

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



THE FUTURE
OF SERVICE
HOUSING

THEN AND NOW

100 YEARS OF THE BATTLE TANK

INSIDE...

- Daredevil: the first Army tank
- 'I couldn't drive that'
- Does Challenger have a future?



SEPTEMBER 2016

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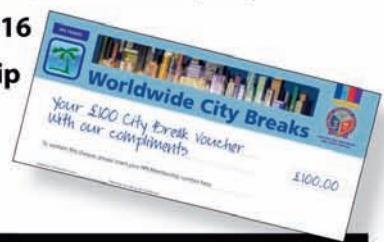
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SOLDIER

Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

All enquiries: Tel: 01252 787107 / 94222 7107

Fax: 01252 787110 / 94222 7110

Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Editor

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

Sports Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Assistant Editor

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

Art Editor

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

Designer

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

Photographer

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

Photographer

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

Managing Editor

Steven Muncey 01252 787095 (7095)
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Business Manager

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

Advertising

Heather Shekyls 01252 787106 (7106)
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Subscriptions

01252 787107 (7107)
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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Beginning of the battle tank

THE sight of the Challenger 2 storming across a training area is something that many of us will take for granted.

But when you read the details of the Army's very first tank battle (page 34) – one hundred years ago this month – it brings home exactly how much has been sacrificed on the road to the high-tech piece of kit enjoyed by today's tankies.

Will there still be a need for this machine in a future populated by drones?

I guess that is for the experts to argue out (turn to page 40 for more on that).

For now, enjoy our breakdown of the British battle tank in all its glory.

Also not to be missed this month is the plan for future military accommodation.

If sanctioned, this will affect everyone living on the patch and the early proposals are more drastic than many may think.

Turn to page 30 for details of how you can get your views heard on this important subject.

Enjoy the issue. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

S. Goldthorpe.

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Printed copies ...

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'The greatest show on earth'



"The BCC provides cowardly individuals with unfettered access to a 'blamethrower' and should be disabled"

Talkback reader vents spleen over email blame culture

p54

BEST IN CLASS FOOTWEAR FOR SPECIALISTS ONLY



ph: Uri Gofman & Elie Olsen PUBLIMARKET



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trekking & outdoor footwear

Leap of faith

Picture: Greene Main



Families face new start with accommodation overhaul

ARADICAL overhaul to the way Army families live could see most of them moving away from the military patch and into private accommodation.

The plan – detailed on pages 30-31 – has been devised to address the fact that housing provision is not working for personnel.

Currently rank is prioritised over need, which means many soldiers are unhappy with the size of their digs.

New unit locations and ongoing problems with under-fire maintenance contractor CarillionAmey are also fuelling the need for change.

According to the MoD, simply widening the number of soldiers entitled to Service family accommodation and building more houses is unaffordable.

"None of this will be easy," Chief of Defence People, Lt Gen Richard Nugee warned in a letter.

A survey on the proposed changes will be emailed to troops this month.

According to the detail, single living accommodation is likely to continue on the same basis as before.

Mark Lancaster, Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel, said the department was looking forward to receiving front-line views in order to hone the plans.

"We will not decide how the future accommodation model will meet the needs and aspirations of our people until we have completed our

consultation with Service personnel and their families," he added.

● MEANWHILE, the 2016 families continuous attitude survey has found that satisfaction with military housing has decreased in the last year.

Figures relating to the overall standard of accommodation had dropped by ten per cent, while those saying it represented value for money were also down by ten per cent.

Further dissatisfaction was recorded in response to requests for maintenance and repairs, and there was a 14 per cent reduction in those who were pleased with the quality of work, with the level now 31 per cent.

The questionnaire found the most positive aspect of military family life is the pride loved ones take in seeing their partners serve in the Army.

The document was completed by 3,292 individuals after Regular personnel were asked to pass it on to their significant others.

Additional areas of concern included difficulty getting school places. Read ABN 102/16 for more.

66
Our surveys
mean
zilch
99
TALKBACK
PAGE 53

More support for the Iraq accused

MILITARY personnel will get greater protection from legal action relating to alleged human rights abuses or war crimes, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon has said.

"They shouldn't be subject to unfounded legal claims. We are working on a package of measures that will ensure they aren't," he commented.

Proposals being considered include allowing the recovery of costs from law firms that make spurious claims, time limits on bringing cases forward and making soldiers immune from this kind of prosecution in future.

They were prompted by a landmark ruling from the Legal Aid Agency to strip one law firm, Public Interest Lawyers, of its access to legal aid funding, meaning it can no longer use taxpayers' cash to finance proceedings against soldiers.

The agency said the company, which has since closed down, had acted in breach of its contract by making "inappropriate claims" and paying referral fees.

In a separate development, the Iraq Historical Allegations Team will now provide all serving and former military personnel it approaches with an information booklet that includes advice and contact details for organisations that can support them.

The move follows a defence select committee hearing in which Johnny Mercer, a former Army officer and now MP for Plymouth Moor View, claimed the unit was "completely out of control".

Reports surfaced of investigators turning up unannounced at homes and bases and threatening to make arrests on the spot.

Julian Lewis, chairman of the committee, said more needed to be done to help those who had been contacted out of the blue.

IN NUMBERS: 1,500

– claims currently being investigated by the Iraq Historical Allegations Team



THIS MONTH IN REVIEWS...

