlighted recently in this magazine that NRPS redundancy lump sums are taxable whereas those paid to Regular personnel are not.

There are ongoing whispers about NRPS 75 soldiers’ contracts not being renewed at the expected expiry date despite the fact that we were all sent a letter in August 2010 assuring us that this wouldn’t happen.

And the latest twist of the knife is that in April 2014 we were told we would be denied laundry tax relief.

Full-time Reserve staff (FTRS) receive this allowance but NRPS soldiers have been subject to separate discussions in common with a number of other groups.

I cannot understand how this can be justified because in my unit we have individuals in both categories doing exactly the same job.

The result of these negotiations

was due before the end of 2014 but, as I write, it is still to be announced.

All of this makes for a cohort who feel drastically undervalued and morale is at an all-time low. —

Name and address supplied.

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds:

Your letter covers a raft of conditions of service which I’ll answer in brief, due to the space available.

Let me start with X-factor, which is the pensionable addition to pay that recognises the special conditions of service experienced by members of the Armed Forces when compared to their civilian counterparts.

There are justifiable differences in the terms and conditions of service between different categories of staff, which is acknowledged in the proportion of X-factor awarded. NRPS are not obliged to deploy, for example.

With HDT, this tax-free allowance is unique to the Armed Forces and linked to mobility but NRPS, being non-mobile, are not entitled.

The loss of this might have been a blow but you did have four years’ notice and HMRC regulations are a matter for that department to determine.

With regard to your redundancy terms, the original scheme was based on the old civil service arrangements, which were withdrawn in December 2010.

The new redundancy scheme, launched in August 2012, shares some common features with the current civil service arrangements – for example, the first £30,000 of any payment made under the scheme is tax-free but tax is payable on the remainder in line with HMRC regulations.

Following the strategic review of Reserves in 2009, NRPS posts were



Picture: Steve Dock

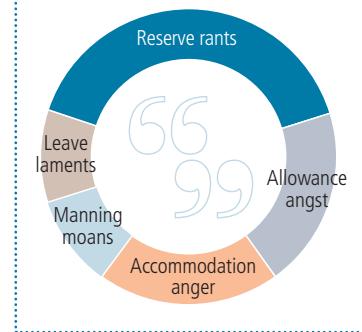
closed to new entrants and FTRS (home commitment) was selected as an alternative and modern form of employment that complied with current Treasury policy.

I can confirm there are no current plans to change your expected expiry dates, as the director of manning’s letter stated in August 2010.

Finally, laundry tax relief for NRPS personnel is the subject of continuing discussions with HMRC and further information will be published in due course.

SLICE OF SERVICE LIFE

This month’s ruminations from the ranks...



Boarding School - Girls & Boys - 5 to 19 years

Queen Ethelburga's

Thorpe Underwood, York. YO26 9SS. Tel: 01423 333330 Email: info@QE.org. www.QE.org

Why choose an independent school education for your child if you qualify for CEA?

If you made a list, the same reasons would keep appearing. We think the list might include: happy children, academic results, a personalised approach, top quality teachers with specialised expertise, good discipline, latest technology and superb facilities, excellent pastoral care, excellent sport, first class boarding accommodation, diverse experience, small classes, university success, excellent career prospects, first class confidence and self assurance. If you want the best for your child, and to stand a chance of achieving most of this list, we believe you would need to pick one of the top 10 UK Independent boarding schools as ranked by the Sunday Times. Yes we are in the top 10!

Getting Value For Money - with your CEA you can afford a top ten school - just £795 per term!

For four years we have pegged your contribution per child, per term, at £795. Childcare Vouchers also accepted. This now means we rank as one of the most competitively priced schools for Forces in the UK. Over £100m invested in new facilities in the last eight years. Our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. No one else even comes close. Every bedroom has its own private shower and toilet plus telephone, voice mail, large plasma TV/DVD player + gaming port (on timer), a Sony PS3, fridge, microwave, trouser press and hot drinks facilities. House staff are friendly and caring.

We understand the needs of service families with staff who are married to serving members of the Forces. With years of experience in ensuring our 350 + Forces children settle well, are confident and successful. Easy to get to by road, rail and air. Dedicated, professional, friendly and helpful staff go the "extra mile" to ensure your child is happy and doing well. We have Forces families from all over the UK. 98% of Year 13 students go to University with majority to Oxbridge, Ivy League or Russell Group universities.

QE has its own £20m Sports Village with 7 Astro-Turfs + 250,000 sq feet of indoor facilities + QE is

- Regional Performance Coaching Centre: [England Hockey](#), [England Netball](#) and [England Basketball](#)
- Regional Centre for the Developing Player Programme for [England Rugby](#)

Who comes where in the independent schools league tables?

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

We are 7th and 9th.

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

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



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

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

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

BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW

⊕ APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen Tim Radford, Chief of Staff Land Forces, Army Headquarters, to be appointed **Deputy Commander Resolute Support** in the rank of lieutenant general in Summer 2015.

⊕ CAREERS

Ex Military Recruitment assist former Service personnel from specialist technical regiments trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, logistics and telecommunications in finding similar civilian careers. For details visit www.xmr.co.uk

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

HighGround is a charity providing land-based skills to serving and former Army personnel, helping them move into civilian life. For details visit www.highground-uk.org

Employment website **TipTopJob** has created www.exmilitaryjob.com to help former Service personnel find work in the civilian sector. Visit the website for more details.

The Officers' Association has opened two new sites in Bristol and Leeds. To book a one-to-one career consultation at either venue call 020 7808 4170 or visit www.officersassociation.org.uk/register

⊕ COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: Maj Adam Taylor, Catterick Barracks, BFPO 39; SSgt Dan McColgan, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

'71 DVD: Rob Baker, London; Mark Sullivan, York; Robert Smith, Uckfield, East Sussex; Mike Booth, Arnold, Nottingham; Wayne Baker, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

⊕ DIARY

June 11: Eve of Waterloo at Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Featuring more than 300 performers, including the bands of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Royal

Scots Dragoon Guards. For details visit www.usherhall.co.uk

June 27: Armed Forces Day 2015. Visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk

July 11-February 2016: Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits at the Imperial War Museum North. A free exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the Blitz. Objects, photographs, film and recordings from the centre's collections, narrated with the words of *Horrible Histories* author Terry Deary. For details visit www.iwm.org.uk

July 17-19: Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. For further details visit www.airtattoo.com

July 25-26: Trailwalker Gurkha Challenge. Take on the Gurkhas in this epic 100km endurance challenge across the South Downs National Park. Walk or run in teams of four in support of Oxfam and The Gurkha Welfare Trust. For details visit www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker

August 15-16: Combined Ops Show at Headcorn Aerodrome, Shenley Road, Headcorn TN27 9HX. Arena events, history re-enactments and an air display featuring the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the world's only flying Vulcan bomber. Tickets are available at www.combinedops.co.uk

Until August 31: Fashion on the ration: 1940s street style exhibition at the Imperial War Museum London. Uniforms and textiles from wartime Britain. Adults £10; concessions £7; children (15 and under) £5.

Until September 30: Waterloo bicentenary exhibition at the Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester. Featuring artefacts, medals, paintings and a model of the battlefield. For more information visit www.rgjmuseum.co.uk

October 17-December 10: RAF in Concert tour. In support of the RAF Charitable Trust, the 15-venue tour will serve as a musical tribute to those who participated in the Battle of Britain. For ticketing details and further information visit www.rafinconcert.com

⊕ 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

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

Armed Forces Muslim Association: Chaplain 020 7414 3252; www.afma.org.uk

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

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

Army Libraries: 01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society: www.armybirding.org.uk

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

Big White Wall: www.bigwhitewall.com

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

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association: 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 020 7469 6661

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

Erskine: 0141 814 4569; www.erskine.org.uk

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

Family Escort Service: 020 7463 9249

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

Forces Pension Society: 020 7820 9988

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

Heroes Welcome: www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice

Office:
01722 436575

Medal Office:
94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

National Ex-Services Association: www.nesa.org.uk

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office: 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; www.ngvfa.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: 0808 802 8080; www.britishlegion.org.uk

Royal British Legion Scotland: 0131 550 1583; www.legionscotland.org.uk

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

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

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: 0808 1914 218 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

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

Stoll (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation): 020 7385 2110; info@stoll.org.uk; www.stoll.org.uk

