

M A G A Z I N E O F T H E B R I T I S H

SOLDIER

NOVEMBER 2008 £2.50

Win a
Sony Blu-ray
and Xbox 360



**WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM**



www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



ARMY



Fed up with Pants offers?

Try **LIZARD MILITARY**

✓ Free Embroidery Setup ✓ No Minimum Order ✓ Free Delivery (Orders over £150)

FREE WITH ORDERS
OVER £100



£4.95
RRP

FREE WITH ORDERS
OVER £150



£7.99
RRP

FREE WITH ORDERS
OVER £200



£9.99
RRP

FREE WITH ORDERS
OVER £500



£29.99
RRP

Heavyweight Tee

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£4.14
+ VAT

Heavyweight Polo Shirt

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£5.90*
+ VAT

Olive/Sand from £7.35

Heavyweight Sweatshirt

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£7.90
+ VAT

Heavyweight Fleece Jacket

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£9.90*
+ VAT

Olive from £16.97

Hooded Sweatshirt

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£10.90
+ VAT

Rugby Shirt

Price includes embroidered logo



from
£11.70
+ VAT

Magnum Classic Boot

10% OFF RRP



£38.30
+ VAT

- NO HIDDEN EXTRAS -
FREE SETUP
FREE DELIVERY
on orders over £150



All prices exclude VAT at standard rates.

Prices correct at time of printing. Free gifts subject to availability. E&OE

Magnum Spider Elite Boot

£10 OFF RRP



£10
Off RRP

£59.57
+ VAT

Buy online and save even more

safetydepot

www.safetydepot.co.uk

01792 31 32 33

email: sales@lizardworkwear.com

lizard
MILITARY

SOLDIER

in this issue

November 08 Vol 64/11

19 Past lessons

History brought to life for young soldiers

22 A family affair

Discovering the fate of a Great War casualty

25 Sense of freedom

Veterans fight back against disability

31 Occupied nation

Wartime bravery of Channel Islanders

36 Winning hand

Upgraded vehicles trump enemy intentions

39 New model Army

Improved kit making a front-line difference

44 Stampede

On the starting grid for Kenyan Grand Prix

50 Basra belle's model role

Scouse beauty's tour of duty

89 SoldierSport

Regulars

7 Update

57 Talkback

65 Home Truths

70 Bulletin board

80 Movies

82 Games

84 Music

86 Books

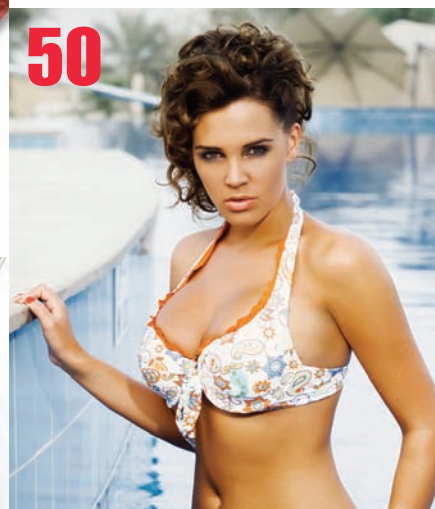
98 Vox pop

FREE STUFF... snare a Manga novel (Page 43), win Harry Sidebottom's *Fire in the East* (Page 67), make a head start on your Christmas shopping with festive goodies (Page 71), enjoy superhero flick *Hancock* on a Sony Blu-Ray player (Page 81), and battle through *Hell's Highway*, shake your maracas in *Samba de Amigo* and take over the 'hood with an Xbox 360 and a copy of *Saint's Row 2* in our great gaming giveaway (Page 83).



Cover picture (left): *Soldier's* tribute to the fallen of Iraq and Afghanistan in the month of remembrance.

Background image: Nazi occupiers parade after invading the Channel Islands during the Second World War. See Pages 31-33 Picture: IWM HU25966



RESOLVEUK



Debt problems?

CAN'T AFFORD YOUR REPAYMENTS? REFUSED A LOAN? CCJs?
DEBT COLLECTORS? BAILIFFS? FACING BANKRUPTCY?

Don't let debt affect your career

Deal with your debts with one affordable monthly payment.

**Resolve UK are specialist debt advisers
to military personnel and their families**

**FOR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL
ADVICE ON ALL DEBT MATTERS CALL:**

0044 (0) 1732 45 11 33
or: 0800 652 5113 (UK only)

www.resolveuk.co.uk Email: resolveuk@btconnect.com This is not an offer for a loan

Parsons House, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

ALL ENQUIRIES: TEL 01252 347353
(Ald Mil 94222 2353)

Fax: 01252 347358 (2358)
Email: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Website: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Managing Editor: Andy Simms

EDITORIAL

Editor:

Stephen Tyler 01252 347356 (2356)
styler@soldiermagazine.co.uk

News Editor:

Cliff Caswell 01252 340753 (5753)
ccaswell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Assistant Editors:

Karen Thomas 01252 347154 (5154)
kthomas@soldiermagazine.co.uk
Heidi Mines 01252 340462 (5462)
hmines@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Editorial Assistant:

Doreen Cadwallader 01252 347360 (2360)
dcadwallader@soldiermagazine.co.uk

DESIGN

Art Editor:

Tudor Morgan 01252 347169 (2169)
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Graphic Designers:

Chris Sell 01252 355080 (8080)
csell@soldiermagazine.co.uk
Kath Lee 01252 347361 (2361)
klee@soldiermagazine.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chief Photographer:

Mike Weston 01252 347357 (2357)
mweston@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Photographers:

Graeme Main 01252 347357 (2357)
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk
Steve Dock 01252 347357 (2357)
sdock@soldiermagazine.co.uk

MARKETING and ADVERTISING

Business Manager:

Andy Clarkson 01252 347351 (2351)
aclarkson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Advertising:

Heather Shekyls 01252 347352 (2352)
hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions:

Stephen King 01252 347353 (2353)
sking@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Distribution:

Patricia Lampport 01252 347354 (2354)
plamport@soldiermagazine.co.uk

ARCHIVE

Archivist/Information Manager:

Ruth Kusonowicz 01252 355056 (8056)
rkusonowicz@soldiermagazine.co.uk



SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence
and printed by St. Ives Andover Limited. Print contract
managed by CDS.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.



"Living out of his suitcase is all well and good, but what happens if the wheels come off?"

● New model Army – Pages 39-41

Lest we forget

FOR those born in the final quarter of the 20th Century, the massive significance of the annual Remembrance period was hard to understand.

The reasons why so many people bought poppies were made apparent in school lessons and church services, but they were always placed back into the history books until the following November.

It was not that the children did not appreciate the sacrifices made in the two World Wars. The problem was that time had removed any real sense of empathy with their forebears.

How could a generation raised in a peaceful society possibly be able to understand what it meant for someone to lay down their life in a foreign land to protect the freedoms enjoyed at home?

There are always tales within families of relatives who made the ultimate sacrifice. *Soldier's* Cliff Caswell enlisted the help of military historian Richard Frost to uncover the fate of great grandfather Albert Skinner, a Territorial Army volunteer who died during the First World War (Pages 22-23).

But it was not until Britain's forces were called into action in Iraq and Afghanistan that the enormity of soldiers' actions struck home on a wider scale. Regular stories of modern-day bravery give a tangible sense of the heroics being performed by the nation's military men and women.

Sadly, their selfless actions have come at a cost. Our striking front cover shows the faces of the Service personnel killed while serving on Operations Herrick and Telic.

The accompanying cover line – we will remember them – is not a throwaway comment. Young or old, the awareness and appreciation of the Armed Forces' modern-day role is at an unprecedented level.

Thousands of people in Wootton Bassett have been paying their respects to the funeral corteges of repatriated casualties (Page 35) and welcome home parades are now carried out in front of packed streets (Page 98).

Aside from the general public, soldiers are receiving just as much support in the form of upgraded vehicles (Pages 36-37) and new weapons, body armour and clothing (Pages 39-41), which are providing a winning hand on operations.

For veterans returning from theatre with life-changing injuries, charities such as St Dunstan's (Pages 25-27) and Hearing Concern LINK (Pages 28-29) are making sure that the visually and aurally impaired do not go uncared for.

And, as is a growing trend, celebrities are banging on the door at *Soldier* HQ begging for a chance to pass on their gratitude to today's soldiers. Model Danielle Lloyd (Pages 50-51) is the latest big name to show that Britain really will never forget.

And nor should we. ■



ONE DAY'S SERVICE A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT

SSAFA Forces Help is committed to support members of our Armed Forces and their families from the day they join and for the rest of their lives.



To find out how we can help you, or someone you know:
T 020 7403 8783 E info@ssafa.org.uk www.ssafa.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 210760. Est 1885
Registered Charity (Scotland) No. SC038056. Est 1885



Picture: PO (Phot) Dave Husband

Action on arrival: Personnel from 3 Cdo Bde have already thwarted a major Taliban offensive after enemy fighters were spotted preparing for an assault

Taliban pounded

New brigade hits back hard as enemy fighters threaten key Afghan base

INCOMING troops had to hit the ground running just days after arriving in southern Afghanistan when Taliban fighters were spotted preparing for an attack.

Soldiers and Royal Marines from 3 Commando Brigade were involved in a decisive move against insurgents who were threatening an Afghan National Army compound in Lashkar Gar, Helmand province.

According to reports from the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf), the fighters were seen gathering on the outskirts of the town before launching a mortar attack.

An air strike was called in during the fighting and “multiple” enemy fighters were killed. Reports in the UK media have suggested there were 120 enemy casualties, and commanders have branded the Taliban’s attempted pre-winter action “a spectacular failure”.

Since the Taliban’s ill-fated assault, Isaf soldiers have been carrying out reassurance patrols in and around the Lashkar Gar area.

Task Force Helmand spokesman Lt Col Woody Page (Royal Marines) said that multinational troops remained focused on targeting troublemakers.

He added: “This was a deliberate and planned operation, conducted by Isaf and the Afghan National Security Forces to defeat terrorist activities in the Lashkar Gar region.

“We remain fully committed in supporting both the government and the people of Afghanistan in their aim to defeat these terrorists.”

Troops from 3 Commando took over from colleagues in 16 Air Assault Bri-

gade in early October. While the outgoing soldiers have been involved in heavy fighting, they have also assisted with reconstruction efforts.

Taking over from Brig Mark Carleton-Smith, incoming commander Brig Gordon Messenger stressed: “My priority will be to continue the momentum, to develop the capacity of the Afghan governance structures and to deliver stability and security.”

Medics make Britain proud

LIFE-saving personnel serving in Afghanistan’s Helmand province found themselves on prime time television after they had an unexpected visit from ITV presenters Ant and Dec.

The Geordie double act turned up at Camp Bastion to present the Medical Emergency Response Team with a *Pride of Britain* award as part of a wider national ceremony in London.

And the soldiers were clearly delighted to see the popular duo, best known for presenting ITV’s *I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here*, as the presenters donned their body armour to work in theatre.

The emergency response team provides the combat air ambulance for Helmand province. Backed up by expert bomb disposal, fire and rescue and infantry close protection squads, they fly day and night missions in dangerous conditions to extract the wounded.

Col Phil Hubbard, CO of the hospital at Camp Bastion, said: “The equivalent to the team in the UK are air ambulances and they don’t fly with the level of professional care we have every day.

“We can, and have, delivered multiple casualties to the hospital, day and night, on just one flight,” he added.

IN BRIEF

● **THE Commander-in-Chief Land Forces is to become the next head of the British Army, Defence officials have announced.**

Gen Sir David Richards is taking the reins as Chief of the General Staff in June 2009, replacing the much-respected Gen Sir Richard Dannatt.

Lt Gen Peter Wall is taking on Gen Richards' current job and will be promoted when he arrives in post.

Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1971, Gen Richards has held several senior positions, which include commander of the International Security Assistance Force at the outset of Op Herrick in 2006.

● **A FORMER childminder has set up a £12,500 appeal to build a memorial statue and garden in Aldershot Military Cemetery to remember the children of Service parents.**

Paula Jackson said: "We would really like soldiers to help us raise this much-needed money as this is an important memorial, particularly for people who have only just started to grieve." To donate contact brieflivesremembered@googlemail.com

● **MORE than 65 officers from the Kuwait Staff College were among visiting VIPs who were given a close-range taste of battle at 3rd Division's Land Power Demonstration.**

Held on Salisbury Plain, the visitors were shown how the brigades work together with live demonstrations and displays of kit and weaponry.

Col Justin Maciejewski, 3 Div Chief of Staff, said: "This was a chance to share information with our partners."

● **AN AMBITIOUS accommodation scheme has won a top award for its green credentials.**

Project Allenby/Connaught, which is managed by Aspire Defence and will provide living space for around 18,000 soldiers on Salisbury Plain and in Aldershot, won the environmental leadership category at the annual Construction Industry Awards.

Aspire Defence was recognised for its forward-thinking initiatives including catching rainwater for the toilets.

● **HUNDREDS of motorcyclists rode into action to pay tribute to the fallen during a mass gathering at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.**

The Ride to the Wall event attracted some 3,000 young and old enthusiasts and included a short service of remembrance with a piper and bugler.

Organiser Martin Dickinson, director of the Nene Valley Harley Owners Group, said: "This was an excellent way to show our gratitude."

Weight lifting

Officials looking at ways of reducing the burden

URGENT moves must be taken to reduce the weight being carried by Infantry troops, according to senior officers at the MoD.

In an interview with *Soldier*, Brig Chris Deverell, who is one of the directors responsible for managing equipment procurement, said the latest weapons, body armour, detection devices and extra food and water that have to be carried in battle have added significantly to the infantryman's burden.

He pointed out that experts were now looking at ways to take the load off soldiers, which included giving them the capability to "live off the land".

Troops on the front line now carry a minimum of 30kg, which officers are concerned is proving to be particularly tough for those on long-range patrols in Afghanistan. Taking the load off the soldiers' shoulders is now a priority.

Brig Deverell said: "Most recently we have introduced quad bikes – by using one of them on a patrol, you can take off some weight.

"I can confirm that we are also looking at methods of water purification. If you can find a way of allowing soldiers to scavenge off the land without contracting diseases associated with contaminated water, you would reduce the burden.

"We think it should also be possible to reduce the weight of items such as body armour, which would help our cause."



Picture: Steve Dock

Despite the concerns over the added mass, Brig Deverell was confident that the new equipment had been well received by troops. He said: "The best indication that our processes are working is the message that we have been getting from the soldiers.

"The procurement system is delivering what they need in a timely fashion."

● **New model Army – Pages 39-41**

Afghan explosion kills 'rising star'

SOLDIERS in southern Afghanistan have been mourning the loss of a much respected colleague who served "with courage, honour and humility" on tour.

Tpr James Munday of the Household Cavalry Regiment had been driving a Jackal on a routine patrol when the vehicle was caught in an explosion near FOB Delhi in Helmand province on October 15. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other soldiers were injured in the blast.

Known to friends as Magpie, Tpr Munday joined the Army in 2005 and was singled out by his superiors as being "one of the best soldiers of his generation".

Trained as a Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle driver and gunner, the 21-year-old was a gifted horse rider, rugby player and downhill skier.

He had quickly become recognised as a safe pair of hands in the demanding environment of Afghanistan.



● Tpr James Munday

Lt Col Harry Fullerton, CO of the HCR, described Tpr Munday as "a rising star" who had relished the opportunity of serving his country on ops.

The commanding officer added: "Tpr Munday was, without doubt, one of the best of his generation. He excelled at all he turned his hand to.

"He served on this tour with courage, honour and humility and always put his colleagues first. He was passionate about his job and the regiment could ask no more from him.

"Tpr Munday has paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of others. His family have lost a wonderful son and we have lost one of the best."

Defence Secretary John Hutton was saddened to hear of the soldier's death. He added: "My thoughts are with his friends and family."

● **A final farewell – Page 35**



Picture: Mike Weston

First-choice reserves: Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles were deployed to Kosovo in the summer after the Serbian province declared independence

Brits' Balkans bow

Army pulls back from its high-readiness Infantry commitment in Kosovo

B RITAIN is to withdraw its contribution to Nato's Pan-Balkan Operational Reserve Force, the Defence Secretary has announced.

In a written statement to the House of Commons, John Hutton said that the decision had been taken following a detailed review and "the continual improvement" of security in newly independent Kosovo.

The move means that while a small number of troops will remain in intelligence roles in the country, Britain will no longer be on the Nato force high-readiness roster.

Soldiers stood down will be able to focus on other roles, including the Spearhead Land Elements and the Joint Rapid Reaction Force Contingent Reserves.

In announcing the withdrawal from the commitment, which will take place on January 1, 2009, Mr Hutton said there had been huge progress towards stability in the region since the country declared its split from neighbouring Serbia earlier in the year. He believed the "major milestones" in Kosovo's independence had passed without trouble and that the current 15,000-strong force

was "well placed" to deal with any incidents. He also stressed extra British troops could move in if required.

Mr Hutton told fellow MPs: "This decision has been taken following a detailed military assessment. We nevertheless retain the ability to deploy forces to Kosovo, or any other region, through our national contingent reserves. We remain committed to both the Balkans and Nato

and the new state of Kosovo with whom we have strong bilateral relationships. British Forces have, in conjunction with other Nato countries, played an important security role."

The Army's Operational Reserve troops last deployed to Kosovo in June. The 2nd Battalion, The Rifles were mobilised while the country's constitution was being ratified.

Postal pressure mounting

BRITISH Forces Post Office chiefs have called on soldiers' loved ones to double check the rules for sending gifts to theatre amid expectations of the busiest ever Christmas period.

They have appealed for everyone to send parcels only to named personnel and to make sure that banned items, such as aerosols, are not included to make sure deliveries arrive in good time.

The build up to Christmas last year saw some 13,000 bags of mail, weighing 100,000kg, despatched to operational theatres alone and a further 1.8 million items

posted worldwide. This year is expected to break all records. As this issue went to press, a 20 per cent increase in mail had already been reported and a new building was under construction at RAF Northolt in London to store the anticipated deluge of extra mail.

In a further bid to alleviate the pressure, the free postal system is now only available to friends and families of personnel, with members of the public encouraged to donate gifts to Forces charities.

● See www.bfpo.mod.uk

UNDER Big Ben

A digest of what is being said on Army matters in Parliament

Snatching victory for the Land Rover

A PACKAGE of refinements is being examined for the Snatch Land Rover in a bid to provide the ageing workhorse with more power and protection, according to Armed Forces Minister Bob Ainsworth.

During a lively debate in the Commons, Mr Ainsworth confirmed that work was being carried out to see if the vehicle could be overhauled with more speed and armour.

While more heavily protected troop carriers such as Mastiff were already being used in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the smaller Ridgback version was on the way, Mr Ainsworth stressed that commanders were still requesting the capability offered by the Land Rover.

Bully beef: Both the MoD and the top echelons of the Army are committed to stamping out bullying, the Armed Forces Minister has reiterated. Addressing fellow MPs, Mr Ainsworth said the department and Gen Sir Richard Dannatt, the Chief of the General Staff, believed it was possible to eradicate malpractice and still keep training "robust, hard and challenging to prepare young people for the demands of combat".

Operational injuries: Some 34 personnel serving in Afghanistan and 16 in Iraq suffered "either a surgical or traumatic amputation" in the two years from April 2006. Responding to a question from fellow MP Mark Pritchard, Veterans' Minister Kevan Jones added: "[Amputation] could range from the loss of a finger or toe up to the loss of one or more limbs – we do not provide further details as this would increase the risk of an individual being identified."

Acting soon: The timescale for implementing the Armed Forces Act is being extended, Mr Jones has confirmed. In a statement, he said the legislation would now take effect in October next year. The new law is set to replace the three current Service Discipline Acts with a single system.

Rats praised for Iraq tour

Outgoing soldiers played pivotal role for peace

A TOP-ranking officer has praised the Desert Rats for their vital role in helping Iraq along the path to peace as soldiers began preparing for this month's return to Germany.

Maj Gen Graham Binns, GOC of Herford-based 1 (UK) Armoured Division, said that the 7th Armoured Brigade had helped the "remarkable progress" towards security in the region.

He was speaking as troops coming to the end of their six months in theatre admitted noticing "a real and tangible difference" to past tours.

Maj Gen Binns, who commanded the Desert Rats during the liberation of Basra in 2003 and oversaw last year's handover of security to Iraqi control, also singled out the country's security forces for their pivotal role in the battle against insurgents.

During the Iraqi-led Charge of the Knights operation, which took place earlier in the year, they had rooted out the troublemakers and performed "magnificently" he said.

Maj Gen Binns added: "The Iraqi security forces are professional, are respected by their people and have been working effectively alongside the police."

"If we can continue to promote optimism among the people of Basra, then we will be successful."

Despite being in the final stages of their Op Telic tour, British soldiers embedded with Iraqi Army units have pledged not to let up in their vital training and mentoring roles.

Most recently personnel serving with the 9th/12th Royal Lancers assisted their Middle East counterparts in developing a specialist aviation infantry capability.

Equipped with four Russian-made helicopters, the Iraqi soldiers have been learning the vital skills and drills in disembarking from the aircraft in testing desert conditions.

Maj James Gasson-Hargreaves, who has been working in the military transition team with the airborne strike force, was delighted with the rapid progress.

He said: "Seeing the Iraqi Army now deploying on operations in their own helicopters, capturing bad guys and seizing weapons is a real leap forward from even a year ago."

"There is a sense that we are making a difference for the future – we can see a tangible change from previous tours and that is satisfying for us."

Soldier salutes RAF rescuer

A COURAGEOUS NCO who lost a leg in an explosion in Basra was reunited with the medical assistant who held his hand as he was airlifted to hospital when he presented her Op Telic medal.

LCpl Rory McKenzie (RAMC) pinned the campaign award on Cpl Hazel Smart (RAF) as the pair were brought together for the first time since she helped save his life back in January 2007.

The junior NCO's Warrior was caught in a blast that killed a colleague, left him unconscious and three others seriously injured. When he came around, he was on board a Merlin helicopter with Cpl Smart holding his hand.

Left with a lasting impression of the medical assistant who helped him through the toughest time of his life, the South African-born soldier, who is currently at 22 Field Hospital, was astonished when he discovered a fellow rugby enthusiast

was her husband. And after finding out Cpl Smart was about to receive her Telic medal, he volunteered to present it during the ceremony at RAF Halton, setting the scene for an emotional reunion.

LCpl McKenzie, who has set his sights on representing Britain at the 2012 Paralympics and has thrown himself into charity work since being injured, recalled: "I will never forget that vision of Hazel being there when I was at death's door. Holding her hand gave me the confidence to relax."

"I would not be here but for the dedication of the medical team."

After the ceremony Cpl Smart told reporters: "It is rare for medical professionals to meet up with the people they extract."

"To meet Rory has been very special and to know someone as seriously injured as him has survived and does a great deal with his charity work is something I will remember forever," she added.



Picture: Cpl Adrian Harlen RLC

Back on the streets: Personnel from the 20th Armoured Brigade are replacing colleagues from the Desert Rats for their latest six-month deployment to Iraq

Packing a punch

Iron Fist brigade commander pledges further progress on next Op Telic

THE newly rebranded 20th Armoured Brigade is looking forward to showing its mettle in Iraq as soldiers begin deploying to Basra for Op Telic 13 in the coming weeks.

Having recently taken on the nickname The Iron Fist, the Germany-based formation is heading out to replace its 7 Brigade neighbours – the Desert Rats – for the latest six-month tour.

Significant progress towards peace has been made in the region since the brigade was last in theatre on Op Telic 8 in 2006. With the focus on mentoring the Iraqi security forces, the mission is now a very different prospect from the previous deployment.

Speaking before the tour, 20 Brigade Commander Brig Tom Beckett said he was delighted with the new identity and was looking forward to a successful six months in Basra.

He added: “The Iron Fist classically represents all of the key characteristics of an armoured formation, which are power, strength and the ability to move at speed.

“The Brigade was formed in 1951 to

face the threats of the Cold War. In 1958 we adopted the Iron Fist symbol of the then-disbanding 6th Armoured Division and have worn it ever since.”

Brig Beckett said that soldiers were well prepared for the Brigade’s third tour of Iraq, adding that they would “build on the real gains” of 7 Brigade.

The commander pledged: “We will do all we can to assist the Iraqi forces in providing sustainable security.

“With security in place the government of Iraq, at national, provincial and local levels, will be better able to develop good governance and economic gains,” he added.

Insurgents lose bite for fight

THE security situation in and around Basra has “drastically improved” and is becoming more stable as the Iraqi security forces grow in confidence.

Capt Liam Wilson (RRF), spokesman for the 7th Armoured Brigade, said mortar and rocket attacks had dwindled to around one-a-month having hit a spike of ten-a-day this time last year.

And while he admitted that there are still troublemakers in the region, and the threat of improvised explosive devices had not been discounted, regular attacks on British troops had stopped.

Capt Wilson told *Soldier*: “The Iraqi

Prime Minister, Nouri Al Maliki, recently said that the security situation here in Basra was excellent and that he was pleased with the progress.

“The capability and the willingness of the insurgents to expose themselves to risk has been drastically reduced, and this has been largely thanks to the Iraqi Army.”

Capt Wilson pointed out that 7 Brigade personnel had been working hard to further the progress in Basra.

He added: “We will keep going to achieve the most that is possible.

“We now look forward to handing over to 20th Armoured Brigade this month.”

IN BRIEF

● **INJURED** military personnel are being helped to a quicker recovery after a two-year programme was agreed between the MoD and a private hospital.

Troops undergoing treatment at the primary care rehabilitation facility in London's Wellington Barracks can now be referred to the nearby King Edward VII's Hospital Sister Agnes, where there is a refurbished hydrotherapy pool.

Wg Cdr Chris Moore (RAF) was one of the latest patients to undergo physio at Sister Agnes following spinal decompression treatment at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey. As a result of his rehab, he is poised to return to front-line duty early next year.

● **A QUARTET** of soldiers from units in Germany swapped their armoured vehicles for horses to travel back in time for a day.

Capt Matt Eyre-Brook and Sgt Paul Wick of Hohné-based 9th/12th Royal Lancers joined Tpr Michael McFarlane and Cpl Pete Harnetty of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards from Fallingbommel in donning 19th Century uniforms to recreate a cavalry charge. The event was filmed for a recruitment video for the lancers, who can trace their history back to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

● **IRAQ**-based soldiers from the 7th Armoured Brigade were given a firm morale boost in the late stages of their Telic tour when they had a visit from the Duke of Kent.

The Duke, who is Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, watched troops in action on the ranges before getting some hands-on time with a Challenger 2 main battle tank. He later visited British soldiers in the military transition teams.

● **THE** majority of the British public now consider defence to be an election issue, according to research carried out for a pressure group.

The study, for the UK National Defence Association, found that just under 60 per cent of 1,000 people polled would consider each party's policy on the issue before making their decision at the ballot box. More than three quarters also believed that the Armed Forces were overstretched.

● **A POIGNANT** exhibition about the sacrifices made during times of conflict has been unveiled at the Royal Air Force Museum at Grahame Park Way in London. Designed to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the Lest We Forget event runs until December 19 and invites visitors to reflect on how war changes lives.

Bear hunting

Search continues for synthetic fur compromise

THE MoD was inviting interested parties to a special open day as this issue went to press in a bid to find a bearskin alternative from which to make the Foot Guards' traditional caps.

The department, which has been looking at the potential of changing the hats to a fake material, said it still had an "open mind" about whether an alternative could be found.

Other fur uniform items such as the drummers' leopard skin aprons and bea-

ver hats have been replaced with synthetic substitutes. But while trials of a fake bearskin began in 2005, the material did not hold out in wet weather – a basic prerequisite.

The MoD imports between 50 and 100 pelts from Canadian bears that have either died in road accidents or been legally culled to make traditional bearskins (pictured below left) each year.

But the move has long been opposed by animal rights groups, who claim it is unethical. Protestors have demonstrated at events including Prince Harry's graduation at the Royal Military Academy.

More recently the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) has ramped up the pressure by promising to transfer funds from its anti-bearskin campaign to Help for Heroes if the MoD promises not to buy more pelts.

But the department said it had no immediate plans to switch to synthetic material after a meeting between Peta military advisor Reg Pycroft and Baroness Ann Taylor, the then Minister for Defence Equipment and Support.

An MoD spokesman said: "We remain open-minded about finding a false fur alternative to the pelt but it has to be robust and durable enough to hold up in all weather conditions in order to be suitable. So far we have been unable to procure something fitting the criteria."

Peta is continuing talks with designers Stella McCartney, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Bouwer about providing bear-skin alternatives as well as liaising with design schools.



Picture: Sgt Mick Howard RLC

● **Grizzly decision** – Page 57

New trauma team combats stress

AN Army team that gives soldiers the heads up on how to spot the early signs of post traumatic stress has been visiting units.

Based at the Army Medical Directorate in Camberley, the Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) training cell has been receiving wide acclaim for its work.

Led by Maj Richard Dorney (Gren Gds), the team runs courses for units on how to manage the psychological impact of major incidents. The key message of the initiative is how to spot any potential problems early on.

Maj Dorney's cell has trained more than 700 personnel since May and has recently been visiting soldiers on ops.

The team leader told *Soldier*. "Trauma Risk Management is essentially a peer-devolved psychological support system. It

is designed to identify those personnel who may be more at risk of developing psychological problems following an incident and is based on a system of risk assessment."

Under the programme, soldiers who are involved in a traumatic incident are interviewed by colleagues, said Maj Dorney.

He stressed that TRiM was not counselling or a medical initiative, but sought to identify those most at risk so that they could be signposted to qualified medical help where needed.

Maj Dorney said: "After four-to-six weeks, most people are feeling better, but there may be a minority who need additional support. The trick is to quickly spot this minority."

● **Contact Maj Dorney** on 94261 2950



Picture: Stuart Knight

Icing on the cake: A team of Regular and volunteer soldiers celebrated the centenary of the Territorial Army by setting a new record for trekking across the ice cap of Greenland. Following in the footsteps of celebrated 19th Century Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, the ten-man squad achieved the 490-mile journey in an impressive time of 27 days. The success was all the more sweet as the soldiers became the first British Army team to undertake the tough task. Expedition leader Maj James Woodhouse (7 Scots) admitted: "It was demanding – one of the men lost two-and-half-stone during the record attempt."

Jacking up a union

MoD holds the line as MPs urged to support soldiers' staff association

A PRESSURE group has launched a campaign targeting the highest levels of Parliament as part of a bid to allow Armed Forces personnel to be represented by an independent body.

Letters have been sent to all MPs by the British Armed Forces Federation (Baff) asking for their support in launching a Government-recognised staff association for soldiers.

Troops are currently forbidden from joining unions to make representations on issues such as pay and conditions.

While the MoD continues to oppose the formation of the new group, claiming troops already have avenues of redress, Baff says there should be a change in the law.

The organisation maintains that the Armed Forces are now committed to more overseas operations than any time in recent history, particularly with deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The group also cites issues such as housing, the movement of families at short notice and health care issues as reasons why a staff association should be formed for Servicemen and women.

Baff said that if MPs pledged sup-

port for the organisation, it would act in a similar way to the Police Federation. The body would not be able to call for industrial action, nor allow members to walk out on strike.

In the letter, Baff called for support for the organisation's proposal during the next Parliamentary session.

But an MoD spokeswoman insisted: "There are already effective avenues

through which our Service personnel and their families can let us know their views and concerns.

"The Chain of Command play the lead role in this to maintain an effective and disciplined fighting force. Numerous other avenues include the Army Families Federation, the Forces Pension Society and the Independent Service Complaints Commissioner."

Outgoing Browne applauded

SENIOR officers have praised the work of outgoing Defence Secretary Des Browne, adding that he had shown "real concern" and compassion for the Armed Forces.