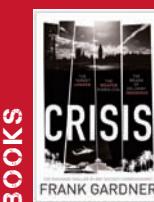


MOVIES

"If you want a fix of Gervais humour you'd be better reaching for one of the TV box sets."



★★★★★
MUSIC



BOOKS

>> PAGES 67-73
★★★★★
>>

1 ESTONIA
BALTIC BRIEFING
AROUND 150 British troops have been conducting joint manoeuvres in the north east of the country during Exercise Baltic Star.
A company from 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment came under the operational command of the Estonians in a show of multinational interoperability.
They also worked with US and Lithuanian troops to stage section-level attacks before engaging in a force-on-force-style scenario alongside members of their paired Regular unit, 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

“
It has been extremely emotive
”

GOLDEN GIRL
Rowing sensation Maj Heather Stanning (RA) storms to Olympic gold in Rio – page 83



2 UK
THAT'S THE SPIRIT

A TEAM of wounded veterans have completed their mission to circumnavigate the British Isles on-board the *Spirit of Falmouth*.

The expedition was organised by the charity Turn to Starboard, which uses sailing courses to support those affected by military operations.

The vessel set sail from Falmouth and stopped at destinations including Newcastle, the Isle of Wight, Orkney Islands and Liverpool.

Altogether, 38 individuals – many with little or no sailing experience – took part in the two-month journey, with 14 of the crew completing the whole 2,000-mile voyage.

Visit www.turntostarboard.co.uk

3 GERMANY
HONOURED AT LAST

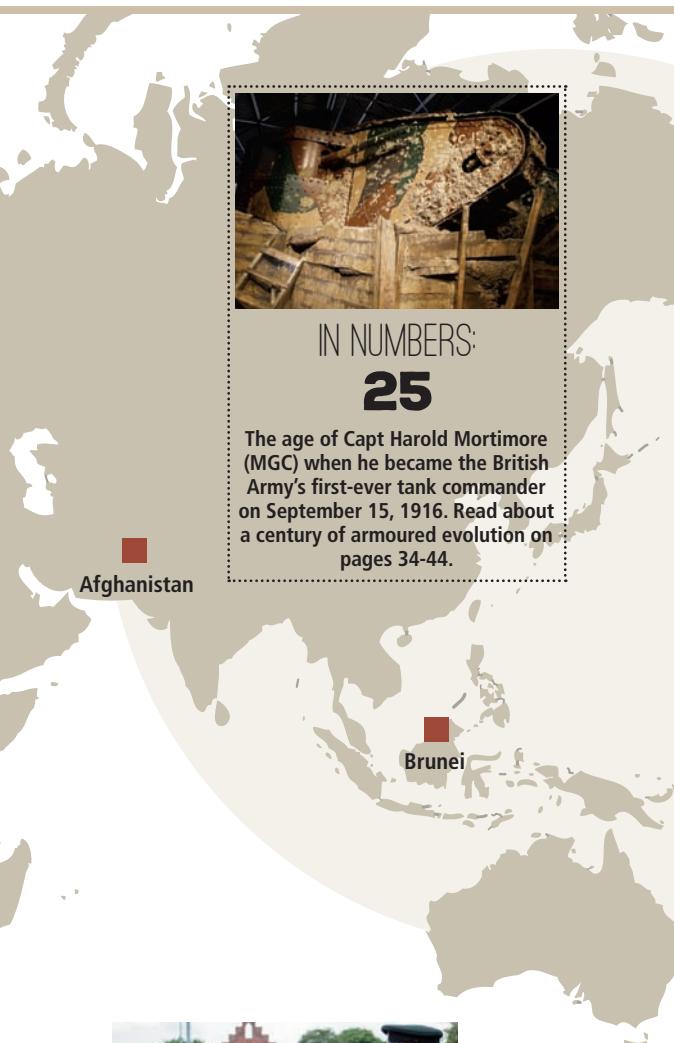
THE graves of two Second World War soldiers who died in Germany have been rededicated some 72 years after they perished.

Tim Wadeson spent 11 years trying to find information on the death of his father, Maj Roy Aylmer Wadeson (RE), who died alongside Lt Hugh Mackenzie (2nd Bn, Seaforth Highlanders) during an attempt to escape from the Oflag VIIIF prisoner of war camp in then Czechoslovakia.

They were buried in Hannover as unknown officers but with the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Mr Wadeson discovered important documents that revealed their identities and their graves were rededicated with full military honours.

He said: "It has been extremely emotive and very moving."





IN NUMBERS:

25

The age of Capt Harold Mortimore (MGC) when he became the British Army's first-ever tank commander on September 15, 1916. Read about a century of armoured evolution on pages 34-44.



4 GERMANY

HOMEWARD BOUND

TROOPS from 5th Battalion, The Rifles bid farewell to Paderborn in Germany, which has been their home since 2007.

On their final parade the unit was inspected by the Countess of Wessex and was awarded with a German fahnenband, or ribbon of honour, inscribed with the text "einsatz für Frieden und Freiheit" (in service of peace and freedom).

The soldiers have moved to Bulford Camp to occupy accommodation previously used by 4 Rifles, who moved to Aldershot in 2015.

5 COLOMBIA

LATIN LIVENER

THE Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards livened up proceedings during Colombia's independence day celebrations.

Around 10,000 men and women from the country's armed forces marched through major cities and municipalities to mark 206 years of history and the unit was lauded as the first foreign military band to participate in the parade.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who played the pipes himself as a navy school cadet, greeted the personnel in Bogota.