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

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

The Royal Star & Garter Homes: 020 8481 7676; www.starandgarter.org

The Veterans Charity: 01753 653772; info@veteranscharity.org.uk

uk4u Thanks!: 01798 812081; www.uk4u.org

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

DIRECTORY CONTINUED

 INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 059/15: Changes to process for discharging and retaining soldiers

ABN 058/15: Royal United Services Institute Land Warfare Conference 2015

ABN 057/15: The amalgamation of 9/12L and QRL

ABN 056/15: Introduction to disability event – Wednesday, May 6, 2015

ABN 055/15: Positive action pathway for band E civil servants

ABN 054/15: Performance management end of year 2014/15 end of year processes to be completed by no later than April 30, 2015

ABN 053/15: Army Reserve Group A senior soldier entry commissioning process

ABN 052/15: BAR podcasts now on Defence Gateway

ABN 051/15: Walter Tull Memorial Cup final – Friday, May 1, 2015

ABN 050/15: Changes to local overseas allowances

ABN 049/15: LGBT conference 2015 – Army leadership code

ABN 048/15: Retirement age for Reserve Army Medical Services professionally qualified soldiers

ABN 047/15: Career management boarding manual

ABN 046/15: Single living accommodation charges for FTRS

ABN 045/15: Domestic abuse: Guidance and support for Armed Forces community

ABN 044/15: London LGBT Pride parade and seminar 2015

ABN 043/1: Sale of DSG – update

DIN 2015DIN01-103: Baggage entitlements – HQ British Gurkhas Nepal

DIN 2015DIN01-102: Army Servicewomen's Network conference Wednesday, June 10, 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-101: Changes to the Senior Civil Service recruitment process

DIN 2015DIN01-100: Reserves Day Wednesday, June 24, 2015

DIN 2015DIN01-099: Defence Humanists network annual general meeting

DIN 2015DIN01-098: Armed Forces Act 2006: New schedule 2 offences

DIN 2015DIN01-097: Late entry commission in the Royal Artillery

DIN 2015DIN01-096: Regular Army officer terms of service – the 12-year short service commission. Implementation and transition plan

DIN 2015DIN01-093: Army Reserve Group A senior soldier entry commissioning process. Annex A: Army Officer Selection Board curriculum vitae

DIN 2015DIN01-092: Application for appointment as a consultant in the Army Medical Services Reserve. Annex A: Application form for accreditation as a consultant in the AMS Reserve

DIN 2015DIN01-091: Royal Army Chaplains Department amendment to terms of service

DIN 2015DIN01-090: Late entry commission in the Army Medical Services

DIN 2015DIN01-088: Changes to the Armed Forces Act creating new offences relating to members of the court martial

DIN 2015DIN01-087: Training courses for wounded, injured and sick Service personnel. Schedule April 2015 to March 2016

DIN 2015DIN01-086: Advanced command and staff course

DIN 2015DIN03-010: Cyber in defence

DIN 2015DIN03-009: Transfer of JSP 567 – *Contractor Support to Operations* – to the defence logistics framework

DIN 2015DIN03-008: Battlespace management and coordination on Collective Training Group land exercises

DIN 2015DIN04-100: Bowman on JAMES

DIN 2015DIN04-098: The formation of DE&S logistics delivery operating centre

DIN 2015DIN04-097: Withdrawal from service of grenade discharger fire suppressor L1A1

DIN 2015DIN04-096: Withdrawal from service of Projects ALTO, KACHIME and AVELY

DIN 2015DIN04-095: Introduction of AQ40LM life jacket light

DIN 2015DIN04-094: Bowman on JAMES

DIN 2015DIN04-090: Declaration of obsolescence for truck forklift 4763KG STILL material R70-80

DIN 2015DIN04-089: Declaration of obsolete for truck forklift 4763KG Caterpillar V200C

DIN 2015DIN04-088: Transfer of JSP 886 – *The Defence Logistics Support*

Chain Manual – to the defence logistics framework

DIN 2015DIN04-087: Tac CIS 2D barcoding maintenance instruction

DIN 2015DIN04-086: Introduction of new remote video viewing aid equipment – Olympus IPLEX ultralite (NSN: 4XA/6650-99-2418580; 4XA/6650-99-4298359)

DIN 2015DIN04-085: Obsolete DMC U

DIN 2015DIN04-084: Obsolete DMC Z98

DIN 2015DIN04-083: New arrangements for the supply of BID/2020 (Federal) roll-feed thermal (revised)

DIN 2015DIN04-082: Required information on movements documentation

DIN 2015DIN04-081: Changes to current triologiView hosting arrangements

DIN 2015DIN04-080: Declaration of obsolete: CB300 series box bodies withdrawal from service and disposal instructions

DIN 2015DIN04-079: Disposal of BAe(HS)125, associated data and records

DIN 2015DIN04-078: Compressed natural breather air testing and FACTAIR F2235

DIN 2015DIN04-077: Bowman on JAMES

DIN 2015DIN04-075: Information systems and services change of contract arrangements for support of maritime multimedia

DIN 2015DIN04-074: United States international traffic in arms regulations – MoD policy guidance

DIN 2015DIN04-073: Closure of third line support for management radio equipment at MoD Sealand

DIN 2015DIN04-071: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within DMC 5Z7LSR

DIN 2015DIN04-070: Instruction for change to photographic equipment procurement

DIN 2015DIN05-017: Complaints handling in the MoD

DIN 2015DIN05-016: Updated acquisition system guidance

DIN 2015DIN05-014: Development and maintenance of mobile applications

DIN 2015DIN06-015: Dangerous substances and explosive atmosphere regulations awareness e-learning course

DIN 2015DIN06-014: Release of JSP 319 - Version 4.0 – *Joint Service Safety Regulations for the Storage, Handling of Gases*

DIN 2015DIN07-090: Joint battlespace management course

DIN 2015DIN07-089: Information management courses for September–December 2015 at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham

DIN 2015DIN07-088: Tri-Service language examinations (professional, expert and functional) 2015/16 independent candidates

DIN 2015DIN07-087: All arms adjutants course. Annex A: Application form

DIN 2015DIN07-086: Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre: Equality, diversity and inclusion training, 2015/16

DIN 2015DIN07-085: Transfer of JSP 896 – *The Defence Logistics Training and Education Handbook* – to the defence logistics framework

DIN 2015DIN07-084: Qualified warfare instructor intelligence surveillance reconnaissance course

DIN 2015DIN07-083: Combat medical technician clinical professional accreditation opportunities training year 2015/16

DIN 2015DIN07-082: Casualty procedures – visiting officer (VO) training and debriefing/decompression workshops for VO and CNO (Army)

DIN 2015DIN07-081: Military annual training tests and workplace induction programmes policy update

DIN 2015DIN07-080: Ex Smart Runner 15 – Army Inter-Unit Orienteering Championships

DIN 2015DIN07-079: Transfer of JSP 896 – *The Defence Logistics Training and Education Handbook*

DIN 2015DIN07-078: School of Aerospace Battle Management courses

DIN 2015DIN07-077: Defence recovery capability employment training courses. Schedule April 2015 to March 2016

DIN 2015DIN07-076: User requirements for the transition from the defence learning portal to defence learning environment

DIN 2015DIN07-075: Joint and single Service CI, intelligence, photographic, geo-spatial and navigation training courses for training year

DIN 2015DIN08-004: Funding for operations

DIN 2015DIN10-031: Services Offshore Regatta 2015 – notice of race

DIB12/15: CDS and PUS write to staff about the new improving line management capability project

DIB11/15: Launch of Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2015



REUNION

Remembrance Travel, The Royal British Legion tour operator, will be arranging free tours to the Normandy beaches in September and October for Normandy veterans, a carer and a close relative. Funded by the Libor bank fines, the five-day tours will depart from London and include a ferry crossing, accommodation and visits to the beaches, Bayeux Cathedral and war cemetery. A medic and a Royal British Legion guide will accompany the tours. Veterans wishing to benefit from this should apply via www.remembrancetravel.co.uk or telephone Remembrance Travel's tour operator, Arena Travel, on 01473 660800.

LGBT Veterans Ball. All those who have served since the 1940s and identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are invited to this event at the Victoria Park Plaza Hotel in London on June 7. For details contact Alastair Smith on 07970 785913.