In a statement, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said Mr Browne's "efforts on behalf of our people" had made a huge difference.

The former Defence Secretary left the post following October's Cabinet changes and was replaced by John Hutton.

ACM Stirrup said Mr Browne had risen to the challenge during his two years in the job. "We are very grateful for his sustained

commitment through some extremely demanding times," he added.

"We look forward to working with Mr Hutton to tackle the challenges ahead."

The reshuffle saw changes in all-bar-one of the senior ministerial appointments at the MoD. Kevan Jones replaced Derek Twigg as the Veterans' Minister while Baroness Ann Taylor, Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, moved to the new post of Minister for International Defence and Security. Quentin Davies took Baroness Taylor's former role, while Bob Ainsworth remained Armed Forces Minister.

Feeling the pressure?

Army Welfare Service
- the welfare co-ordinators

We are here to help if you need us

Civil: 01722 436569

Mil: 94331 2569

Email: awis@hqland.army.mod.uk



www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support

Stepping up the reservist power

Allies pool knowledge in a move to improve retention of part-time troops

TERRITORIAL Army commanders must strive for closer relationships with civilian employers to encourage more people to enlist, according to a senior officer.

Brig Greg Smith, Deputy Inspector General Reserve Forces, said the TA is now following the example of the United States Army Reserves, which has been forging strong relations with industries across America.

Speaking outside the annual American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies (ABCA) programme meeting at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Brig Smith said: "In terms of employee skills, we are looking for the same qualities as other employers – we are competing in the same market."

"We find employer support for the TA is quite robust but there is always more we can do, particularly when you look at the pressures of mobilisation."

"Employers lose a staff member for 12 months which can place pressure on small firms, even more so than for large organisations."

But Brig Smith said the ABCA partnership meant allies could learn from each other's successes, citing the American approach to training recruits in key employable skills as the way forward.

The US Army Reserves has 200,000 soldiers and recruitment is steadily increasing. This is largely due to a new scheme where the Army works with employers to find workers who can be trained in skills useful to both civilian and military life.

Lt Gen Jack Stultz, US Army Reserves, said: "I have agreements with truck companies across America where I say that if I can employ their drivers, they will be taught skills which will be of huge benefit to us both."

"It's the same with the medical profession – if someone wants a career as a radiologist, then I'll train them for a job with a hospital as well."

Increasing demand for reserve forces has recently seen the TA send 250 troops to Cyprus as part of Op Tosca – the UN peacekeeping force – for the first time.



Picture: Steve Dock

Involving employers: TA troops demonstrate military skills to their civilian bosses on Salisbury Plain

Rifles aim high in the mountains

VOLUNTEERS faced a steep learning curve when they took part in rigorous training with the Romanian Army.

Troops from 6th Battalion, The Rifles were deployed on exercise in the Carpathian Mountains alongside their central European allies and the many hundreds of bears who live in the hills.

The two-week tour initially saw the soldiers firing Romanian weapons and taking part in a rock-climbing course.

Later, personnel from the two countries began a five-day exercise at heights of up to 1,500 metres.

During the demanding manoeuvres, The Rifles trained their hosts in skills including battlefield medicine, basic military tactics and survival techniques.

Lt Col Tom Mereweather, CO of 6 Rifles,

said: "The battalion has operational experience from Iraq and Afghanistan and one of the main reasons for us being in Romania was to share that knowledge."

"We have found the experience of training in the Carpathian Mountains exciting and challenging."

Around 80 soldiers from 6 Rifles are now in Afghanistan for a six-month tour having successfully completed their pre-deployment training.

Lt Col Mereweather added: "Times have really changed for the reserve forces."

"On the one hand we are again deploying a company-sized group on operations – our fourth such tour since 2001 – and at the same time we have been continuing a normal training cycle with our fortnight's camp in Romania."

IN NEED OF A STIFF ONE?



Struggling to keep up?

Excess alcohol reduces your fighting efficiency and gives you a bigger hangover, a bigger hole in your wallet and a bigger waistline, making YOU a far bigger target.

FORCES
SEA
Help

For CSL email service
visit www.ssaia.org.uk

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT LINE

Freephone from:
the UK
Germany
Cyprus
Falklands

0800 731 4880
0800 1827 395
800 91065
#6111

Worldwide Callback +44(0)1980 630854
Freephone from Operational Theatres, Paradigm Services *201



Picture: Talkback Thames

Chart-topping hopefuls: Contestants on the *X-Factor* have been doing their bit to raise money for soldiers injured on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan

X marks top spot

Simon Cowell's proteges sing their hearts out for Britain's war wounded

THE founder of Help for Heroes hopes contestants from TV's hottest talent show will hit the right notes after recording an anthem for wounded British troops.

In an interview with *Soldier*, the charity's chief executive Bryn Parry said he was optimistic that the *X-Factor*'s cover of the 1993 Mariah Carey hit *Hero* could find its way to the top of the charts.

The contestants were due to perform

their own version of the song on the ITV show as this issue went to press with a special edition CD available in the shops soon after.

Parry said: "Judge Simon Cowell has been wearing one of our wristbands for some time now and called me in for a chat – he said he would help us out.

"All the contestants through to the finals of the Saturday night show are set to sing the song, which we hope will be-

come an anthem for wounded soldiers.

"The track has already been recorded and we want it to stay in the charts for a very long time. If we can push it all the way to number one, it would be great."

Parry added: "We are thrilled the *X-Factor* is supporting our boys and girls and hope the public will do their bit to make this version of *Hero* a hit and demonstrate that we really care."

The commitment of the talent show's contestants to wounded soldiers has already been praised in high places. Veterans' Minister Kevan Jones said he would be first in the queue to buy the single.

Mr Jones added that the Forces deserved strong backing. "It's great news that the *X-Factor* finalists have recorded this single," he told *Soldier*.

"Our Service personnel show courage and dedication on a daily basis and the public's good wishes and support mean a lot. The message is loud and clear, and I hope everyone buys the single."

Help for Heroes has so far raised nearly £3 million to help wounded British troops, and charity bosses have pledged that "every penny" will be spent in making life more comfortable for soldiers.

Hero's headstone is unveiled

TROOPS serving with 5th Battalion, The Rifles turned out to remember one of their Territorial Army forefathers killed in a First World War engagement after his family located his grave.

A headstone marking the final resting place of CSM Thomas William Mankelow was recently established, 90 years to the day after he died during an advance near Bray, north of the River Somme.

Three members of 5 Rifles travelled from Paderborn in Germany for the ceremony of dedication. Military historian Richard Frost, a former member of The Royal Green Jackets, also attended the service

at the cemetery along with members of the late soldier's family.

CSM Mankelow, who was serving with Queen Victoria's Rifles and held the Distinguished Conduct Medal, was buried at Bronfray Farm after he was killed. But records of the exact location were destroyed during the London Blitz of 1940.

It was only after research carried out by his great granddaughter, Jane Mankelow-Hutchings, that a letter from an officer pinpointing his grave was discovered.

Speaking after the dedication ceremony, Richard Frost told *Soldier* that the event had been "extremely moving".



STREAMLIGHT SIDEWINDER SL-1400 £54.95

The most versatile military torch in the world with twenty different modes. Each of the four LED's (main white, red, blue and Infra Red) features 4 levels of output intensity: Low (5%), Medium (25%), Medium-High (50%), High (100%) plus a Strobe function. Features include one pull-to-turn switch for On-Off, dimming and mode selection functions with a tactile indicator for easy operation while wearing gloves in a high-impact, super-tough nylon case with an unbreakable gasket sealed polycarbonate lens with a scratch resistant coating. Batteries will last 3-7 hours on maximum power and up to 100 hours when using one of the smaller LED's on low power, lithium batteries will extend this and enable the torch to be used in extreme conditions between -40°F and 150°F. The head of the torch rotates through 185 degrees and the MOLLE compatible spring steel clip can be mounted on either side of the light. Available in either olive green or coyote tan.



visit us at www.survivalaids.com



Past lessons

New emphasis on battlefield studies
lifts history out of the text books

Report: Cliff Caswell
Pictures: Graeme Main

ARMED with a clutch of PowerPoint slides, a laser pointer and two elderly veterans, Maj Neil Powell was well equipped to deliver a powerful history lesson.

An expert on the ill-fated Operation Market Garden campaign of 1944, he was giving journalists reviewing the new *Brothers in Arms* video game, set during the disastrous battle, an overview of what happened.

But his lecture took on a new and profound effect when the two old

soldiers took centre stage.

Having introduced the veterans, one a former Para the other an ex-gliders pilot, the reporters were enraptured by their memories. First-hand accounts of a sky filled with aircraft, ferocious contacts with the Germans and the deaths of friends and comrades were recounted with such vividness they could have happened the day before.

"The memories of these soldiers give a personal dimension to the battle and

make it human," said Maj Powell, an Army tutor from the Adjutant General's Corps. "Engaging with veterans brings these campaigns of the past very much to life."

"At the end of the day, if playing a video game makes people think about Operation Market Garden and want to find out more, it has to be a good thing."

Lecturing journalists was a one-off event for Maj Powell, but for the last

few years he has been using the same skills to develop a new approach to his battlefield studies courses for soldiers in 4th Division. He believes an upsurge of media about the Second World War, including video games like *Brothers in Arms* and films such as Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* and Clint Eastwood's *Flags of our Fathers* have created a new interest in modern military history that can be used to enrich the careers of young troops.

'By taking this approach you really bring the campaigns alive for the young soldiers'



Rather than looking solely at the strategic dimension of battles, Maj Powell's style focuses on the human element and engages troops with the emotional side of the event. He maintains that encouraging soldiers to visit conflict sites such as the Normandy beaches, as well as talking to veterans who were there, can have a favourable effect on their professional development.

He also believes new technology has a key part to play in learning, and has been using the ArmyNet portal to upload resources such as battlefield maps and useful contact details to make his expertise available to the masses.

"Battlefield studies is a subject that has always been taught by the Army, but

it has tended to be at a strategic level," said Maj Powell. "That is brilliant, and it is important not to reinvent the wheel, but I am keen to make it accessible to all ranks.

"Looking at what happened in the past, and getting the veterans involved wherever possible, makes young soldiers think about the Army's values and standards of today. Importantly it also helps the troops better understand and get closer to their profession, adds value to their training and helps with the important issue of retention."

The 4th Division courses have certainly proved to be popular and Maj Powell has led troops to northern France to see where some of the pivotal battles

of the Second World War were fought. He has also arranged visits to Sicily and has in many cases brought veterans along, allowing the young soldiers to get to know them personally and hear their stories from the European theatres in which they fought.

"By taking this approach you really bring the campaigns alive for the young soldiers," said the officer, who served with 1 LI and the RMP before becoming a tutor. "The climate and conditions of some areas we visit are similar to the modern theatres such as Iraq, and a key part of taking this approach is about what today's troops can learn from the battles of the past."

For Maj Powell there are also deeper reasons for involving the veteran community. With just a handful of men left who fought in the First World War, all of them well over 100 years old, and with numbers now dwindling among the Second World War soldiers, he is keen to record the memories of those who fought in the conflicts of the 20th Century before the generation passes on.

"We've been trying hard to increase the amount of time that the young soldiers get to spend with the veterans," said Maj Powell. "It is so important that we do not lose the stories that they have to tell and we must talk to them now."

It is an important aspiration. It is only now, in their advanced years, that many veterans have opened up to talk about their traumatic experiences in battle.

Their words are an important gift to the current generation of soldiers and the general public at large. "They are our link to the past; their memories are key," Maj Powell concluded. "And we owe it to them to record as much as we can." ■



Main Picture, Remembering the cost: Young soldiers find out more about the sacrifices of their forefathers during an emotional visit to the battlefields of the Western Front

Above, Chemical threat: A modern day soldier gets to grips with the technology of the First World War as he dons an early gas mask

Above left, Back to war: Former Para Arthur Letchford returns to the Dutch front line of his youth in a video game interpretation of Operation Market Garden





A family affair



Before the war: Albert and Gertrude
Main picture: David Caswell (left) and
historian Richard Frost discuss the events
of June 1917 at the Rifles Club

A century after the first TA volunteers went to war, a grandson remembers the price they paid

Report: Cliff Caswell
Picture: Graeme Main

ALBERT Skinner probably lived long enough to see something of the shock and awe that smashed through the German lines in the early hours of the morning on June 7, 1917.

The Territorial Army volunteer with the 8th Battalion, The City of London Regiment would have been advancing when a series of enormous mines detonating beneath Messines Ridge in Belgium suddenly turned the night to day.

The pillars of fire tore through the fabric of the landscape like an enormous volcanic eruption, immediately creating a mass grave of 10,000 German defenders and sending a seismic blast wave rolling across the continent towards London.

Serving with 1st Post Office Rifles [part of 140 Brigade under the command of 47 (London) Division], Skinner didn't live much longer after that apocalyptic moment. But like the earthquake that tore through Messines,

the death of the young soldier rippled through his family for a generation.

Albert Skinner, my great grandfather – the man “blown to pieces” in the war to end all wars – resonated well into my early years. His widow Gertrude often visited us towards the end of her life in the 1970s. I was too young to understand the significance of the dog tags and faded letter of condolence she kept with her. And she had apparently never said much about her husband after receiving the awful telegram at London’s Victoria Dock where she worked.

Before I was old enough to ask more, the last family players in the events of 1917 had passed on. The young rifleman now only exists in the immaculate walls of the Menin Gate at Ypres – one memory, in a sea of memories, with no known grave.

However this year, with the 100th anniversary of the TA marked, my 76-year-old father David began thinking again about the volunteer in the family. Like those serving today, Skinner had bravely put on a uniform and left civilian life to fight.

So when Richard Frost, an historian and former member of The Royal Green Jackets, agreed to take a closer look at the battle of Messines and the life of the young rifleman from London’s East End, my father keenly accepted his invitation.

Frost’s research provided a remarkable snapshot of the early TA volunteers who took part in the organisation’s first mass mobilisation between 1914 and 1918. Far from the “weekend warriors” reputation that volunteers would earn during the Cold

‘Pillars of fire tore through the fabric of the landscape like a volcanic eruption’

War, this was a conflict that firmly required the full involvement of the Territorials.

“There were so many people from all walks of life who joined up from the East End of London during the First World War,” Frost told my father during a tour of the Rifles Club near Bond Street in London.

“They included several Jewish people who had fled from Russia during the revolution and names such as Solomon, Silver and Rose were a very common feature of recruiting offices at that time.

“In many ways this still applies today – all kinds of people join the TA, serving in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. And

although the Army is far smaller now than in 1917, the proportion of volunteers is probably quite similar.”

Skinner, who had two young children by the time he enlisted, joined a battalion that was already well established. Its history went back to 1868 when 1,600 Post Office employees signed up as special constables. The Post Office Rifles was officially formed following the creation of the modern Territorial force in 1908.

Hill 60, the location near the town of Ypres where the 28-year-old rifleman was dispatched after mobilisation, had already been the scene of fierce fighting. In 1915, Lt Geoffrey Harold Woolley of Queen Victoria’s Rifles became the first TA soldier to win the Victoria Cross on operations there.

By early 1917, scores of men from the civilian mining industry had also been drafted in to dig beneath the German trenches, laying ordnance packed with 600 tonnes of explosive that would be used as the prelude to the huge attack.

At 0310 on June 7, 19 mines were detonated in an explosion that

was heard in Downing Street. But it was not revealed at the time that not all the ordnance went off on schedule, and several British troops were killed by friendly fire.

“It is well documented that some of the explosives did go off late, killing a lot of our own troops who had been told to attack regardless. It is entirely possible that Albert Skinner was one of those caught up in the blasts,” said Frost.

“As part of X Corps, the Post Office Rifles would have moved 300 yards to take surviving Germans prisoner, before heading to secure a rubble heap that was the remains of a chateau. Fighting there went on all day before they broke the line on June 8.”

For Skinner, the battle was probably over very quickly. Sketchy reports from the front at the time that he was “blown to pieces” or “bowled over” suggest that he was probably the victim of a late mine detonation or German mortar attack.

As with so many of those lost in the Great War, the circumstances of his death will forever remain unclear. But the extraordinary bravery he and the thousands of TA volunteers showed in stepping forward during that era, is something that is still demonstrated today.

From Iraq to Afghanistan, the civilians who are willing to leave their jobs to serve six months in the world’s most dangerous places have again become a reserve of first choice. And now, as in the First World War, the job could not be done without them. ■



Digging in: Men of the Royal Engineers working on a tunnel under German lines
Left: TA volunteer Albert Skinner against the backdrop of Messines Ridge in 1917





"where compromise is NOT an option"

- In association with ARRSE
- Online equipment demos
- Regular competitions and newsletters
- Online reviews
- Equipment tested on Ops
- Online Discount Codes

Type in **RV1**
when placing your order online for a
further **10% discount!**

www.rvops.co.uk

MILITARY EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS



Combat Utility Bag

This item was developed in response to a specific request for a section level re-supply/general purpose holdall. Responding to operational feedback from end-users the Grab Bag has evolved into its current configuration Features: Main compartment - Bowman

NEW **Lowa Black Elite**

LOWA once again are making the news with the new LOWA Elite Black, derived from the Desert Elite, we feel this style of boot has an 1980/90's "KSB" feel about it. It's lightweight, non Gortex and perfect for those who want a fast moving, fast drying boot.

HH Lifa Top

My lifa top is a quality product! You would expect Helly Hansen to produce good kit but the lifa top excels. It's comfortable and even when wet mine continued to perform. One other thing about lifa tops, they dry remarkably quickly.

Petzl E+Lite

The dogs' back wheels, awesome bit of kit, red light setting is just right for map reading etc. fits very securely around helmet and the hinge is reasonably stable, best head torch going at the moment....

Rite In The Rain

Rite in the Rain will, I predict take over from all other white plastic, petroleum based, waterproof notebooks. Rite in the Rain out performs on all levels, on price, colour and environmental effectiveness too! Once tried you will become a Rite in the Rain convert like me....

Bergen Covers

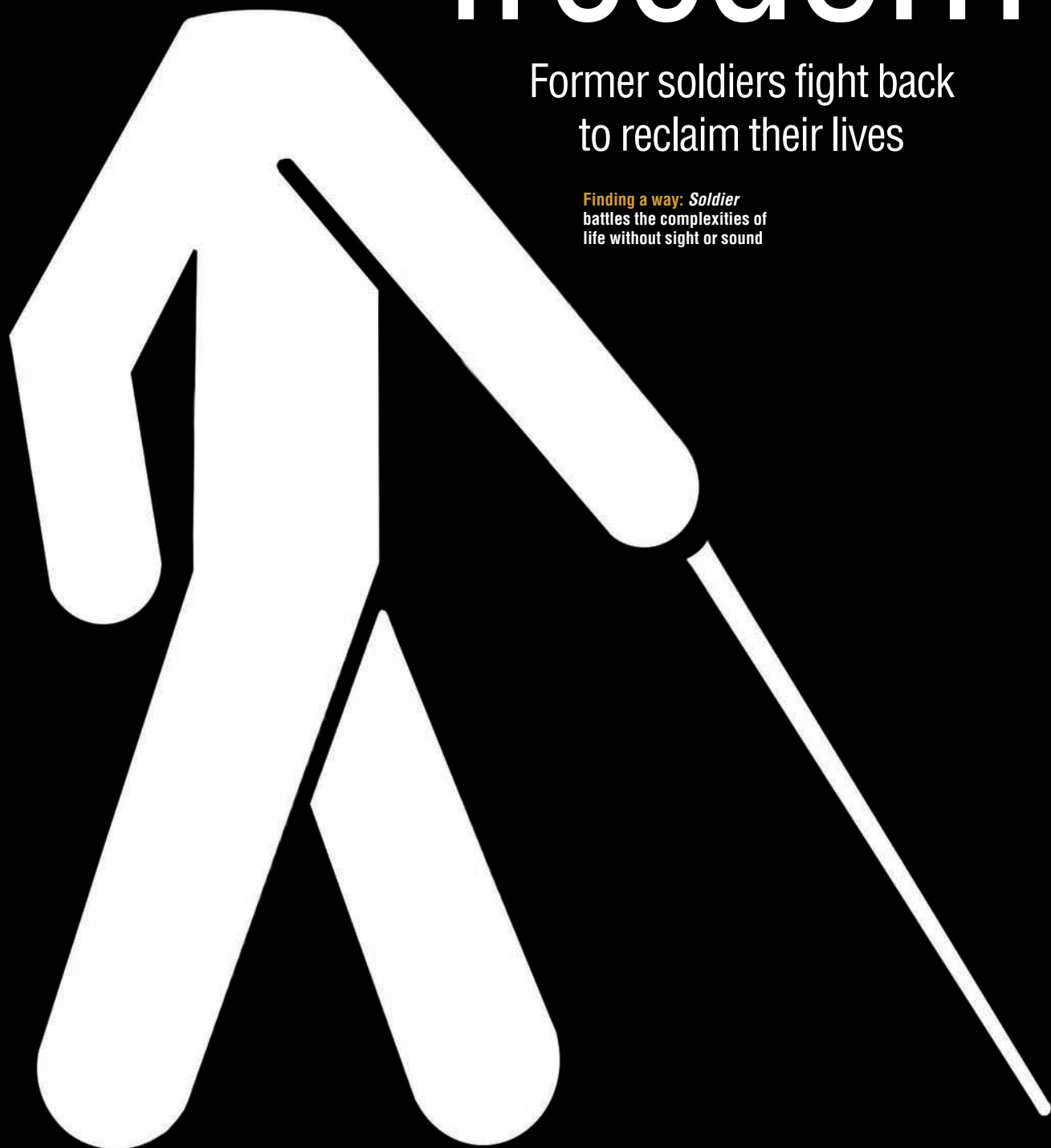
Large enough to accommodate a fully loaded bergen using the elasticated shock cord. Hivis marker panel on the reverse for aviation ops, low visibility or emergencies. Two neoprene holes for antenna or rehydration system. Brilliant for CFT / Speed marches on the road.



Sense of freedom

Former soldiers fight back
to reclaim their lives

Finding a way: *Soldier*
battles the complexities of
life without sight or sound



Report: Karen Thomas
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE Sussex coastline is a picture-postcard vista to behold on a sunny summer's day – shimmering azure waves and dazzling white cliffs topped with emerald cropped grass.

Seagulls wheel in circles against a cloudless sky breaking the peace with their cackles, which are carried by a balmy whisper of a breeze. Gazing on a horizon that promises much for the future makes the small village of Ovingdean the perfect spot for some respite against the hurry and worry of the bustling city of Brighton just a few miles down the road.

Second World War veteran Bob Osborne thought the coastline of the English Channel such a spectacle that he settled here with his wife and raised a family.

But it has been 64 years since the former infantryman from the 2nd Battalion, The South Wales Borderers Regiment, has seen the beautiful view from his window.

Blinded aged just 20 during the June 1944 D-Day operations, since running up Sword beach Bob has just his memories of the scenic panorama. He has never seen his five grandchildren.

"I lost my sight during the war when I was blown up. We had captured German guns in Normandy and I was walking behind a tank when they started shelling us.

"I was unconscious for about 20 days and I woke up back in England with no

arm, no leg and blind," Bob told *Soldier* during his respite stay at the St Dunstan's centre for blind and visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women. He is chairman of the bowling club.

"St Dunstan's means everything to me. Of course, I would rather be at home but I couldn't survive otherwise.

"It keeps me going. I have got my bowls and have a special chair so I can bowl from sitting down in that."

Founded in 1915, the charity has provided home support, training and accommodation to blind ex-Forces

personnel since the First World War. From the beginning, St Dunstan's has strived to give their patients back an independent future and fulfilling life.

Roger Williams (ex-7 Para RHA) admitted he was deeply depressed when he first lost his sight but the charity soon proved to him that there was life after blindness.

"It's paramount to maintain your independence. A lot of these guys were on the front line and

when you go blind it's like being born again except you don't need to learn to walk and talk, you need to adapt.

"This is where St Dunstan's comes into its own. They tell you the answer and it's simple but it's so simple, you didn't realise it. They look after you until the grave but we are always hoping the next medical advance will cure blindness." ■

● For more information about St Dunstan's go to www.st-dunstans.org.uk



Roger Williams

To put St Dunstan's training reputation to the test, *Soldier* was blinded for the day



Time for a brew

● The kitchen felt like a potential death trap and there was no chance of a quick cup of tea but plenty of scope to scald myself. There are some neat gadgets to help every step. But from making sure the kettle spout nudged up against the teapot so the hot water would pour in and not around it seemed to take forever. However, I'm most grateful to whoever invented the detector that beeps when the tea has almost filled your cup and then beeps again for your dash of milk.



Walk the line

● The centre has touch signposting – patterned bumps – on hand rails to help you navigate the corridors, doorways and stairs. My hearing is instantly ramped up so I'm aware of people around me. Sighted people should always greet you and not give into a natural instinct to creep past a blind person. I still try to "see" where I'm going though and despite clutching onto my carer, my footsteps are hesitant. It's unnatural to trust them. I rapidly become fatigued and feel vulnerable.



Getting to know you

● Meeting new people was a struggle. I sat with a sighted woman who taught in the craft sessions. I hadn't realised how much we subconsciously size up a person just by looking at them. From her voice she could have been anywhere between 20 and 40 years old. I had no clues about what her interests might be from her dress, build or body language. Was I about to leap in with the latest gossip from ITV's *X-Factor* only to find that she trains as an athlete and never watches TV?



Scoff time

● A disaster and most blind people don't find dinner invites a treat. It never occurred to me to check that my knife was the right way up and I spent a good 20 minutes hacking away with the blunt edge at a jacket potato wondering why the chef had left it in the oven for so long. I frequently had to touch my food to find out what it was and scoop it off the table and back on my plate. Top tip: put tomato ketchup on garden peas to stop the little blighters making a break for it.



Loud and clear: Sign language, lip-reading and cochlea implants open up communications for deaf people
Below: Helping hand as spelled using the sign language alphabet

Report: Samantha Chapman
Pictures: Graeme Main

IMAGINE being plunged into a world where you can't even hear your own heartbeat and where the only conversation you have all day, everyday is with yourself.

It's not a scenario any of us would relish, but for soldiers, who count hearing orders, sharing information and exchanging friendly banter as a basic necessity, an enforced silence would be a maddening experience.

Yet this is the daily reality faced by Marc Crane, a former sergeant and radio operator in the Royal Engineers, whose gradual slide into deafness began while he was still a serving sapper.

Just four years after he left the Army in 1994, he was declared 100 per cent deaf and found that the world, as he knew it, had changed forever.

Stuck in his silent vacuum, Marc's feeling of isolation and fear of what used to be everyday situations grew so great that he refused to leave his house for 18 months.

"I would psyche myself up to go to the local shop to buy a paper," he explained. "When I'd get to the till and realise I couldn't hear what the person was saying, I'd panic and take off. It got to the point where I just didn't want to leave the house."

Marc, now 56, joined the Royal Engineers in Dover as a fresh-faced 15-year-old, eager to see the world and serve his country. He spent 18 years abroad and specialised in communications – which made his hearing loss seem all the more tangible.

"I'd spent all my life in communications, and I couldn't speak to people," said Marc. "Towards the end of my career I'd noticed that I was finding it difficult to hear. I'd have to ask people to repeat themselves or ask them what the OC was saying in meetings because I didn't have a clue. In the end I stopped answering the telephone because I'd have to sit there really pushing my ear into the receiver to try and hear the person on the other end."

A hearing test in the early 1990s revealed

that Marc needed hearing aids and he was fitted with two in the year before he left. Further diagnosis revealed that time spent working with heavy plant machinery and tools without ear defenders had caused significant damage and hearing loss.

"Nothing can prepare you for losing your hearing," said Marc. "Statistics show that one in seven people experience deafness but I never met any of them. My family and I felt completely alone – it was like I was the only one."

Desperate not to sink into despair, Marc attempted to seek help from charities and local organisations to help with the many problems his deafness was causing – not least with the social isolation.

Yet each time his pleas for help were ignored – until eventually he heard about Hearing Concern LINK, a charity that provides courses and services for deafened people and their families.

After receiving funding from their local Primary Care Trust, Marc and wife Hilary, 51, took part in a week-long residential course in Eastbourne. This covered every aspect of deafness, from learning new methods of communication such as sign language and lip-reading, to the availability of practical devices such as hearing aids and cochlea implants (pictured right).

"I hadn't really spoken to Hilary or my children since I went completely deaf," explained Marc. "None of us had any idea how to communicate with each other – and one of the most important things for us was to find that there were other people out there who had been experiencing the same issues."

"LINK brings together deafened people as a group and it was the first time in six years that I had met someone who felt the same way that I did. It was exactly the same for Hilary."

Since the course, Marc has become a proficient lip-reader and he and Hilary can both use sign language. He also has a cochlea implant, which has given some of his hearing back, and uses a mixture of this and lip-reading to hold a conversation.

"The course also teaches you how to cope with everyday situations," he continued. "If we go out with a group of friends to dinner, for example, the floral table decoration looks nice but we ask the waiter to take it away or I can't read anyone's lips and wouldn't be able to join in the conversation."



"It gave me the confidence to tell people I'm deaf and ask them to look at me so I can read what they're saying. People with beards and moustaches are a nightmare because I can't see the shape of their mouth and some people have a habit where they put their hands in front of their mouths. I just politely ask them not to."

Many people experience tinnitus with deafness – a constant ringing in their ears which ultimately makes the condition worse – and the course teaches relaxation methods to cope with the stress.

Balance can also be severely affected by hearing loss and audiologists are on hand to show people how to correct any difficulties they encounter.

Both Marc and Hilary are now outreach workers for Hearing Concern LINK and go along to the courses to share their personal experiences. They also offer one-to-one support with newly deafened people, showing them the range of services and support available.

"LINK changed our lives," says Marc. "For years I felt as though I was the only one – and they showed me that I wasn't. For me that was what was important – I feel as though I have my life back." ■

● For more information on Hearing Concern LINK log on to www.hearingconcernlink.org

'It gave me the confidence to tell people I'm deaf and ask them to look at me so I can read what they're saying'





MILITARY PRICES AVAILABLE FROM VOLVO TO ALL SERVING MEMBERS OF H.M. FORCES - UK AND OVERSEAS

Whether you are already serving abroad or are permanently serving in the UK, take advantage of your military status to purchase a brand new Volvo at substantially reduced prices with discounts of up to 13% (plus a further 17.5% VAT saving if posted overseas)

Volvo. for life



CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

VOLVO BRITISH MILITARY SALES

157 Dixons Hill Road, Welham Green,
HERTS, AL9 7JE
Tel: 01707 262388
Email: bms@volvocars.com
Web: www.volvocars.com

The all new Volvo XC60 available from £17,773 tax-free, excluding delivery & registration (VAT of 17.5% applicable for UK based personnel). Military discounts are available to current serving members of H.M. forces with a valid proof of Military status. Tax-Free purchases are subject to personal entitlement during official overseas posting.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CURRENT VOLVO BRITISH MILITARY OFFERS:

Title/Rank:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Model of interest (please tick):

C30 Coupe ☐

C70 Convertible ☐

S40 Saloon ☐

S60 Saloon ☐

S80 Saloon ☐

V50 Estate ☐

V70 Estate ☐

XC70 AWD ☐

All new XC60 AWD ☐

XC90 AWD ☐

When are you considering purchasing a new car (e.g. Mar 09):

Please send this coupon to: VOLVO, FREEPOST WD691, PO BOX 200, HATFIELD, AL9 7BR

Occupied nation

In 1940 the Channel Islands became the only British territory to be occupied in the Second World War.

The people of Jersey tell *Soldier* their story



Nazi rule: A German air force officer speaks to a British policeman in a Jersey town shortly after the island's occupation
© IWM HU1761

Report: Heidi Mines
Pictures: Mike Weston

STANDING at the kitchen window of her home in the village of La Rocque, Jersey, Emily Gibaut's heart sank as she watched German soldiers walk up the garden path to her front door.