6 BELIZE

EARL WREAKS HAVOC

A TROPICAL storm over Central America temporarily stopped jungle training by British soldiers in Belize.

More than 150 troops from the Infantry Battle School, who were taking part in their platoon commanders' course, were forced to return to Price Barracks to take shelter as Hurricane Earl hit the country.

Although the camp remained structurally undamaged, the debris left behind by the category one storm required a significant clean-up operation.

Personnel also assisted the Belize Defence Force in preparing and delivering food to nine shelters that had been set up for the local community in Belize City.



Picture: Shutterstock



7 CANADA

PRairie Practice

THE 1st Battalion, The Princess Of Wales's Royal Regiment battlegroup has completed its final training serial on Exercise Prairie Storm 2 in Batus.

A ten-day tactical engagement system phase tested the formation on a wide range of scenarios from attacking and securing an urban area to dealing with a simulated helicopter crash and treating civilians injured by an IED.

Picture: Cpl Mark Webster, RRC

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"I could definitely see other Reserves I know coming here"

– Instructor first in Catterick, pages 22-25



Taking care of the tech

New unit to fast-track future battlefield kit

ATINY drone modelled on a dragonfly, laser weapons and mobile robots could be deployed on the battlefield in future thanks to a new defence initiative.

The Innovation and Research Insights Unit has been set up to anticipate emerging technologies and maintain the UK's military advantage.

Companies and individuals will be able to pitch novel ideas to its *Dragon's Den*-style panel, with £800 million in funding up for grabs over ten years.

Among the pieces of kit being developed is an insect-sized surveillance drone, which has legs and four flapping wings and can fly through open windows to spy or



Picture: Animal Dynamics

eavesdrop on the foe.

Other inventions include an anti-drone device which uses lasers to burn holes in enemy systems and a robot that can detect chemical weapons.

The unit will enable such developments to be fast-tracked according to national security needs.



Although it is too early to say which Service will operate the asset, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said it would be record breaking and capable of gathering constant, reliable information in greater detail than before.

NEXT GENERATION

■ SOLDIERS on future operations are set to benefit from yet another unmanned aerial vehicle.

The MoD has already ordered two Zephyr-S platforms and a third will now be joining the fleet as part of a £13 million contract with Airbus Defence and Space.

It is the latest in a series of ultra-lightweight UAVs and is capable of flying at altitudes of up to 70,000 feet – twice the height of a commercial airliner – for an impressive 45 days at a time.

COMEDIAN and activist Mark Thomas reads from the Chilcot report during the *Iraq Out Loud* show at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Hundreds of volunteers took part in the non-stop recital of the 2.6 million word document in a total time of 284hr 45min.

Organisers said veterans were among those to communicate its findings.



IN NUMBERS:

63

years since British troops fought in the Korean War. The anniversary was marked with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in London.



Pictures: IWM



Picture: Sgt Rupert Ferrie, RLC

BOATING BLISTER

■ A COHORT from the Royal Engineers took to the waters of the River Thames in support of the world's oldest boat race.

The Doggett's Coat and Badge rowing contest has been held every year since 1715 and sees crews pass a total of 11 bridges as they go head-to-head on a route from London Bridge to Cadogan Pier.

The sappers used a range of military craft to monitor the race and transport judges and sponsors.

MEDALS ON SHOW

■ TWO Victoria Crosses won by paratroopers in Afghanistan have gone on display in a new exhibition about airborne forces missions in the country.

Cpl Josh Leakey of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and Lorena Budd, the widow of Cpl Bryan Budd (3 Para), have loaned the medals to The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces at the Imperial War Museum Duxford.

"I am honoured to see my medal alongside Cpl Budd's," said Cpl Leakey, who was decorated for his actions in an assault on a Taliban stronghold in 2013.



HAVE YOU DONE THE #22CHALLENGE?

■ SERVING and former military personnel have been taking part in the 22 push-up challenge to raise awareness of mental health issues among veterans. The campaign, which started in the US, sees participants filming themselves doing 22 push-ups for 22 days in recognition that 22 ex-soldiers on average commit suicide every day in America. Among the senior figures to get involved and post their efforts so far are Army Sergeant Major, WO1 Glenn Haughton, Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter and his predecessor, Gen Sir Peter Wall, who called on the public to raise £1 million for Combat Stress. To donate £5 to the charity text PTSD22 to 70004.





"Ditch the Xbox and do all the adventurous training you can"

– Hard-won lessons, pages 46-47

WIN



A backpack and glove set

LAST month's spine line clues would have been familiar to many of the Service personnel who served on Operation Telic.

Maj Gens (Graham) Binns, (Andy) Salmon, (Jonathan) Shaw and (Barney) White-Spunner were all senior commanders who helped to oversee the mission, which was revisited in our last issue.

This month, courtesy of First Tactical (www.firsttactical.co.uk), we have a Tactix 1-Day Plus daysack and pair of Hard Knuckle reinforced gloves worth £190 to give away. To be in with a chance of winning this sharp set, tell us what links the words on the spine of this magazine. Answers to the usual postal address or email via comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by September 30. Good luck!



A training changeover

Reserves' phase three courses are on the move

A RESTRUCTURING of the way training is delivered to Reservists will take effect from April 2017.

The move will see phase three courses at Army Training Units (ATUs) come to an end, with responsibility instead shifting to the Army Recruitment and Training Division and defence training schools.

The subjects being transferred cover six mandated areas – hazardous material, first aid, skill

at arms, counter-IED, physical development and instructor training.