81st Artillery Clerks' reunion and Association dinner on June 10-12 at Larkhill. AGM followed by dinner on June 13. For full details contact reunion secretary, Maj Ian Constantine at Honourable Artillery Company on 0207 448718 or email ian.constantine758@mod.uk

Roebeck Company Royal Rifle Volunteers/3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Op Telic 6 2005 reunion on June 13 at

F Coy, 7 Rifles, Davies Street, London. For details please contact mike.scott-hyde@bt.com

The Royal Pioneer Corps Association annual reunion on July 3-5 at The Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. For full details contact Norman Brown on 01869 360694 or email royalpioneer corps@gmail.com

Royal Green Jackets Association annual veterans day on July 18 at ATR(W), Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester. Open to all past and present riflemen and partners. For full details contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or email roy.stanger787@mod.uk

Army Apprentices College Harrogate 'Intake 75C' 40-year reunion. September 12, Majestic Hotel Harrogate. Accommodation available at the hotel. Bar opens at 1800. For more details email ray.bray@gmail.com

Mansergh Troop 75/76 Joint Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery reunion on September 12-13, 2015. Open to all ex-Mansergh Troop 75/76 and their partners. Exact venue and timings to be confirmed. To attend contact Mike Cave on 07516 633675

23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance Old Comrades Association dinner, combined with the Midlands Region Parachute Regiment Association gala dinner, at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry on October 10. For more information contact Roy Hatch on 01926 812363.

ROADSHOWS

The Army Engagement Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like to attend one of its roadshows, held around the country throughout the year. The events start with a reception, followed by a presentation and questions. They culminate with refreshments. There will be a range of military personnel on hand to answer any of your queries. Call 01276 412880 or email your name and address to armymediacom-aeg-mailbox@mod.uk to find out where and when events are being staged.

June: 24, Luton

SEARCHLINE

The publishers of a new book, *Afghanistan – Britain's War in Helmand*, are looking for anecdotes to include in the publication. The historical account will be reviewed by the MoD before it is published and is being collated by two former officers. Ex-soldiers can send their stories and images directly but if you are serving please inform the chain of command. Contact DRA Publishing, Sherwell House, 54 Staddiscombe Road, Plymouth PL9 9NB or send an email to david@dramedia.co.uk

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Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 883, Soldier**,

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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

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The results will be announced in the August issue. Usual rules apply.

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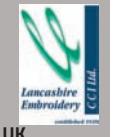
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CREAM OF THE CROP

JUNE'S GEMS

P68 MOVIES DISASTER AVERTED

P70 MUSIC BLURRED LINES

P72 BOOKS A GURKHA'S TALE

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MOVIES

PICK OF THE MONTH:
THE MAN WHO SAVED THE WORLD

**RUSSIAN
RESISTANCE**
THWARTING NUCLEAR WAR

Review: Joe Clapson

THE name Stanislav Petrov doesn't mean much to many but he is the person who single-handedly averted a nuclear war.

The Man Who Saved The World tells the true story of how the Russian commanding officer at a nuclear weapons station opted not to launch a retaliatory strike when his country's computers detected incoming American missiles.

Directed by Peter Anthony, the part documentary, part reconstruction shows how, in trusting his gut instinct, Petrov altered the course of history before sloping off into total obscurity.

"I read about what happened at the back of a newspaper then researched it further on the internet and just couldn't believe it hadn't been made into a movie," said the Danish film-maker.

"I knew I had to create it – it was nearly impossible to find Stanislav but I persevered because I wanted the world to know about what he did."

Russian actors play out the dramatic events of September 26, 1983, and the story also follows the real Petrov – a short-tempered old man who we find living in a tiny flat.

Part of the cleverly-edited film sees the former colonel meeting Hollywood heavyweights Robert De Niro, Matt Damon and Kevin Costner during a visit to New York to collect a World Citizen Award from the United Nations.

"I didn't want to shoot it like a straight documentary because I wanted it to have a large audience, including young people – not just old guys who watch history channels," added Anthony.

"It's a human story rather than just about a nuclear war; it looks at an individual not just the wider aspect of the Cold War."

The movie focuses on the dangerous relationship that existed between the US and the Soviet Union during the 1980s but ultimately highlights how the actions of individuals within global conflicts can have a widespread impact.

"If you want to save the world sometimes you have to act alone," the director explained.

"This man's true story is good because he did the right thing, but it could easily have gone the other way with an awful outcome."

Aside from telling the tale of an unknown military officer who risked his career and the safety of his country to help mankind, the feature also sends a message about nuclear weapons.

"The world is unstable at the moment and these arsenals are still in circulation," Anthony said.

"You have the West against Russia, suddenly people are afraid of each other, and an aeroplane was recently shot down in Ukraine."

"We still find it difficult to understand what the conflict is about."

"Hopefully the film highlights that if such weapons get into the wrong hands a simple press of a button could be catastrophic."

"To be honest, I don't really care about my generation, I'm trying to spread this message among our younger people."

Essentially, this well-crafted movie is about two superpowers trading blows with one soldier stepping in as the saviour.

It would seem far-fetched if it wasn't true. But it is, which makes it an astonishing story. ■

VERDICT: A Cold War thriller that delivers an important message



The Asylum: out now

KELLY Blatz stars as teenager Patrick in this horror film about a group of youngsters at a party who unwittingly release a demon that has been hiding in an asylum – then slowly their numbers start to dwindle. Unless you enjoy *Scream*-esque offerings this is just another gory title that will drift into the forgotten films category.

Darren McCall, ex AGC (SPS)

VERDICT: Typical horror film with a predictable ending



Kidnapping Freddy Heineken

EVEN the presence of **Anthony Hopkins** can't save this film about the real life kidnapping of a Dutch beer magnate. I'm not a huge fan of the crime caper genre at the best of times but the crooks in this offering are less convincing than most and despite the plot supposedly reflecting true events a sense of implausibility pervades throughout.

Becky Clark, Soldier

VERDICT: Good on paper but falls flat in reality – give it a miss



WIN... Taken 3

LIAM NEESON returns as former CIA operative Bryan Mills as the latest offering in the cult franchise arrives on Blu-ray and DVD on June 15. *Soldier* has teamed up with Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment and we have five copies of the Blu-ray up for grabs. To have a chance of winning tell us where veteran action star Neeson was born. Send your answer to the usual address or email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: June 30



Mankind's Last Stand: out now

THIS movie is based on an interesting concept of war between a United States defence force and aliens known as the Heavies. The action, set mostly in Iraq and Pakistan between 2023-33, starts somewhat slowly but soon gets up to speed. Strong acting makes the story more believable. As far as tales of extraterrestrial invasions go it's not bad.

Brian Bryce, ex-R Anglian

VERDICT: Recommended for all action sci-fi buffs



Wyrmwood: out now

I WANTED to turn this off as soon as I saw zombies' heads being blown off. I persevered but things didn't get any better. As far as I could see there wasn't any comedy in this film and it was just a lot of blood and gore with people eating each other. This flesh-fest certainly wasn't to my taste and I will be in no rush to watch it again.

Kim Barclay, civvy

VERDICT: Not for the faint hearted – a disturbing watch



WIN... Kajaki

ACCLAIMED thriller *Kajaki* will be available for home consumption from June 8. This gritty war film recounts an inspiring but shocking moment involving British troops in Afghanistan. *Soldier* has teamed up with Pukka Films to offer five readers an opportunity to win a copy on DVD. To enter the competition tell us what province the film is set in. Send your answer to the usual address or email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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MUSIC



PICK OF THE MONTH:
THE MAGIC WHIP

BACK ON TRACK

BRITPOP TRAILBLAZERS RELEASE LONG
AWAITED MATERIAL

Review: Richard Long

WHEN Graham Coxon left Blur after more than a decade with the band many fans feared it was the end of the multi-award winning four-piece.

After the release of 2003's *Think Tank* – their only effort as a trio – the Britpop pioneers slipped away from the mainstream as individual projects came to the fore.

But the original line-up was reunited six years later and they marked a triumphant comeback with two sell-out dates at Hyde Park and a headline slot at the world-famous Glastonbury festival.

Momentum continued to build with the film *No Distance Left to Run* and the group was honoured with the outstanding contribution to music accolade at the Brit Awards.

A world tour featuring shows in Asia, Europe and South America followed and life on the road spawned thoughts of a new album.

Recording began in the spring of 2013 during a five-day break in Hong Kong but once the remaining dates were complete the project was shelved as the members returned to their respective lives.

However, Coxon revisited the tracks late last year and after drafting in Blur's early producer Stephen Street he worked with the band on the material. Frontman Damon Albarn then added the lyrics and *The Magic Whip* was finally born.

Recalling the process Coxon described how they left Hong Kong with a series of rough ideas and chord sequences but no definite songs.

"I gave it a lot of thought," he said. "I wanted to have a look at what we'd done to see if there was anything there, I knew if I didn't I'd regret it for the rest of my life.