It was 1941, Hitler's Army had occupied the Channel Islands and banned the use of all radios – for those caught in possession of a wireless the punishment was imprisonment or worse.

With bayonets fixed, the Nazi Servicemen lined up in 15-year-old Emily's hallway had come to search her home. In this case the Gibaut's were lucky. Their radio, concealed underneath the garden cabbage patch, was not discovered.

"I was very frightened," said the former nurse who later married and became Emily Snell. "I told the German soldiers that our set had been handed into the Parish Hall and that I really missed listening to *Children's Hour*."

The Gibaut family were not alone in their rule breaking. The petite softly-spoken lady remembered Canon Clifford Cohu's packed church services. "If you really listened carefully to the Rector's sermons he would weave the BBC news into a faultless religious speech."

Unfortunately, despite the brave man of the cloth being well aware of the risks, his clever delivery was discovered in 1943. He was eventually sent to Spargau concentration camp in Germany where he died of inhumane treatment around two years later.

Canon Clifford was among more than 300 islanders sentenced to the infamous hell holes of mainland Europe, 20 of whom died in captivity. Among them was Louisa



Emily Snell

Tunnel vision: The Jersey War Tunnels formerly known as the German Underground Hospital are one of the most well known of the many fortifications the Nazis built on the island. A huge workforce was needed to build the tunnels, and more than 5,000 forced and slave labourers were brought over to Jersey, including Russians, Poles and Frenchmen



Liberation Comes to the Channel Isles

FROM the air the Channel Islands, with their neat farms and glass-roofed houses, appear much the same as they did when English holiday makers swarmed on them in summers before the war. It is when you look more closely that you find the ugly signs of war — miles of barbed wire, minefields, trenches, gun emplacements, huge concrete structures, underground, road blocks and glider traps, hundreds of houses, And, of course, you quickly sense that the people still feel the effects of their five years in prison.

German soldiers played was when they asked a lot of little children to put up their hands if they wanted chocolate. Of course, every child did, and a photographer took a picture to show the kiddies giving the Nazi salute."

While much farm land has been spoiled by elaborate concrete road structures — I saw massive

to heat the glasshouses and to steam had to use cold houses because we sterilise the soil. We're growing lack fuel!" he explained. "So only a quarter of the normal crop of get only four pounds of tomatoes but if we can get supplies plant; we'll be in full production next spring."

12 Acres of Glass

Gould, who was sent to the gas chambers for giving assistance to an escaped Russian prisoner of war.

Although almost 70 years have passed since the beginning of the German invasion, those in Jersey have a constant reminder of the occupation with fortifications from the bygone age still evident around the island.

With its stunning views, quaint towns and relaxed atmosphere, Jersey is a popular holiday destination. But look closer at the coastline and you will see a wall of defences running around the country. Hidden bunkers and crumbling lookout posts feature almost every few hundred yards.

Before Adolf Hitler ordered the conversion of Jersey into a fortress, it was demilitarised and about 8,000 islanders managed to evacuate leaving a further 40,000 people behind. The island's military men, volunteers and those who had successfully fled joined the British Armed Forces.

Clive Kemp, who served with 71 Field Company, Royal Engineers, joined the Army in 1940 and managed to avoid occupation. The young sapper built bridges on D-Day with the British Expeditionary Force. He remembered that all Jersey men were fiercely patriotic and that his fellow British colleagues could not believe he had willingly joined up.

"We all volunteered so we couldn't complain," said the 88-year-old. "We had rough times don't get me wrong. We roughed it, really roughed it."

"But we had more pride because we went away and did our bit even though we didn't have to be there. As things turned out we



Clive Kemp

were lucky because the Germans ended up coming here anyway."

As men like Clive went to fight, those left behind were subject to a new way of life and another country's culture. Children would learn German in schools, everyone was to cycle on the right-hand side of the road and a 2200 curfew was strictly enforced by the invading armed forces.

In 1942, as a direct reprisal for the British arresting 500 German civilians in modern day Iran and keeping them in internment camps, a furious Hitler ordered all British born males and their families throughout the Channel Islands to be sent to the heart of the Third Reich.

"We were put into an old castle in the centre of a town in southern Germany and there we stayed until the end of the war," recalled Michael Ginns who, at the age of 14, was deported with his family.

"As such it wasn't that bad – I lived in worse dumps with the British Army directly after the war."

Michael was among more than 600 islanders sent to Wurzach Deportation Camp, where he endured a three-year detention. But while there were 12 deaths and four births during that time, there were many lighter moments too.

He said with a smile: "I remember a German soldier one day gave me the key to the main gate and said 'here you are, when the last one is in lock the gate and bring the key to the guardroom'."

"Of course it was four o'clock and no self-respecting Englishman would try to escape at tea time."

Unfortunately, however, Michael would have to endure many more tea times under German captivity before hearing of the Channel Islands' liberation by Allied forces on May 9, 1945.

And it took even longer for families and friends to hear the fate of their loved ones. In the case of Clive Kemp, he and his brothers made it home and his parents also survived. But young Emily Snell was not so fortunate.

While nursing in Southampton Hospital she learned that her childhood sweetheart, Peter Painter, had died of pneumonia while in Nazi detention.

Seven decades have passed since the German troops surrendered in Jersey, but the emotion is still clearly visible in Emily's eyes. Like the remnants of the fortifications on these tiny islands, the memories of those who endured years of occupation and repression refuse to be hidden.

Yet nobody here wants to forget. Far from being resigned to the history books, the resistance and acts of defiance of those who lived through the dark times are the stuff of modern legend. And they are also a fundamental part of an island race that continues to support the British Army today. ■



Michael Ginns

'Of course, no self-respecting Englishman would try to escape at tea time'



Above, Captive island: Under German rule all movement was restricted and islanders over the age of 14 were forced to carry identification cards

EMILY SNELL: JERSEY ARCHIVE D/S/A/41A4681

CLIFFORD COHU: COURTESY OF JERSEY HERITAGE TRUST

Main picture, Mass invasion: German troops marched through Jersey's streets during the occupation period between 1940-1945 COURTESY OF CIOJ JERSEY

Left, Soldier archive: The liberation of the Channel Islands was one of Soldier's first ever articles in 1945

OUT OF ACTION man

What happens when you can't fight anymore?

Recently we helped a soldier who was shot by the Taliban. A bullet passed through his neck, leaving him paralysed. We helped fund an adapted vehicle so that he can be driven to work, giving him back some of the independence he deserves.

As the Soldiers' Charity, the Army Benevolent Fund has always aimed to make a difference to those who risk everything for our country, providing financial support to any soldier, former soldier or family member who finds themselves out of action.

Please continue to fundraise for us. Your efforts are vital to our cause. Thank you.

**For a fundraising pack,
call 0845 241 4828 or visit
www.armybenfund.org**



**ARMY
BENEVOLENT
FUND**



Registered Charity No 211645, Scottish Registered Charity No SC039189, Action Man © 2006 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.



DRIVE AWAY A LAND ROVER TAX FREE

- Available to all serving members of HM Forces - UK and Overseas
- Access to the full Land Rover range at Military Prices
- Dedicated Military Finance
- All makes part exchange welcome

The complete range of new Land Rover vehicles is available direct from the factory to members of the Army, Navy and RAF. Take advantage of the 13% factory direct savings available on all new Land Rovers purchased through Military Sales.

Traditionally Military Sales were only applicable to those members who were posted overseas with a tax free entitlement. However, today all HM Forces whether stationed in the UK or on board ship, without any tax free entitlement, may take advantage of the unique Military Tax Paid Prices for UK registered vehicles.

To find out more and how you can save on a new Land Rover, please contact our dedicated Sales Specialist today.

**For more details or to book a test drive,
contact Paul Bawden**

Tel: 07776 164042 Fax: 01733 342165

**Email : sales@landrover-militarysales.co.uk
www.landrover.com/ukmilitary**

MILITARY SALES



Range of fuel economy figures for the Land Rover range (l/100km): urban 30.6 [9.2] - 12.4 [22.8], extra urban 45.5 [6.2] - 23.1 [12.2], combined 37.7 [7.5] - 17.8 [15.9], CO₂ emissions 194 - 376g/km.

A final farewell

Wiltshire town is honoured for steadfast support to the Forces' fallen

Report: Samantha Chapman
Picture: Graeme Main

AS a solitary bell tolled, the people of Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire once again turned out in force to pay tribute to a fallen soldier.

Tpr James Munday of the Household Cavalry was killed in Afghanistan on October 15. His body was flown back to RAF Lyneham a week later, and his flag-draped funeral cortege was silently saluted by the residents as it made its way through the town's streets.

A photograph of Tpr Munday and a wreath was also laid at the small town's cenotaph.

Around 20 of his friends came to Wootton Bassett especially for the parade. One, Elizabeth Buck, said she was touched by the tribute the residents had paid to their friend.

"We're here for James and it is amazing the support everyone is showing us today. People keep thanking us for coming down but it is the least we can do," she said.

"We had seen what the residents of Wootton Bassett were doing on the news and when we found out about James we said this is where we wanted to say goodbye. He was an amazing person – he

got along with everyone, he was so much fun. Everyone wanted to be around him and to be his friend."

Wendy Roberts, a former mayoress of the town, said people wanted to pay their respects to those who had given their lives for their country.

"The whole of north Wiltshire is a military county and so people have a great affection for the troops," she added.

"You find that a lot of the people who stand here today are ex-personnel from Lyneham or those who have relatives in the forces. We're very aware of the military and are very proud of it."

Just two weeks earlier, the Armed Forces saluted those who line the roads at Wootton Bassett. They held a thank-you ceremony and fly-past of a C-130 Hercules to show their appreciation.

All repatriations go through RAF Lyneham and, so far, 103 personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan have passed through the town, which is only a few miles from the air base.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Clive Loader, Commander-in-Chief Air, said: "I am honoured to be able to mark the esteem that we have for the people of Wootton

Bassett. Their touching, dignified and solemn recognition of those killed on operations is truly special and I thank them all."

The ceremony began with the fly-past followed by a parade including the Prince of Wales Divisional Band of the Army, the Central Band of the RAF, and the HMS *Collingwood* volunteer band of the Royal Navy.

Around 100 military personnel lined the streets during the 40-minute parade and the ceremony ended with the town being presented with an illuminated scroll.

Gp Capt Mike Neville, Station Commander at RAF Lyneham, said: "Having held the responsibility for repatriations for the last 18

months, it never ceases to amaze me the contribution and respect shown by the people of north Wiltshire.

"I hope this parade will go some way towards recognising the ongoing support of the good people of Wootton Bassett which is truly appreciated by everyone in the Armed Forces." ■

'We're very aware of the military and are very proud of them'

In memoriam: Wootton Bassett residents line the streets to pay their respects to Tpr James Munday



WINNING HAND

New procurement measures mean soldiers hold all the aces

CHALLENGER 2



Currently deployed on Op Telic, the acclaimed main battle tank has been beefed up with a raft of extra armour, adding more than ten tonnes to its weight. A remote weapon station – complete with thermal imager – has also been fitted.

Crew: 4
Length: 11.55m
Width: 3.5m
Height: 2.49m
Combat weight: 62,500kg
Max speed: 37mph



WARRIOR



Providing the backbone of ops in Iraq, Warriors have recently proved their worth in Afghanistan. An air conditioning unit plus ice cold drinking water on tap are among the latest refinements to keep hot and thirsty squaddies on the go.

Crew: 3+7 dismounts
Length: 6.34m
Width: 3m
Height: 2.78m
Combat weight: 24,500kg
Max speed: 47mph



SNA

Report: Cliff Caswell

THEY have proved to be the trump cards of British forces on demanding operations. With upgraded armour, improved firepower and more comfort for crew, the Army's vehicle fleet has been leading the pack in the battle against insurgents.

In double quick time, Urgent Operational Requirements have been added to old warhorses including Warrior, Scimitar and the Challenger 2 tank, making them more than a match for anything put up against them by the enemy.

And within five years a raft of new vehicles, including the Mastiff and Vector troop carriers as well as the agile Jackal reconnaissance mainstay, have been delivered to provide new capabilities on the front lines of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maj Toby Barnes-Taylor (Gren Gds) of the Warminster-based Infantry Trials and Development Unit said the latest UORs had saved soldiers' lives in theatre.

Maj Barnes-Taylor added: "These programmes have proved to be a huge success. The UOR development cycle is a matter of months so the projects also show the excellent cooperation between the military, the MoD and the defence industry."

Check out how some of these special deliveries have dealt a winning hand to the fleet. ■

BULLDOG

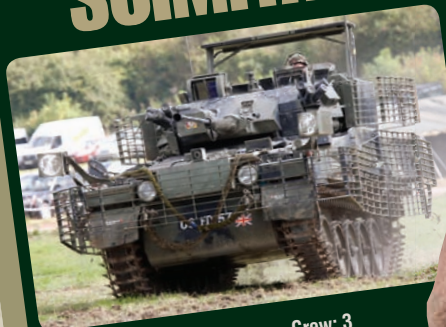


Crew: 2
Capacity: 10 soldiers
Length: 5.25m
Width: 2.8m
Height: 2.28m
Max speed: 32mph



Some laughed at the prospect that anything could be done with the ageing FV432 platform. Reworked with a new powertrain, a formidable armour pack and remote weapon station, the Bulldog has been a huge success story in Iraq, playing a leading role on ops.

SCIMITAR



A hefty three tonnes has been added to this familiar reconnaissance mainstay with extra mine blast protection, bar armour and enhanced ballistic protection. Moves to improve engine performance and enhance the vehicle's dust filters are now being trialled.

Crew: 3
Length: 4.9m
Width: 2.24m
Height: 2.1m
Weight: 8,070kg
Max speed: 50mph



MASTIFF

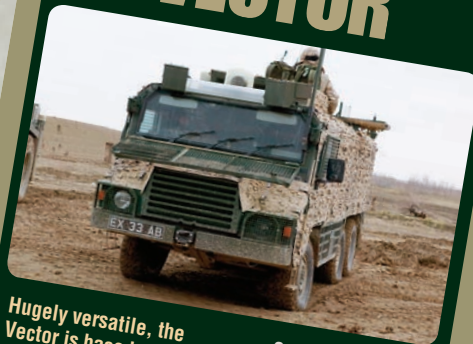


The robust Mastiff has terrorised insurgents in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Derived from the US Cougar, this six-wheel-drive wagon has undergone extensive modifications with the British Army. Mastiff's smaller cousin, Ridgback, which has a crew of two and can carry five dismounts is arriving soon.

Crew: 3
Capacity: 6 soldiers
Length: 7.08m
Width: 2m
Height: 2.64m
Max speed: 56mph



VECTOR



Hugely versatile, the Vector is based on a Pinzgauer 6X6 chassis and has been used as a command vehicle, troop carrier and ambulance. Two general purpose machine guns can be fitted for mobile fire support if needed.

Crew: 2+4
Length: 5.3m
Width: 1.8m
Height: 2.1m
Weight: 6,600kg
Max speed: 60mph



JACKAL



The Pathfinders are impressed with this speedy, agile and well-armed reconnaissance platform. The vehicle, used for rapid assault, fire support and convoy protection, sports a general purpose machine gun and can be fitted with a heavy machine gun or the formidable grenade machine gun.

Crew: 2+1
Length: 5.39m
Width: 2m
Height: 1.97m
Weight: 6,650kg
Max speed: 81mph



ODIN



PANTHER



Billed as an "armoured citadel" by the MoD, around 400 Panther command and liaison vehicles are set to be delivered to the Army and Royal Air Force by summer 2009. Most of these mighty trucks are equipped with a remote weapon station and can be slung under a Chinook helicopter for quick deployment.

Crew: 4 (max)
Length: 5m
Width: 2m
Height: 2.56m
Weight: 6,500kg
Max speed: 81mph



Introducing revolutionary patented BlastSax™

Having undergone extensive trials with the British MoD Tri Services, we are pleased to announce that BlastSax™ have been proven to be effective against small terrorists explosive devices that threaten the safety of Great Britain.

Our product, BlastSax™ can be used in conjunction with a bleaching agent i.e. Tropical Bleach. BlastSax™ are lightweight, can be moved into position easily to protect and defend surrounding areas.

BlastSax™ are also extremely useful in capturing fragments from explosive devices and will help forensic teams in evidence gathering.

For more info contact Richard Bailey on **01484 641009**



**DANGER
MINES**



Environmental Defence Systems Ltd



Kit & Contents insurance 15 months for the price of 12*

Towergate Wilsons is a leading military insurance provider.
Become a customer and benefit from our best deal ever!

- Dedicated in-house claims team
- No monthly instalment fee or policy cancellation fee
- World wide cover 365 days a year

Kit • Home • Personal Accident • Life • Travel • Motor

Call today on **0116 240 7777**

 **towergate wilsons**

* Offer only available by calling the number above. Not available on renewals.

Specialist provider of insurance to the military for over 60 years

Towergate Wilsons is a trading name of Towergate Underwriting Group Limited. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
3963/130/AD/05 08/H

New model Army

Out-of-the-box
thinking delivers
the latest kit
to front-line
soldiers

Khaki kit: The latest equipment for the British Infantryman has been proving its worth in Iraq and Afghanistan, with a modified assault rifle, underslung grenade launcher and the latest body armour among the items in the 2008 pack



Report: Cliff Caswell
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN British troops stormed into Iraq during the US-led campaign of 2003, nobody would have envisaged the drastic changes to kit that would follow.

Lampooned in the media for inadequacies in equipment in the build up to Op Telic 1, the MoD came in for scathing criticism. Reports of front-line troops with dodgy boots and inadequate rations were common. One newspaper even quoted an American soldier, who branded his transatlantic cousins "the borrowers".

Fast-forward five years, however, and the tables have been turned. With a formidable arsenal of firepower, robust protective kit and a fleet of new armoured vehicles, the British infantryman is now the envy of allies. From body armour to boxer shorts, kit procured under the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) system has changed his appearance – and capability – beyond all recognition.

"The campaigns in Iraq and southern Afghanistan forced us to think again about the world," admitted Brig Chris Deverell, a director responsible for kit provision at the MoD. "Gone are the days when, as a soldier, you spent most of your time in Germany and preparing to fight against the threat from the former Soviet Union.

"Even in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, you were not expected to go on extended patrols lasting days or weeks, so

you only had to go out with a tiny amount of kit.

"You could easily be back in your base within a matter of hours."

Front-line British troops have certainly had to adapt. Now facing operations in a strength-sapping 50C heat, where distances between bases are vast and with a shadowy enemy threatening them, even moving from place-to-place presents a significant challenge.

And when contacts erupt, they are often sudden and ferocious. With fighting taking place at close-range, the staple weapons of the

'Fast-forward and the British infantryman is now the envy of allies'

First World War – the bayonet, grenade and pistol – have all been used alongside the latest sophisticated kit.

But the complete overhaul in the infantryman's personal equipment over the last five years has proved to be decisive in the battle against insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The most recent additions to the kit line-up have included a new grip for the SA80 assault rifle and state-of-the-art sighting systems. Add these to the tried-and-trusted Osprey body armour, the new MK6A helmet and ballistic goggles, and you have a soldier that is nearly unrecognisable from his Op Telic 1 compatriots.

The personal equipment changes have also had a huge impact on the capability of infantry fire teams, which relied on the light support weapon to back them up in 2003. Now these four-man Army building blocks have light machine guns, underslung grenade launchers and shoulder-launched missiles in their toolkit.

In addition, soldiers are being equipped with new sights for their weapons under the so-called Sista UOR, giving them thermal and image intensification capabilities that have been a battle-winner in Afghanistan's close-quarter contacts.

Maj Toby Barnes-Taylor (Gren Gds), a spokesman for the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, believed that the introduction of the UOR personal equipment had improved the Army's capabilities and saved lives in current campaigns.

But he stressed that equipment alone was only part of the solution and that training and tactics would continue to have a pivotal role to play if the Army was to be successful against the insurgents operating in Iraq and southern Afghanistan.

The officer also admitted that there were concerns of over-burdening soldiers with new equipment, adding that troops were expected to carry more weight for longer distances and fight in the most demanding of conditions.

"The majority of contacts on Op Telic and Op Herrick are fought at less than 100m," said Maj Barnes-Taylor.

"Conducting close-combat in 50C heat will continue to require the infantry soldier to meet the highest standards of fitness, training and determination.

"Weight remains a significant challenge – a soldier's combat load is a minimum of 30kg. Work is ongoing to reduce the weight of body armour and communications equipment and provide load-carrying vehicles closer to the front line."

The MoD is hoping that the latest quad bikes pressed into service in Iraq and Afghanistan will help reduce the burden on troops, while the department has said it is looking at new personal filtration kits that will enable soldiers to purify water on the move.

Despite some drawbacks of weight, however, personnel on the front line have warmly

received the kit and maintain that it has given them a vital edge in fighting a new kind of war.

With £3 billion already spent on UORs, troops now have new capabilities in combat, protection, logistics and intelligence as they continue to take on testing campaigns.

But the battle against the insurgent enemy is far from won. With the threat constantly evolving, and with terror tactics being exported between operational theatres, commanders and soldiers will continue to require the equipment, training and tactics if they are to be successful in the long haul. ■

Osprey body armour



SA80 A2 fitted with the latest rail adaptor system, tactical fore-grip and the advanced combat optical gun sight

New issue boots

SA80 A2 fitted with underslung grenade launcher, laser light module and the advanced combat optical gun sight



Ballistic goggles

Mk 6A helmet with
mounted night vision
system

Personal role radio

Night vision sights

Trauma medical pack

Off the shelf: The Urgent Operational Requirement programme has transformed the look and capability of the British soldier in less than five years



- » Available to all serving members of HM Forces - UK and overseas
- » Access to the full Jaguar range at Military Prices
- » Dedicated Military Finance
- » All makes part exchange welcome

The complete range of Jaguar vehicles is available direct from the factory to members of the Army, Navy and RAF. Take advantage of the 13% factory direct discount available on all new Jaguars purchased through Military Sales.



To find out more about how you can save on a new Jaguar, please contact our dedicated Sales Specialist today.

For more details or to book a test drive, contact Paul Bawden

Tel: 07776 164042 Fax: 01733 342165

E: enquiries@jaguar-militarysales.co.uk

» WWW.JAGUARXF.COM

OFFICIAL FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE JAGUAR XF RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 27.1 (10.4) – 15.1 (18.7), EXTRA URBAN 48.5 (5.8) – 31.0 (9.1), COMBINED 37.6 (7.5) – 22.4 (12.6). CO₂ EMISSIONS 199 – 299 G/KM.



LEAVING THE FORCES SOON? WANT A FUTURE IN I.T.?

THEN CHECK OUT HOW CERCO CAN HELP YOU WITH:
RECRUITMENT, TRAINING & THEIR CAREER PATH PROGRAMME

HAVE I.T. SKILLS ALREADY?

If you already have I.T. skills then let us first assess you free of charge to find out what you need (if anything) to work in Civvy Street. Our Recruitment Division will then find you a job to match your skills level. However, If you prefer to work for our Contract Division, then for every four months of contracting for us, we will pay for you to go on an additional I.T. Course to increase both your skills and earning power. See our website www.cercotraining.co.uk for details of the Cerco Career Path Programme.

IF YOU HAVE AN ELC

Cerco's CELC 81800 gives you the same entitlement as an ELC when used to pay for the CCSN Fast Track Course (maximum of two ELC's per Course) and you get to keep your ELC for future use.

WANT A CAREER IN I.T. BUT NEED TRAINING?

If you are interested in a career in I.T. but haven't the skills then let us first assess you free of charge to ensure that I.T. is right for you, before training you and placing you in the Industry. If you would prefer to work for our Contract Division, then for every four months of contracting for us, we will pay for you to go on an additional I.T. Course to increase both your skills and earning power. See our website www.cercotraining.co.uk for details of the Cerco Career Path Programme.

NEED FINANCIAL HELP?

Not entitled to any retraining assistance from the Forces or other Government funding initiatives? Then you may be eligible for financial assistance to undertake resettlement training from Service charities including The Royal British Legion with whom Cerco have a working relationship in the provision of I.T. training (visit www.civvystreet.org for more information).



**TRY OUT
CERCO'S
ON LINE
QUIZ**

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT CERCO TODAY ON FREEPHONE 0500 82 82 74 OR TEXT AF TO 81800

"LEARN, WORK AND EARN WITH CERCO I.T."

Interview: Karen Thomas

Picture: Graeme Main

MANGA-style vigilantes policing the gangland streets of an apocalyptic Britain is not a storyline you would expect to pop out of a softly spoken, French Horn-playing Army musician's head.

Set in 2019, *Hiyama* draws a grim future of thugs freely terrorising London's citizens. Police corruption is rife and crime pays big money. As the violent and powerful Connor gang extends its vice-like grip outside the capital, murder, prostitution, arms and drug dealing spiral out of control. Can a wizened master of martial arts and his crusading daughter pull the country back from the brink of anarchy?

The macabre tale slots nicely into the action-adventure genre of the comic phenomenon spawned by Japan. Manga now commands a global audience in print and on screen. Best seller *Ghost in a Shell* was adapted into a cult anime cinema hit and redrawing the legendary original *Star Wars* film as a graphic novel went down a typhoon-sized storm in the Manga market.

Listening to Musn Gareth Hayward (Camus) quietly outline the *Hiyama* plot, it was easy to grasp why his nicknames include Smiler and Crazy Legs. By his own admission, the Light

Cavalry bandsman reckoned he could fire a rifle but he wasn't so sure about hitting anything. It was a little trickier to comprehend from which dark part of his psyche he had dredged up this bloodthirsty story of revenge.

Then Musn Hayward talked about being deployed to Iraq in March 2003. He had joined up five years earlier believing that if he was sent to war, it would be as a field medic. Although under the command of a medical regiment, he was trained for work in a decontamination unit in case of a nuclear, biological or chemical strike. Using a different kind of horn to alert everyone to a possible gas attack caused the musician-turned-graphic novelist a headache of migraine proportions.

"Iraqi civilians driving by the camp decided it would be great fun to hit their horns so people were constantly throwing gas masks on. You had to take it seriously because you didn't know whether it was an attack, so you were constantly putting the mask on and off, on and off, and people were getting really annoyed," he told *Soldier*, recalling his first few days on Op Telic as the worst.

"I just remember having my mask on, opening the flap of a four-tonner and seeing people without their masks on.

"I stood there thinking 'right, am I supposed to be dressed like this or not?'. Even the diarrhoea and vomiting was not a problem compared to that."

It had become clearer why someone who had to run towards a potential chemical

threat while watching everyone else charging hell-for-leather away from it might have a few dark thoughts. Admitting that he felt "a lot of pent up anger" and a strong desire to leave the Army, Musn Hayward took the advice of colleagues to stay on and pursue his art.

Hiyama was started soon after his Telic tour finished and ended up being a five-year labour of love.

With a steady trade in sketching comedy cartoons and designing elaborate tattoos for comrades, the bandsman rapidly taught himself to use pen and Indian ink to draw

Manga illustrations. Musn Hayward occupied his time on Army band tours, which have taken him to Nice and Brunei, by building on ideas and scenarios for his goal of producing a graphic novel.

"I loosely sketched a character out and thought how I could fit them into a storyline, and it just grew. It's a bit weird because I didn't sit there and think 'I'll do this and this', I was just sitting on a coach and daydreaming," he explained. These musings eventually produced more than 200 sheets of illustrations.

"I imagined the story as a moving film in my head. Then I thought about how you put that into a comic book. Taking clips from my mind and thinking how I put them onto the page is really hard work." ■

Soldier has a copy of *Hiyama* up for grabs. To win it tell us in which country Manga originated. Answers by postcard to the address at the front of the magazine or by email (comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) to reach us by November 28. Usual rules apply.

**'I imagined
the story as
a moving film
in my head'**

Graphic adaptation

Telic tour inspires Army bandsman to
create dark Manga novel

To view Musn Hayward's work, go to <http://gruff79.deviantart.com/gallery/>



STAMPEDE

Kenya's recent bad press has not stopped the charge of light-role battlegroups to Africa's costa-del-soldier

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

BATTERED by media images of machete-wielding yobs, Kenya's tourism is still counting the cost of the wave of barbaric violence that brought one of East Africa's most stable democracies to the brink of collapse.

The riots and ensuing vicious cycle of revenge attacks sparked by the nation's disputed presidential elections last December left more than 1,000 people dead and prompted governments to warn their citizens against visiting the region's famed wildlife safaris and expansive sandy beaches.

Cautious of coming face-to-face with club-carrying thugs, many holidaymakers cancelled trips to the country's sun-kissed savannahs between January and March – Kenya's high season – leaving the land revered as the cradle of humanity an estimated \$1 billion out of pocket. And

despite the peace that has prevailed since a power-sharing deal was struck between the country's once-feuding political leaders in late February, the Kenya Tourist Board predicts it will take a year and a half before their industry fully recovers.

One "travel agent" not put off by the bad press, however, is the British Army. »





Soldiers have been flocking to the highlands of Africa in greater numbers than ever before and next year the British Army Training Unit Kenya (Batuk) expects to play host to seven, 700-strong battlegroups on Exercise Grand Prix.

The commanding officer of Batuk, Lt Col Rex Sartain, insists that the decision of Army chiefs to buck the trend set by stay-away tourists and increase by two-fold the number of six-week live-firing exercises would not put soldiers in harm's way.

"During the troubles in January and February there may have been two or three days when people might have been at risk, but there is absolutely no evidence of any injury to a tourist or British national," said Lt Col Sartain, whose 21 permanent staff work tirelessly in the "pit lanes" of Grand Prix to ensure visiting units have all they need to fine-tune their engines before crossing the start line of an operational tour.

"You're as safe in Nairobi as you are in London, Glasgow or Manchester."

While it is the diversity of the training on offer on Kenyan soil that manoeuvred Exercise Grand Prix to the front of the grid in the affections of commanders over the past four decades, the sunshine destination's newfound popularity with light-role battlegroups can be largely attributed to another Army hot-spot . . . Afghanistan.

Hot, high and dusty, Kenya's eight training ranges – which collectively cover

treble the area used by exercising troops at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) on the Canadian Prairie – represent an ideal proving ground for troops heading to southern Afghanistan.

"Training areas like Archers Post [a range four-times the size of Salisbury Plain] are very similar to what soldiers might come across in Helmand," explained Herrick veteran and Batuk's training NCO, Sgt Denver Nunn (1 SG).

"The northernmost exercise areas are very hot and arid and there are wadi systems and rocky outcrops very similar to those in Afghanistan, which makes Kenya a great template for those heading out on Operation Herrick."

With 18 years of Army service under his belt, Sgt Nunn honed his own soldiering skills at Batus, Wainwright, Belize and Brunei, but believes that, for light-role battlegroups in particular, Exercise Grand Prix stands unrivalled at the top of the winners' podium.

"Obviously there is no substitute for the real thing, but you have to start somewhere," he told *Soldier*. "The arduous terrain tests everyone in the battlegroup, both in terms of soldiering ability and

logistically. For that reason it is one of the best training areas in the world."

And the Batuk team boast that the best is about to become even better. Plans are afoot for the construction of a live-firing compound, a tunnel system and forward operating base similar to those used in Afghanistan, and the complexities of modern ops will be reflected by the ability of exercising commanders to "hire in" an opposing force, large civilian

populations and a variety of non-governmental organisations.

Already adding realism to the contemporary operating environment afforded by Grand Prix is the fact that the "hard soldiering" endured by troops on the training areas is matched above ground level by some

"hard flying". According to Maj Robin Mellin (AAC), piloting helicopters in an airspace dominated by the often snow-capped peak of Mount Kenya closely equates to the flying conditions found on Operations Herrick and Telic.