A six-month transition period will be launched this month, with a new course schedule being delivered from April 2017.

Reserve phase one training will not be affected by the move, with all ATUs except London remaining open.

However, the change will see the number of ATU headquarters reduce from eight to four.

For more details read ABN 107/16.

THREE-IN-ONE FOR VETERAN CENTENARIAN

■ AN Auxiliary Territorial Service veteran has celebrated three centenaries at once, including her own 100th birthday.

Edith Bailey-Hunt (pictured), a resident of the Royal Star and Garter Homes' Solihull facility, was born in 1916 shortly before her father took part in one of the first tank encounters.

Ernie Hunt was decorated after driving tank C6 – named "Cordon Rouge" after the French champagne – into battle at Flers-Courcelette, the first time the platforms saw action at the front (see pages 34-35).

Mrs Bailey-Hunt, who herself served for six years during the Second World War, toasted the occasion with champagne while surrounded by friends and relatives.

In another coincidence, the Royal Star and Garter Homes also celebrate their centenary this year.



SERVICEWOMAN MAKES HISTORY IN EDINBURGH

SCOTTISH soldier LBdr Megan Beveridge (RA) made history at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo by becoming the first Regular Servicewoman to take on the prestigious role of the lone piper.

The 21-year-old became the sole focus for the 8,800-strong audience during every performance as she took her place on the castle ramparts to perform *Sleep Dearie Sleep* as part of the finale.

LBdr Beveridge had earlier recorded another notable achievement when she became the first female to pass the Army pipe major's course.

Totting up the tattoo – pages 20-21

Pay less tax

SOLDIERS whose spouses earn less than £11,000 a year are being reminded to apply for the marriage allowance.

The benefit allows couples to transfer a proportion of their personal allowance – the amount you can earn tax-free each year – between them.

It means paying less tax, but is not awarded automatically.

To qualify, couples must simply be married or in a civil partnership, and the other partner a basic rate taxpayer (that is, earn £43,000 or less).

For more details search for "marriage allowance" on gov.uk

DOWN THE DRAIN



RESTRUCTURE GOES ON

■ PLANS are afoot to further change the Army's structure to include new, smaller Infantry battalions with specialist skills such as counter-terrorism.

A report in the *Sunday Times* last month outlined a number of potential changes to units and the Service has since confirmed that work on the move is underway.

However, it was quick to refute claims that the decision is linked to a "manpower crisis" and said the Army will not change in size as a result.

A Service spokesman said the new battalions will be capable of operating independently and "in less permissive environments than normal Infantry" and will deliver a "more persistent train, advise and assist capability" to allies and partners.

As this issue was going to press no decisions had been made about which units will adopt the role.

Read next month's magazine for a full update on the plan.