"I almost saw it as a sense of duty. I'd messed up with Blur in the past and it was a chance to redress the balance.

"All we had to do was find the right person to sift through the material and that was Stephen Street.

"I was quite nervous about it, even though we are the oldest of friends you still have to second-guess things a bit.

"I was not sure how Damon would feel about me being in the hot seat for a while but he said it was a fantastic idea, in a way he was quite relieved."

The end result proves well worth the wait as Blur make an effortless return to form on a record that showcases their trademark sound along with some diverse new directions.

Hints of the band's mid-90s pomp can be found on the superb opener *Lonesome Street*, which is underpinned by Coxon's distinctive guitar work and would not look out of place on earlier offerings such *Modern Life is Rubbish* or *Parklife*.

Go Out features an infectious grunge-esque bassline that drives the track forward while evidence of their Far East adventure is evident on *New World Towers* thanks to its oriental sound and references to the neon green lights of the city.

My Terracotta Heart proves more melancholic and hints at Albarn's solo work and the variety continues on the regimented *There Are Too Many of Us* and the reggae infused *Ghost Ship*.

It may have been a long time coming but Blur are back with a bang and with another Hyde Park show to come this summer they look set to stay. ■

VERDICT: Back in the groove – Blur deliver on comeback record

Sweet Soul Music

by The Overtones

IF you're going to rerecord 60s soul classics by artists such as **The Drifters**, **Al Green** and **Marvin Gaye** you'd better make sure you're on top of your game. Thankfully, **The Overtones** are on fine form and have even managed to include three original tracks that blend in perfectly. This will appeal to audiences both young and old. It's fresh and the group's tight vocal harmonies mean it is more or less faultless.



Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

VERDICT: Excellent soul classics with universal appeal

First Kiss

by Kid Rock

HE may be 44 years old but **Kid Rock** has no intention of showing his age on *First Kiss*, which is packed with muscular rock 'n' roll. The title track has a killer hook that echoes **Bob Seger's** *Night Moves* but this is an album that also boasts a few surprises. The singer's journey from abrasive rap-metal to unreconstructed heartland rock has landed him in a sweet spot that is packed with big guitars, drums and gravelly vocals.



Cpl Nick Reader, Rifles

VERDICT: Like a fine whiskey; Kid Rock gets better with age

This is no Fairy Tale

by Carach Angren

DUTCH outfit **Carach Angren** have forged a three-dimensional sound in an attempt to save black metal from a whirlpool of part insular, part farcical brinkmanship. The lyrics guide you through haunted houses and forbidden forests and extreme beats spill over the gothic frames; neither fighting the other for airtime. At times the music is ludicrous, but this genre needs a shot of self-conscious pantomime to survive.



LCpl Lindsay Whyte, Int Corps

VERDICT: Treat yourself to some refreshing black metal

Here's to Change

by Josh Taerk

HAILING from Canada, **Josh Taerk** has been embraced by the home of country music and has worked with a string of big artists to produce a melodic, engaging and thoroughly enjoyable piece of work. There are elements of household names such as **Bruce Springsteen**, **Tom Petty** and **the Heartbreakers** and **Neil Young** woven through the tracks but the artist has achieved a unique sound of his own, which deserves to be widely played.



Maj Euan Mathieson, Yorks

VERDICT: Delightfully capturing the zeitgeist

Glitterbug

by The Wombats

THE most immediate observation here is the change in sound from **The Wombats**. Previous efforts such as *Moving to New York* and *Let's Dance to Joy Division* were quite jovial and had a party-like vibe but the tracks on this album instantly feel more grown-up and clearly show that the band have matured over the past seven years. The tunes suit a variety of musical tastes and this is a perfect soundtrack for the summer barbecue season.



2Lt Michael Dawson, AGC (ETS)

VERDICT: A mature effort that maintains the indie feel

Slowness

by Outfit

DULL, limp and lifeless. No, not Cheryl's hair in that shampoo advert – this is the latest effort from **Outfit**. The songs are weak and uninspiring and the first four tracks disappeared into a ten-minute blur of unrelenting boredom. The album title must refer to how your life appears while listening to it. The second half offered no improvement and the highlight for me was putting the CD back in the case knowing I'll never listen to it again.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

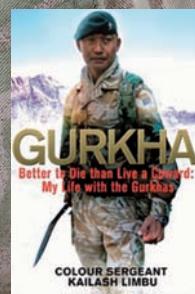
VERDICT: Is it rock music? Is it folk music? No, it's awful

BOOKS

PICK OF THE MONTH:
GURKHA

THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

MEMOIR LIFTS LID ON GURKHA GRIT



Gurkha – by WO2
Kailash Limbu is out
now, priced £20

Interview: Becky Clark

AS Gurkha personnel celebrate 200 years of service to the crown, a new book is shedding light on life in one of the British Army's most revered formations.

WO2 Kailash Limbu from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, was selected by the unit's brigade headquarters to be the first Nepalese Serviceman to tell his story.

His memoir, *Gurkha*, traces his upbringing in the foothills of the Himalayas through to the notoriously gruelling recruit selection process and his time in Helmand province during Op Herrick 4.

Speaking of his shock at having been chosen for the project the senior NCO said: "It was a complete surprise. There are so many Gurkhas who have done great things and got big gallantry awards so I felt quite shy about sharing my experiences.

"Lots of books have been written about the Gurkhas but not by the troops themselves – I'm the first to tell it in my own words, which is a huge honour for me."

A veteran of four Afghanistan tours, WO2 Limbu was not short of front-line adventures to draw upon but his account focuses on a particular deployment to Now Zad in 2006 when an operation slated to last 48 hours turned into a 30-day siege.

The then corporal would receive a Mention in Despatches for his part in defending the position.

"I decided to talk about that time because for one month we were constantly hammered by the insurgents," he explained.

"At certain points the enemy were only 20 metres away and there was a lot of excitement and anger.

"When something like that happens in your life you remember it clearly, so it was easy to write about it."

The heart-pounding action is juxtaposed with flashbacks to the Serviceman's childhood in a remote village in Nepal and to the daunting selection process, which saw him competing against 32,000 other hopefuls to secure one of just 250 available places.

As such it gives a compelling insight into what makes these soldiers tick.

"I used to hear stories from my grandpa, who served in the British Army in India, about the history of the Gurkhas," the 34-year-old continued.

"We still have the same spirit today that our forefathers have passed onto us.

"Some of the younger guys haven't had a hard life in Nepal – maybe they grew up in the city but they still have that fighting blood.

"I dedicated the book to LCpl Gaj Gurung, who was with me in Now Zad but died on Op Herrick 15.

"He was a junior rifleman and one of the most educated in the section – much more than me – but he fought hard and had that same ethos."

Bravery, respect and, above all, the importance of family are prominent themes throughout the book.

Unsurprisingly, the recent earthquake in Nepal has shaken the close-knit community to the core and WO2 Limbu urged people to donate to the relief effort.

The father-of-two said: "Fortunately my family haven't been too badly hit but thousands of others have – the country is going through a terrible time.

"If someone comes into our regiment we count them as family so we are all praying for our friends and relations."

WO2 Limbu's story is – in his words – that of a "typical" Gurkha soldier but it reveals a tradition of sacrifice and service that is anything but ordinary.

And as British troops rally round to help their Nepalese comrades in their hour of need, it seems clear that the respect is mutual. ■

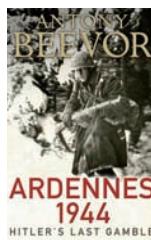
Ardennes 1944

by Antony Beevor

BEST-SELLING author Antony Beevor brings us another readable offering, this time about the Battle of the Bulge. He reveals how some overstretched and unfit units collapsed amidst the confusion but the determination of brave US troops held the Germans up sufficiently to turn the tide. The American generals come in for criticism but Montgomery also takes a big hit for rubbing his colleagues' noses in the poo.

Andy Kay, ex-RS

VERDICT: Beevor at his best – well worth a read



ARDENNES 1944
HITLER'S LAST GAMBLE

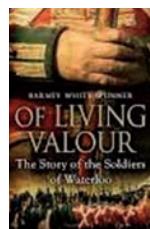
Of Living Valour

by Barney White-Spunner

THIS book is a standout addition to the Waterloo genre. The author has drawn upon first-hand accounts from soldiers and lower ranking officers from various units, not simply retold the story from the commanders' perspective. An excellent narrative provides historical context to the survivors' descriptions. There is even a little humour, ensuring the reader does not get too gloomy by the experiences depicted.