"What you get in Kenya is the chance to put to the test the advanced techniques of operating in a hot, high and dusty environment," said the Lynx pilot, who took command of the Joint Helicopter Force – made up of personnel from 669 Squadron,

'Yes it's a fantastic training area, and yes it is demanding, but Kenya also has the interest factor of all the majestic wildlife and amazing scenery'



AAC and 845 Naval Air Squadron – which provided air support to exercising 3 Scots troops this autumn.

“The hotter it is the more the aircraft struggles and the higher it is the more the aircraft struggles. Combine that with the dust and you get the perfect training for the nature of the operations we are currently flying.

“The challenge of flying in a dusty environment is that in the latter stages of an approach the dust catches up and encapsulates the aircraft.

“It is not the sort of thing you can readily practise in the UK and of course the best place to do that training is with dust in a benign environment.

“It’s a difficult technique but at least we’re not being shot at by the Taliban in Kenya.”

Taliban-free Kenya may be, but troops exercising in East Africa do not have to search hard to acquaint themselves with some of the other desert nasties commonly found in Helmand province.

Batuk’s resident combat medical technician, SSgt Toby Bailey (RAMC), confirmed that “contacts” with the much-maligned camel spider were “rife” on Exercise Grand Prix and that there were more than 15 different species of snake stalking the savannahs. But contrary to military myths about the flesh-eating arachnid, SSgt Bailey reassured *Soldier’s* reporting team that he had yet to treat anyone whose feet had been feasted on as

they slept, and that, like Afghanistan and Iraq, heat-related injuries and “dust in eyes” were the most common complaints from the troops.

“Kenya being a good training area for the Infantry means that it is a good training area for their medics,” the Telic veteran added.

“Grand Prix is especially beneficial for those at company level as it is often the first time that they’ve been on their own looking after the guys.”

Indeed, the training benefits of Kenya are almost as innumerable as the game which grazes there – a

point not lost on Maj Angus Phip (3 Scots): “Yes it’s a fantastic training area, and yes it is demanding, but Kenya also has the interest factor of all the majestic wildlife and amazing scenery.”

It is for this reason that British soldiers are unlikely to remain as the dominant species in the arrivals lounge of Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for long. ■

Plain soldiering: Pte Graeme Peebles (Black Watch, 3 Scots) takes the lead during Exercise Grand Prix at the British Army Training Unit Kenya



GET IN THE THICK OF THE ACTION

**The gripping
true story of
the Apache in
Afghanistan**



INSIDE THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING MACHINE

APACHE DAWN

ALWAYS OUTNUMBERED
NEVER OUTGUNNED




DAMIEN LEWIS

The *Sunday Times* Bestseller

OUT NOW

sphere
An imprint of Little, Brown Book Group



Forces favourite: Danielle now has Afghanistan on her hit list after she received warm welcomes on two visits to Basra

Basra belle's model role

Glamour girl Danielle Lloyd salutes troops at the sharp end of ops

Interview: Cliff Caswell
Picture: Josh Baskin Ltd

SUPER-fit Liver bird Danielle Lloyd is the first to admit that she was "pretty scared" after agreeing to visit British soldiers serving on the front lines of Iraq.

Leaving behind the glitz of media life to rough it at Basra's Contingency Operating Base was a huge culture shock for the glamour model. But after arriving in the thick of the action, she was fast won over by the charm of the troops.

"To be honest it was really nerve-racking to start with," Danielle, 24, admitted. "But I went because it was something that was close to my heart – the soldiers work so hard and they really don't get the appreciation that they deserve."

"I didn't know what to expect but it was an amazing experience. The girls I lived with in Basra were really good to me and it was great to get out and meet people."

Now with two visits to Iraq under her belt, Danielle has firmly been

bitten by the Forces bug and is planning to head out to southern Afghanistan next year. She even has aspirations to build up a lasting relationship with the Army, and said that she has a huge respect for those willing to put their lives on the line.

By all accounts, Danielle's Iraq adventures have followed a tumultuous 18 months for the Liverpool-born model, who found herself embroiled in controversy following the ill-tempered series of *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2007.

Her name was plastered across the press after she was drawn into the infamous row that flared between housemates Jade Goody and Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty.

But despite the headlines, Danielle, who qualified as a beautician before she took up modelling, has remained a firm favourite with an army of loyal fans, and she admitted their support had kept her spirits high during some exceptionally tough times.

She has continued to be in demand as a model, taking part in photo shoots with tabloids including the *Daily Star* as well as posing for lads mags *Nuts* and *Loaded*.

Danielle, who keeps herself in peak physical condition having been a cross country runner and hurdler with the England schoolgirl's team, has also been busy setting up her own modelling agency for young wannabes.

"Everything has gone really well since *Big Brother*, I'm working non-stop and I can't thank my fans enough for all they have done," Danielle said. "At the moment I'm doing lots of TV projects, including the music show *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*."

"I've also set up my own modelling agency and have been holding quite a few casting days. It is hard work but it's good for me to be able to pass on my experiences

to the girls involved, particularly as I know the industry so well." Danielle certainly has a strong pedigree to back up her management aspirations. Having scooped a clutch of top awards, the 2004 Miss England winner and Miss World finalist has released a keep fit video as well as her own calendar.

But it has not always been plain sailing for the model, who came close to withdrawing from her first Miss Merseyside competition when she was attacked while on her way home from a final hair and nails session for the contest.

She was pulled from her car and left lying badly injured in the road and it was only the steadfast backing of her family and friends that persuaded her to compete.

"I was actually run over during the incident and bruised from head to toe," Danielle recalled. "It was really bad, but I received great support from everyone. I'm really glad that I was able to continue and didn't pull out of the competition."

But courage, it would seem, is something Danielle does not lack. Whether facing the camera lens as a model or donning body armour to visit soldiers serving on ops, she is proving adept at dealing with the challenges life throws at her.

She is now looking ahead to providing further morale boosting visits for troops and said she is willing to travel to meet them wherever they are deployed.

"I was actually hoping the guys might take me on as their Forces' sweetheart," she confided. "I'd like to do it because I now know how hard life is away from home."

"I'd jump at the chance to visit the troops and would go anytime. Until then I would like to wish them luck and let them know the country is behind them." ■

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT

WWW.MAJORLEAGUESTORES.COM

MILITARY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & EQUIPMENT



MAJOR LEAGUE STORES



WE STOCK BLACKHAWK,
EAGLE, 5.11, SUREFIRE,
SOLO INTERNATIONAL,
E.S.S, WARRIOR WEAR
& MANY OTHER TOP
QUALITY BRANDS



WE ARE NOW OFFERING AN IN STORE TAILORING / ALTERATION SERVICE

97 GOSBECKS RD, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO2 9JT

TEL: 01206 760452

(BEHIND SOFTVIEW WINDOWS, NEXT TO TOYOTA GARAGE)



One man isolated thousands of miles from home for 80 days, SSgt Mark Langridge is the . . .

Lone ranger



Interview: Heidi Mines
Pictures: Graeme Main

IMAGINE yourself alone in one of the coldest, harshest places on Earth where even bacteria are reluctant to settle. The only sound you hear is the wind and all you can see is snow spreading out for miles in front of you.

It takes all your strength to pull a sled holding 330lbs of food and equipment – everything that you will need for the next 80 days in which you will walk more than 1,390 miles.

The gruelling slog you've just pictured is the journey a British soldier began last month as he attempts to walk to the South Pole and back completely unassisted – a feat that has never been achieved before.

The expedition, Solo Antarctica, is the brainchild of SSgt Mark Langridge (Para) whose childhood dream was to visit the southernmost point on earth.

While hundreds of climbers have taken on mighty Mount Everest, a mere 77 people have reached the South Pole unaided and just six of those have taken on the challenge individually. No-one to date has made the return journey from the edge of the continent.

Not content with tours of Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, adrenalin-fuelled Langridge wanted to take on the challenge of a lifetime and having "done the maths" he left determined to succeed.

"I have to be realistic because if it was easy it would have already been done," Langridge told *Soldier* before leaving the UK.

"Life is short and I have always wanted to go but I didn't want to get there by an easy route. The way I see it is that there is a record to be taken and if I can do it I will."

In order to complete the record attempt, 41-year-old Langridge will need to finish the trek with no help or intervention.

He plans to bury five days' worth of food and supplies in the ground at regular intervals on the outward journey and each drop will be clearly marked with a flag and logged on GPS.

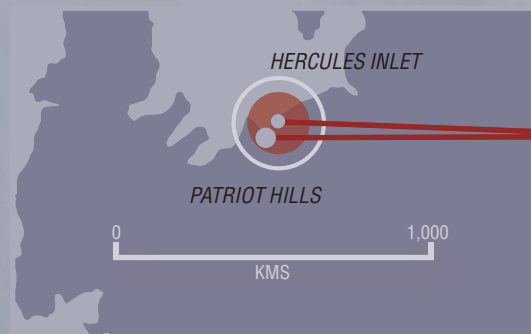
An air support team will follow Langridge's progress and will expect

a call from him at the same time every day to provide his coordinates. In the event that something goes wrong they will be on hand to give immediate support.

There is no limit to how long Langridge can take to complete the trek, but he explained that he wants to finish it as fast as possible. "The timings are going to be tight as I will have to make at least 17.5 miles a day and that's an average speed as I will be at ground level to start," he said.

"The South Pole is 10,000 feet above sea level so I have to climb while pulling an enormous weight."

The enforced loneliness and isolation of the trek could be a real challenge, but a stretch of at least 80 days solitary doesn't faze the paratrooper. Langridge explained that he feels well prepared after once lying on his back for



Protective clothing and

CLOTHING

- SOCKS - VARIOUS
- THERMAL TOP
- THERMAL BOTTOMS
- CREW NECK SWEATER
- JERSEY
- SMOCK
- WOOL SHIRT
- MOUNTAIN SHIRT
- TROUSERS
- GLOVES / MITTS
- HEAD COVER
- GOOSEDOWN JACKET
- HAT / BALACLAVA
- COLD WEATHER TROUSERS
- GOGGLES
- MOUNTAIN GLASSES
- BOOTS
- TENT BOOTS



almost a month following an accident in Brunei.

"I was doing some jungle training when a dead tree fell on me and broke my back and shoulder," he continued.

"Nothing can compare to the frustration of not being able to move and having no-one to talk to for weeks at a time. The rules do allow phone calls home and one of my sponsors has provided me with a satellite phone with unlimited use, so regular conversations with my family and friends will keep me sane."

Having gained the £50,000 in sponsorship needed to fund the expedition, Langridge hopes to raise a sizeable sum for his chosen charities – the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and DeBRA.

He said: "If I can get everyone to log onto my website and donate just £5 it can make such a difference to the people I am doing this for."

Before setting off at the end of October the adventurer worked on his fitness levels, which were at their peak after

years of military training in Norway.

Langridge admitted to preferring to work on his stamina in the great outdoors rather than pounding the treadmill at the gym.

"Pulling tyres is not my style. The way I see it the trek will be a mind over matter challenge. The best way I can prepare is to tab in the mountains all day every day," he said.

Modest Langridge also has the backing of The Prince of Wales, who has agreed to act as the expedition's patron. But even with royal support Solo Antarctica is not going to be easy.

With only a small window in which to complete the trek, Langridge had to rely heavily on the air crew he lined up to fly him from Chile to the start line.

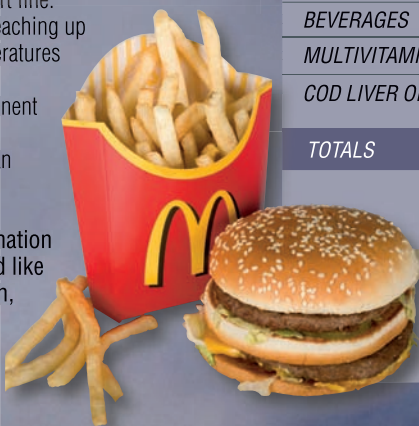
And with winds reaching up to 80mph and temperatures as low as -75C, the world's coldest continent will be a true test of character for one man alone. ■

● For more information or if you you would like to make a donation, visit www.soloantarctica.com

DAILY FUEL INTAKE

FOOD	WEIGHT	CALORIES
BUTTER	100g	700
VEGETABLE OIL	100g	820
CHOCOLATE	150g	810
MARZIPAN	100g	420
SALAMI	100g	550
CHEESE	100g	410
PISTACHIO NUTS	100g	620
PASTA/DRY MEAL	244g	910
ROLLED OATS	150g	400
BISCUITS	75g	350
BEVERAGES	175g	500
MULTIVITAMINS	NEGLIGIBLE	
COD LIVER OIL	NEGLIGIBLE	
TOTALS	1,194g	5,460c

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:
LANGRIDGE NEEDS TO GET THROUGH THE EQUIVALENT OF 11 BIG MACS, 26 PINTS OF GUINNESS OR 18 MARS BARS JUST TO KEEP GOING



essential equipment that's a drag

UTENSILS

- PAN SET & HEAT EXCHANGER
- 1.5L BOTTLE & FUNNEL
- 1L FLASK
- NYLON FOOD BAGS
- MEASURING JUG / PEE JUG
- THERMAL CUP
- SNOW BRUSH
- TISSUES
- MATCHES / LIGHTERS
- MULTIVITAMINS
- 5M OF ROPE & HARNESS
- METAL SPOON
- LEATHERMAN TOOL

ESSENTIALS

- COMPASS
- SNOW SHOVEL
- SKI POLES
- BAMBOO & FLAGS
- SKIS
- SKI SKINS
- SKI REPAIR KIT
- SEWING KIT
- WATCH
- NOTEBOOK & PENCIL
- MINI HACKSAW
- MEDICAL KIT
- SWISS ARMY KNIFE

HOME COMFORTS

- TENT
- SLEEPING BAG
- SLEEPING MAT
- PULK SLED
- COOKER & BASE
- BIVI BAG
- NYLON TAPE
- KARABINER
- TOOTHBRUSH / PASTE

TECHNOLOGY

- DIGITAL CAMERA
- DISPOSABLE CAMERA
- SAT PHONE
- EMERGENCY BEACON
- THERMOMETER
- SOLAR CHARGER
- HANDHELD GPS
- SOLAR BATTERY CHARGER



BASED IN THE UK?

YOU'RE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR GENEROUS DISCOUNTS

PLUS IF YOU'RE STATIONED
OVERSEAS YOU CAN BUY
TAX-FREE AS WELL!

vauxhall-military.co.uk



**MILITARY
DISCOUNTS**



VAUXHALL

Military discounts are available to all serving members of UK Armed Forces, retired service personnel, MOD civilian personnel and HM Forces Reservists. The offer is also extended to the spouse/partner of the eligible applicant. No other marketing programmes apply.

WWW.MILITARY.co.uk

OVER 65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SERVICES

Britain's Leading Suppliers of Kit to the Professionals

ALT-BERG

ALT-BERG Desert
MicroLite from £119.99

ALT-BERG Aqua
Warrior from £139.99



DANNER GORE-TEX
Desert Acadia from £199.00

DANNER GORE-TEX
Black Acadia from £210.00



PROBOOT GORE-TEX
Classic from £120.00

PROBOOT
Desert Stealth from £79.99

LOWA

LOWA Desert
Elite £115.00
LOWA Combat
Gore-Tex from £135.00



MEINDL



MEINDL GORE-TEX
Army £130.00
MEINDL Desert
Safari £99.00

ALTAMA

ALTAMA USA
Combat £89.99
ALTAMA USA MARINE
DESERT £120.00



10% Discount with Military I.D. in the Store
& Orders Delivered to Services Address

SILVERMANS

Silvermans Ltd. 2 Harford St, Mile End, London E1 4PS
Tel: 020 77 900 900 Fax: 020 77 910 008 www.silvermans.co.uk
Phone for A FREE Catalogue quoting Soldier

Grizzly as a bear with a sore head over Peta talks



A RECENT article in *The Daily Telegraph* claimed that bearskin caps were about to be retired after 200 years and that Baroness Ann Taylor [then Minister for Defence Equipment and Support], on behalf of the MoD, was in consultation with People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) over this matter.

I first heard of this issue in 2005 and telephoned the Canadian High Commission who told me that Canadians cull 20,000 black bears a year. I also have it in writing that the black bear is not on the endangered species list.

The use of bearskins as a headdress was first introduced by the French Infantry to help ward off cavalry charges (horses are thought to have an innate fear of bears) and they were adopted by the British Army after the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

There are 1,500 bearskin caps in use by the Foot Guards and, according to the MoD, 51 pelts were bought in 2005, 109 in 2006 and 96 last year. These figures give

PRIZE LETTER . . .

an average replacement requirement of 85 per year. If you take the lesser amount of 10,000 culled bears per year (as reported by *The Times* in September) it still leaves a balance of 9,915 dead bears for other uses. Canada can afford to replace every guardsman's cap every year without making the slightest impact on the surviving black bear population.

Peta are suggesting that artificial skins should be used rather than the real thing (presumably because they feel that the use of the real thing is insulting to bears). What they do not seem to have taken into consideration is that any machine used to manufacture an artificial alternative would doubtless produce some form of carbon emission and increase the speed of global warming. This is instead of making use of dead bears, which no

longer have a use for their skins.

To take this absurd argument to its ludicrous conclusion you might argue that it is insulting to cows to wear leather boots; that the Household Cavalry affront the horses they ride with the horse hair plume on their helmets; and that the fusiliers, with their feather hackles, are continually offending the bird world.

Neither bears, birds, horses, cows or sheep are killed for their fur, feathers, skins or fleeces, so why is Peta making such an ass of itself? Furthermore, the article in question was printed on the same page as an announcement that the Government intended to reduce the Royal Navy by 20 per cent. The Government's sense of priority is positively mind-blowing. — [Jeremy Whitaker, ex-Coldstream Guards, Bordon, Hants.](#)

PS . . .

FOR a change, here is a potential solution rather than a problem. I would like to suggest an initiative where the "royal we" of the Armed Forces help ourselves.

Alongside the fantastic, public awareness-raising work of Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion, how much support would serving personnel give to an automatic annual voluntary contribution to the welfare and care of injured comrades?

Here's some food for thought: If everyone in the Army gave just £5 per year (the equivalent of two pints) that would generate approximately £500,000. Add in sliding scale contributions for NCOs and officers and the same scheme for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and the potential income for this worthwhile cause is quite easy to quantify.

Surely this is not too much to ask in the current operational climate? I hope this has planted a seed somewhere. — [Capt Neil Johnson, 9 Regt AAC.](#)

Why the busman's holiday?

I'M currently coming to the end of my second tour in Iraq. When my battalion was here last (Op Telic 7) our R&R started the day we landed in Hanover or Brize Norton.

However, this tour (Op Telic 12) our first day of leave began in Iraq as a normal working day until our move to the airhead. This meant that if there was any delay in flights back to Europe from Kuwait, soldiers faced the prospect of spending a second day of leave waiting to go home.

I serve in a Scottish battalion and even though I headed back to Germany, there were many soldiers who travelled to the north of Scotland and the islands. These places take a while to get to at the best of times.

Two weeks R&R is just long enough for a break, but I am sure that you will agree it is unfair to have to spend one or two days

of our leave in camp — especially as there never seems to be a delay in returning us to theatre! — [An unhappy soldier.](#)

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), responds: This issue is indeed one that the Army is and has been wrestling with for some time to ensure that those on operations get as many as possible of their 14 days R&R at home.

There is enormous pressure on the current air bridge and this sometimes causes the delays that you identify. Ultimately, the 14 days includes travel time, and the issue is how to minimise this. All options are being reviewed and the welfare of our soldiers and their families will, as always, be at the forefront of the issue.

● REGARDS the service offered by Vodafone in Germany, "Not so good to talk" (September), I would like to echo the sentiments of "unhappy SNCO". We had a similar experience when we left Osnabruck in 2004. Despite visiting the shop several times and providing a posting order, the member of staff conveniently "forgot" to cancel our contract. We were pursued in the UK by a German debt recovery agency and it took the intervention of a German friend and a scene in the shop to get the problem addressed after six months of harassment. We received no apology and had to pay costs to bring an end to the sorry affair. — [Mrs A Bridges, BFPO 31.](#)

Infantry inclination

WHY is it that some corps and regimental personnel who have served as staff sergeant instructors at RMAS are not selected to go back to the Academy as Company Sergeant Majors (CSMs) on the commissioning course?

I have noticed a lack of CSMs from outside the Infantry on the courses, although there are many WO2s who are there in a support role.

Although the majority have the same qualifications and experience as their Teeth Arms Instructor colleagues, and many have gone on to serve as CSMs in their own parent units on operations, combat support and combat service support instructors do not seem to have the chance to return as a CSM to Sandhurst.

Surely the officer cadets would benefit from diversity. Can anyone tell me the reasoning behind this? It seems a little unfair on those instructors who have gone through the mill, been selected on the cadre and served the Academy previously. – [Name and address supplied](#).

Col Timothy Checketts, Chief of Staff RMAS, writes: Sandhurst uses basic infantry training at platoon and company level – at times in a battalion setting – as a vehicle to develop officer cadets' military

skills and leadership potential. About 30 per cent of a cadet's time is spent in the field. Company commander, platoon commander and platoon colour sergeant appointments are all filled on an all arms quota basis, though colour sergeants must have all passed the Sandhurst NCO Instructor Cadres Course and have been selected on a competitive basis.

This means that each company will have a reasonable all arms balance among its directing staff, capable of ensuring that cadets are exposed to a broad range of cap badges and experiences.

However, as Sandhurst operates on basic Infantry battalion structures and procedures, it makes sense if the CSM posts are filled by Infantry WO2s – who have been RMAS instructors and to who the infantry element is bread and butter.

In the current climate they also tend to bring a level of operational experience, not necessarily available to others in the same degree. This gives them credibility when directing, gripping and advising a talented and competitive bunch of directing staff and officer cadets in the field and in barracks.

The current system works well in support of Sandhurst's main effort, to produce young officers of the highest quality for the Field Army.



"They're different all right, Mick . . . but it will cost you 60p more to find out why."

Sarnie sting?

ON a recent visit to HMS *Nelson*, I bought a bacon and sausage roll from the Neptune Cafe at a cost of £1.80. At the Belgae Cafe at Worthy Down the same bacon and sausage roll costs me £2.40.

Both cafes are run by Aramark and I have spoken with the managers at both locations who were unable to explain the price difference. Given the relative short distance (less than 40 miles) between locations this does seem a little odd. – [SSgt J Salusbury, Worthy Down](#).

PS . . .

AT some point most of us will have whinged about RAF and RLC movement staff. However, on this occasion I would like to offer praise where it is due.

I recently found myself on a flight heading for Iraq. Having landed in Hanover to board more troops, I took the opportunity to check my mobile. To my surprise I had received a message telling me to get off the plane, collect my kit and get back to the UK as I had been reassigned to Op Herrick.

The movement staff were under pressure to get the flight back in the air, but gave me the chance to look for my baggage. With my kit retrieved I then discovered that there were no flights back to the UK that day.

Arrangements were quickly made to accommodate me, my weapon was secured and I was given a lift to a hotel. The following day I was swiftly processed and boarded a plane.

Throughout my very short time in Hanover I was treated with a great deal of courtesy by the Joint Movement personnel. All of the staff were extremely pleasant and helpful and nothing was too much trouble.

I would like to publicly thank them for their professionalism and helpfulness. – [CSgt P Keeble, Lancs](#).

Housing headaches

I HAVE just moved to Northern Ireland from Ripon with my husband's regiment. I think you should leave a quarter in the state you would like to find it, so our old house was left in perfect condition. We even replaced some carpets on our own insurance.

When we moved to our present quarter, the first thing I did was cry. The whole house was filthy, I had to scrub the bathroom before bathing the children, there were cobwebs everywhere and dirty carpets which smelt of dog. Why are the standards so different here?

My eight-month-old baby has been confined to a play pen because the carpets are so filthy. If we had left our house in Ripon in the state that this one was in, we would have been charged. – [Name and address supplied](#).

Nicki Sly, Defence Estates, RAF Brampton, responds: The house was handed over to the unit and no issues were highlighted when the accommodation was presented.

The house was subsequently handed over to the family. Notwithstanding this, following the family moving in the carpets have been replaced in the lounge, hall, stairs and landing. The vinyl in the house is scheduled for replacement later this month. The family were offered a transfer

to another house on the estate but have decided to remain. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused the family.

WHEN the MoD were short of quarters at my duty station, they housed my family and I a few miles away. Why do I have to pay a contribution towards my travel for each day? – [Name and address supplied](#).

Brig Mike Griffiths, DPS(A), replies: The average commuting distance in the UK is nine miles; it is therefore reasonable that you should be recompensed for any commuting that you do over this. Hence, if you live in your own home, you should receive Home-to-Duty Travel Allowance but make a personal contribution of nine miles each way.

If you are in Married Quarters (MQ) or Substitute Service Families Accommodation (SSFA) then you have less choice over where you live. The MoD considers it reasonable to expect a Service person to walk one mile to and from work each day so no financial assistance is given for that first mile. Therefore, personnel in MQ or SSFA have a personal contribution of one mile each way applied to their Home-to-Duty Travel Allowance.

Pride and positive discrimination

AFTER reading on the Defence Intranet that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual Service personnel were granted permission to wear No1 Dress (Navy/RAF) and No2 Dress while marching through central London as part of Gay Pride Day this summer, I felt I had to put pen to paper and voice my opinion.

Before everyone starts to scream "this guy is a homophobe, throw him out of the Army", can I point out that I really don't care if the powers that be had granted them permission to march behind a full military band and authorised a fly-past.

However, I do strongly object to the fact that those attending the march (their own choice) were able to make a travel claim for doing so.

I quote: "Personnel will be considered to be on-duty for the uniformed element of the event, so internal UK duty travel costs (but not subsistence) may be claimed, subject to local Budget Manager discretion".

I was recently fortunate enough to be invited to attend a lunch with the Queen – a full regimental royal visit. I did so and as I chose to use my own transport it was explained to me that I could not claim back any of the associated costs.

I am big enough and wise enough to understand that if I choose to exercise my rights and travel how and when I like, then I pay for it – fair one.

I assume that those who attended the Gay Pride parade also did so of their own free will. I also assume that there were not days of rehearsals to ensure that those on parade were "squared away" and that there was little in the way of admin instructions and warning orders instructing personnel to



Picture: Jeff Moore/Emphasis Entertainment

Members of the British Army and revellers take part in the Pride London parade this summer. For the first time, soldiers were given official permission to wear their military uniform on the annual march

muster at a given time. I also assume that No 2 Dress was optional.

Why then are those who attended allowed to claim? If I want to go to a Regimental Veterans Day and march through my local

recruiting area, will I be allowed to claim? I doubt it very much.

I am all in favour of equal rights, but are we not verging on positive discrimination? – [Name and address supplied](#).

LSA blues for old and bold

I AM currently serving in Basra on Op Telic 12 and am a bit disgruntled with the Longer Separation Allowance (LSA) that soldiers such as myself seem to be missing out on.

As an "old and bold" soldier who has been on many tours I have a fairly high number of days under my belt.

However, the tours I completed before Longer Serving Separation Allowance (LSSA) was introduced in 1997 are not counted under the new LSA system.

I feel those who joined the Army after 1997 are getting the benefit of the extra days and extra money where as myself, and others like me, are losing out on previous tour days completed.

I'm not asking for the money back but just want my "missing days" to be acknowledged on the LSA scheme. – [Cpl P Evetts, 2 UK Log Bn, Basra](#).

Brig Jamie Gordon replies: I am not sure you should be disgruntled, instead pleased that the changes to what was Separation Allowance and LSSA were made to widen and improve recognition of separation, over and above that compensated by the X-Factor.

Furthermore, we are looking at the 300 day qualification periods for each band of LSSA again to provide a better package to you all.

● I WAS disgusted to read the letter from a captain who was complaining about the €80 cut in his salary due to the exchange rate (*Talkback*, September). Does this officer realise the salary he receives is more than twice that of some dual income families in the UK? I appreciate he is in Germany, but as an ex-Serviceman I know exactly how "hard" the job is. Tell this individual to start showing the behaviour and conduct expected of an officer. Subscribers don't want to read about people on salaries exceeding £37,000 a year complaining of under payment. – [Mr N Eyre, Scunthorpe](#).

PS...

IN response to your readers who want and deserve a wounded in action medal – the Queen approved such an award, the Sacrifice Medal, for Canadian Service personnel on August 28.

While I am not a fan of the medal's name or the chosen ribbon colours, red and black, it is long overdue.

And if Canada's Armed Forces are entitled to such an award, then the same recognition should be given to Britain's injured.

I urge you all to write to your MP and local newspapers and demand equal treatment.

In the beginning the Army is all about service to Queen and country, career and adventure.

In the end it is about medals and memories, hopefully all good. – Maj (Retd) S Pollock, Toronto, Canada.

● More medal mail – Page 61

SSAFA FORCES
Help

Irwin Mitchell supporting SSAFA Forces Help

your personal injury solicitors working with the Royal Military Police

Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and the RMP Regimental Association
have come together to provide tailored legal services
for RMP members.

Irwin Mitchell, the PAX Appointed Legal Representatives,
are specialists in handling MoD claims and can help you to
claim compensation.

Tailored legal services include:

- personal injury claims - whether injured on or off duty*
- family law and conveyancing - with up to a 10% discount
- wills - with up to a 25% discount

*If you win your case, you keep 100% of the compensation
and pay no charges. If you lose, you pay nothing.

Contact us for more information or for free initial advice

telephone **08000 23 22 33**

or text **CLAIM** to **61993** and someone will call you back.

Email: personalinjury@irwinmitchell.com
www.irwinmitchell.com/personalinjury

irwinmitchell^{IM}
solicitors

Irwin Mitchell Solicitors Birmingham Glasgow Leeds London Manchester Newcastle Sheffield
Irwin Mitchell Abogados Madrid Marbella

Irwin Mitchell, IM Asset Management Ltd and Irwin Mitchell Abogados are all owned by the partners of Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and are separate and distinct legal entities.
Other than in Scotland Irwin Mitchell is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales.
A full list of the partners of Irwin Mitchell is available for inspection at our offices.

FORCES
CarsDirect
www.forcescarsdirect.com

The name you can trust

**EXCLUSIVE discounts to
ALL military ID card holders!**

**SAVE
UP TO
45%**



Forces Cars Direct brings you **EXCLUSIVE** discounts on new and used cars whether you are based
in the UK or overseas. This is a unique programme **ONLY AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE** as a military ID card
holder and only through Forces Cars Direct! **Contact us today to take advantage of your military privileges!**

Tel : 01522 814 010

E-mail : info@forcescarsdirect.com Web : www.forcescarsdirect.com



Royally annoyed by inconsistency

HAVING served in the Forces and, like many others, received no medals during my years in uniform, I recently attended a Veterans Day parade and saw many wearing commemorative medals both on their own and alongside “official” medals.

Some of these veterans had clearly seen a lot of action but were proud to wear their commemorative medals. One thing that became apparent, however, was hostility towards members of the Royal Family who seem exempt from the usual rules.

One old boy was furious that Prince Edward – who didn’t even get through

basic training – has not only been made an honorary colonel but has a chest full of medals, and that Prince Charles wears both foreign and commemorative medals. Others highlighted that Princes William and Harry were both awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal while not meeting the normal criteria on the grounds that the Monarch can award it to whoever she wants. If that’s the case why can’t she give it to all those who have served during her reign – even if recipients have to pay for it?

Another veteran pointed out that during the Troubles in Northern Ireland, which

was a state of war having been declared as such by the IRA, there were many mainland attacks and he recalled times of high alert to very real threats. Despite this he got no medal because he didn’t serve directly in the province. He was at risk, was armed and expected to defend this country’s interests.