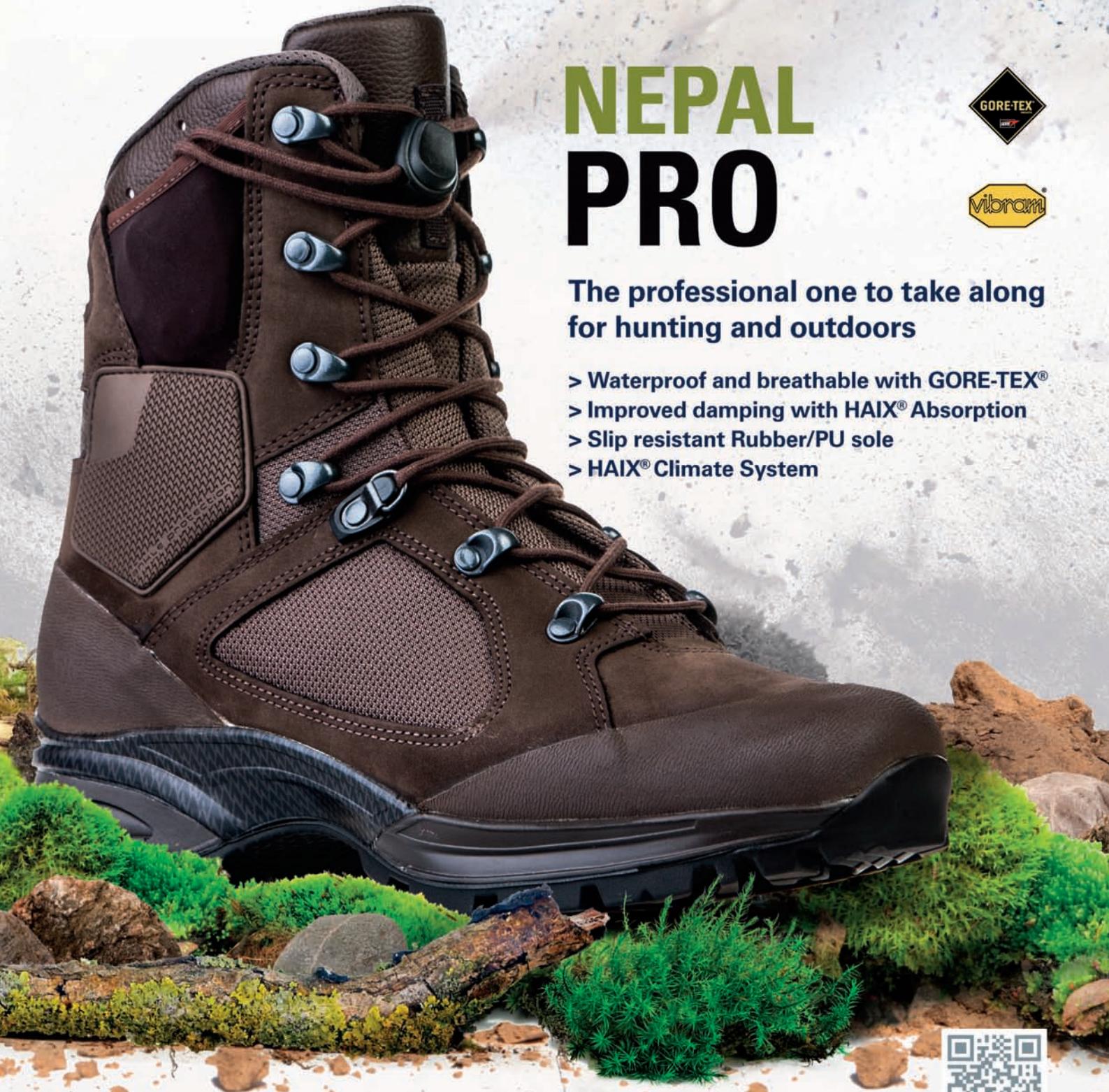


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Image: Ben Rishton & family, Andy Garthwaite and Les Fryatt, Soldiers' Charity beneficiaries

"I wouldn't have hit a thing! They must have been good"

– Tankies travel back in time, pages 36-39



Picture: Richard Dunwoody



Hard knocks in the saddle

Troops take on challenge of world's toughest horse race

FIVE personnel from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment swapped their black steeds for semi-wild Mongolian ponies to attempt the world's longest and toughest horse race.

The ten-day, 1,000km Mongol Derby traced the route of Genghis Khan's postal system and saw riders spend 13 hours-a-day in the saddle and sleep under the stars or in yurts with herders' families.

Four of the team completed the challenge after one member – LCpl Tom Alden – suffered a fall which forced him to retire from the course on day five. The Serviceman escaped serious injury.

Speaking last month, expedition leader Capt James Harbord said the cohort had been looking forward to the challenge.

NEW HQ ON TRACK

THE UK's new Standing Joint Force Headquarters has reached interim operational capability.

Announced in 2015, the formation will command tri-Service and multinational missions such as deployments by the Joint Expeditionary Force or the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force.

The Northwood-based organisation will provide small teams or a large headquarters to deploy at short notice in response to a range of global operations, from humanitarian tasks to war fighting.

Its staff recently demonstrated they were on track to reach full operational capability next summer during Exercise Joint Venture, a package which tested the ability of some 1,600 British and foreign personnel to work together at the operational and higher tactical command levels.

They were supported by information operations specialists from the Army's new 77 Brigade.



Picture: Laurence Squire

"Every single member of the team has been cold and wet and endured low points before so we're prepared," he commented. "It will be a fantastic experience."

The troops are raising money for Cool Earth, a charity that fights rainforest destruction.

Visit www.coolearth.org to sponsor them.

“We're well prepared for the challenge”

”

COST RISE SPELLS HEALTHIER FOOD

PAY-AS-YOU-DINE charges will increase from next month.

The core meal will rise by 85 pence to a new rate of £5.74. It has been altered to ensure that contractors get the same payment to provide meals as they do for establishments that operate the daily food charge.

Core meals are subject to VAT, which means troops have to be charged more in order for them to be of the same quality.

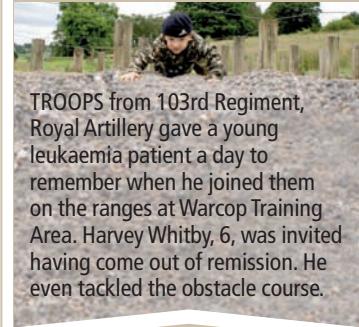
Regimental catering staff will be monitoring eating establishments to ensure that the cash boost reaches the plates of Service personnel in the form of healthier, more attractive and tastier meals.

For more details read ABN 104/16.



GOOD DRILLS

▼ GUNNERS GIVE BACK



TROOPS from 103rd Regiment, Royal Artillery gave a young leukaemia patient a day to remember when he joined them on the ranges at Warcop Training Area. Harvey Whitby, 6, was invited having come out of remission. He even tackled the obstacle course.

▼ MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB



FORMER corporal Neil Heritage (ex-R Signals) is bidding to become the first double amputee to climb the Matterhorn. He will take on the world record attempt this month alongside two fellow wounded veterans. To follow his progress search for Climb2Recovery Matterhorn Challenge on Facebook.

▼ FLARE FOR TROUBLE

TWO young Army officers accidentally set fire to a room and corridor in the officers' mess at Allenby Barracks in Bovington after shooting flares to settle an argument. The projectile, which wasn't military issue, was fired from the swimming pool outside where the personnel were duelling on kayaks. The incident happened during a dinner to celebrate the end of a course for tank troop commanders. The Royal Military Police is investigating.



BAD DRILLS



"Golf allows them to play against able-bodied people and compete"

– Battle Back showdown, pages 86-87



'DON'T TAKE AWAY OUR SFA'



A PERSONAL VIEW FROM SARA BAADE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION...

OME of it may be old, some of it dysfunctional and some poorly maintained, but one thing was very clear in our recent Big Survey about the future of Army housing: we value and want to keep Service family accommodation (SFA).