Maj Andrew Banks, AGC (RMP)

VERDICT: Informative and not too dry – a cracking read



OF LIVING VALOUR
The Story of the Soldiers
of Waterloo

Waterloo Voices

by Martyn Beardsley

TELLING the story of the Battle of Waterloo through the words of those who fought has its limits as a narrative tool. The author of this title seems to think that the tactics and troop movements are so well known there is little reason to go over them again, save for sparsely outlining major events. However the first-hand experiences of the men who held the line convey the full horror of the clash in a way that other methods can't.



WATERLOO
VOICES
1815

THEIR OWN WORDS

MARTYN BEARDSLEY

Doug Jackson, historical novelist

VERDICT: You can almost hear the thunder of the cannons

Not in the Hands of Boys

by Julian Moss

AT more than 700 pages, this novel is useful both as a piece of relatively compelling historical fiction and as a doorstop. It is a solid, yet unremarkable story of a young man from rural Wales in the First World War and contains the usual heart-wrenching events – death, injury and love – but does not particularly break new ground. The weaving in of the young Adolf Hitler plot line offers a bridge to later events and hints at a sequel.



NOT IN THE
HANDS
OF BOYS

JULIAN MOSS

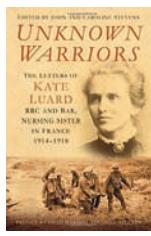
Maj Euan Mathieson, Yorks

VERDICT: Weighty but worthwhile for those interested in the era

Unknown Warriors

Edited by John and Caroline Stevens

KATE Luard worked in hospitals and casualty clearing stations in France during the First World War. She won the Royal Red Cross and Bar and was Mentioned in Despatches for distinguished service. This collection of her letters reveals a courageous, skilled and almost unflappable woman of strong Christian faith. Her understated account of the bravery and suffering of officers and men alike will touch every reader.



UNKNOWN
WARRIOR

THE LETTERS OF

KATE LUARD

RED CROSS AND BAR

NURSING SISTER

IN FRANCE

1914-1918

Dr Rodney Atwood, military historian

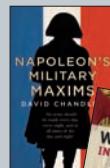
VERDICT: The remarkable story of a Western Front nurse

★★★★★

WIN...Waterloo books

TO mark this month's bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, *Soldier* has teamed up with The History Press to give away a pair of new titles about the clash.

To be in with a chance of winning copies of *Waterloo in 100 Objects* and *Napoleon's Military Maxims* tell us on what date Wellington's famous showdown with Napoleon took place. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk



NAPOLEON'S
MILITARY
MAXIMS

DAVID CHANDLER

THE HISTORY
PRESS

2015

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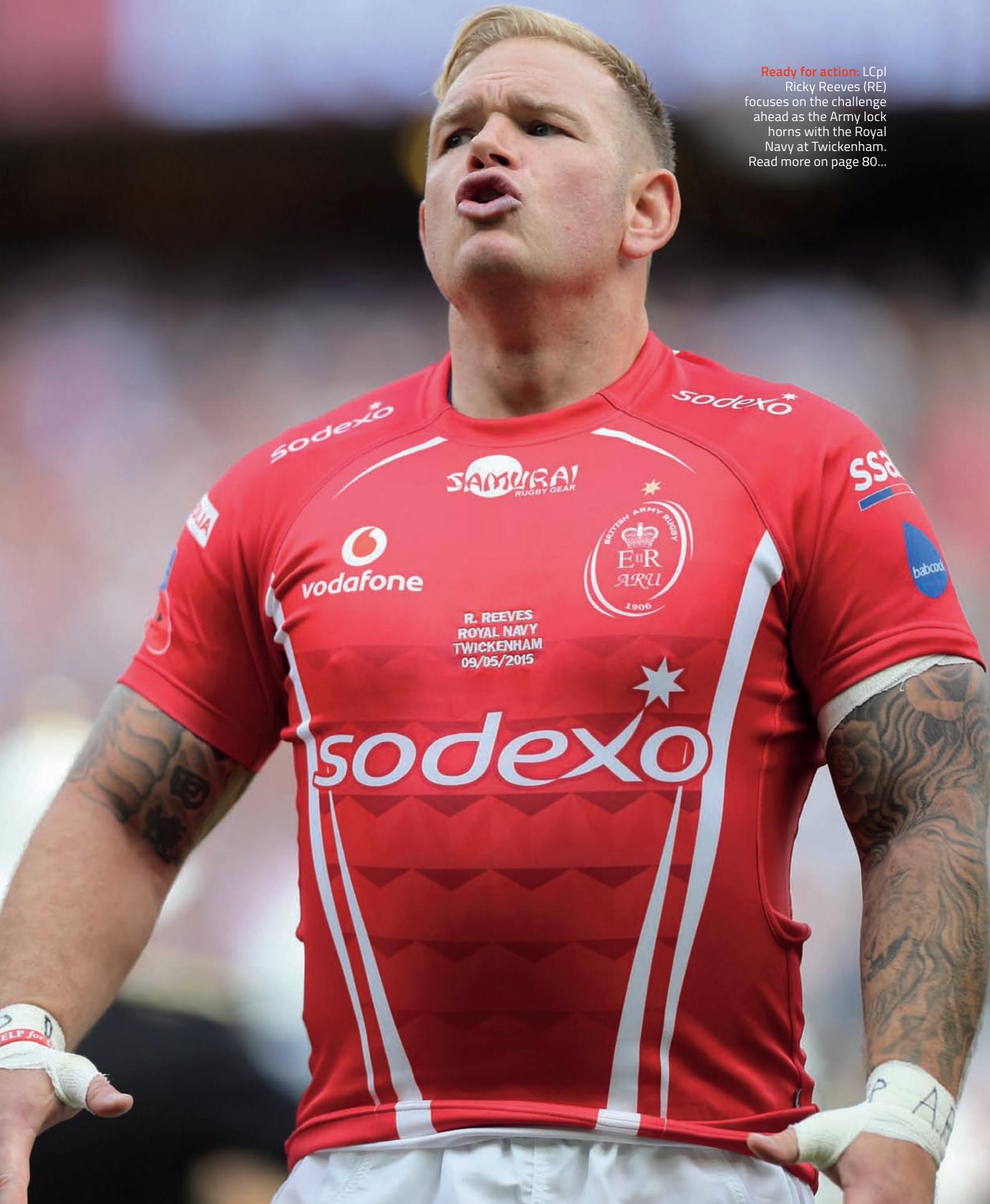
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SOLDIER SPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Ready for action: LCpl Ricky Reeves (RE) focuses on the challenge ahead as the Army lock horns with the Royal Navy at Twickenham. Read more on page 80...



TRAILWALKER

4 PEOPLE | 100KM | 30 HOURS

ULTIMATE 100KM GURKHA CHALLENGE

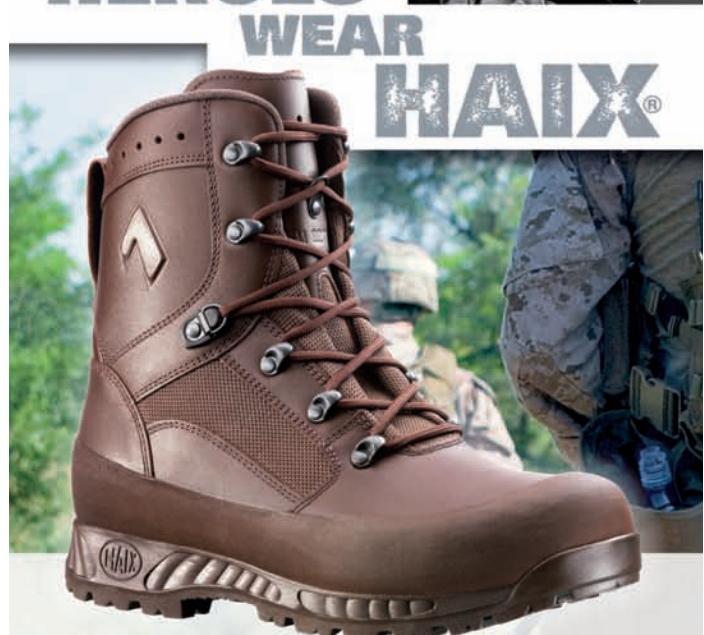
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www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker



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SIGHTS SET ON EUROPE



OLYMPIC champion Capt Heather Stanning (RA) is plotting further international honours as she returns to the water for the first major test of the new rowing season.