Other Commonwealth countries like Australia have withdrawn from the British awards system and their veterans are now permitted to wear commemorative medals, while the same right is denied our own heroes by the very same Monarch whom we all serve. – *Name and address supplied.*

PS...

IT’S often said that prison fulfils two objectives – to stop a perpetrator reoffending and to set an example to others. I would suggest that the latter contributes more value to society and is equally applicable to the issue of military medals.

It has been suggested that commemorative medals are “bling” and have no value, but I would argue strongly otherwise.

Campaign medals – whether official or not – are readily visible indications that the wearer has made a contribution to society and reinforce in the minds of others that doing so is a worthwhile cause.

I am proud of the time I spent in the service of Queen and country, and have little hesitation in recommending that others do likewise.

For this reason, I will continue to wear my “bling” medals with honour and dignity and hope that others do likewise. – *Name and address supplied.*

Too tough on Tommy

I RECENTLY had occasion to have a drink with a British Army officer at my club in Washington DC, and noticed that the good lieutenant only wore two ribbons, despite having just returned from Iraq hot-on-the-heels of another overseas tour.

Could it be that the MoD are stingy with medals even when deserved? It is a scandal that those who served as part of the British Army of the Rhine were slighted by Nato as well as the MoD. I thought Nato was put in place to stop the Soviets, which, at the time, was far more important than some of the observer and peacekeeping operations in the Third World which apparently rated a piece of tin and ribbon.

If pop musicians receive MBEs while Tommy is told to “go away”, what does that say about National Service? – *Dr Drank M Tims, St Petersburg, USA.*



“For a start, Sir . . . only two medals? And you say you’ve been in Iraq twice, as well as stationed in Germany . . . we really need to check your credentials before letting you in.”

Risible reward for duty

I HAVE read with interest and anger the range of comments about the absence of a British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) medal for ex-Service personnel who “have nothing to show” for their service.

One comment from a former “civilian clerk”, who said the veteran’s badge was enough, was insulting.

How dare he. This is the kind of unmitigated rubbish that frankly should not even be published – let the argument at least be from ex-Servicemen/women.

The Queen gave permission for other Commonwealth countries to issue what is effectively a general service medal for “non-combatant” service, so why doesn’t the MoD approach her for the same award for BAOR and other similar service?

I applaud all Service personnel in any

armed conflict and they rightly deserve medals (and more).

However, I do not attend memorial services/Remembrance Day parades because I am embarrassed by the fact that, despite nine years (five in Germany) in the British Army, I have nothing to show for my time in uniform.

Nothing that is except for the risible veteran’s badge.

We still have the best fighting forces in the world, but with little recognition for service other than what is deemed politically necessary, I have nothing but contempt for those in office who use empty arguments such as cost to insult all those who have served Queen and country. – *David Atkinson, Anglia Ruskin University, Foulbourn, Cambridge.*

PS...

VETERANS who continue to gripe about not being entitled to the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) – the Malaysian War medal – miss the point. The sovereign state of Malaysia did not exist during the period of the Malayan Emergency 1949-1957.

The country we served in was Malaya. The Malaysian Government instituted the PJM, and later extended the medal roll to include all who aided her fight in Borneo.

To suggest that our government ignored us and the Malaysian administration insulted us by excluding us from the PJM list is not defensible. We were all awarded the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp Malaya for our service there. – *Jim Jacobs, Fareham.*



Injured in Service?

We're here to help.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
SERVICE CLAIMS



If you've been injured in service and it wasn't your fault, support from The Royal British Legion could help you claim compensation from the MOD or other parties.

Whether you have been injured on exercise, operations, military property or even received incorrect medical treatment, we can help.

- Minor to catastrophic injuries anywhere in the world
- A confidential and discrete service
- FREE interview with a specialist solicitor
- Supported by The Royal British Legion
- Disablement pension advice also available

In most cases you only have 3 years from your accident to resolve your claim or start the claim at court. We can advise you about the time limits in your case. Don't delay. Don't leave it until you leave the Service – contact us today.

Call now on 08457 725 725

or e-mail claims@britishlegion.org.uk to find out how we can help you.

A national panel of solicitors supports The Royal British Legion and specialises in accident claims for members of the Armed Forces.



THE ONLY UK LEADING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OFFERING

20% REMISSION

OFF BOARDING FEES FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Co-ed Boarding & Day 3-19 years (Boarding from 5 years)

A HISTORY OF BEING ONE OF THE UK'S TOP JUNIOR & SENIOR
SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC RESULTS



We think there are three main important points, above all others, that make Queen Ethelburga's College your ideal choice as the boarding school for your child.

Firstly we understand the needs of service families. We have staff who are married to serving members of the Forces. We have decades of experience in ensuring your child will settle well, be confident and successful.

Secondly our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. Every bedroom has direct dial in/out telephone, voice mail, TV/Video (on timer), music centre, hot drink facilities and much more. Many bedrooms are en suite. Our house parents are friendly and caring.

Thirdly QE has a history of being one of the UK's Top Junior and Senior Schools for Academic Results. We have invested over £20m in new facilities and offer a huge range of sports, music, equestrian, and recreational facilities. Over 97% of our A-Level students go on to University. Phone for a prospectus and details of our special 20% Forces Remission.



QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGE
Tel: 08707 42 33 30

Easy to get to by
road, rail & air.
10 minutes
from A1M

Thorpe Underwood Hall, York. England.
Web: www.queenethelburgas.edu

We shouldn't have to 'settle' for less

HAVING served five years and completed two operational tours I am due to leave the Army in April 2009. But I've been told that because I did not enlist before September 2002, I am not entitled to a resettlement course and only qualify for a one-day lesson in writing a curriculum vitae.

In comparison, I know someone in prison who has been given the opportunity to retake his GCSEs and is now training to become a plumber.

An individual who has broken the law is getting a better start to life "outside" than soldiers who have risked their lives for Queen and country. – **LCpl Evans, 7 Armd Coy REME, Op Herrick 8.**

Lt Col Henry Jolleys, S01 Resettlement, AG HQ, responds: All Service personnel leaving the Armed Forces have access to some assistance in making the transition from military to civilian life. The level of resettlement support provided to Service

Leavers (SL) is dependent upon their length of service and the circumstances of their discharge. All SL are entitled to access advice via their respective single Service resettlement advisers, including finance and housing briefings, at any stage of their careers.

As in your case, those who have completed a minimum of four years are entitled to access a range of services provided by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP). They may also access the Employment Support Programme (ESP), which comprises an interview with a career consultant or one-day workshop, and thereafter a job-finding service with access to an employment consultant for up to two years post-discharge.

SL who have completed a minimum of six years, and all those who are medically discharged, are entitled to the CTP Full Resettlement Programme. This enhances the ESP through providing – depending upon length of service – up to 35 days

graduated resettlement time, up to seven resettlement travel warrants, access to vocational training, coaching in job interview techniques and CV writing, and dedicated career consultancy support.

Resettlement works – in 2007 a National Audit Office report showed that the UK is at the forefront of providing tailored, professional help to military personnel as they leave.

Finally, regarding the question of fairness of educational/resettlement provision in prison, you should note that Soldiers Under Sentence at the Military Corrective Training Centre receive support to assist them make the transition to civilian life. Given the educational opportunities available within the Army, including access to £175 per year (Standard Learning Credits) and up to £2,000 per year for three years for those that are qualified and registered for Enhanced Learning Credits, it is not the case that those in prison get a better start.

'Pay cut' makes it hard to smile for camera

I AM currently well into my 18th year of service, having spent a full and varied career of some 16 years as a forward observer with the Royal Artillery before transferring to the RLC to become an Army photographer. It was a move I willingly made in order to pursue an interest I had been passionate about for many years.

At the time of my transfer I held the rank of sergeant and had done so for three years prior. On transfer I had to take a voluntary reduction in rank to corporal in order to fit with the promotional structure of the photographic trade – something I understood and accepted, albeit reluctantly.

I then remained on marked time rates of pay (high band) for a two-year period following my successful completion of the photographic trade course.

That period has now elapsed and my pay now reflects that of a low band corporal in the RLC. This equates to a reduction in



pay of some £300 per month. In an ideal world the two year marked time period would allow for the transferred soldier to regain their former rank and therefore not be financially disadvantaged. But due to the very slow promotion rate in

the photographic trade that has not been possible. Could some provision not be made to avoid such a significant drop in pay?

The transfer was voluntary and the reduction in rank was understood, but I didn't think it was possible to "lose" money in the Army. After all, I qualified as a sergeant and still have that knowledge. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Jamie Gordon writes: Although sympathetic to your situation the rules do not allow any other course of action. The move was your choice.

The hard facts are that you have spent the last two years being paid £300 per month more than every other RLC photographer corporal. It would be unfair on them to continue to pay you over the odds for the same job. I hope your earlier military experience will help speed your next promotion.

PS...

A QUICK note to thank all those *Soldier* readers who contributed amusing Army anecdotes for publication in *The Thick Red Line* and *Thick Blue Line*.

Both titles are now on sale – and helping to raise funds for the Royal British Legion – at the National Arboretum War Memorial at Alrewas in Staffordshire. Contact 01238 3792333 to order copies. – Ian Patterson, author.

Four years' service forgotten

DURING my career in the British Army I completed 12 years and a few days of service. However, on making enquires into what pension I would receive on my 60th birthday, I was informed that my reckonable service was only eight years and 38 days.

I joined the Army in May 1971 and left in July 1984. I had a 12-month break from the Army in 1975 and rejoined in 1976, but that does not explain why I have "lost" four years of my pension. – **Mr K Haslam, ex-Cpl RCT.**

Brig Jamie Gordon replies: From the details provided it appears that your first period of service may not have been included in the pension calculation and you should get back in touch with the JPAC (0800 0853600) and highlight this to them. You should be aware that under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 75, military service before you were 18 and time spent in detention under sentence or Awol will reduce your reckonable service.

					
	<h2>Printed or Embroidered Leisurewear to your Own Design</h2> <h3>Minimum Order only 8 shirts</h3> <p>For A FREE Colour Brochure and H.M. Forces discounted Price List including details of our FREE Sample Garment Offer contact :</p> <p>TEES TOTAL , 153 High Street , Wootton Bassett , Swindon , Wilts SN4 7AB Tel : + 44 (0) 1793 849888 Fax : + 44 (0) 1793 849890 Email : sales@teestotal.co.uk</p> <p>To view the full Range of Garment styles available visit our web site at www.teestotal.co.uk</p>				
	 				
					

Tel: +44 (0)1793 849888 Email: sales@teestotal.co.uk

FINANCIAL WORRIES?

We can help!

Repossession

Legal Action

Final Demand

Limit Exceeded

Overdue

Account in Arrears

Tailor-made solutions

- We can reduce your monthly payments by up to 80%
- We can freeze the interest on your accounts
- Consolidate your debts into one single affordable payment

Quick, efficient professional service.
9am - 9pm,
7 days a week

DANIEL CHANDLER
Financial Management Consultants

www.daniel-chandler.co.uk
0800 980 7174

Ring for help now!



The Government and the covenant

THERE has been yet more talk about the Military Covenant this month – even though it doesn't technically exist.

Despite the Liberal Democrat and Conservative parties both commissioning papers in a bid to make sure the mythical deal is restored, it seems that there is no signed and sealed contract, just some vague references in Army doctrine.

In other words, there is nothing that would stand up in law. So how are soldiers and their families supposed to be recognised for their sacrifices?

Members of the public have taken matters into their own hands. You only have to look at how the Help for Heroes campaign has captured the imagination and how people have dug deep for those seriously injured in the line of duty.

Then there are the residents of Wootton Bassett, who have time-after-time shown their respect for the fallen as the funeral corteges pass through from RAF Lyneham. This month, the Armed Forces paraded to pay tribute to the people of this small Wiltshire town, showing a mutual acknowledgement of the elusive covenant.

But stories in the national press suggest that the Government cannot be said to be doing the same.

I recently opened the papers to see the headline "Hang your heads in shame, MoD chiefs told at inquest". The story related to a soldier who died as a result of a helicopter not being equipped with a winch to rescue stranded troops from a minefield in southern Afghanistan.

Why are soldiers still suffering due to lack of basic kit? The latest tabloid splash does not seem to be an isolated incident as I have also read of soldiers suffering heatstroke



Mutual respect: Soldiers salute Wootton Bassett

'The Army has become a dangerous career choice'

due to lack of air conditioning in tanks.

Admittedly, not all headlines reflect reality and the MoD has made huge progress in equipment provision. Regardless of the facts, this media reporting does little to reassure worried families. In addition, evidence of Harmony Guidelines being broken is a persistent thorn in our side.

These say there should be a 24-month interval between tours and that nobody should exceed 415 days separated service in 30 months.

But in April this year 10.3 per cent of the Army were still not achieving this goal.

So it is perhaps unsurprising that

four-out-of-ten troops are saying that the operational tempo has accelerated their intention to leave the Army. And that is not the only issue they face.

The MoD recently rebuffed media reports that the number of Service personnel requiring attention for psychiatric disorders was set to rise dramatically by claiming that post traumatic stress rates were very low.

But Combat Stress, the charity that specialises in mental health issues, says the average period between discharge and contact with them is 13 years, and referrals in 2008 are at record levels.

I have asked myself the question whether families are complaining too readily, particularly where issues such as housing are concerned.

After all, in the good old days, we were not allowed our own furniture in quarters and had to move out by 0900 on the day we left. And back then the camp commandant even inspected our homes.

These days we don't have to pack our belongings into wooden boxes before we leave our quarter as they are taken to our new home by a professional service.

But times move on. The Army has to compete with civilian employers for their staff and the aspirations and expectations of the family have changed.

And let us not forget that the Army today is a different beast from even 20 years ago.

Then a soldier's chances of seeing action on operations were slim. Today, with ongoing deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan, action is all-but guaranteed.

The Army has become a much more dangerous career. That's why the Government must make sure it honours the Military Covenant. ■

The column that offers you a confidential way to tackle debt – and it won't cost you a penny

MANAGE YOUR MONEY

Credit Action President Keith Tondeur will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.



Staying solvent

YOU don't need me to tell you that UK borrowers are now faced with the tightest lending conditions for many years. But with the economic climate creating unrest, it is

important to keep a sound borrowing record so that you have credit available should you need it.

In order to make sure you can get the best deals you should focus on making sure you are a good prospect for lenders. And you can check how well off you are by taking a look at your credit rating on specialist websites.

The credit rating is your lending record and includes your repayment history and any court judgements against you. Try www.experian.uk or www.callcredit.co.uk to find out how your status matches up.

If your record is not-up-to-date, or does not accurately reflect your circumstances, it could have serious repercussions. Let the

credit reference agency know straight away if you find anything that needs changing.

It is also important to make sure that you ask for credit sparingly – every time you make a formal application, the lender will leave a note on your report. Don't make a formal application if all you need is a quote. But if you are rejected, ask the lender why.

Simplify your borrowing too – could you consolidate the credit card debt into a loan?

Finally, all military personnel should make sure they are on the electoral register. Lenders use it to confirm your address.

0800 1381111 or
www.creditaction.org.uk

JOIN OUR TEAM!

CANARY WHARF SECURITY

Are you leaving the Army? Canary Wharf Security are recruiting for security officers to work at our East London estate.

We offer you a permanent employment contract, including the following benefits:


- Starting salary £23,000 - £24,000 per year
- Overtime opportunities
- Excellent pension scheme
- Free private healthcare for you & your immediate family
- Free Life insurance
- Subsidised health club / gym membership
- Interest free travel season ticket loan after probation
- Four weeks paid holiday per year

Canary Wharf Security is a large organisation with opportunities for promotion. We provide all specialist training you will need to do the job, as well as many personal development opportunities.

To apply: Phone Ryan Alexander on 07779 888 271 www.canarywharf.com (click on Recruitment)

CANARY WHARF
LONDON





For the Rest of Your Life


Harry Patch is the last surviving Tommy; the last British soldier of WWI.

Harry has six medals – one for bravery in the line of duty. We have been here for people like Harry for over 100 years and will continue to be for the rest of their lives. We support serving and retired Forces members and their families with affordable accommodation and free respite breaks for those in need.

We are the Victory Services Club; the all ranks, tri-service, family friendly London club.

Rest assured. 020 7616 8330

For the Rest of Your Life
www.vsc.co.uk



Save 25%* on RAC Breakdown Cover for the life of your membership.

Prices start from only £33* for Roadside Cover.

As a reader of Soldier, this offer is available to you and your immediate family** at enrolment or renewal. Peace of mind 24 hours a day, every day of the year, the rescue service is available whether you are a driver or passenger in your or another vehicle***.

Join today. Call RAC to the rescue on

0800 581 077

and quote GE0076

Existing RAC Members call

08705 722 722

and quote GE0076

Calls may be recorded and/or monitored.

RAC
rescue

*Discount applies to standard RAC prices for personal based cover. Price shown applies to payment on a continuous annual basis; prices may vary if payment is by other methods. Offer does not apply to RAC Solutions and cannot be used with any other promotion. RAC reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Full terms and conditions apply and are available on request. **Immediate family members are those who are related to you and live in the same household, up to a maximum of 4 additional people. ***Non-commercial vehicles only, excluding certain vehicle types. Provided by RAC Motoring Services and/or RAC Insurance Limited. RAC Motoring Services (Registered No. 1424399, Registered Office: 8 Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3NG) in respect of insurance mediation activities only and RAC Insurance Limited (Registered No. 2355834, Registered Office: as above) are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

RFPOR5037

NO. 803

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN £100



TEN details have been changed on this photograph from the *Soldier* picture library in which LCpl Leona Derby, a combat medic in Iraq, restocks a medical bergen.

Circle the differences in the left-hand image and send the whole panel to **HOAY 803, *Soldier***, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by November 28.

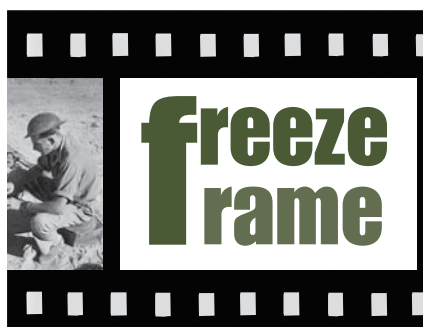
A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results will be announced in the December issue.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

September competition (No 802): First correct entry drawn at random and winner of the £100 prize was **SAC N Griffin**, HQ Northwood, Middlesex. Runners-up **Mrs Kelly Morris**, Dhekalia Station, Cyprus and **Pte T Burns**, 5 Scots, Canterbury each win a £25 gift voucher.

The ten differences were: window in Nissen hut; RAVC shoulder title; black armband; loop on dog lead; dog's tongue; dog handler's back pocket; studs on dog collar; dog lead clip; dog sitting behind kennel wire compound; kennel doorway.



PERHAPS inevitably, the Army's much-bemoaned IT systems bore the brunt of most entries for September's caption competition (picture below right).

And here at *Soldier* HQ, we thought it only fitting that the winner should be someone so sceptical of technology that their entry arrived by good, old-fashioned snail mail. So take a bow Keith Chapman of Glasgow, who wins a copy of James Holland's *The Odin Mission* for his offering: "**The chief clerk mentioned something about being a prototype for some system called JPA.**"

Among the other JPA knockers were SSgt Steve Noble, HQ NI & 38 (Irish) Bde, who suggested "**In 1953, soldiers used a similar system to that used presently, only then JPA did not stand for Just Plain Annoying**" and Ian Goodwin-Reeves, 150 Recovery Company REME, who penned "**The latest JPA upgrade – a system that**



As a life-long Tarantino fan, Derek was delighted to have finally landed the role of Mr Blue

WIN A BOOK: Write your own caption for the photo above and send it to us by November 28. The best, in our opinion, will win a copy of *Fire in the East*, the first novel in Harry Sidebottom's *Warrior of Rome* series.

is actually as fast as the operator".

Of a similar note were Simon Harrison's "**DII/F users in Iraq were disappointed with the email functionality**" and "**Cpl Bloggs was full of praise for his new DII laptop**" from Mr J Dickinson, 4 Yorks.

Adopting a different, but equally amusing, tact were: Mr P Clarke's "**Dear Dad, sangar repossessed. Send money now, Sandy**" and "**Andy McNab was so keen to start his first book that the operation would have to wait**" from WO1 Ben McNamara, MoD Abbeywood.



Picture: LA Jamine B Hartmann

Web watch

BOOKS

www.militaryhistorybooks.com

Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website, or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.

DEBT PROBLEMS?
We can help!

www.daniel-chandler.co.uk

Free Phone: 0800 980 7174

OPPORTUNITIES & BUSINESS

www.demobjob.co.uk

Demob Job – jobs and resettlement courses for those leaving the Armed Forces – IT'S FREE.

<http://jobs.forcesreunited.org.uk>

Forces jobs. Full and part-time jobs for serving and ex-Forces personnel from Forces Reunited Jobs.

Chiltern House, Drake Avenue
Staines, TW18 2AP
T: 01784 460793

LANSDALE

www.LansdaleLtd.com

Order Online or at your PRI

BUGOUT! PETZL SNUGPAK SILVA
Web-tex ORTLIEB LIFEVENTURE multima
MEINDL PRO TREK MAGNUM MAGLITE

MARKET PLACE

www.ukms2000.com

UKMS2000 manage a series of Militaria, Arms and Armour Fairs in the UK – see you at the next event.

www.ukforces.co.uk

The one-stop shop for finance, gifts, travel, holidays, motoring, fashion, home and leisure.

SERVICES

www.recoverypnp.niceboard.com

A site where REME recovery mechanics and friends, serving and retired, meet for chat and banter.

www.baff.org.uk

British Armed Forces Federation, an association aimed at representing staff in the three Services.

www.baor-locations.com

Website of the British Army of the Rhine and its locations.

www.forcesresources.co.uk

Lists hundreds of BFPO-friendly companies, a forum, classifieds section and information on the EHC and much more.

www.sftf.mod.uk

The Service Families Task Force website contains useful tri-Service information.

www.army.mod.uk

The information provided contains practical advice on health-related topics and guidance on how to adopt healthy lifestyles.

www.iam.org.uk

A proven route to cheaper vehicle insurance and a recognised driving or motor-cycling qualification. Isn't it time you joined?

www.supportourtroopsuk.co.uk

Support our Troops event at Basingstoke, Aug 16-17.

www.armywivesunited.co.uk

Free community site with message boards on a vast array of subjects that affect Army wives. Offering advice, friendship and support. Army Wives United has been online for three years and has around 1,000 active members.



Show her she's in your heart by sending her one of ours.

Gorgeous collection of heart-shaped jewellery, beautifully gift-wrapped.

Order on-line today.



theheartshapedbox.com
gifts straight from the heart

HELPING HANDS

www.wrvs.org.uk

Supporting thousands of young single soldiers in the British Army. Offering a listening ear and practical help 24 hours a day.

www.nivets.org.uk

The Northern Ireland Veterans' Association, providing advice, support and assistance to veterans and families of those affected by the Troubles.

www.blesma.org

National charity for limbless ex-Servicemen and women, their dependants and widows.

www.erskine.org.uk

Erskine, caring for ex-Servicemen and women. The charity is currently caring for more than 1,000 veterans, young and old, throughout Scotland.

www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/family/default.aspx

The Army Welfare Service provides confidential, comprehensive and professional support to Service personnel and their families.

Salisbury Plain's Leading Supplier of Military Figures and Vehicles

www.garrisonpri.co.uk

Military Clothing, Accessories, Gifts and Presentations

Full Engraving Service Available

TEL: 0845 634 3161 ATN: 94 322 5059





CLOTHING AND KIT

www.smamit.co.uk

Custom-made for the individual soldier and specialist unit: assault vests, chest rigs, patrol packs, bergens and Osprey pouches.

www.messkitonline.co.uk

High-quality made-to-measure mess uniforms and dress accessories from Goodalls Tailors of Leeds. Buy online or call for details on 0113 2889944.

www.dragonsupplies.co.uk

Manufacturers of airborne webbing, Specialist patrol packs, upgraded Bergens, grab bags, assault rigs and tropical clothing. Stockists of Altberg, Lowa and Meindl boots. Tel: 01206 854354.

www.shopagc.co.uk

Superior new website. Supplying all ranks of the AGC worldwide (Regular and Reserve Forces).

www.cadetdirect.com

Supplying the UK's Regular, Reserve and cadet forces. Next-day delivery on all in-stock items.

www.armyandoutdoor.co.uk

Premier kit shop in the North West for Services/TA/Cadets extras.

www.dixiescorner.co.uk

Military supplies + bespoke webbing and bags etc. Alterations, repairs and tailoring. Buy online or call 01874 638091.

www.Military247.co.uk

We give 10% of our profit to the Royal British Legion, so get the **BEST** Military Kit sent to your door by us. Quote SM5 for a 5% **DISCOUNT** on your order.

www.garrisonpri.co.uk

Military clothing, accessories, gifts and presentations. Salisbury Plain's leading stockists of military figures and vehicles. Tel: 0845 634 3161 ATN: 94 322 5059.

www.ukkitmonster.com

Specialist military and survival kit supplies. VAT-free to qualifying BFPO. Online or call 01892 538364 for more.

www.bcb.in.com and www.taccsc4i.com

Designers and Manufacturers of Quality Personal Military Equipment.

www.combatservicesupport.co.uk

Combat Service Support. Specialists in clothing and equipment to the forces.

Email: combatservicesupport@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01673 857803.

www.rv-1.co.uk

29 Commando Royal Artillery – Shop and Head Office. Quality without compromise. BFPO tax-free shopping online.

Tel: 01752 236143 Mil: 937846143.

MOD LINKS

www.army.mod.uk

Official website of the British Army.

www.armyaviation.co.uk

A privately-run forum dedicated to Army aviation. The forum is for ALL cap badges associated with Army aviation and all are welcome. Membership is comprised of mainly AAC personnel but we would like to see more REME faces on the site.

www.armyrugbyunion.mod.uk

The latest information on match reports, fixtures, ticket and equipment sales, and contact details for all Army Rugby Union teams. See how the most popular and successful sports team in the Army is doing.



G.D.A.S. is a registered charity that operates nation-wide and arranges for Great Danes and any large breed of dog requiring rescuing or re-homing to be collected from around the U.K.

G.D.A.S. founded in January 2000 and have secured new homes for over 800 rescued Great Danes. Over 600 members and 250 volunteers. We never refuse to help any Great Dane or large breed of dog in need.

Main telephone line: 0870 787 4691
or Website: www.danes.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1091717



LINE-LOK® - the world's best guy line runner
 Quick and easy to tension and release. Will not shake loose, even in extreme conditions. Out-performs traditional alloy and plastic guy runners.
Buy at www.cleats.co.uk



military supplies
 0844 561 1403
www.military-supplies.co.uk



Send a long distance hug
www.despatchboxes.com
 Not JUST for Christmas we're here all year round for all your special occasions, or just to say 'missing you'.
 Chocolates, champagne, boarding school boxes.
BFPO ORDERS OUR SPECIALITY



Affordable Gifts For All & Giftwrap Service
 You choose from a wide range of gifts
 We giftwrap & send direct
www.postapresent.co.uk

MUSEUMS

www.rememuseum.org.uk


REME Museum of Technology.

www.armymuseums.org.uk

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust website, approved by the MoD as the definitive guide to regimental and corps museums.

www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com

King's Own Royal Regiment Museum, Lancaster.



Send Everlasting Wishes & She'll Never Forget!
 Gorgeous Gifts Women Adore, Beautifully Wrapped & Dispatched Direct
www.everlastingwishes.com

Bulletin board

Also available at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Defence directory

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

Army Benevolent Fund: 0845 241 4820

Army Welfare Information Service: 01722 436569; www.army.mod.uk/soldierwelfare/supportagencies/aws

Army Families Federation: 01980 615525

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

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 766 8020

Children's Education Advisory Service: 01980 618244; enquiries.ceas@gt.net

Confidential support lines: 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. Lines open 1030-2230 (UK) every day.

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

Family Escort Service: 0207 463 9249

Forces Pension Society: 0207 820 9988

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

MoD Medal Office: Medal queries to JPAC Enquiry Centre on 94560 3600 or 0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group): 07962 023654, 01803 311527; www.mutualsupport.org.uk; email welfaresupport@mutualsupport.org.uk

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office: (0900-1700); 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; www.ngvfa.org.uk; fax 01482 808731

Regular Forces' Employment Association: 0121 2360058; www.rfea.org.uk

Royal British Legion: 0845 7725 725

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

St Dunstan's charity for blind ex-Servicemen and women: 0207 723 5021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association) Falklands conflict veterans: 01495 227577

Services Cotswold Centre: 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help: 0207 403 8783; Western Europe 02161 472 3392

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA): 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); Medical Assessment Programme: 0800 169 5401

Victim Support: Germany 02161 472 2272; UK 0845 3030900; www.victimsupport.org

WRVS (24-hr answer service): 02920 739016; general enquiries 02920 739016

Searchline

Ex-LCpl Bhuwanprasad Newar (6 GR) is searching for **ex-RAVC Cpl J Pirie**, last seen in Worcester in 1969. Contact Bhuwanprasad Newar, Indra Lodge, 12 Mile, Kalimpong 734301, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.

Where are you **14465107 Pte Finlayson, GH**, who served in Khartoum, Egypt and Malaya, also **21013257 Fus J Brown**, Northumberland Fusiliers who served in Korea and Hong Kong? Possibly both now living in the Durham and Newcastle area. Both of these gentlemen will be at least 79 years old. Mr P Peckitt is looking for you both. Contact him at 152 McCombs Road, Lockwood, Victoria 3551, Australia.

Callum Hamoudi is trying to trace his father **Colin Davis** (also known as George), who is around 52 years old. Based in Aldershot with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment band in 1988, Colin came from the Reading area. Contact Sharon Hamoudi, 9 Jessel Close, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester M13 9SX.

Bodo au den Erlen, a 62-year-old German national is trying to trace his father, **Alexander Klein**, born in Vienna, Austria. His father was taken to London prior to WW2 where he joined the British Army. In 1945-46 he was stationed in Niedersachsen, Rinteln in North Germany where he met my mother. He returned to London a year later. He is approximately 84 years old. Contact Herr Aus den Erlen, Middelicher Strasse 264, 45892 Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

Where are you **Maj Kevin Hogan**, in 1966 stationed with the Brigade of Gurkhas in Dharan, Nepal? Possibly working in the recruiting cell or as an OC Ghurka unit. He is believed to now be living in the UK. Gregg Smith who was stationed in Eastern Nepal with the US Peace Corps is trying to locate you. Contact Gregg by email mgreggsmith@comcast.net

Graham Mills and other personnel from the regiment are planning a reunion of 3 Platoon Arnhem Company, 1st Bn, Kings Own Royal Border Regiment from Feb-June 1980. Contact has been lost with ex-Servicemen **Pte Andrew Jones, Liverpool; Cpl Colin Marchant; Pte Dave Storey, Cumbria; Cpl Gary Mullett, Warwickshire Police, Tewksbury; Pte Jimmy Myers, Cumbria; Pte Mike Burke, Bolton; Pte Steve Peacock, Warrington TA; Pte Steve Ratcliffe, Liverpool; Pte Stuart Scaiffe, Cumbria; LCpl Tony Priestly and CSgt David Jones**. Email your details to graham.mills@sky.com

Sammy Hay and David Simmonds are seeking old members of G Squad, Army apprentice chefs, who served in the Army between 1951 and 1954, especially **George Black, Mucker Mead, John Evans, Bill Sykes and P Collins**. Contact David by email dwsmaple@btinternet.com

Terry Mundin is trying to trace anyone who served in 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) between 1960 and 1964. Get in touch with Terry on 0161 394406 or email mundjo9@aol.com

Defence diary

Until further notice: Helmand: The Soldiers' Story – 16 Air Assault Brigade exhibition. National Army Museum, London. Tel: 0207 730 0717.