More than 8,300 people took the opportunity to have their say (see pages 32-33).

Never in the AFF's history have we had so many voice their opinion.

How we live and who surrounds us is obviously incredibly important.

The questionnaire highlighted that families want to be together as a unit.

And when we are mobile, we want to be surrounded by the Service community for mutual support.

But, most importantly of all, we want to have the flexibility to choose SFA or our own home, depending on our individual circumstances.

The survey has given us solid

evidence on what families want from future accommodation, which is excellent and puts us in a very strong position to influence this.

The proposals – outlined on pages 30-31 – could certainly provide more opportunities for those who do not want to live in SFA or who don't qualify for it, which is excellent.

But I am concerned that the expectations of most families do not match up with the current proposal from the MoD when it comes to the continuation of SFA.

It is, however, important to say that nothing has been decided and it will be interesting to see how much of our evidence is taken into consideration.

I would like to think that the views of Army families are paramount, given that it is our homes we are talking about.

www.aff.org.uk

66
NEVER IN
OUR HISTORY
HAVE WE HAD
SO MANY
VOICE THEIR
OPINION
99

BREXIT 'WON'T LEAVE TROOPS OUT OF POCKET'

■ PERSONNEL who receive the local overseas allowance (LOA) will not be penalised by the falling value of the British pound, the Army pay team has reassured.

Since the UK voted to leave the European Union there have been concerns that the payment, which contributes towards the extra cost of living overseas, would effectively decrease in value.

But Defence Business Services closely monitors the UK exchange rate and ensures that adjustments are made to the allowance accordingly so that soldiers are not left out of pocket.

However, defence experts say that Brexit could cost the Ministry of Defence up to £700 million a year.

Speaking to BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* programme, Prof Trevor Taylor from the Royal United Services Institute said that the fall in sterling, which effectively makes imports from America more expensive, could lead to a black hole in the budget of the department.

The MoD said it had taken appropriate financial precautions in all of its procurement contracts.

MEME OF THE MONTH...



Share your favourites via social media or news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



HIGHS PREDICTED FOR HARROGATE COHORT

THE latest graduates from Army Foundation College Harrogate have been told to expect a lengthy and successful career thanks to the British Army's investment in their training.

Speaking to more than 600 junior soldiers at their recent graduation parade, Lt Gen Thomas Beckett – defence senior adviser to the Middle East – said that no other phase one establishment in the Nato community invests such time and money in young personnel.

"Statistically, you will stay in the Army for three years longer than standard entry soldiers and you are more likely to achieve a higher rank," he told them.



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Official fuel consumption figures for the Range Rover Evoque in mpg Combined¹: 68.8/65.6 - 36.2/36.2 Combined CO₂ emissions g/km: 181 - 109. ¹All data subject to official tests and certification. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. Model shown: Range Rover Evoque Diesel 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5 door Auto 180ps. *Terms and conditions apply and finance is subject to status. Savings correct at time of going to press.



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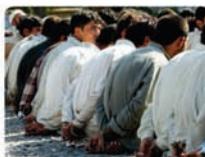
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THE BIG PICTURE

> RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

ROWING'S GOLDEN GIRLS

BRITISH athletes Helen Glover and Maj Heather Stanning (RA, pictured right) dominated the field to claim gold in the women's pair at last month's Olympics. The duo are unbeaten since 2011 and are the UK's first back-to-back female rowing champions at the Games. See page 83 for the full story. Picture: Peter Spurrier/Intersport Images





THE Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo may have been around for almost 70 years, but the figures behind its production still impress.

With more than 1,300 British Army personnel involved in a 20-date run of shows last month, there wasn't a whiff of a summer break to be had for those north of the border.

Soldier took a look at some of the most interesting stats behind what organisers call "the greatest show on earth" ...

250

Pipers and drummers who perform

1200

Size of the show's cast



220,000

Tickets sold every year

100 MILLION

Annual television audience for the Tattoo across the world

6

International militaries represented at this year's event

35 miles

Cable required to stage the event - enough to stretch from Edinburgh to Glasgow

£8m

Amount gifted to Service and civilian charities by the Tattoo over the years. The event is run for fundraising purposes