The officer, who took gold alongside Helen Glover in the women's pair at London 2012, was in action at the European Championships in Poland as this issue went to press and it was a title she was determined to win having missed out on the competition last year.

She is hoping a medal-winning campaign will form the springboard to further success in the World Cup regattas that follow before her attention turns to the World Championships in September.

"I'm really looking forward to it," she told *SoldierSport*. "It is the first race of our 2015 season and we want to start as we mean to go on.

"We don't know how well our rivals have done over the winter and this is the first chance to gauge where we're at ahead of the World Cup."

"The joy of social media means we have an idea of what the other crews are doing. We know the Americans had a tough trials period and New Zealand's under-23 pair from last year is now in their main team."

"We are keeping our eyes open but it is about focusing on what we're doing and not getting distracted."

Following her Games success Stanning returned

to Service life and deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

"I was really glad I did that," she explained. "It made last season slightly harder but that is not a bad thing."

"I had a good 15 months in uniform and if I had not gone back I would have struggled to find a viable career post-2016."

"I'm not just a tracksuit soldier; I wanted to prove I could do the job as well."

The resumption of full-time rowing took its toll and the Servicewoman was ruled out of last year's European Championships due to fatigue.

Glover was paired with Polly Swain and the duo went on to win a gold medal that has so far eluded Stanning.

"It was hugely disappointing to miss out," she said. "But it

was the right decision in the long-term.

"I had to beat Polly – who was world champion – to earn a place in the boat and I ran myself into the ground. I needed time to recover and if I had not stopped then the whole season would have been a write-off."

"I'm now coming off the back of a really good winter. I'm injury free and we've done a lot of miles on the water."

A gold medal at the World Championships would see the boat qualify for next year's Rio Olympics but Stanning is refusing to get carried away.

She added: "We always have the bigger picture in mind but we have to look at the here and now and approach each race sensibly." ■



“
This is the first chance to gauge where we're at ahead of the World Cup races
”

Capt Heather Stanning (RA)



IN PROFILE: KICK-BOXING IS A COMBAT SPORT BASED ON KICKING AND PUNCHING AND CAN BE USED FOR FITNESS,



Breaking into the big time

Kick-boxers launch campaign for sporting status as martial art movement gathers pace

WITH disciplines such as jiu-jitsu and tae kwon do attracting growing numbers within the Army fold it appears there is a firm appetite for martial arts that push the boundaries.

Kick-boxing is the latest pursuit hoping to join the ranks and with the first seeds of a Service set-up sown late last year there are high hopes for a bright future.

More than 60 personnel have already declared an interest in getting involved and Capt Jay Southall (AAC), the driving force behind the event's rise, believes it can achieve mass appeal once word spreads.

"The main problem we are having is reaching the young soldiers," he explained during a team training session.

"They are coming through in the new age of martial arts and are interested in sports such as jiu-jitsu, Muay Thai and kick-boxing.

"The message is 'come and join us'. I've got to prove to the Army Sports Control Board that we have a big enough following to form a club and that will help us get recognition and funding.

"I am confident this will grow. Guys are going down to gyms to train in boxing and kick-boxing and we now have something for them."

The discipline held its own competition as part of the Army Martial Arts Association Championships in March and Southall is hoping further tournaments and training camps will follow.

Contact has also been made with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy regarding a possible Inter-Services event in the future.

"There is massive potential," the officer added.

"With the growth of mixed martial arts people have seen a different side to the sport.

"In the past it was about learning kata, it was very discipline focused. But the Army is so stressful now and the guys need to step away and get rid of their testosterone and anger.

"Kick-boxing allows them to do that."

The Army Air Corps

has played a pivotal role in developing the sport, with WO2 Chris Pickett running regular training sessions for soldiers based in Wattisham.

One of those to take up the challenge is LCpl Holly Drafahl. She started kick-boxing at the age of ten and is thrilled at the prospect of continuing her progression within the Service set-up.

"I've been waiting for the Army to do something like this," she explained. "Boxing and other martial arts are recognised and that allows people to get away from work to train.

"It is a long time coming and I think it will be brilliant if it happens.

Kick-boxing is a fantastic sport and the discipline is a lot greater than in other martial arts.

"I've tried tae kwon do, karate and boxing but this is

definitely the one for me."

Fellow Wattisham soldier LCpl Dan Everett (AAC) got into the sport after he tried his hand at mixed martial arts and aikido.

He is backing the push for recognised status and believes it is important the Army offers opportunities outside of the mainstream.

"I've never really been interested in traditional sports and I think a lot of young soldiers will be keen," he explained. "It is not as aggressive or up front as mixed martial arts; you have to be disciplined but when you learn the skills you can quickly progress.

"Any assistance would be great. At present we don't have a proper ring, we just have a few mats. Some proper kick bags and other kit would be brilliant.

"I would love to be involved in an Army team and then compete at an Inter-Services competition. I would be very proud to call myself an Army kick-boxer." ■



For more details on how to get involved in the sport join the Army kick-boxing group on Facebook or email jay.southall615@mod.uk



It is a long time coming and I think it will be brilliant if it happens

LCpl Holly Drafahl (AAC)



Game brief

Date: May 9, 2015

Competition: Babcock Trophy

Venue: Twickenham Stadium, London

Attendance: 81,116

Army

Reeves	Dwyer	Budgen
1	2	3
Jones	Ball	Mundy
4	5	7
Koraiyadi	Jope	Prasad
6	8	10
Chennell	Wessels	Nacamavuto
9	12	13
Bulumakau	Davies	Rokoduguni
11	15	14

Subs: Austin, Ross-Allen, Dowding, Llewellyn, Fillier, Farrell, Dixon, Balekinasiga

Army tries: Jones (2), Rokoduguni, Bulumakau

Penalties: Davies (4)

Conversions: Davies (2)

Headline makers



» Red's wing LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) has now scored eight tries in four matches against the Royal Navy at Twickenham

» Forward Cpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) made his 39th Army appearance in the Babcock Trophy match - making the former Exeter Chiefs star the team's most capped player



Try time: A brace from Lt Will Jones (R Welsh) helped the Army maintain their winning run at Twickenham

Reds shine in Services finale

Babcock Trophy

Army 36
Royal Navy 18

THE Army maintained their stranglehold over the Royal Navy on the hallowed turf of Twickenham as they surged to a 36-18 win in the Babcock Trophy match.

A shock defeat at the hands of the Royal Air Force hampered the Reds' preparations but they put the setback behind them to secure a fifth successive victory over the Senior Service.

The challengers opened their account in the second minute as fullback AET Jon Humphrey expertly converted a penalty attempt.

But in a break from recent seasons they failed to mount

the first-half onslaught they have become accustomed to as LBdr Owain Davies (RA) drew the sides level with a kick from out wide.

Two further penalties followed as the soldiers took control and they struck a decisive blow in the 29th minute by crossing for the game's first try.

With Cpl Dave Fairbrother in the sin bin they capitalised on their numerical advantage with a flowing cross-field move that saw the evergreen Cpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) float a superb pass to Lt Will Jones (R Welsh), who touched down in the corner.

The Navy immediately hit back through the strength of their pack as prop OC Josh Terry found the line following a strong drive.

However, forward Jones killed their momentum as he sprinted home moments later

to give his side a 21-10 lead at the break.

Humphrey and Davies exchanged penalties shortly after the restart before the Army's star man underlined his Premiership class in the 50th minute.

The ball was fed to LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) and the Bath flier danced through the opposition defence to ghost in under the posts from the halfway line.

Centres LCpl Gerhard Wessels and LCpl Peceli Nacamavuto (both RE) then combined to set man-of-the-match Pte Jonasa Bulumakau (Scots) clear and the wing rounded off an incisive break as he raced through to score.

A late effort from opposition skipper LA (AH) Ben Pridley reduced the arrears but the Army held on to celebrate another triumph in front of a sell-out crowd. ■

RUGBY UNION



5 Successive wins for the Army at the home of English rugby

IN NUMBERS



4 Tries for the Reds

TWICKENHAM

16

Points kicked by LBdr Owain Davies (RA) on his Twickenham debut





Leonard leads title charge

Inter-Services

Army 51
Royal Air Force 10

Army 65
Royal Navy 0

HAT-TRICKS from Cpl Jane Leonard (RE) and Cpl Jade Mullen (AGC (SPS)) steered the Army women to a comfortable 51-10 victory over the Royal Air Force in the opening match of their Inter-Services campaign.

The soldiers were in complete control of the clash and centre Cpl Caz Roberts (REME) signalled their intent with a try early on.