Currently showing: World on Fire Exhibition at the National Army Museum, London. Tel: 0207 730 0717.

Until January 2009: Frightful First World War Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum North, Manchester. Dates at www.iwm.org.uk/north

Until March 2009: Stranger in the House, Imperial War Museum North, Manchester. Go to www.iwm.org.uk/north for details.

November 1-December 19: Lest We Forget – The Exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum, London. Admission free.

November 29-30: The 20th Birmingham Tattoo. Go to www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk for details.

December 11: Musical Extravaganza by the Band of the Royal Marines, The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Call 0131 550 1559 for tickets.

Reunions

Royal Hussars (PWO): Regimental clerks "the Quills" reunion Nov 21, location Portsmouth, venue to be confirmed. Open to all ex-regimental clerks. Contact Tony 'Freddie' Starr on 07813 056516 or email leqtusborg@btinternet.com

Farewell to St Omer Day: Nov 22, open to all who have previously been stationed at St Omer to bid farewell. Entry by ticket only. Contact Elaine Hill on 01252 348108.

Competitions

Blu-ray player/21: Sig R Galliers, Edinburgh. **Runners Up:** I Burgess, ATR Winchester; Sgt G Barnett, BFPO 40; G Crandles, Edinburgh; Sgt A Owen, Blandford Camp; Lt Col H Timothy, BFPO 801. **Answer: Vingt-et-un.**

Bullet Ant Goggles: Sqn Ldr J Leighton, 12 Mech Bde; WO2 M Sutor, Brompton Bks; Capt P Horne, 5 Regt RA. **Answer: Optic Nerve.**

Flash Survivor Memory Stick: Sgt C Thomas, 39 Regt RA; SUO D Cognolato, UOTC Birmingham; Maj S Taylor, Strensall, York. **Answer: Eight bits to a byte.**

Star Wars The Force Unleashed: Cfn A Lang, Prince Philip Bks; Sig Brodfield, 251 Sig Sqn; Capt J Thomas, HQ 4 Div. **Answer: Mace Windu.**

Picking up the Brass: A Lappin, Navy Desk, QA Hospital, Cosham; W Croall, Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire; P Park, Henlow, Beds; C Cooper, HQ 49 Bde; Miss M Carmichael, Dunoon, Argyll. **Answer: British Honduras.**



Taking flight: Bartrams Brewery's AH 64, which was dreamt up by an air traffic controller at Wattisham

Apache ale

A BRAND new beer has been designed to pack a punch in celebration of the Apache attack helicopter.

Known as the AH-64, the Apache is flown on operations in Afghanistan by two Army Air Corps regiments – 3 and 4 Regiment – and has now been emulated in the 6.4 per cent beer named AH 6.4 in its honour.

Brewed by Bartrams Brewery, near the helicopter's base at Wattisham Airfield in Suffolk, it was originally billed as a one-off present for a regiment from a commanding officer who was to be re-posted – but its popularity soon spread.

Bartrams Brewery owner Marc Bartram said: "I've been inundated with emails placing orders. In the ten years I've been brewing this is one of the most successful products I've been involved in.

"As opposed to being a one-off beer I think it's going to be part of the permanent range because demand has gone through the roof."

The idea for the special beer came from Robert Perkin-Ball, a civilian air traffic controller at Wattisham Airfield, and it was decided it would be the perfect leaving present to 4 Regiment from their CO Lt Col Neil Dalton.

The two men designed the bottle in the regiment's red and green colours, with the label listing their battle honours. The taste of the beer was left to Bartram who decided to brew an old-fashioned IPA and, as the Apache is a union of British and US industry, he blended a traditional British hop called Target and an American hop called Mount Hood.

The beer was given to the troops at a presentation dinner on September 20 and the bottles then went on sale, with 10p from each purchase donated to SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) Forces Help.

● To order AH 6.4 beer, log on to www.bartramsbrewery.co.uk ■

session and finishes with a finger buffet. Military personnel will answer all your questions about the British Army. Call 01276 417000 or email your name and address to apt.mod@btinternet.com

November: 12, Chingford; 18, Croydon; 20, Camden. **January:** 13, Macclesfield; 14, Bolton; 15, Manchester; 27, Penzance; 28, Plymouth; 29, Blandford.

Roadshow dates

THE Army Presentation Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to attend its dynamic roadshow, which begins with a reception, is followed by a presentation and questions-and-answers

Festive fare

SEARCHING for an alternative to mail order flowers and cards this Christmas? Everlasting Wishes' collection of original gifts may be the answer you are looking for.

Ranging from personalised baubles (pictured below) to soft toys, the keepsakes can be viewed and bought online at www.everlastingwishes.com

Each gift is hand-inscribed with a message before being gift-wrapped with scented paper and hand-cut confetti hearts and placed in a gift box tied with satin ribbons. Everlasting Wishes then takes care of posting the item.

To win one of three vouchers for Christmas gifts worth £25, £15 and £10, tell us in which year during the First World War a Christmas truce was called between some of the British and German troops.

Answers by postcard to the address at the front of the magazine or by email (comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) to reach us by November 28.

Winners will be drawn at random. Usual rules apply.



SOLDIER has teamed up with gift company Pre.vu to offer a prize that ensures being on tour does not have to mean being out of touch with loved ones back home.

The company's Talking Tags are credit card-sized gizmos that hold a 60-second voice recording. They can be sent around the world and played at the push of a button.

As well as storing the latest news from friends and family, Talking Tags can hold anything from a lasting memento of a baby's first sounds to a Christmas greeting for a soldier spending the festive period overseas.

Setting up a Talking Tag could not be easier. After purchasing one from www.talkingtags.com, senders phone a national rate number and have three attempts to leave their message before Pre.vu sends the tag to its recipient.

Pre.vu has 100 Talking Tags, usually priced at £5.50 including delivery, to give away to *Soldier* readers, limited to addresses in the UK or Operations Herrick and Telic.

To claim your tag, visit www.talkingtags.com and use the promotion code SOL100 at the checkout stage. ■

Register to vote



Don't lose your vote!
To vote, you need to register

Your unit will be holding a Registration Day in October or November – make sure you're there!

Ask your Unit Registration Officer for more information



The
Electoral
Commission

Embroidery & Printing Leisurewear Teamwear Gifts



FREE Embroidered polo shirt with all orders over £300 +VAT

We at Hargreaves Promotions pride ourselves in offering special rates to the Armed Forces. Whether you are having an operational tour, training course, revamp of your uniform, sporting event or just want to promote yourselves-

let us do it for you.

Embroidery & Screen Printing
HARGREAVES PROMOTIONS
 Tel: 023 9282 2436 Fax: 023 9282 2177
 e-mail: mmaddock@hargreaves-promotions.co.uk
 Rodney Road, Fratton Industrial Estate, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hampshire. PO4 8SY
www.hargreaves-promotions.co.uk

Ties

from O. H. Hewett Ltd

Ties made to order in silk or polyester.

For information regarding prices and minimum quantities please contact:

O. H. Hewett Ltd at
 21 Farncombe Street
 Godalming, Surrey GU7 3AY
 Telephone: 01483 426917
 Fax: 01483 424810
 Website: www.ohhewett.com
 Email: enquiries@ohhewett.com

MICHAEL JAY

UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

MESS DRESS
 SERVICE DRESS
 No.1 DRESS
 S.B. BLAZERS
 D.B. REGIMENTAL BLAZERS
 SPORTS JACKETS AND TROUSERS
 DINNER SUITS
 LOUNGE SUITS

48hr or 2Week make up

MICHAEL JAY TAILORING
 5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK STOWMARKET
 SUFFOLK IP14 5EP
 TEL:01449 614602/604:FAX
 Email: info@michaeljaytailoring.com

COSTELLO

Civil & Military Bespoke Tailors
 Ladies & Gents Uniform Specialists



For all your requirements

Interest Free Credit

For your local representative contact the numbers below

UK Head Office: Tel: 020 8478 2780
Fax: 020 8553 3336

E-mail: info@costello.co.uk Website: www.costello.co.uk
Colchester: Tel: 01206 575 617 Germany: Tel: 01717 715 445

Hospitality Management Course

4 week residential.
20 days GRT?

Visit: www.herrontraining.com
 or Tel. 01524 843263

CARICATURES

Now listen here men, and you Pike. We have a reputation in the British Army of producing soldiers of character and nothing portrays that better than a caricature by Rick. We'll show Jerry we're not to be made fools of!

Judge for yourself - view the new gallery of groups at
WWW.CARICATURE.CO.UK

Call Rick Coleman
01707 69 52 96

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

HELP SAFEGUARD BRITISH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OVERSEAS

OVERSEAS SECURITY MANAGERS

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office employs over 16,000 people in more than 200 diplomatic offices around the world. These people are dedicated to protecting the interests of the UK in a safe, just and prosperous world. But who's protecting them?

Well, it could be you.

Overseas Security Managers are charged with maintaining the security of Embassies, Embassy staff and their families. Joining their number, you will train local security employees, assess security threats and optimise security measures such as emergency drills. You'll also provide security advice to Embassy staff and liaise with the security teams of visiting Ministers.

It's a high profile job in a truly international setting. It's also a great way to learn and travel, with full training, a good travel package, support for co-dependants and flexibility over locations for each three year placement. If you've got previous experience in security professions and/or the armed forces as well as three GCSEs or equivalent (including Maths and English), there really is no better way to broaden your horizons. Visit www.fco.gov.uk/careers to find out more.



Give them a great read this Christmas

Subscribe and save!



Subscription rates		Personal details	
United Kingdom		Name	
12 issues	£ 23.00	Address	
24 issues	£ 40.00	Postcode	
Overseas		Start my subscription with the issue	
12 issues	£ 32.20	I would like to subscribe for: <input type="checkbox"/> One year <input type="checkbox"/> Two years	
24 issues	£ 60.00		
British Forces Post Office		I enclose a cheque/ PO payable to SOLDIER for	
12 issues	£ 13.80	Return to SOLDIER , Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU	

Order hotline: 01252 347353 or order online at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

EMBROIDERED • WOVEN • ENAMELLED BADGES

TOLLEY
Badges

**BADGES - we don't do anything else
because this is what we do BEST!**

- ✓ Best quality
- ✓ Best prices
- ✓ Best delivery times
- ✓ No artwork set up charges
- ✓ Specialists with over 40 years experience

MINIMUM ORDER QUANTITY 50 BADGES



**WE GUARANTEE to give YOU the BEST value,
the BEST service, the BEST prices and the BEST
quality badges available in the UK.**

12 CHURCH STREET, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 1LY

TELEPHONE: 01384 820040 FAX: 01384 820050

e-mail: info@tolleybadges.co.uk

www.tolleybadges.co.uk



Lost your Medals?

We can replace them now

We have a large stock of current
issue medals including

Op Telic, Golden Jubilee, Sierra Leone
Afghanistan, NATO and UN

MoD APPROVED MEDALS
(Licence No. D/IRP/IX/E/0019/04)

Full Size and Miniature
Service Details Engraved
Professional Mounting Service

Contact our friendly staff for help, advice or free brochure

Bigbury Mint

01548 830717

Bigbury Mint, River Park, Ermington, Devon PL21 9NT
www.bigburymint.com info@bigburymint.com

Goodalls Tailors

High Quality Made to Measure Mess Uniforms

Full range of Dress Accessories,
Badges and Miniature Medals



0%

Finance available on all
3 PIECE MESS KITS

- NCO & Officer Mess Uniforms •
- Service Dress & Blues •
- Dress Swords • Boots & Spurs •
- Dress Shirts, Braces & Bow ties •
- Regimental Ties • Gloves •
- Medals & Badges •

Special Offer: Massive discounts
available on selected dress accessories
when purchasing your 3 piece mess kit.

Tel: 0113 2889944

Goodalls Tailors, Butcher Lane, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0DB

www.messkitonline.co.uk

E.G. FRAMES MILITARIA UK MILITARY FRAMING AT ITS BEST

BRITISH ARMY BADGES,
MEDALS, BLAZER BADGES,
PACESTICKS, MILITARIA AND
COLLECTABLES.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
ENQUIRIES FROM REGIMENTAL
ASSOCIATIONS PRI SHOPS WELCOME.



Tel: 01827 63900 or 07971 673872 Fax: 01827 52364

<http://egframes.net>

THE NEW BRITISH FORCES AIRBORNE WEBBING



ONLY £119.99

Serious Enquires to the EXCLUSIVE stockist,

DRAGON SUPPLIES

Telephone 01206 854354

Unit E3, The Seedbed Centre, Wyncolls Road, Severalls Park
Colchester, Essex, CO4 9HT

www.dragonsupplies.co.uk



INJURED ON DUTY IN THE LAST 3 YEARS?

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION
Did you know MOD Personnel have almost exactly the same rights as civilian employees

**NOTHING
TO PAY
WIN OR
LOSE**

*Subject to taking full instructions

**CALL PETHERBRIDGE
BASSRA SOLICITORS**

0044 1274 727 190

email: jagtar@petherbridgebassra.com

VISTA TIES

4, ASHFOLD AVENUE
FINDON VALLEY
WORTHING
WEST SUSSEX BN14 0AP



We specialise in high quality polyester, silk/polyester and silk ties. The minimum quantity for an overprinted polyester tie is 25 and for a jacquard woven tie, 36. We can supply you with free artwork for a new design or copy an existing tie. Details on stripes, colours, textures, layouts, etc. on our website:

www.vista-ties.co.uk

Also large stock of regimental ties

Ring Debbie for help.

01903 266883

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT,



**GOT THE T-SHIRT..?
TOUR T-SHIRTS**
EMBROIDERED OR PRINTED
GET THE BEST!

bob@tour-shirts.com TEL : 01256 841020

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES £15.00

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES	£15.00	BRASS INSERTS	£16.00
TIES AND BOWS	£14.50	SWAGGER STICKS, CHROME & BLACK 24"	£16.00
CUFFLINKS AND TIE SLIDES FOR MOST REGIMENTS AND CORPS	£11.50	LAPEL BADGES FOR MOST REGTS AND CORPS:	
BERETS: RED, GREEN, NAVY, BLACK, SAS, LIGHT INFANTRY, MILITARY POLICE KHAKI,		PINGAT JASA	£3.00
DRAWCORD LEATHER HEADBAND	£8.00	SPECIAL FORCES SUPPORT GROUP	£3.00
GOLD DRESS CORDS FOR STANDARD REGIMENTAL TIES & BOWS	£28.00	RA GREEN BERET & PARA RED BERET	£3.00
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS	£34.50	PARA CAP BADGE	£3.00
WHITE COTTON GLOVES	£6.00	REGIMENTAL WALL PLAQUES	£26.00
WHITE MASONIC GLOVES WITH LOGO	£7.50	GILT PARA TIE SLIDES	£6.00
LEATHER STANDARD CARRIERS	£35.00	LAPEL BADGES PARA BATTALIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4	£3.00
		P&P £3.00 UP TO THE VALUE OF £30.00	
		£4.00 UP TO THE VALUE OF £50.00	
		£6.00 FOR ORDERS ABOVE THIS AMOUNT	

One off **BLAZER BADGES** a speciality at no extra charge. **SEND FOR FREE LISTS**
The Gold Wire Badge Co, 11 Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs OL2 8JT.
Telephone/Fax: 01706 846648 E-Mail: sales@thegoldwirebadge.co.uk www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk

REGIMENTAL SIGNET RINGS & BROOCHES

J.M.BICKERTON

Manufacturing Jewellers

23 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LE

For list & prices

Tel: 0121 551 7366

HIGH QUALITY ASSURED

jmb@regimentalbrooches.co.uk

www.regimentalbrooches.co.uk



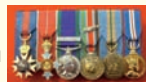
Grenadier Guards 9ct seal style signet £185

WINDSOR MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICES

Full size and Miniature medals.
Court or swing mounted from £4.00 each

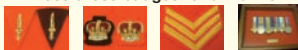
LOST MEDALS? WE CAN REPLACE

We can also supply loose or Mounted Miniature medals.
Loose supplied from £5.00 each.
Supplied and mounted from £11.00 each.



Ex Household Cavalry Ceremonial Tailor,
Master Tailor Qualified, 18 years experience.

We supply a vast range of
mess dress badges for all ranks



Box framing for medal groups

**TEL: 07786073060
or 01522 702254**

3 WELLS COURT, Saxilby, LINCOLN LN1 2GY

MICHAEL JAY
CIVIL AND MILITARY
TAILORS

**Our unbeatable
MESS DRESS
offer**

INCLUDES

- ✓ 14 day Make or
- ✓ 48hr EXPRESS
- ✓ Lowest prices
- ✓ Best Fit
- ✓ Highest quality
- ✓ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

Tel: 01449 614602/604:fax
Email: info@michaeljaytailoring.com

As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable

5 Toms Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP

PHOENIX WORLD

COLD CAST BRONZE FIGURINES AND VEHICLES

IDEAL PRESENTATION PIECES

COMMISSIONS ACCEPTED

Tel: 01303 298278

Email: sales@pworld.co.uk Website: www.pworld.co.uk

Navigation Training

Intensive 2-day courses in Map & Compass work. Practical/Min Theory. Small groups (4/5). Ex-Mil Instructor. Acc incl.

Contact Andrew 01974 821680 or email brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk

THIS PRICE INCLUDES:

- The Artwork
- The Screen
- The Shirts
- The Print

£30 + VAT

www.screensprinting.co.uk
Tel: 01502 581010

GET NOTICED!!!
A huge selection of garments available embroidered with YOUR personalised company or club motif.

EMBROIDERED GARMENTS
Ind: Poles, Sweats & Rugby, Jackets, Trousers, Overalls, Shorts & many more
Online catalogue available at: www.ensignmotifs.info

EMBROIDERED PATCHES
Amazing quality. Min just 50
Free iron-on backing.
9 thread colours. Fast delivery.
www.badges-direct.co.uk

- BASEBALL CAPS
- TIES
- PRINTED T-SHIRTS
- ENAMEL BADGES
- BLAZER BADGES

Tel: 01436 842581 Fax: 01436 842854
www.ensignmotifs.co.uk
Email: sales@ensignmotifs.co.uk
FULL COLOUR BROCHURE ON REQUEST CALL FREEPHONE: 0800 328 4348
ENSIGN MOTIFS, Portliff Bay, Kilcreggan, Argyll, G84 9LF



Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd

Specialists in Orders Decorations and Medals

Full Size and Miniature Medals supplied and mounted for wear or display to the highest standards.

MoD Licensed Medals
(License No. D/IPR/IX/E/0019/02)
Available from stock including

- Telic
- Afghanistan
- Golden Jubilee
- NATO, EU and UN
- Long Service awards
- Complete range of gallantry awards

We offer a complete engraving service and supply fine hand-made storage cases, display cases and wallets for your awards.

Whatever your requirements our helpful staff will be pleased to help with your enquiry by telephone, email or fax.

Visit our secure on-line shop
www.worcmadals.com

Unit bulk enquiries welcome

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: wms@worcmadals.com

Advanced Car Exports began supplying new cars to H M Forces in 1979, and this year we are celebrating our 30th anniversary with even BIGGER discounts on both tax-free AND tax-paid sales!

Great! I hear that you even publish your prices on-line at www.acesales.co.uk

And I know that the lads will be well looked after, because Advanced Car Exports are endorsed by the RMAS for their excellent reputation! They also donate £50 to **HELP for HEROES** for every sale resulting from this ad.

www.ACESales.co.uk Tel: 0044(0)1903 850785 info@acesales.co.uk

NEED initial **FREE** legal advice? Then contact:



A Nationwide network of highly experienced Independent Solicitors

Who advise and represent Service Personnel, Reservists, the Civil Service and their Families

Contact **0845 6011260**

or www.forceslaw.com for a Local Lawyer who **SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE**

COURTS MARTIAL • DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES • EMPLOYMENT and REINSTATEMENT OF RESERVE FORCES PERSONNEL

SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS • CRIME • HOUSE or BUSINESS PURCHASE or SALE including LSAP'S

DIVORCE, CHILDREN, PENSIONS AND TERMINAL GRANTS • ACCIDENTS and COMPENSATION • ARMED FORCES COMPENSATION SCHEME PREVIEW • WILLS or DEATH of a RELATIVE

The Mess Dress Ltd

Military Tailoring, Mess Dress, Service Dress, Blues Tunic

Competitive prices. Interest free credit available on all uniform orders.

- * Mess shirt (pure cotton) £22
- * Sanders George boots £75
- * Officers Dress swords from £450 by WKC Germany.



- * Bespoke medal framing on site
- * Engraved gifts, plates, presentation medallions.
- Discount on bulk orders.
- * Embroidery services on site.



Medal court mounting £4 per medal. Mini medals from £4.

Replacement full size medals from £7.95.

Extensive range of miniature and replacement medals and ribbons. Medal naming, engraving on site. Very fast turn around. 99% of medal mounting is done the same day. Very large stock available for next day delivery.

Much more on our website.



Our shop is open 6 days a week. Our representative is in Aldershot and Camberley areas every Wednesday. All our prices includes VAT, tax free sales available for BFPO overseas.

www.messdress.com

88 Stewart Road, Bournemouth BH8 8NU

Tel: 01202 302846 Fax: 01202 383874 sales@messdress.com



National Flags • Customised Flags • Flagpoles
Regimental Flags • Banners • Pennants • Cushions
Flags made to your own specifications for teams, regiments, events etc.
OFFICIAL MOD SUPPLIERS



Flags G.B. LTD Tel 01670 503503 www.flagsgb.com
email sales@flagsgb.com

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES & HAND PAINTED WALL SHIELDS

(Select any Regiment or Corps)

PACE/RACING STICKS - 36" INDIAN ROSEWOOD

(SCREW FITTING) WITH CARRYING CASE, LEATHER

SWORD BAGS & KNOTS, TIES (REGIMENT or CORPS)

MILITARY MATTERS

7 WATERSIDE, GREENFIELD, SADDLEWORTH, OLDHAM OL3 7DP
TEL: 01457 877010 FAX: 01457 877010 EMAIL: military.matters@btopenworld.com



LOST MEDALS

Replaced in record time

FULL SIZE & MINIATURE
3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE

Write or phone for quotation

RAYMOND D HOLDICH

Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre, 7 Whitcomb Street London WC2H 7HA

Tel: 020 7930 8836 Fax: 020 7930 1152

www.rdhmedals.com E-mail: rdhmedals@aol.com

Drop Zone Supplies

Unit LB6, The Cattle Market,
Hereford HR4 9HX
E: hereford@army-surplus.co.uk
T/F: 01432 343 253
OPENING HOURS
Tues - Sat 10.00-18.00



BLACKHAWK!

BFPO TAX FREE SHOPPING

"CONTACT, WAIT OUT"

When you are in this situation, worrying about the kit you are carrying is not an option!



Mail Order HQ

Unit 3, West Oxon Ind Park,
Norton Way, Brize Norton,
Oxon OX18 3YJ
E: sales@army-surplus.co.uk
T: 08456 44 50 60
OPENING HOURS
Mon - Fri 09.00-17.30

Drop Zone Supplies

Online Store: www.army-surplus.co.uk

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR

T-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, rugby shirts, jackets & much, much more

FREE Colour Brochure **LOW** Minimum Order
COMPETITIVE PRICES

Embroidered polos from £4.75,
sweats from £6, t-shirts from £4.35

Quick Delivery

* We ship **WORLDWIDE**. VAT free to BFPO overseas

**NO SET-UP
FREE EMBROIDERY
PROOF**



**SPECIAL OFFERS TO HM
FORCES (INC. FREE T-SHIRTS)**



www.bananamoon.co.uk

BANANA MOON WORKSHOP

48 Old Lane, Birkenshaw, Bradford BD11 2JX
Tel: 01274 688103 Fax: 01274 652524

e-mail: sales@bananamoon.co.uk



Military Marketing International

Suppliers of commemorative plaques and presentation pieces



Let us design your Regiment
and Operational plaques

(minimum quantity 25)

PLAQUES: £12.95 each
SHIELDCKLOCKS: £24.00 each



for a full colour brochure contact:

82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. B18 7AF

Telephone / fax: 0121 454 5393

email: mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk

website: www.militarymarketing.co.uk



TIMS TAGS Military Identity Discs

Issue I.D Disks Marked To MOD

Specifications Or As Required £10 plus £1 P&P

TIMS TAGS

PO BOX 81

PE25 2WU

01754 761004

info@timstags.co.uk

www.timstags.co.uk



PEN PALS

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL

Please send for details enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to: **Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.**
Or visit **Soldier Magazine online at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk**
Email: hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk
All pen pal adverts must be prepaid
ONLY UK OR BFPO RESIDENT CAN APPLY.

Caroline (46), 5', petite with GSOH and green eyes. Enjoys swimming, country walks, the theatre, the cinema, eating out or quiet nights in. A non-smoker seeking male or female pen pals, 40-55. P087

Claudia (45), 5'4", medium build with light brown hair. Enjoys DIY, fitness, walking, learning new things and attending college. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P088

Mo (36), size 14, blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys walking, cycling, animals, the countryside and the outdoors. Seeking to make contact with single soldiers, please include photo, 25-40. P089

Tori, (38), 5'10", (with heels), slim, young at heart with green eyes and a wicked sense of humour. Works hard all week, rests and plays at weekends. Enjoys both nights in or out, Formula 1 addict, long walks whatever the weather. Vices are her family, mates, chocolate and red wine. Seeking single/divorced friendly handsome frogs (34-42), who have the potential to transform to equally handsome princes. P090

Joanne, 5'11", slim brunette with shoulder length hair and green eyes. Enjoys music, reading, writing and likes a laugh. Seeking pan pals, 30+. P091

Tracey, (34), 5'10", with blonde hair. Spontaneous but caring single mum with GSOH. Enjoys walking, socialising and the cinema. Great emailer! Seeking pen pals, 34-40. P092

Catherine, (53), 5'7". Enjoys keeping fit, books and the cinema. Seeking pen pals 48-55. P093

Dot who has quite a lot of spare time on her hands and is looking for a pen pal or perhaps someone who has no one to write to and maybe keep them up to date with the gossip. Enjoys a variety of things, ranging from music to cooking, a good listener which is due to her job. Seeking pen pals, some friends or maybe someone who she can cheer up with the occasional letter. P094

Vicky, (34), 5'5", long blonde hair, shapely, kind natured, cheeky sense of humour. Enjoys socialising, travelling, exploring, winter sports and looking for a new adventure. Seeking male fellow adventurers who are single, down to earth, confident and fun loving. P095

BOOKS

FREE MILITARY CATALOGUE. Books wanted, will collect. Marine & Cannon Books, Square House Farm, Tattenhall Lane, Tattenhall, Cheshire, CH3 9NH. Tel: 01829 771109.

YOUR MEMOIRS

written for you and produced as a book

*The ideal heirloom *A great gift

Be interviewed by a professional writer and have your story written as you want it.

Call Caroline Brannigan 01748 821041 (Yorkshire) www.carolinebrannigan.com

BUSINESS OPPS

IMMEDIATE EXTRA INCOME OPPORTUNITY. Earn £300 - £3000 +- pm from home, flexible hours around current commitments. Plus cash/travel/ car incentives. Tel: 01260 509121, visit www.escapethe9to5.com or text OWNBOSS to 07781 472747.

EASY CASH FOR SERVING AND PARTNERS OF SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

You could earn £800+ per month - no problem!

This is a part time job for which you can choose your own hours.

No investment required.

Just call 0800 619 2274 and ask for details.

CHECK OUT SOLDIER ONLINE WWW.SOLDIERMAGAZINE.CO.UK

FOR SALE

BRITISH ARMY CAP BADGES. Many scarce. Sae for list. Anthony Webb, 'Grenville House' 84 Merritt Road, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8SZ. www.webbmilitary.co.uk

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer Badges, medals, insignia. Send £2.00 For list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU. Email address george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk

CYPRUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, three bed, pool, villa for sale at €341,720. Rental income €1100pcm until June 2009. Tenants want to extend to 2010! Located Ypsonas close to Akrotiri and Episkopi. Web: <http://itorganisations.co.uk/cyprus>

RAMC Officer's Mess Service Dress and Tuxedo, (40" c & 32" w). Service & NR1's hat (54). Sam Browne George Boots (8), Tel. 07780 992950

Mike, ex-RE 65-89, now full time carer for his good lady has written two humorous books about growing up as a 'Barrack Rat' and his enlistment and training in the early 60s. £7.49 per book. See website: <http://www.crawldog.com/michaelruston/index.php> Tel: 01952 810912.

British Army badges 41 page illustrated catalogue offers: New Royal Regiment of Scotland, Special Reconnaissance Regiment, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Yorkshire Regiment plus Special Boat Squadron beret badges. Also latest tactical recognition flashes and 41 different DZ patches. Send £1.00 to Mike Lapworth, 26 Southdown Road, Bristol, BS9 3NL.

MILITARY WATCHES, CHONOGRAPHES. Pilots, Divers, Special Forces, Sae for list. Anthony Webb, 'Grenville House' 84 Merritt Road, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8SZ. www.webbmilitary.co.uk

Bioflow Magnetic Wristbands

Bioflow has many military users who report:

- Relief from Aches and Pains
- Improved Athletic Performance
- Reduced Fatigue and Faster Recovery



Refund if no benefits gained. New improved strap design

Call 01392 875909

or email pbs54@fsmail.net
Independent Distributor for Ecoflow plc

Silk & Polyester Ties

Silk or polyester ties made to order. Please call **08451 29 29 00** for further information. For individual ties visit our website www.SmartTurnout.com or email Sales@SmartTurnout.com

**A HISTORY
OF HAND GUNS
IN MINIATURE**

www.moonshinepewter.com

HOLIDAYS

Holiday Villas Cyprus

**10% discount
for all MOD personnel**

www.havenvilla.com

**Tel. 00357 26813270
Tel. (UK) 07005930900**

ADVENTURE TRAINING / R&R for Army Groups 12-30 AT LOW COST



Canoeing, Climbing,
Walking, Shooting,
Fishing, BBQ & beer

www.outdoorcentrescotland.co.uk
Brochure: 01687 462274

DIVING EXPEDS

• Scuba diving trips
• Liveaboard or hotel
• BSAC or PADI training
• Expert dive guides
• Knowledge of regulations; JSATFA, JSSADR's & SADS
Bespoke diving adventures
Call us: 0161 408 0078
www.violetultratravel.com

ORLANDO, luxury five bedroom villa, Disney six miles, heated pool, spa, two master en-suites and games room. Contact Derek Williams 01373 864987 or www.kellyw.demon.co.uk

FLORIDA, Orlando, three bedroom, two bathroom, luxury villa. Screened pool, air conditioned, sleeps six - eight. Golf course, tennis and ten minutes from Disney. Tel. 01793 644442. Web: www.orlandoholiday.org.uk

Costa Blanca Torrevieja (La Zena) new build semi-detached €180,000, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, separate cloakroom and Solarium. Ten minute walk from supermarket/pubs/restaurants. Bus route, twenty minute walk to beach. Ten minutes drive to golf clubs. Perfect property for living or renting, no car required. Value for money and investment. Want to know why low price? Then phone 02030044171. No middle man, no extra costs, house available now.