70%

Proportion of each audience that comes from outside Scotland

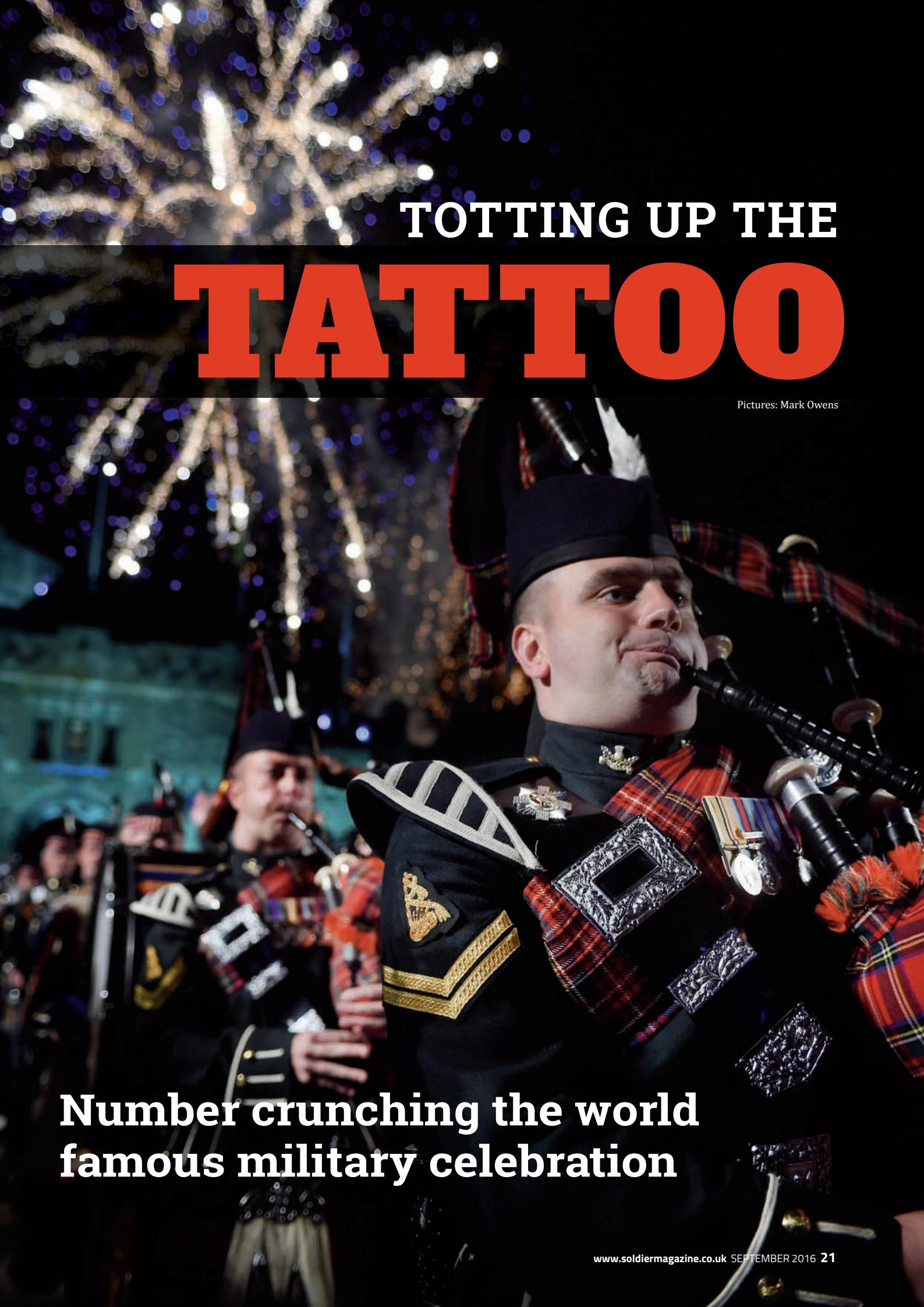
1950

Year the first Edinburgh Tattoo took place



100

Length of the show in minutes



TOTTING UP THE **TATTOO**

Pictures: Mark Owens

Number crunching the world famous military celebration

INFANTRY INNOVATOR

THIS SERVICEMAN IS SOMETHING OF A TRAILBLAZER ON CATTERICK TRAINING AREA...

HE is the first ever Reservist to be posted to the combat infantryman's course as an instructor.

This might not sound like much of a big deal, but at a time when the military is looking to benefit from the diverse life experience that members of the Army Reserve bring, it could be something of a turning point.

Run at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, the Reservist version of the course sees up to 48 troops put through their paces by a six-strong training team over 15 days.

A series of exercises cover fieldcraft and low-level tactical drills such as patrolling and section attacks, before the students get down to some intensive live firing on the ranges.

"It's a good package; the students all really want to learn and the staff have been mega supportive," Cpl Mark Henshaw (Mercian) told *Soldier* during his first few days in Catterick.

The ex-Regular was headhunted for the pioneering role by a former colleague and relished the opportunity to put his own stamp on proceedings.

With two Herrick and two Tosca tours under his belt, there was little doubting his military credentials.

"The participants all want to hear about the instructors' operational experiences; if you can relate anything you are doing here to real-time stuff they tend to appreciate it," the 29-year-old explained.

"In my section alone the ages range from 19 to 41 and there's a massive variety of backgrounds, from former Regulars with lots of operational experience to people who stack shelves in Tesco."

"So at times you have to cover things in a little more detail, such as the six section battle

drills which are so pivotal to an infantryman's role on the ground."

After leaving 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment back in 2010, Cpl Henshaw decided that civilian life wasn't for him but when his attempts to re-enlist failed he moved across to the Army Reserve and joined 4th Battalion.

Having experienced both sides of Service life, he is confident that integrated training teams could work well on the Reserve combat infantryman's course in future – even with those Reserves who haven't got experience of full-time soldiering.

"Some of them may worry about working with Regular staff, but these guys would be just as keen to have anyone with the right skills and mindset," Cpl Henshaw continued.

"The instructors and staff here are absolutely gold standard and have been very welcoming, and the students are so keen; they have chosen to be here."

"I could definitely see other Reserves I know coming here and doing a good job of this."

The junior NCO's hopeful sentiments are echoed by those in charge at the Infantry Training Centre.

"A posting like this is significant as it brings the Reserves and the Field Army closer together," explained Maj Gary Dunning (Scots Guards), training officer for Anzio Company, which delivers the programme.

But he emphasised that although his team is keen to welcome more Reserves as course leaders, such postings require considerable time and effort.

"Not everyone makes a good instructor, so the individual must be of the right calibre, be correctly qualified and able to commit to the time it takes away from work and the home front," he said.