Mullen opened her account in the 18th minute as she stretched to the line following smart play from Sgt Amy

Robinson (AGC (RMP)) and Roberts before Leonard joined the party as a strong surge from the pack gave her time and space to touch down under the posts.

OCdt Sophie Gale converted a well-struck penalty for the visitors but it was the Reds who held a commanding 19-3 lead at the break.

Mullen doubled her tally in the opening stages of the second half and she completed her personal milestone in the 53rd minute as Leonard broke free and offloaded to the winger for a simple score.

The skipper then profited from some strong running by Cpl Bianca Dawson (AGC (RMP)) for her second try of the afternoon and Sgt Rosie Haigh (REME) ghosted home from a line-out as the soldiers took control.

Robinson rounded off a fluent attacking move as

the points continued to flow before centre AC Charlie Murray grabbed a deserved consolation for the RAF.

Leonard inflicted further damage with a solo score late on and then praised the efforts of her rivals at full-time.

"It was a lot tougher than last year's game," she said.

"I'm happy with my tries but it was a brilliant team performance – I was in the right place at the right time."

The soldiers retained their Inter-Services title with a 65-0 win against the Royal Navy.

Gnr Jess McAuley (RA) and Lt Jade Binskin-Barnes (RLC) both crossed twice while Leonard, Mullen, Roberts and Haigh added to their tallies from the first game.

Tries from LCpl Maz Claassens (AGS (SPS)), Pte Ellie Gattlin (RLC) and Pte Heidi Silcox (RAMC) completed an emphatic victory. ■



SPORT SHORTS



RAF stun soldiers

Inter-Services

Army 29
Royal Air Force 33

» **A RESURGENT** Royal Air Force side sent shock waves through the world of Services rugby by defeating the Army for the first time in more than 20 years.

The airmen proved too strong for the soldiers and their high intensity play saw them secure the Inter-Services title.

A try from SAC Adie Gillespie, along with an assured kicking display from Sgt Phil Thomas, gave the airmen a 13-3 lead at the break.

LCpl Chris Mundy (REME) and Sgt Tuvita Tamatawale (RLC) both crossed in a frenetic start to the second half but the RAF hit back through Cpl Toby Mann and SAC Andy Byrne.

Pte Jonas Bulumakau (Scots) and LBdr Owain Davies (RA) gave the Army hope but Thomas dispatched two late penalties to seal the win.



MONTH in sport

June's key fixtures...



WHAT: Inter-Services Twenty20 cricket

WHEN: Thursday, June 11 (1000 start time)

WHERE: Lord's Cricket Ground

COMMENTS: The Army retained their title in emphatic style last year and will be hoping for a third successive victory over their Forces rivals



WHAT: Army Team Athletics Championships

WHEN: Wednesday, June 17 (0900 start)

WHERE: Military Stadium, Aldershot

COMMENTS: Athletes will compete in a variety of events as they look to succeed 27 Regt, RLC as champions



WHAT: Army Standard Triathlon Championships

WHEN: Wednesday, June 24

WHERE: Cotswold Water Park, South Cerney

COMMENTS: Competitors tackle a 1,500m swim followed by a 40km cycle stage and a 10km run as they strive to become Army champion



Fencers target Services push

A FIELD of more than 100 athletes assembled for the annual Army Fencing Championships at Fox Lines in Aldershot.

Strong displays across all three disciplines mean the soldiers will be well placed to challenge at the Inter-Services in August as they look to build on their success from 2014.

Cpl Max Weedon (RLC) was the driving force in the men's competition as victories in the foil and epee, along with a runners-up spot in the sabre event, saw him crowned master at arms.

Consistent performances in all three disciplines earned LCpl Kellie Henderson (AGC (SPS)) the women's overall title, with individual honours going to Maj Naomi Lee

(REME) in the sabre, OCDt Hannah Walsh in the foil and Maj Jenny Wilson (RADC) in the epee.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were named corps champions with Southampton University Officers Training Corps winning the three- and six-man team events.

"It was a really good competition," Capt Matt Ball (REME), secretary of the Army Fencing Union, told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"There were a lot more novices involved this year and the officer training corps have bought into what we are trying to achieve."

"The squad is now looking strong. Naomi Lee represented Northern Ireland

at the Commonwealth Games and we have four or five guys who are part of the Combined Services squad.

"Below that we have 12 people who are competing at Inter-Services level and we are now trying to develop more individuals at that standard."

"The men's team managed to win that competition for the first time in something like 15 years in 2014."

"The women have always done well but with the Army Reserve now allowed to take part we have more strength."



For more details on how to get involved join the Army Fencing Union group on Facebook



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SPORT SHORTS



Thomas on tour

» **POWERLIFTER** Maj Neil Thomas (AGC) has been using his experience on the international stage to boost the development of the discipline in Greece.

The officer was named vice president of the World Drug Free Powerlifting Federation in January and his initial role was to help integrate the country into the organisation.

He also offered support to the first-ever Greek championships.

"My experience of powerlifting in the Armed Forces certainly helped but it was definitely more challenging to deliver it on a national scale," Thomas said.



Upavon's delight

» **GOALKEEPER** SSgt Rich Ockwell was the hero as Upavon Station won a thrilling penalty shoot-out to triumph in the Minor Units Cup final.

The stopper saved two spot kicks to give his side a 4-3 victory over 19 Tank Transporter Regiment after the contest finished 2-2 at the end of normal time.



Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

Punching proud: The 3 Para boxing team celebrated a superb month with victory in the Army Major Units finals

Paras hit form in team finals

FIGHTERS from 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment underlined their quality in the ring as they recorded an emphatic victory in the final of the Army Major Units Boxing Championships.

The soldiers downed their rivals from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps 8-1 in front of a passionate home crowd at Colchester Garrison.

However, the result did not reflect the efforts of their rivals who went the distance

in seven of the eight bouts fought on the night.

The other contest was decided via a walkover.

"It was a fantastic victory for the team but I would like to highlight the quality and tenacity of our opponents," said Maj Des Hendry, 3 Para's boxing officer.

"For there to be only one stoppage shows how evenly balanced each fight was.

"We train very hard with a sparring programme that sees our novices work with

more experienced boxers from civilian clubs.

"Our guys have very good technical skills and the fitness, determination and spirit that comes from being a paratrooper helps them win the tougher contests."

Victory capped a successful month for the squad as they also recorded a 6-2 win over the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division. The match was staged in Fort Bragg at the end of a two-month joint training exercise. ■

BROWNING SEES THE POSITIVES

» **ARMY** boxing coach SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC) has praised the efforts of his squad despite seeing them return empty-handed from the sport's national championships last month.

Browning took nine fighters to the tournament at Liverpool's Echo Arena, where LCpl Alex Turbitt (R Signals), LCpl Stephanie Wroe (REME, pictured) and LCpl Natty Ngwenya (Gren Gds) all qualified for finals before falling just short.

"Those three are all novices and they had to fight some tough kids," the coach told *SoldierSport*.

"But we have no regrets at all; they did really well. Nobody is sulking and they are all quite positive – we now need to get them out again."

"We have had a really good season. The gym is buzzing and the guys are committed to their training."

Wroe and Turbitt have since been called up to an England training camp and the team has recorded victories over the Southern Counties and East Midlands.



Marvin's magic show

Winchester Boxing

Army 4
Southern Counties 3

ABRUTAL first-round victory for Pte John Marvin (PWRR, pictured) sealed a superb comeback win for the Army's boxers in their clash with the Southern Counties at ATR Winchester.

The middleweight prospect sent Jeff Dixon to the canvas with a thumping right hook in the opening exchanges and the referee brought the contest to a halt when his rival failed to recover from a punishing combination that forced a second standing count.

Marvin's success secured a 4-3 triumph for the soldiers and follows a 6-2 defeat of the same opposition in October.

Fighters from the Royal Artillery boosted the Reds' squad for the early bouts and welterweight Gnr Devon Stewart made a perfect start against Elliot Metcalf.

A strong jab and some solid defensive work earned the gunner a unanimous verdict before Pte Peter Love (R Anglian) defeated a dogged Will Whitehorn in the night's second contest.

Whitehorn made a ferocious start but the Army man weathered the storm and then went on the front foot with some strong shots at the end of the round.

And as the pace dropped Love held firm to pick up the

win on a split decision.

Mark Desmond claimed his side's first win as he overcame the challenge of Gnr Brett Westwood and when LCpl Chris Nealon (Rifles) was harshly disqualified in his bout with Derek Renfrew the teams were level.