Bulgaria - Apartment sleeping four in Bansko Ski Resort. Winter skiing or summer walking, mountain biking etc. From £20 per night. Email: paul.spencer9@ntlworld.com

BLACKPOOL, enjoy two, three or five day break at South Shore Hotel run by ex-Army medic, five minutes from Pleasure Beach. Package includes oriental buffet dinner at nearby Gurkha Restaurant run by ex-Gurkha soldiers. Book early for illuminations Aug 29 – Nov 2. Tel. 01253 343968
Web: www.lintonhotelblackpool.co.uk
www.alpinehotel.co.uk

Costa Blanca Villa Joyosa, two apartments same complex, 50 meters from beach, sea view, large pool, 12km from Benidorm, each sleeps 4/5. Email: samm@gardencourtapartments.co.uk
Web: www.gardencourtapartments.co.uk

NOTICES

With the closure of Defence Food Services School, St Omer (formerly Army School of Catering, Depot ACC), the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess will not be able to accommodate all presentations that have been received over the years. This is an opportunity for individuals who presented a piece to reclaim it prior to the mess closure in January 2009. Please contact the Mess Manager on 01252 348017.

SERVICES

Worcester van and driver hire removals delivery collections all UK areas covered. Tel. Steve 01905 767515.

London, close to Whitehall and Westminster. Large bed-sit, Mon.-Fri. £80pw washbasin, bathroom shared 1 other, TV, bed linen & towels provided. Near buses & tubes. Tel. 0207 582 3610.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Helpline: 0845 769 7555
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Alcoholics Anonymous has more than 3,500 groups all over the country, designed to help those with a serious alcohol problem learn how to stay sober. Through friendship and mutual support, members assist each other in coping with the same problem. There are no dues or fees for membership and anonymity is carefully preserved. If you feel you have a drink problem you can contact Alcoholics Anonymous by using the helpline number.

For further information visit the website or write to PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ, Tel: 01904 644026

SPORT

Freefall Adventures, Florida
SKYDIVING COURSES IN FLORIDA
Freefall Adventures, Florida offer Military Discounted Skydiving Courses for complete beginners in beautiful Lake Wales, Florida. Advanced courses are also available. Our Skydiving School is British owned and operated. Located just 45 miles south of Orlando and all the main Florida attractions. Join us for extreme fun in the sun.
Our mailing address is:
Freefall Adventures, Florida
114 Melton Avenue, Sebastian, Florida 32958, USA
Tel: 001 772 388 0550
Email: SkydiveMik@aol.com
www.ffadventures.com

WANTED

GOING ON LEAVE?

Quote 41717760 to receive your official discounted rate.
To book your car call 0870 607 5000 or visit europcar.co.uk
Europcar
YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR.


Do you want to support our Armed Forces at Christmas?
Public support means a great deal to the Armed Forces: but well-intentioned parcels sent by the public can delay those sent by families and friends.
Visit www.mod.uk to find out alternative ways you can support our sailors, soldiers and airmen.

Movies

NOVEMBER REVIEW



Dynamic duo: Cinematic all-rounder Peter Berg (*The Kingdom*), above, joined forces with Will Smith (*The Pursuit of Happyness*) for the first time on the set of superhero flick *Hancock*



Super tramp

Hobo Hancock's scruffy demeanour hides a gleaming superhero movie

THERE are a few universal requirements for anyone considering a career as a superhero.

Alongside the obvious need for immense strength, immortality or the ability to fly, potential recruits also have to be willing to forego their dignity and wear garish lycra outfits.

But while Superman and Spiderman were worryingly quick to don scandalously-revealing jumpsuits, the eponymous anti-hero of *Hancock* shunned the regulation kit in favour of a slightly more unorthodox ensemble of a grubby T-shirt, shorts and a woolly hat.

The unique get-up is befitting for a unique superhero. Played by Oscar-nominee Will Smith, Hancock is a homeless alcoholic with a bad attitude and an even worse habit of leaving a trail of destruction everywhere he goes.

It was the distinctly un-super appearance of the anti-hero, allied to

the chance to work with Smith, that drew Peter Berg into directing the film, which is out on DVD next month.

"I had been trying to work with Will for a while and he said 'you should read *Hancock*,'" explained Berg. "I just loved the character. I love the idea of this alcoholic, destructive guy trying to solve crimes while he's inebriated, terrorising communities and just being a mess."

Compared to virtuous Clark Kent or clean-living Peter Parker, Hancock is a beer-swilling womaniser who has fallen dramatically out of favour with the people he tries to save.

Staggering drunkenly into harm's way, the scruffy superhero smashes buildings, kills whales and exposes himself to children – albeit inadvertently – in his attempts to save the day.

Hunted by the police and hated by the public, it is a chance meeting with idealistic publicist Ray Embrey (Jason

Bateman), who Hancock saves from being flattened by a train, that sets the vagrant on the straight and narrow.

Ditching the booze and even relenting enough to wear a lycra outfit, he redeems himself until he meets a woman (Charlize Theron) with similar powers and the key to his secret past.

Berg admits that the story of Hancock's circuitous route to redemption appealed to him more than a by-the-numbers superhero flick in the mould of *Superman*.

"The script didn't concern itself with a super villain and the origin sequence and the kryptonite sequence – it all felt like a different way in.

"It was really interesting. It felt fun, it felt intense, it felt big but it also felt like I could understand the characters."

As a veteran of 2007 blockbuster *The Kingdom*, in which Jamie Foxx leads an assault on a terrorist cell in



© 2008 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. and GH Three LLC. All Rights Reserved

Saudi Arabia, Berg is an expert on making dark, moody films.

Hancock's gruff exterior lends itself to a similarly gritty experience, but the drama is finely balanced with light relief by Smith and Bateman's banter.

And although Berg takes full responsibility for the film's "lean and mean" tone, he also took advice from an unexpected source.

"When I was editing *The Kingdom*, I have an eight-year-old son and every time he was in the edit room I'd have to kick him out because it was so violent. He'd mutter 'why can't you ever make a superhero movie', and he'd slam the door."

Berg's career as an actor, writer and director has seen him involved in all stages of the production process and he is currently back in the hot seat to direct *Dune*, which is due for release in 2010.

But rather than pigeonhole himself into one role, the 46-year-old is happy to continue spreading his talents across the board.

"It's fun to go walking onto a film set and be like, 'we're going to make Will Smith fly today'," he concluded. "I'll always go back and act and write, I'll do a big budget, a little budget, a play.

"I do not really care – I love the experience." ■



Hancock, out on DVD/Blu-ray from December 1

SAVING the world is, as we all know, a job for **Will Smith**. This is a role he's comfortable in – usually playing the accidental hero. Yet in assuming the title role in **Peter Berg's** action-packed comedy *Hancock*, Smith turns his polite American-boy-scout persona on its head. Hancock is a sarcastic alcoholic superhero who needs a drastic image makeover before Los Angeles evicts him. Cue the arrival of PR man Ray Embrey (**Jason Bateman**), and his wife Mary (**Charlize Theron**) who appears to hate Hancock but is hiding a dark secret herself. An easy-to-watch film, there is a surprising twist which could pave the way for a possible sequel. For those who caught the film at the cinema, bonus materials include five featurettes, which take viewers "backstage" on *Hancock*.

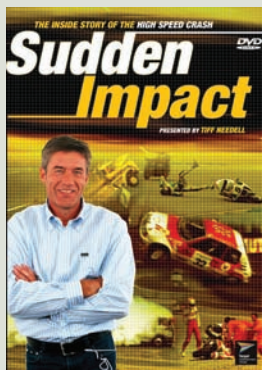
● Courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, we've got a copy of *Hancock* on DVD and Blu-ray – and a Sony Blu-ray player (pictured below) to watch it on – to give away. To have a chance of winning tell us the name of the boxer Will Smith brought to the silver screen. Five runners-up will receive a copy of *Hancock* on DVD.

Answers by postcard to the address at the front of the magazine or by email (comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) to reach us by November 28. Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers. The usual rules apply.



Black Watch, out to own on DVD now

FILMED by the BBC, this play tackles the experiences of the Black Watch during their deployment to Camp Dogwood in Iraq (2004). Writer **Gregory Burke** interviewed Op Telic veterans ahead of production and at times you forget that you're not watching real soldiers – such is the authenticity of the language and mannerisms adopted by the cast. Although unlikely to challenge today's blockbusters, this play is a cut above and a must see. **LCpl Chris MacCallum, 233 MI Section, Int Corps**



Tiff Needell's Sudden Impact, on DVD now

IN the second series of *I'm Alan Partridge* our hero presents a compilation of car accidents – *Crash Bang Wallop, What a Video!* – which features a glib voice-over, miniscule production values, dreadful music and very little entertainment. And here, in a bad case of life imitating art, is **Needell** doing exactly that. Without a trace of irony, he wanders around a scrapyard introducing a succession of crashes culled from cable channels. Mercifully brief, the DVD offers up broken bones and even death in the name of entertainment. Avoid. **Daniel King, MoD**



Chocolate, out to own on DVD from November 3

CHOCOLATE is a Thai-made martial arts film about a young girl called Zen (**JeeJa Yanin**). She goes on a crusade to collect money for her mother, an ex-mobster who needs chemotherapy. As random as the plot sounds, this film has some fantastic fight scenes, which border on the far-fetched, and a fair bit of humour. Fans of director **Prachya Pinkaew** – who shot **Tony Jaa** to fame – will note the style similarities between *Chocolate* and *Ong-Bak*. I'd recommend this movie to fans of the newer Thai films that don't use wire-fu or CGI. **Cpl Dan Jones, Int Corps**



While She Was Out, out to own on DVD now

CAN an angry note left on a badly parked car start a murderous feud? Apparently so, when a quick trip to the local shopping mall turns into a violent fight for survival in the woods. Chased by four thugs, Della (**Kim Basinger**) has to change from timid housewife to resourceful vigilante. Not one of Basinger's best performances – her character is an unlikeable melodramatic and is uncomfortable to watch. The predictable, disjointed story has no substance beyond the catalytic note, and struggles to keep your attention throughout. **LCpl Paul Thomas, Int Corps**

Games

NOVEMBER REVIEW



Protect and survive: *Fallout 3* features an innovative combat system matched with impressive open-world gameplay



Facing oblivion

Players confront nightmare future in the aftermath of a nuclear attack

Preview: Cliff Caswell

FOLLOWING in the wake of the legendary fantasy role-playing hit *Oblivion*, expectations were always going to be high for Bethesda's latest sprawling epic.

Set in a future where large chunks of civilisation have been obliterated in a nuclear holocaust, *Fallout 3* is a reality apart from the goblin-infested, Middle Earth-like world of its predecessor. Instead of spells and sword-wielding knights, this grim tomorrow puts players in a nightmare future of radiation, unexploded ordnance and violent vagrants.

All this might sound a touch clichéd, but from the previews *Soldier* has sampled, this looks to be one of the strongest contenders we've seen so far for game of the year.

Due out on Xbox 360, PS3 and PC as this issue went to press, the game is set in the extraordinary open-world landscape of a bombed out Washington

DC. And the huge depth of gameplay and cast of off-the-wall characters will undoubtedly give it cult status.

Emil Paglaurulo, lead designer on the title, said the completion of *Fallout 3* had been the culmination of a huge quest in itself. But he is delighted with the end product and, in particular, the way that the real-world locations have translated onto the screen.

"I started doing the pre-production work, including outlining the story and developing the quests, around four years ago, so it has been a long road," he admitted. "But creating large, open-world games is what our fans expect of us – it is Bethesda's hallmark and we have a lot of experience in that area."

"We decided to set *Fallout 3* in Washington DC for a couple of reasons. I'm a voracious gamer and have played through many different environments, and yet DC isn't on my list. But it is such an amazing location and it's also in our own backyard. If we couldn't do it justice, nobody could."

The bombed out locations of the US capital city are an unfailingly depressing location for *Fallout's* apocalyptic story. Set in the year 2277, two centuries after a nuclear attack, the player has emerged from the safety of a shelter cryptically known as the Vault. Simply staying alive in the contaminated environment and avoiding death by radiation poisoning is a challenge. Add fighting into the mix and life can get very sticky indeed.

"Combat in *Fallout 3* is different to *Oblivion* and not just because there are guns involved," said Paglaurulo. "We came up with an initiative called the Vault-Tec Assisted Targeting System, which allows players to pause time, target the limbs of the enemy and approach the combat tactically."

"You get to see the moves you have made in a sort of third-person action playback mode, which is incredibly cool because it is usually incredibly gory."

In the aftermath of the nuclear bombardment, the wasteland is awash with ordnance. But as well as



the standard firearms arsenal and hand-to-hand tools such as knuckledusters, players can improvise and come up with their own inventions.

"We have a set of weapons the player can construct using items found in the wasteland," said Paglairulo. "A couple of examples are the Rock-It Launcher, which actually uses junk as ammo and the Railway Rifle that shoots spikes – I'm pretty confident in saying that we have something for everyone."

Certainly *Fallout 3* looks to have a broad appeal, and it is already gaining a strong fan base.

"We won Best of Show at the E3 event in Los Angeles but we had our first public play through at the Penny Arcade Expo exhibition in Seattle and it was amazing to witness," Paglairulo said. "It was like a spectator event, with a crowd huddled around a monitor."

"So while E3 was awesome for the press reaction, the Expo showed us that gamers as a whole were really eating this up."

Paglairulo's confidence is well founded. *Soldier* was given access to early demos of the game, and it has impressed ever since. With a bizarre story, outstanding graphics and a soundtrack to match, being involved in a nuclear war has never been so much fun. ■



Prince of Persia, Xbox 360 & PS3

UBISOFT'S *Prince of Persia* series has always been an acquired taste, but its first outing on the latest generation of consoles is hugely impressive. *Soldier* has now sampled the game and, from the levels we played, it looks a definite winner. Overhauled from the bottom up, the title features an all-new storyline and cast of characters matched with outstanding graphics and a beautifully rendered musical score. Inspired by Middle Eastern mythology, *Prince of Persia* oozes atmosphere and plays as good as it looks. Highly recommended.



WIN: An Xbox 360 and Saints Row 2

SOLDIER has teamed up with publisher THQ to get the festive season off to a winning start. We have a copy of the exceptionally fun gangster game *Saints Row 2* plus an Xbox 360 to play it on for one lucky reader. The sequel to the 2006 hit, the new *Saints Row* instalment puts players back in the thick of the action with rival mobsters in a turf battle. The game is every bit as good as the original. To stand a chance of winning, tell us which notorious American gangster was played by Robert De Niro in the 1987 film *The Untouchables*.



James Bond: Quantum of Solace, Xbox 360

THE *James Bond* franchise has been particularly patchy in recent years. After making a fine start with *Goldeneye* on the Nintendo 64, successive titles have ranged from the mediocre *Night Fire* to the downright dreadful *Rogue Agent*. Thankfully, *Quantum of Solace* marks a spectacular return to form. Powered by the *Call of Duty 4* engine, the first-person shooter is in the same league as *Goldeneye*, sporting a strong single player campaign and action-packed multiplayer options. *Quantum of Solace* is an exceptional movie tie-in and well worth a look.



WIN: Brothers in Arms, Xbox 360

UNDOUBTEDLY among the finest war games to be released this year, *Brothers in Arms: Hell's Highway* returns players to the front line of the Second World War. This time the campaign of choice is Operation Market Garden, where the Allies suffered a comprehensive defeat. The squad-based shooter puts players in command of fire teams in a bloody struggle for survival against the Germans. We have three copies of this superb title to give away. To enter, simply tell us which year during the Second World War the ill-fated Market Garden was launched.



Fifa 09, Xbox 360 & PS3

FIFA fans expect this much-hyped series to top the football games league and the latest update is certain to challenge for honours. All of the world's major clubs and players are present and correct and the career mode allows gamers to guide a virtual version of themselves from obscurity to international stardom. Improved computer defending means that patient passing moves are now more likely to get you a slice of goal pie than the Maradona-esque solo runs that worked in past incarnations. Smooth graphics and a fresh soundtrack further ensure that *Fifa 09* lives up to its considerable reputation.



WIN: Samba de Amigo, Nintendo Wii

WITH Christmas festivities around the corner, we have two copies of this outstanding party piece to give away. *Samba de Amigo* gets players using the Wii-mote and Nunchuck controllers as maracas to play along to Latin hits. There are also a fair few mini games, including beach volleyball, to try during musical breaks. To enter our competition, simply tell us from which South American country the tango dance originates. Answers by postcard to the address at the front of the magazine or by email (comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) to reach us by November 28. Usual rules apply.

Music

NOVEMBER REVIEW



Italian inspiration: Global superstar DJ Alex Gaudino knew exactly where he was going when chart-busting remix *Destination Calabria* marched straight up the UK charts to the number one spot



Numero uno DJ

Dance club commander gets the front-line thumbs up from British troops

Interview: Karen Thomas

CERTAIN soundtracks just make the war movie – think Martin Sheen, helicopters and *Ride of the Valkyries* in *Apocalypse Now* and you'll get the picture.

But is the volume turned up full blast when playing some banging tunes on the real life front line? During a recent visit to southern Afghanistan, *Soldier* touched down at Kandahar in a C-130 to the classic *Eton Rifles* courtesy of The Jam and a funky RAF crew that had obviously slipped through the net during recruitment.

The reviews of a snap poll on who's shuffling what on their iPod while downloading a few sounds of the lethal variety in the Taliban's direction are on the opposite page. From classical to rock, RnB to dance, fighting troops are having it large to some massive tunes, including Alex Gaudino's *Destination Calabria* ft Crystal Waters.

"It's a surprise, but also an honour.

My job is easier than theirs so respect," the Italian DJ told *Soldier*, amazed that his floor-stomping UK number one was reverberating around Helmand.

The popularity of the mash-up track among the male population was possibly due to more than a passing wink at the raunchy videos that accompany Gaudino's remixes. Scantly-clad women with taut – but no doubt air-brushed – buttocks moving suggestively against their saxophones stopped many a fitness freak in his treadmill tracks at the garrison gym.

Hot on *Destination Calabria*'s heel was *Watch Out* ft Shena. The DJ and a mate select sizzling fantasy football teams of yet more fit women in postage stamp-sized clothing. There were never going to be any losers and Gaudino confessed he almost became a professional soccer player "like Rod Stewart".

The Salerno-born artist reckoned his remix successes and huge fan base flocking to the world's most prestigious dance club venues to witness the master

in action were down to a team effort. His album, *My Destination*, is scheduled for release before the end of the year and Gaudino was keen that his studio and backstage support took a bow.

"I'm lucky because I have a great team in the studio, people I've been working with for years. It's a really important part of what I do but nothing beats mixing in a club. The energy buzz is fantastic. I believe that there is one big international club nation. Music unites and brings peace. I have fun everywhere," said Gaudino, whose biggest gig had 65,000 Brazilian clubbers with their hands in the air.

Resident at Ibiza's exclusive Eden venue for last summer's partying sessions, the DJ has declared a passion for music that includes rock and pop as well as his favourite dance tracks. He admits there's little method to his mixing genius. Sometimes he gets hit by a vocal and then hunts for the backing track but if he finds a fantastic sample he's equally at ease crafting a



sumptuous melody on it. From an early age, Gaudino never underestimated the power of music.

"I started DJing as a teenager at friends' parties using cassettes – remember them? I was influenced by everything I heard and I knew music had to be a big part of my life," he explained, adding how he'd DJ-ed in some weird venues just to get a foot in the club scene door.

Perseverance and passion paid off in 1993 when Gaudino founded what would become one of Europe's most respected labels, RISE Records. Having scaled the heights of several countries' music charts, the DJ pinpointed the turning point to his success as the moment *Destination Calabria* marched out of the clubs and on to the pop scene.

Now his imminent album could soon find its way on to the MP3 players of troops heading to Ops Telic and Herrick.

"It's a double album and a kind of compendium of productions and remixes I've done over the past year. I don't have a favourite track but I really like the one called *I'm a DJ*, which I identify with for obvious reasons.

"It is a glimpse of my world. It's about putting your troubles behind you and having fun, and always looking at the bright side." ■

Afghan audio: What's on Herrick troops' iPods?



Pte Paban "Bobbie" Rai, RLC

I AM a chef at Camp Bastion but I was sent to Forward Operating Base Gibraltar for six weeks. There I listened to soft music on my headphones. I like **Leona Lewis** and her UK chart number one *Bleeding Love*. But I also played **Westlife's Home** because I wanted to go home. I really missed my family, friends and even the dog. I especially missed my boyfriend who was posted to Sangin. I listen to Nepalese and Hindu music because it's really different and I feel close to my roots and my home surroundings. I prefer to listen to gentle tunes while I'm serving in Afghanistan and if people play really heavy rock it gives me a headache.



Cpl Paul Steel, R Signals

AT Kajaki I listened to my iPod at night under my mosquito net to help me relax and go to sleep. I like music from the 1980s such as **Madness** and **Duran Duran** but I would say **Paulo Nutini** is the front-line artist out here. He's mellow and you can read into his lyrics as you listen. I go running to more up-tempo tracks like club music and RnB. I really like **Usher** and *Love in this Club* is a favourite of mine. Another is **Kanye West's Stronger** because you can listen to the lyrics and think "yeah" when you are training or out here. I'd like the **Kooks** to come out and perform live, as I listened to their debut album when I was out here the first time on Op Herrick 4.



Cpl Gavin Jenkins, 3 Para

I LISTEN to everything except scouse house – crazy fast dance – and 3 Para are big fans of **Johnny Cash** from the last Op Herrick tour in 2006. In my down time I listen to music that sends you to a nice place of sunshine and beaches such as the sounds of **Paulo Nutini** and **Jose Gonzalez**. These artists are commonly liked among the blokes. I stay with music with more meaningful tracks and I really like **Keane's Bedshaped**. If a band was to come out here and perform for the troops, I'd like to see Paulo Nutini. I haven't seen him live but I did get to chat with him once and it made my day.



Pte Stellah Chinyanga, RLC

I PANICKED when I broke my iPod but I can listen to music on my laptop. I'm a chef and into RnB artists like **Chris Brown**. I'm listening to his hit single *With You* – I just really like it. I also like club beat music and I'm a fan of **Usher** and *Love in this Club*, the first single released from his latest album, *Here I Stand*. When people go on R&R they bring back new music we can listen to, but other than that there's no way of keeping up with the latest releases. I'd like to see Usher live and I'd love to see him perform out here. The front-line kitchen soundtrack playing out here in Camp Bastion at the moment is *Rockstar* by **Nickelback**.



Sgt Neil Homewood, 2 Scots

I WAS at Kajaki for four-and-a half-months. During the bit of downtime we got, I turned on to guitar-based music with a bit of rock – **Stereophonics**, **Muse**, **Radiohead** and **The Fratellis**. This music takes me back to all the concerts I've been to, as these are the bands I go to see. Muse are the best live act in the world, and that is fact. I'm gutted that I missed their Wembley concert because I was over here. My top choice for having a band out here would probably be Muse or the Stereophonics, as Kelly Jones is amazing. Music is a big part of my life and I'd be lost without my iPod, especially on ops because you need it out here. They should be standard issue.



Pte Chris Foster, 3 Para

I HAVE just come back to our camp at Kandahar after smashing my leg at a forward operating base in Helmand and I'm here to rehabilitate. I don't have an iPod but I listen to everyone else's. My favourite bands are the **Clash** and **Zutons**, and I like most RnB and **Taio Cruz**. While I am nursing my injury I'm listening to **The Fray** and the track *On Call* from the **Kings of Leon's** third album, *Because of the Times*. I can't get the latest music because of being out here but I'm keen to hear their new album, *Only By The Night*. If 3 Para are trying to get morale up for an operation we listen to *Ride of the Valkyries* to take the mickey. My front-line band would have to be the **Foo Fighters**.

Books

NOVEMBER REVIEW



For King and country: Former England rugby captain Ronald Poulton Palmer, pictured slicing through the French defence in 1914 and, inset, in uniform, willingly served his nation on two fronts



Army's ruck star

Great War took England captain from the football field to the killing fields

The Greater Game by Clive Harris and Julian Whippy (Pen & Sword, hardback, £19.99).

Review: Maj Mike Peters, AAC

THE British Army long ago realised the importance of physical fitness in battle and as a result sport has featured prominently in its soldiers' lives since 1860.

This book focuses on those early days and on the many sportsmen who fought in the Great War. The stories selected by the authors feature athletes who were striving for sporting excellence as Europe raced remorselessly towards war in the summer of 1914.

Most *Soldier* readers will not have heard of Lt Ronald Poulton Palmer, but before becoming a soldier he was prominent among the pre-war sporting giants of Edwardian England. Along with the 13 other gladiators featured he was at the peak of his career when war broke out.

In company with thousands of their fans and supporters, the nation's heroes of track and field were swept along in the race to serve their King and country. In many cases they led the march from the sports pitch to the recruiting office. Clive Harris and Julian Whippy have set out to tell the sum of the stories of the many icons who relinquished their sporting colours, donned khaki and volunteered to take part in the "Greater Game".

Palmer was born a member of the wealthy Huntley and Palmer biscuit family. A Rugby Union international, he captained England in the four fixtures preceding the war and at the end of the 1914 season was described by one sports magazine as "the most conspicuous figure in the Rugby world".

It would be fair to describe him as the Johnny Wilkinson of his day, but that is where the similarity between the sporting icons of then and now ends. The 1914 England skipper and many of

his peers were also serving Territorials.

Palmer had enlisted in The Green Howards where his natural leadership qualities made him an effective and popular officer. He was killed in action in 1915 after falling victim to a sniper's bullet while supervising the repair of a front-line trench.

The loss of such a sporting superstar sent ripples across the English speaking world far out of proportion to his military status as a platoon commander.

What comes to the fore from the opening chapter of *The Greater Game* is the depth of knowledge shared by its authors. Their experience as accomplished battlefield guides coupled with their intimate understanding of events on the Western Front adds great detail and colour to Palmer's story and those of the 13 other sporting idols. It is obvious from the content and informed narrative that they have completed extensive research into each of the sportsmen and their respective fates.



The book also recounts the stories of the battalions who recruited from sporting clubs and leagues all over Britain, one of the most famous of which was the 16th Battalion of The Royal Scots, formed in Edinburgh around the footballers of Heart of Midlothian FC.

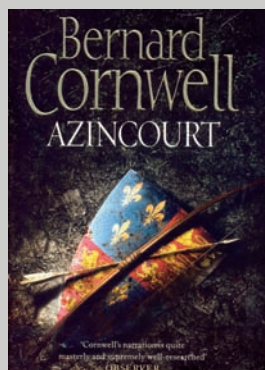
It is hard to imagine the likes of Steven Gerrard and Johnny Wilkinson stepping off their fields of play and volunteering to leave their clubs to join the Army.

Many of the sportsmen who enlisted to do just that in the Great War were of similar stature to the two modern professionals mentioned. They spearheaded the thousands of men who stepped off the football pitches, athletics tracks and Wimbledon's centre court to take their place in the ranks. Many of the most well known were destined to lead their peers into no man's land and never return.

Their stories are drawn together by two authors who have successfully captured the patriotism and appetite for sport that inspired an entire generation.

Whether you count yourself as a sportsperson or not, this book is fascinating and at a price of £19.99 it's a winner. ■

To join the ranks of our reviews team email asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Azincourt by Bernard Cornwell

THE author best known for penning the *Sharpe* series returns to the fray with this new novel. *Azincourt* follows the life of Nicholas Hook, an outlawed archer-turned-mercenary, and his exploits in England and France and later as a member of the invading army of King Henry V. Written with **Cornwell's** usual eye for detail, the narrative is gripping from the outset. The characters are well-rounded and the action is meticulous in its description. A must read for fans of Cornwell and a perfect introduction for those new to the author.

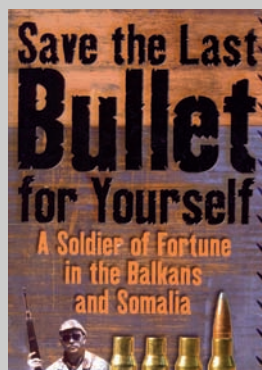
Cpl Dan Jones, Int Corps



A Magnificent Disaster by David Bennett

OPERATION Market Garden (Arnhem, 1944) has been covered exhaustively by other books, but this title provides interesting commentaries on the significant tensions between the British and Americans and also of the casual distaste of the Polish forces by our commanders. While overall a good read, the book is not without its flaws. The featured maps and photos aren't brilliant and the writing, at times, lacks consistency. There are better books out there for those who know little about this ill-fated op.

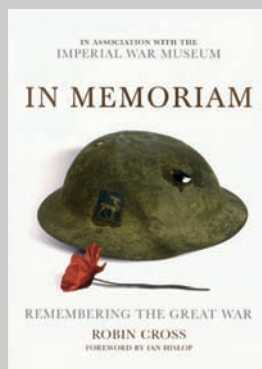
LCpl Chris MacCallum, 242 MI Section, Int Corps



Save the Last Bullet for Yourself by Rob Krott

THIS account of a US Reservist captain's work as a mercenary in the Balkans in the early 90s is far from being a tale of *Wild Geese*. Indeed, **Krott** tells of a "lame duck" band consisting of warmongers and wannabes which stretches from his life as a bored civilian to being a military instructor and advisor to the Croatian forces during one of the bloodiest periods of the Balkans' history. A cautionary tale to anyone considering work in this field, where "professional soldiering" is a term used extremely lightly.

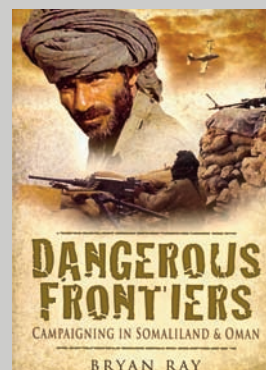
Capt David Greaves, REME



In Memoriam by Robin Cross

THE latest First World War offering from the Imperial War Museum's impressive "accessible history" library. Not designed as a deep academic evaluation of the war, the reader is taken quickly from its causes through the Eastern and Western Fronts to the war's conclusion. Written predominantly as a tribute to the combatants of the Great War, this wonderfully illustrated book blends an historical overview of the conflict with moving personal accounts from some of its participants. A great Christmas present.

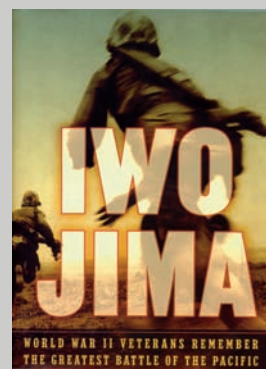
Maj Neil Powell, AGC



Dangerous Frontiers by Bryan Ray

AN extremely modest insight into the author's experiences of serving as an officer in two Middle Eastern theatres. The chapters are divided between his times as a 19-year-old lieutenant commanding Muslim troops in British Somaliland and later in his career serving as a contract officer in the Sultan of Oman's Army. I found the whole story interesting but the chapters covering the 70s campaign in Oman are particularly topical. Fighting in the Middle East was obviously done differently back then – cold beer, shorts and sandals were clearly de rigueur.

Maj Mike Peters, AAC



Iwo Jima

by Larry Smith

IMMORTALISED in **Clint Eastwood's** film *Flags of Our Fathers*, Iwo Jima was one of the most brutal battles of the Second World War. Squaring up to thousands of Japanese soldiers willing to die for their homeland, the US Marines were forced to fight for every inch of a tiny volcanic island. **Larry Smith's** interviews with the surviving American veterans and relatives of the Japanese defenders makes for fascinating reading and provides a sobering insight into the bitter Far East campaign. *Iwo Jima* is both emotional and compelling.

THE BIGGEST MEN'S SIZE 12 -19 FOOTWEAR COLLECTION

Big Feet?

■ Sports ■ Formal ■ Smart ■ Casual ■ Work Boots ■ Tall Clothing ■

Hundreds Of Big Size Branded Footwear Styles

Nike
Adidas
Asics
Dr Martins
New Balance
Timberland
Columbia
Reebok
Merrell
+ Many more

'We deliver to BFPO addresses' Order today

CALL NOW FOR A FREE WALKTALL FOOTWEAR AND TALL CLOTHING CATALOGUE
01458 449020

Order online now at www.walktall.co.uk

Walktall

Are you owed £2,000?

Have you had a loan from

Abbey
Alliance & Leicester
First Plus
Halifax

HSBC
Lloyds TSB
NatWest/RBS
Northern Rock

or any bank or building society?

If you did, there is a good chance you had a **payment protection insurance** policy and you may not even know it.

You may be due £000's in compensation even if you no longer have the loan.

Call us now on

0800 612 0000

for a free assessment (9-6pm Mon-Thurs, 9-5pm Fri)

Our average compensation is over £2,000

No Upfront Fees



What have you got to lose?

Renaissance
easy claim

visit www.easiestclaim.co.uk to take our quick test

Renaissance Easy Claim is a trading name of Renaissance Endowment Review Services Limited which is regulated by the Ministry of Justice in respect of regulated claims management activities. Reg No. CRM1469

nite | timepieces | **Unsurpassed Performance**

Every one of our advanced military watches is equipped with tritium illumination, which can be instantly read in all light conditions.

Our range of watches rank alongside the best in the world - the standard specification includes: Swiss movements, high grade solid stainless steel cases, double-locking bracelet clasps, double-toothed stainless steel buckles and ultra-thick Sapphire crystals.

If you're a serious professional, you need a serious timepiece - **only from Nite.**

Order your Nite watches and NitePalm products direct from the *Soldier* Magazine sales hotline:
01252 347353

TX10 RRP: £175
Advanced one piece construction

MX20 RRP: £190
Combines strength and durability

GX80 RRP: £250
Feature packed chronograph

You can order online at: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SOLDIER
2009 Calendar

Out of sight, but not out of mind.
A tribute by *Soldier* and military photographers to troops on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Only £4.99

SOLDIER
2009 CALENDAR

To order, call 01252 347353 or visit www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



SOLDIERSPORT



KICK OFF

**High hopes
for youthful
Reds' new
season**

Red wall: Hoping to topple the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy in this year's Inter-Services tournament are (clockwise from front) LCpl Danny Haley (R Signals), Cpl Rene Regis (AGC), Cpl Paul Douglass (RLC) and Cpl Karl Dean (Infantry)

Picture: Graeme Main

Smells like

With Inter-Services bragging rights at stake, the Army men's and women's

Interviews: Stephen Tyler
Picture: Graeme Main

GRUMPY Scot Alan Hansen has a unique claim to fame among the much-maligned ranks of television football pundits.

Despite the frequent faux pas of his contemporaries, Hansen's assertion that Manchester United's reliance on youth would cost them the 1995/96 title was arguably the most extravagantly off-target prediction in Premiership history.

As if making such a reckless statement on national television was not embarrassing enough, the former Liverpool man's argument – "you'll never win anything with kids" – is now being challenged by a young Army squad intent on winning back the Inter-Services title.

"We are starting this season with a very youthful side," explained first team coach Capt Steve Bates (RE). "But it is also very talented and the main objective for all of us is to make sure we win back that title."

"The team is changing – there is no doubt about that – but we have some exceptional players and will reap the benefits for years to come."

Despite an average age of 24, the Army plays with great self-belief and showed great character to come back from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 with Middlesex in the opening match of this year's Southern Counties Championship.

Skipper LCpl Danny Haley (224 Sig

Sqn) told *SoldierSport* that the team's new players have integrated seamlessly with the old guard to create a strong sense of unity in the changing room.

And although the Reds will be doing their utmost to finish top of the pile in the county league, Haley's focus is already drifting on to next March's battles with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The Army propped up the three-team table last year after losing 3-0 to eventual champions the RAF and stuttering to a 1-1 home draw with the Navy.

"Obviously we want to win every game we play, but if we lost everything apart from the Inter-Services we would still think it was a good season," he said. "We were devastated with the results last year and every one of us is determined to put that right this time."

"We've got a strong side with competition for places all over the pitch. It's a good set of lads."

To counter limitations on the amount of time they can spend together as a team – players meet the day before a match and depart after the final whistle – the Reds have a well-oiled backroom set-up.

Manager Maj Steve Jackson (R Signals) ensures individuals are available for matches and training and, along with Bates, travels around the country watching games to spot future stars.

Bates, who took a year out last year to deploy to Afghanistan, said that the dedication of Jackson and senior team chairman Lt Col Mick Cotton (AGC)

enabled him to concentrate on "bibs, balls and cones".

"I came back because I enjoy being with this team," he said. "The work that goes on behind the scenes means I can focus on the players on the pitch."

If the Reds needed proof that their youth-over-experience policy might be enough to down the RAF, they need look no further than 23-year-old Rfn David Etale (3 Rifles).

The Kenyan centre forward has been a revelation in front of goal, scoring twice in his first two matches since being spotted hammering home a 30-yard free kick for the Infantry team.

Twenty two-year-old left winger LBdr Christian Holliday's (RA) pace and trickery was the catalyst for the comeback against Middlesex.

And if the youngsters fall short, experienced campaigners such as goalkeeper Cpl Karl Dean (Infantry) and St Lucian international defender Cpl Rene Regis (AGC) are ready, willing and able to pick up the baton.

Bates believes that the growing team spirit within the Army camp will be vital if his side is to reclaim its position at the top of the Services tree.

"They appreciate the work that is being put in, especially by Steve, and their professional attitude is first-rate. The Army team isn't cliquey – if you're good enough then you will play," he said.

"We have a good relationship. The line is there and the lads respect it, but we don't run this team as a regime where we bark orders at them. The support that the lads give each other is brilliant and that is going to be important for us." ■

'We have some exceptional players and will reap the benefits for years to come'



team spirit

football sides hope raw talent will propel them to this season's silverware

A BATTLING second-half performance made up for a slow start as the Army Women's football team came from behind to defeat London FA.

With a place in this season's final squad up for grabs, 30 players were given the chance to showcase their skills in a friendly against the capital team at Aldershot's Military Stadium.

The first 11 to take to the pitch struggled to find their form and fell two goals behind before star striker Pte Kim Holden (RLC) inspired a comeback to give the home team a 3-2 victory.

Speaking after the win, coach Capt Sandra Hodgson (RLC) was confident that the performance boded well for a busy season in which the Army hopes to retain the Inter-Services and South West Counties Championship titles it won last year.

"I am pleased that we gave a decent performance in both halves, even if the second half was a bit stronger," she said. "Being able to field so many players who are capable of performing at this level is a good sign for Army football."

"I want to keep on encouraging people to come along so we can build on the team for the future."

Of the 30 players selected for trials, 25 have been kept on in the senior squad, with the remaining five being asked to try out for a place in next year's team.

Pacey forward Holden showed why she is attracting interest from some of the country's top clubs by terrorising the London defence.

Despite the opposition's brace, the Army

kept their cool and got back in to the match through midfielder Cfn Hayley "Heskey" Johnson (REME).

Johnson demonstrated an impressive positional sense throughout the opening exchanges and it was no surprise to see her bursting in to the area to pick up a loose ball and sweep it into the corner of the net.

A much-changed team in the second half dominated possession and a well-taken brace from Holden swung the result the way of the Reds.

Despite the goal-scoring heroics of Holden, Hodgson was quick to praise her side's strength-in-depth.

"Kim is a quick girl who is as good as the best county-level player we come up against," she continued. "Having said that, she's in the privileged position of putting the ball in the back of the net but she has ten other players backing her up."

"There were some sterling performances on the night across the board. I'm not 100 per cent sure if Heskey is a central midfielder, but her positioning and awareness is good and she has an excellent football brain."

The Army begins its defence of the South West Counties Championship away to Gloucestershire on November 13 before trips to the Royal Air Force on November 26 and Cornwall in January. The final match against Guernsey takes place in Aldershot on February 7.

With some high profile fixtures on the horizon, Hodgson has kept her players on their toes with a warning that no-one is guaranteed a place in the team.

"It's not so bad in the friendlies, but

when we start our competitive fixtures I'm going to have a huge problem in picking the starting 11," she said.

"Four or five years ago people might have looked at the team and thought it was a bit cliquey and that the same players started each game, but last season I don't think I played the same line-up at any stage because I pick my team based on performances in training." ■

Suitable start: A spirited fightback against Middlesex earned the Army men's team a 3-3 draw in their opening Southern Counties League fixture. The match was held at Aldershot's Military Stadium where admission is free for all Army senior team fixtures

‘ There were some sterling performances on the night ’





Power slide: Jackie Gunn (opposite page, inset) hopes to improve on her ninth place finish in Turin if she qualifies for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Canada

Horses for Forces

SERVICE charities are set to benefit from an action-packed day at the races being staged at Newcastle Racecourse this month.

The venue plays host to the WBX.com Fighting Fifth Hurdle Day on Saturday, November 29 when some of the UK and Ireland's champion hurdlers will battle it out in six races.

And as if the chance to see some top-flight racing was not a big enough draw, the event will also be raising money for Help for Heroes, Combat Stress, the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association and the Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help.

Organiser Andrew Scullion said: “The race day is run once a year in conjunction with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. It's a chance for Service people to have a day out, stand tall and take the plaudits they deserve.”

The day's main event is the WBX.com Fighting Fifth Hurdle which, along with the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton and the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham, makes up the £1 million Triple Crown.

Grade two races include the

Rehearsal Chase and French Furze Novices Hurdle. Military bands and displays will add further sparkle to the pre-Christmas day out while Servicemen and women and their friends and families will enjoy discounted standard entry on grandstand and paddock tickets by booking in advance.

Military personnel can gain entry to either area for just £10 – normal price £17 – by purchasing tickets from Newcastle Racecourse's booking line on 0191 2362020 and quoting offer code **FORCES** by November 21. ■

Smoking Gunn

Olympic bobsleigh star vows to be firing on all cylinders by 2010 Games

Interview: Samantha Chapman
Pictures: Graeme Main

ICE queen Cpl Jackie Gunn has set her sights on a berth at the 2010 Winter Olympics after announcing Nicola Minichiello as her new partner in the two-man bobsleigh.

Leaning against the training run at the University of Bath, Gunn says the pair have what it takes to bring back their first gold medal from next season's World Championships.

Success at that event will almost certainly result in the duo being picked for the Winter Games in Vancouver the following year.

"I really think this is going to be the best year for female bobsleighters," said Gunn. "I am positive about this season and I am expecting us to win a medal at the championships. We are definitely more than capable of that."

Gunn, of 3 Div Signal Regiment, and Minichiello, a teacher, have already earned their stripes with a silver at Calgary in the 2005 World Championships – the first women to do so for Great Britain in the bobsleigh.

Following that, the pair were selected to represent Great Britain in the 2006 Turin Winter Games, rising to the challenge with the fastest second run they had ever produced.

A few hitches on the third run resulted in lost time and a ninth place finish which was ultimately disheartening for a pair intent on gold.

Gunn decided to extend her ambitions by learning to drive the bobsleigh, and Minichiello acquired a new brakeman, but a disappointing showing at last year's World Championships convinced the Army athlete to go back to pulling the brakes.

"2006 was disappointing," said Gunn. "But we truly believe we can do so much better now. Last year I was ranked 14th, which is Olympic standard, and while I was there I saw how much Nicola had progressed as a driver and I knew we would do well together."

"She was so much more confident and I could see that if I went back to being a brakeman, we would make a great team."

"It is really competitive now. In a way I was much more secure as a driver as there are so few of them, and therefore more opportunity to be picked for the GB team for the Olympics."

"When I was in Germany in September there was only three hundredths of a second between the top three girls in braking. When it is that close, one of us would be picked for the Olympic team on experience and I am keeping on top of my game so that I

have that opportunity."

Although Gunn and Minichiello are already back in training together, each has a different partner for the forthcoming season.

Gunn's new driver will be Gillian Cook, also a Scottish long jumper.

The Army star will also be training Cook on how to be a successful brakeman, but was full of confidence when asked whether she was worried about her pupil eventually becoming a rival for Olympic selection.

"Not at all," she laughed. "If someone beats me I want it to be because they are better than me – not because I put them at a disadvantage by not properly training them. I will teach Gillian everything I know."

Gunn, who is National Lottery-funded and trains at the University of Bath, praised her regiment for supporting her sporting ambitions.

"I don't honestly think I could have made it as far as I have without their support," she added. "They allow me to train full time so I can give the bobsleigh my full attention."

"Our selection for the Olympics depends on this next season and I am determined to get in – I really want GB to bring back the gold." ■



'We truly believe we can do so much better'

Fame game

FILM star Danny Dyer and former Manchester United midfielder Lee Sharpe were among the celebrities due to tackle the Army in a charity football match as this issue went to press.

The illustrious pair were set to be joined by a host of other big names, including Blue singer Simon Webbe, actor Ralf Little and West Ham legend Frank McAvennie, in the Game of History tie at Colchester on Sunday, November 2.

The star-studded match, at Colchester United's new Weston Homes Community Stadium, was organised to raise money

for the Army Benevolent Fund, the British Legion and Help for Heroes. Garrison Colonel Tony Philips said the match served as a prime example of the strength of civic, civil and business support that the work of Colchester-based 16 Air Assault Brigade is enjoying.

"This will be a competitive event in the best spirit of sportsmanship."

In addition to the 11-a-side match, the Army women's team will be locking horns with a UK Cup Stars women's six-a-side squad and the Red Devils will be providing entertainment during the event. ■

SPORTS SHORTS

ONE lucky winner will scoop a double jackpot of £20,000 when the latest Army Sports Lottery super draw takes place next month.

National Olympic Committee chief executive Simon Clegg will perform the random draw at the Army Sport Control Board's Aldershot base, with each winner receiving twice the usual prize money.

Tickets cost just 75p each and registered lottery players can enter up to five times in every draw. For more information, visit the sports section on ArmyNet or email lottery@ascb.uk.com





**Suppliers of top quality sports & leisurewear
to the British Army – Regular, Territorial &
Cadet Forces for over 25 YEARS**



**Telephone/fax or visit our website
for our free brochure**

Logo Leisurewear, 111 Hubert Rd, Selly Oak,
Birmingham B29 6ET
Tel: 0121 472 5300 Fax: 0121 472 8017
Email: sales@e-logo.co.uk
Website: www.e-logo.co.uk



**THE DUKE OF YORK'S
ROYAL MILITARY
SCHOOL**

'More than a school to me'

For further information contact:
The Headmaster
The Duke of York's
Royal Military School
Dover
Kent
CT15 5EQ

Tel: +0044 (0)1304 245024
Mil: 94284 5024
Fax: +0044 (0)1304 245019
Mil Fax: 94284 5019
E-mail: headmaster@doyrms.com
Website: www.doyrms.mod.uk

www.hive.mod.uk

**You ask
We answer**

HIVE
information
For the Service Community



Fast learner: Sgt Stu Pearson (3 Para), who lost his left leg in an explosion in Afghanistan, negotiates choppy waters during the Bavarian kayaking course

Rapid learners

White-water thrills for injured soldiers on latest Battle Back expedition

Report: Stephen Tyler
Picture: Sgt Simon Butcher

INJURED soldiers could tackle adventurous training activities alongside their able-bodied colleagues after completing an adaptive kayaking expedition in Bavaria.

Eight Service personnel travelled to southern Germany to take part in Exercise Timmy's Paddle, a nine-day open canoe and kayaking package organised through the Battle Back scheme.

Each student was assigned to a type of boat based on their ability and trip organiser WO2 Ash Clare (RE) told *SoldierSport* that many of the paddlers were ready and able to join mainstream expeditions after just five days on the water.

"After one course we now have some guys who are ready to come along and train in a regular Army expedition. All they would need is an extra five minutes

each morning to carry out their leg admin and if they had any problems, the blokes would help them out.

"Ultimately that's a very good thing. If there are guys on the courses who maybe aren't used to seeing injured soldiers, they would be able to get a better understanding. It helps to break down any barriers that might exist."

'It breaks down any barriers that might exist'

After picking out which type of kayak suited them best, each participant had to adapt the standard boats to suit their individual abilities.

In true Army style, the modifications were made using discarded roll mats and gaffer tape which were crafted to provide support for missing limbs.

The students were put through the same lessons as those on mainstream courses and Clare explained that the similarities did not end there.

"Everything we used was standard-issue equipment," he said. "The guys

were given the roll mats and they cracked on with padding the kayaks to suit themselves.

"There is no formal disabled or adaptive qualification, but there are instructors who have a lot of experience which they can bring to bear by having knowledge of disabilities to teach the same skills they normally would.

"The guys on this expedition were just like any other group. Some got frustrated and some were quite determined. There was a whole range of emotions – just like you would find in any group of soldiers."

Kayaking joins a growing list of sports, including waterskiing and snow skiing, which are offered to wounded Servicemen and women through the Battle Back scheme.

● For more information about Battle Back, visit www.mod.uk/battleback, telephone 01372 378271 ext 7042 or email Maj Martin Colclough at martcolc@dcsa.mod.uk ■

SPORT DIARY

ANGLING

November 1-4 – Combined Services v Fire Service v Police (TBC).

ATHLETICS

November 12 – Army steeplechase (Tidworth).

BADMINTON

November 24-28 – Army championships (Grantham).

BASKETBALL

November 10-14 – Inter-corps championships (Grantham); 15-16 – Combined Services v Milton Keynes (Aldershot).

BOXING

November 6 – Army v Wales Select (Swansea); 20 – Army v Southern Counties (London); 20 – Army v Fitzroy Lodge (London); 23 – Combined Services pre-ABA novice quarter finals (TBC); 27 – Army v Wales Select (Brecon).

CANOEING

November 22-23 – Inter-Services polo championships (Portsmouth).

FOOTBALL

November 1 – Crusader Veterans v Honourable Artillery Company (Moorgate); 8 – Crusaders v Charterhouse (Charterhouse); 13 – Army women v Gloucestershire (Gloucestershire); 16 – Crusader Veterans v Old Tiffinians (Sandhurst); 18 – Army U23 v Unity (TBC); 24 – Crusaders v Wilts-Hants Police (Aldershot); 26 – Army women v RAF (Uxbridge); 30 – Army v Territorial Army; Crusaders Veterans v Barclays Bank Eagles (Sandhurst).

HOCKEY

November 1-2 – Women's tournament (Aldershot); 6 – Army Veterans v Warlocks (Aldershot); 12 – U23 indoor league (Larkhill); 15 – Army v RMAS (RMAS); 19-20 – Inter-Services U23 indoor championships (Larkhill); 19-20 – Inter-Services indoor championships (Aldershot).

JUDO

November 10-14 – Army team selection; 15 – Inter-Services championships (Portsmouth).

NETBALL

November 11 – Army mixed team competition (Aldershot); 12 – Inter-unit championships (Aldershot).

RUGBY UNION

November 2 – Army U23 v Cambridge University (Cambridge); 4 – Combined Services v Barbarians (Plymouth); 16 – Army U23 v Esher (Aldershot); Army U20 v Esher (Aldershot); 19 – Army A v Combined Corps (Aldershot); 22 – Army U23 v RAF U23 (Halton); 29 – Army U23 v Royal Navy U23 (Aldershot).

SNOWBOARDING

November 29-December 20 – Army championships (Austria).

SQUASH

November 17-19 – Inter-corps competition (Aldershot).

TUG OF WAR

November 15 – 4 Div indoor championships (Bovington); 29 – Army indoor championships (Aldershot).

■ Got a date for the diary? Email details to fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Heavy hitter: A Southern Counties boxer receives a count from referee Cpl Lee Innes (RE) during the Help For Heroes charity evening at Maida Gymnasium

Picture: Graeme Main

Global warning

Recruits wanted for round-the-world sailing trip

SOLDIERS are being invited to test their sea legs by applying for a place on an ambitious round-the-world sailing expedition.

Exercise Transglobe sets sail in July 2009 and will see Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force yachts travel around the globe on 11 adventurous training legs, taking in exotic locations including Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town and Sydney.

Each yacht will then select a race crew to compete against the cream of the world's ocean racers in the prestigious Sydney to Hobart race

in 2009 and the Antigua race week in 2010.

The adventurous training legs are open to any Service personnel, including novices, and the window for applications has already opened.

To book your place, register at www.exercisetransglobe.com or download 2008DIN07-007 and forward the completed form to Exercise Transglobe project office, JSASTC, Haslar Road, Gosport PO12 2AQ.

For more information, call 023 9276 5333 or 9380 65333. ■

Dates from the dojo

JUDO players begin their new season in earnest when the Inter-Services championships take place in Portsmouth this month.

The Army is running a skills course at Aldershot from Monday, November 10 until Friday, November 14 ahead of the annual competition, which gets underway at HMS *Téméraire* on

Saturday, November 15.

Prospective players, coaches and referees can also brush up on their skills by attending courses at the Army School of Physical Training from December 1 until December 5 and from January 26 until January 30.

Contact Capt Phil McGregor on 94222 4026 for further details. ■

Against all odds

Opening win sets the standard for understrength boxing team's season

MORE boxers are needed if the Army is to successfully defend the Combined Services title for a 26th year, according to head coach Sgt Darren Dugan (APTC).

Operational demands have left the Maida Gymnasium outfit with a threadbare squad missing eligible athletes in the cruiserweight, light heavyweight, heavyweight and super heavyweight categories.

And despite a promising start to the season that saw the Army defeat a Tyne Tees Select team at Catterick, Dugan is keen to strengthen his options ahead of the annual showdown against the Royal Navy next year.

"We are more than happy to have people along for a trial," he said. "If someone comes along and has the ability then I will train them up."

The 4-3 victory against Tyne Tees featured impressive wins from ABA quarter finalist Cpl James Allen (REME) and debutant welterweight Spr Shane Sadler (RE), who both won their bouts with unanimous points decisions.

Further wins from England international Spr Adam Whitfield (RE) and loggie Pte Mick Chappell secured the narrow victory after LCpl Steve Turner (R Signals), Gdsm Steve Sweeney (IG) and LCpl Gavin McGee (Rifles) had lost on majority decisions.

Allen, who has set his sights on claiming an ABA title next year after losing to the eventual winner last season, feels he will benefit from the round system of three, three-minute periods rather than four rounds lasting two minutes each.

"When you've only got two minutes you tend to push on at the end of the round and that can cause mistakes," he explained. "When it's three minutes you can pick your moments and that suits the stronger and fitter boxers."

"Our squad is the thinnest I have known it in any season, so it is a good time for someone to come along for a trial and get themselves in the team."

To register your interest for a trial, contact the Army team on 94222 5752 or the Army Boxing Association office on 94222 3581.

● A charity match between the Army and the Southern Counties raised more than £3,500 for Help for Heroes.

A packed house at Maida Gymnasium witnessed six Army and two Royal Navy boxers battle to a four-all draw. ■

Teenage kicks

Young squad seeks fresh talent to continue its rapid rise up the rankings

Report: Stephen Tyler

THE future looks bright for Army Rugby Union thanks to the rapid growth of the Service's first Under 20 team.

Since forming last year, the Army U20s have won four and drawn one of their opening five games, establishing themselves as one of the dominant age-group county sides in Britain.

Now chairman of coaching and training WO2 Jimmy Quinn (REME) is appealing for more teenage players to get involved and help drive the team to greater success in the coming season.

"There are a lot of boys that don't realise they can throw on a shirt and represent the Army at an early age. The dream is not as far away as it used to be.

"We have a quality coaching set-up – I've got a forwards coach, a backs coach, a conditioning coach and a great management team who will push the guys on to reach their potential."

To qualify for the U20 squad, players must be aged 19 or under on December

31 and have played with a civilian club at colt or county level.

As well as competing in the county championship, the team also squares off against development sides from some of the country's top professional clubs, with friendlies against Esher and London Scottish due to take place later this year.

And once players become too old for the U20 side, those with enough potential can make the step up into the U23s with a view to eventually earning a full Army cap.

"[Army Rugby Union first team head coach] Andy Price wanted to raise the criteria for players coming through the system," explained Quinn. "If we spot someone who has a lot of ability at 18 we can develop them through the county championships and prepare them for the next step up, which is the U23 side."

"Part of my job is finding at least five players each year that are capable of making that step up and then the U23 coach has to find one player for the full

Army team. Everything is a lot more joined-up and we are moving the guys upwards as a result."

Quinn told *SoldierSport* that he places as great an emphasis on his players' mental development as he does on their on-field skills.

Every member of the squad is given a weekly homework assignment and the mental development paid dividends when the Army side battled to a draw against Hampshire in a match they were expected to lose heavily.

"The boys develop as players and I also put a lot of emphasis on their intellectual side," added Quinn. "They make their mistakes and are asked what they can do to improve, so they take ownership of their own development."

"When we were parked on the try line for 15 minutes against Hampshire no-one would give an inch and that team spirit made me very proud."

The Army U20 team is especially looking for a prop and a second row. Email Quinn at 101REME-2FDCCOY-COYHQ-CSM@mod.uk ■

Warm welcome

Soldier took to the streets of Shrewsbury to ask why the crowd of locals had turned out to welcome home the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment

Samuel Thomas

I am a student at Coventry University and I came to the parade because I think it's right to pay your respects to the soldiers and support what they have been through for six months in Afghanistan. At 20 I am of a similar age to some of the soldiers and I think that it is such a big thing that they have done for our country.



Pauline Bailey

I wanted to welcome the soldiers home. I don't think our boys should have been out in Afghanistan in the first place but I still wished to show my support for the regiment. I wanted to thank them for what they have been doing. I grew up in York, which was a garrison city, and I became used to parades.



William Batten

I was the headmaster of an Army school in Germany for many years and I feel I have an affinity with the military. I retired to Shrewsbury and wanted to come along and give some moral support by being here to watch the parade. I think the troops deserve our thanks and I really respect the lads for everything they do.



Corrie Jones

I am here for the troops because my husband was in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps for 31 years. I understand what it is like to be away from loved ones for long periods of time so I can sympathise with the soldiers and their families. They need to know that people back home support them.



Andrew Wagner

I wanted to show the lads back from Afghanistan that they have our full support. I served in The Royal Corps of Transport and so there is obviously that link with the Army even though this is not my regiment. I'm always keeping up to date by watching the news for any military stories.



Ann Pugh

My husband and father-in-law were both in the Forces and I feel very proud of our boys and girls. The soldiers are doing a job that a lot of people don't want to do and I think it's important to show that we are behind them. We want the troops to know that they are not on their own and that they do a great job.



Heather Sinclair

I have come along to support my husband who is a corporal in The Royal Irish Regiment. I am very proud of him and the rest of the lads. It's good to be able to come out and show support for the soldiers and to welcome them home.



Jackie Bennett

I am a teaching assistant from Greenfields Primary School and I have come along to the parade with 169 pupils who are all between the ages of seven and 11. The children were taught about the current conflict in Afghanistan and the homecoming parade in their morning assembly so they know why they are lining the streets with Union flags. I think that although the children learn about the Second World War in the National Curriculum, it is important for them to be aware of the current Armed Forces situation as well.



Interviews: Heidi Mines Pictures: Graeme Main

Soldier's army of worldwide readers can now catch up with all the news, views and interviews featured in their award-winning magazine online. A free-to-view interactive digital edition can be accessed via our homepage at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk





WITZ Boxes

Waterproof Witz boxes are made of strong, durable ABS plastic to protect against crushing and impact.

KIS Locker. Black. 6.35x9.4x1.9cm	ED517	£7.99
ID Locker. Transparent. 16.8x8.25x1.9cm	ED416	£7.90
KIC Locker. Transparent. 6.9x10.9x3.5cm	ED510	£7.95
Wrapper Locker. Black. 7x16.5x7.5cm.	ED509	£11.95
Phone Locker. 5.8x12.45x3.3cm. Black.	ED513	£14.95
GPS Locker. 6.1x17x7.9cm. Black.	ED514	£19.95
Shutter 9.2x15.9x7.9cm.	ED511	£19.99
Utility Locker. 20x7.5x12.5cm. Black/transp	ED512	£21.90



LEDWAVE TACTICAL LIGHTS

C-1 XENON - 65 Lumens Output

Black	EL324BK	£29.99
Olive Green	EL324VO	£29.99
Coyote	EL324CT	£29.99

C-3 LUXEON - 80 Lumens Output

Black	EL326BK	£53.65
Olive Green	EL326VO	£53.65
Coyote	EL326CT	£53.65



Blood Group Keyholder

A.POS D254APOS	B.POS D254BPOS
O.POS D254OPOS	AB.POS D254ABPOS
A.NEG D254ANEG	B.NEG D254BNEG
O.NEG D254ONEG	AB.NEG D254ABNEG
each	£4.99



MS-2000(M) Srobe Light

Meets all military specifications. Operates continuously for a minimum of 8 hrs. Omnidirectional white strobe emits brilliant 250,000 peak lumens.

Black	EL288	£119
-------	-------	------

24/7 TROUSERS

One of the best tactical trousers available, featuring 10 pockets and 4 additional compartments. They are made of 8.5oz 100 cotton canvas that is prewashed to reduce shrinking and fading and also providing soft touch and comfort. Sizes 28" to 38"

Beige	P252BE	£29.99
Black	P252BK	£29.99
Olive Green	P252VO	£29.99
Coyote	P252CT	£29.99



BATES M6 ASSAULT BOOTS

Sizes 6 to 12.

TAN	SB264BE	£89.99
-----	---------	--------



CAT Tourniquet

The Combat Application Tourniquet® (CAT®) is a small and lightweight one-handed tourniquet that completely occludes arterial blood flow in an extremity.

Black	FA117	£20.00
-------	-------	--------



KA-BAR M.U.L.E.*

MULE Folder, Serrated Edge.

Beige	BP452BE	£42.90
Black	BP452BK	£42.90
Olive Green	BP452VO	£42.90



BATES® FALCON® Boots

The choice of professionals. Lightweight and comfortable.

Black	SB242	£59.99
-------	-------	--------



Stealthsuit Ghillie

Sizes : M/L and XL/XXL

DC163	£53.20
-------	--------



Micronet™ Advanced Microfiber Towels

Medium MT148M	£10.99
Large MT148L	£13.99
X-Large MT148XL	£17.99



Golani Rucksack

Designed for SPECIAL FORCES units with mission achievement in mind.

Olive Green	S406VO	£89.60
-------------	--------	--------



Carabiner FIGURE 9

Small Fits Rope Sizes: 3/16" (5mm) - 1/16" (2mm)

RG156	£2.99
-------	-------

Large Fits rope sizes: 3/8" (9mm) - 1/8" (3mm)

RG157	£3.99
-------	-------



FAB® T-Pod®

Aluminum bipod legs, adjust to 4 positions. Dual pressure pad cutouts for light/laser pressure pads. Quick-deploying mechanism provides a very stable bipod with a wide stance. Lifetime warranty.

Black	AA285	£79.50
-------	-------	--------



Streamlight Sidewinder

Standard version

Coyote	EL353CT	£54.99
Foliage	EL353VO	£54.99

IR version: super bright LED

Coyote	EL354CT	£54.99
Foliage	EL354VO	£54.99

Helmet Mount.

Coyote	EL355CT	£20.99
Foliage	EL355VO	£20.99

*Sales of knife to over 18s only



CHRYSLER



RENAULT



**Call for your price whether you are
based in the UK or Overseas.
Massive savings available on Vauxhall & Saab**



**BASED IN THE UK – GET MASSIVE
DISCOUNTS OFF YOUR NEW CAR!**



**UP TO 24%
DISCOUNT**



**UP TO 24%
DISCOUNT**



**UP TO 24%
DISCOUNT**



**UP TO 20%
DISCOUNT**



**UP TO 10%
DISCOUNT**



**UP TO 10%
DISCOUNT**

www.emctaxfree.com

emc
tax
free

UK PHONE 01323 739675

UK FAX 01323 745339

GERMAN FREEPHONE

08001 860183/08001 827633

UK FREEPOST (BR 1394), CAVENDISH BRIDGE, EASTBOURNE BN21 5TD
Tax Free discounts only apply to personnel based overseas who qualify under BFG ruling.