LCpl Byron Kenway (R Anglian) was another Army boxer to suffer misfortune as he received a nasty cut following a clash of heads with Felix Kelly.

With the medical officer calling a halt to proceedings in the second round his opponent was handed the win on a split decision.

But Cpl Pete Lines (REME) fired an immediate response in his welterweight contest before Marvin ended the night in style. ■



Ring report

Date: May 14, 2015

Competition: Army Boxing Night

Venue: ATR Winchester

Results

Gnr Devon Stewart beat Elliot Metcalf – unanimous

Pte Peter Love beat Will Whitehorn – split decision

Gnr Brett Westwood lost to Mark Desmond – unanimous

LCpl Chris Nealon lost to Derek Renfrew – disqualified

LCpl Byron Kenway lost to Felix Kelly – split decision

Cpl Pete Lines beat S Amendt – unanimous

Pte John Marvin beat Jeff Dixon – technical knockout

Exhibition

Gnr Barry Bradshaw beat LBdr Chris Kearney – unanimous

Coach's comment



The competition was really tight which made it quite nerve-racking but it was a good team performance.

Credit to the Royal Artillery guys. They did really well and it was great experience.

John Marvin was confident heading into the ring and it was a nice way to finish things.



If opponents come looking for him he has the power to beat them. The lad came looking and John was punching hard.



SSgt Jason Browning (RAPTC)

ARMY'S OLYMPIC TEST

THE Olympic venue of Hadleigh Park played host to the opening leg of the 2015 Inter-Unit Mountain Bike Cross Country Series.

More than 160 riders assembled on the start line for the race, which represented one of the highest turnouts in the discipline's history.

A broad mix from Army-standard athletes to total novices were involved in the action and it was the team from 11 Signal Regiment who claimed the major unit prize ahead of their rivals from 21 Engineer Regiment.

The minor units competition was also keenly contested and it was Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps who came out on top ahead of the Royal Engineers' Demolitions Training Regiment.

In a change to the format this year Army riders were ineligible for prizes and that saw Capt Davide Marini (HQ ARRC) named men's champion and Sgt Louise Mills (AGC (RMP)) women's champion.

The Service was invited to the venue for a test event

ahead of its royal opening this summer and Capt "Tiny" Simmonds (RE), secretary of cross-country mountain biking, was delighted with the success of the day.

"It was brilliant," he added. "Last year we were averaging around 140 people per race. There has been a general increase in participation and that is great for the Army.

"We had Regulars, Reservists, personnel from university officer training corps and foreign military nationals, which shows we are getting bigger and bigger.

"There were some very happy people out there.

"You can ride the park as a paying member of the public but to race you have to be competing as part of a specific series. It was fantastic for our guys to have that opportunity."

The competition's second stage was being held as this issue went to press. The third round will take place at Minley Manor on June 17 which will be followed by races in Colchester on July 8 and Tidworth on September 2. ■



SMITH FINDS FORM



THE muscle-bound realm of bodybuilding has unearthed a new star in the shape of former soldier Mark Smith.

After making a winning start on his debut in November the amputee was invited to compete in the Phil Heath Classic in March, an event organised by the biggest amateur bodybuilding federation in America.

He again won his class and then had the honour of posing on stage alongside founder Phil Heath – a four-time Mr Olympia champion.

Smith, who served for ten years in the Grenadier Guards, lost his right leg when he was shot on a live firing range while on exercise in Canada.

After spending two years at Headley Court he was medically discharged from the Service and started a new career as a personal trainer. He then discovered the sport of disability bodybuilding.

"I was missing an adrenalin rush, something to get me excited," he explained. "This appealed to me straight away."

"I wasn't sure if it would fill the void until I stepped on stage. The roar of the crowd, the bright lights and the music made an instant impact and, for the first time since my discharge, I no longer missed being a soldier."

"The diet and training is hard but I think that's what makes it so appealing after spending ten years as a Grenadier."



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SPORT SHORTS



Gunners shot down

Edwards Challenge Cup

REME 2
RA 1

» A STUNNING injury-time strike from LCpl Hayley Johnson sealed a 2-1 victory for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the Edwards Challenge Cup final.

The central defender fired a long-range shot past Royal Artillery keeper Gnr Daisy Burnfield to settle a contest that looked destined for extra time.

An own goal from LBdr Jessica Gibbons gifted the REME an early lead but they failed to add to their tally in a cagey opening period.

Gnr Tammy Bennett and Bdr Nicola Frier went close after the break before a long punt down field from Gibbons eluded opposition keeper LCpl Katie O'Brien as the ball bounced into the net. But Johnson's late effort secured a REME win.



→ Team of the month

7 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps Football Team



A SECOND half brace from Pte Sean Woolley helped 7 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps overcome the might of 30 Signal Regiment in the 115th Army Challenge Cup final.

With four Service players in their ranks the signallers were seen as favourites ahead of kick-off but their rivals proved too hot to handle as they surged to a 4-2 victory.

Having survived an early scare when Sgt Dave Maguire fired wide the loggies took the lead as skipper LCpl Calum Wilkinson showed good feet on the edge of the area before playing in Pte Liam Laidler, who calmly slotted the ball past keeper Capt Tom Morgan.

After recovering from the setback their rivals took control and LCpl Sam Agar forced a smart save from Pte Nathan Stephens

before looping a header just wide of the far post.

And the striker was in the thick of the action on the half-hour mark as he eluded the offside trap only to be thwarted by Stephens.

Further chances failed to follow and it was the champions-elect who struck the next blow in the 65th minute. A high ball was played into the area and when the defence failed to clear Woolley was on hand to capitalise.

LCpl Jason Welsford reduced the arrears when he drilled home from a corner. Woolley then threatened on the break but he fired his shot into the side netting following a superb solo run.

However, the forward found a clinical edge moments later as Wilkinson dropped deep to thread a pass inside the fullback and he cut into the area to drive the ball into the far corner.

Wilkinson sealed the contest when he converted a penalty before Agar grabbed a late consolation.

"They put us under a lot of pressure in the first half," Wilkinson said at full-time. "We got the early goal but they kept coming at us.

"The game plan was to get the ball into feet and then play Woolley in. It worked really well."



115th Army Challenge Cup final

7 Regiment, RLC 4
30 Signal Regiment 2

Final word



LBdr John Lane

Financial and job security is the main reason I'll stay in for the full term. I was a trainee electrician going through college when I joined up and two good friends of mine are still struggling to find work and have to travel big distances to get jobs. It's good to know I'm going to get paid every month and receive a decent pension at the end of my career.



Gnr Philip Jennings

Before I signed up I was jumping from one job to another; nothing really grabbed me. I liked being an outdoor pursuits instructor but the money wasn't great. This offers me the best of both worlds, adventure and good pay. As long as that remains in place so will I. I'm only 23 and I've already bought a house. None of my friends have managed that yet.

We asked Royal Artillery personnel what aspects of Service life will convince them to stick around and complete a full career in the Army



WO1 Mark Walshaw

I'm only a couple of years away from leaving. The first half of my career was about adventure and seeing the world but now I have a family it's the stability and the job security that's kept me in. I was tempted to leave at the 12-year mark with a half pension but I decided to stay because I enjoy the life and I knew it would be good to have a decent pension waiting for me.



Gnr Kaylan Norgrove

The stability that comes from knowing you have a wage coming in each month is hard to find in the civvy world. The physical activities on offer are a huge attraction for me. I'm an outdoor person so I love adventurous training. In the last year or so we've done lots of mountain biking, surfing down at Weymouth and even safari and bushcraft training while out in Kenya on exercise.



LBdr Ross Kennedy

As long as I have what I feel is a stable job I'll stay in. I enjoy the work and the security it gives your personal life in terms of finances and the housing for my family. On civvy street it can be hard to find work and knowing I have a lengthy career and a good pension are important to me. When I get out of the Service I'll have trouble finding something that pays as well as this.



Lt Rosanna Baker

I've been with the regiment for two-and-a-half weeks but I soon realised what it is that will keep me in the Army long-term – the experiences. I already have far more responsibility than my friends and being in charge of a large number of people from a huge range of backgrounds is exciting. I love the exercises too. Not being stuck behind a desk working on spreadsheets all day is a major part of the Army's appeal.



Bdr Bob Ozbek

The Army has been making things better recently, providing more structure and routine, and that is important. But another factor for me and, I think, for helping keep more personnel in the Army for longer, is the amount of leisure facilities provided at its main camps such as Tidworth. If they don't get this right a lot of people could be put off from staying in long-term.

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