The
instructors
and staff
here
are gold
standard



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THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

Official fuel consumption figures for the Jaguar XF in mpg (l/100km): Urban 24.1-58.9 (11.7-4.8); Extra Urban 44.8-78.5 (6.3-3.6); Combined 34-70.6 (8.3-4.0). CO₂ Emissions 198-129g/km. Model shown is the XF S 17MY.

*Terms and conditions apply and finance is subject to status. Savings correct at time of going to press..



No one works harder to support Officers through life



The Officers' Association, founded in 1921, is an independent charity proudly supporting those who have held a commission in HM Armed Services and their dependants. This can include helping officers transition into civilian life with our employment services and supporting them and their dependants through retirement, including the provision of grants and advice about wellbeing.

In July this year we were proud sponsors of the Inter-Services Triathlon where the participants demonstrated the same characteristics that represent the values of The OA - endurance, focus, leadership and discipline. Congratulations to all those who took part.



Proud sponsors of the
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INSIDE STORY:

The combat infantryman's course (Reserves)

THE SYLLABUS

Length in days **15**
18 packages are run per year
48 The course capacity

A vast array of subjects are covered, with the main objectives being **fitness, live firing** and **basic fieldcraft**

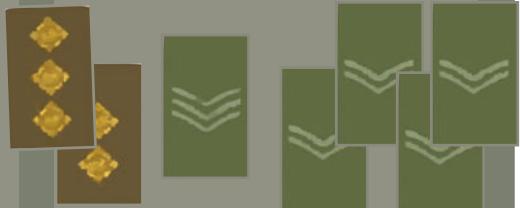
Two exercises are run in the field, each one focusing on **low-level tactical drills** including **patrolling, section attacks, recce**s and **routine admin**



Days spent **live firing** on the ranges

In the **end-of-course survey**, most soldiers say they would **recommend the training** to their friends

THE INSTRUCTORS



Each course is run by a training team from **2 Infantry Training Battalion's Anzio Company**, which consists of one captain or lieutenant, one sergeant and four corporals



Assistance with **physical training, transport, medical provision, signals** and **accommodation** is also provided by staff from the **Infantry Training Centre**

To enquire about instructing on the course contact **Anzio Company** at **ITC Catterick**



How the Service's stitchers master the fine art of military tailoring

uniform

IT'S fair to say the British Army does pomp and ceremony exceedingly well.

Stood to attention in full regalia on Horse Guards Parade, the immaculate ranks of the Household Division never fail to impress.

But iconic events such as Trooping the Colour simply wouldn't be possible without a massive behind-the-scenes effort, not least from the military tailors whose role it is to ensure that every soldier's uniform fits him like a Savile Row suit.

These Service stitchers learn their trade at the specialist skills division of the Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration (DCLPA) at Deepcut.

Every year the school runs courses in basic, advanced and highland tailoring, predominantly for members

of ceremonial units such as the Foot Guards, Household Cavalry, King's Troop and Scottish battalions.

It takes two months from picking up a needle for the first time for a soldier to learn the fundamentals of sewing, including hand and machine stitching, mounting medals and badges and complex alterations, all conducted under the watchful eye of instructor ex-Welsh Guardsman Ben Parry.

"Often guys turn up not knowing one end of a needle from the other," explained the former warrant officer when *Soldier* dropped in on a lesson.

"We teach them all the different stitches, how to shorten a garment or take in or let out the waist and by the end they will be making a pair of trousers from scratch."

"We also give them a scenario where there is one guardsman's tunic left in the

Words: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock,
Graeme Main, Cpl Jonathan Lee van Zyl, RLC





standard



Course instructor Ben Parry demonstrates stitching skills on a garment during the basic tailoring course at DCLPA, Deepcut

It's all about attention to detail

Gdsm Owen Few (Gren Gds)



stores and it's needed for a parade the next day.

"The sleeves and jacket are too long, the waist is too big – it's like a big jigsaw puzzle that they have to solve."

For those who have chosen tailoring as a trade in the Army the course is essential to promotion.

Gdsm Owen Few was among those attending the training to add a formal qualification to the experience he had already gathered in the tailoring department of his unit, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

The 25-year-old described how the high-profile nature of the Guards battalions' role means that he and his colleagues can't afford to drop a stitch.

The tunics are the





Immaculately dressed soldiers from 2 Scots mark the official start of the Queen's summer break at the gates of Balmoral Castle

Picture: Mark Owens



most challenging because they have to be exactly right," he said.

"It's all about attention to detail and you have to be good with your hands because it can be quite fiddly at times.

"I hope to come back as soon as possible to do the next course."

The three-month advanced package sees the students' skill-levels increase considerably.

Troops have to be able to create ten different styles of military jackets and trousers from memory, as well as making a complete set of number two dress for themselves.

Finally, personnel from The Royal Regiment of Scotland return to the school to learn the intricacies of Highland ceremonial dress.

Cpl John Nacamavuto was looking forward to one day getting to grips with kilts, tartan "trews", spats and sporrans but said that for now he was focusing on consolidating his basic knowledge.

"Our master tailor has already taught me a lot but this course is really broadening my skills and I'll be able

to take that knowledge back to my regiment," he commented.

"It's our job to check all the ceremonial kit before parades and when you see everyone correctly dressed you feel like you're doing your job right.

"I'm sure it will be a challenge when I eventually get to do a kilt but I'm interested in sewing and actually do it as a hobby too, so I want to learn as much as possible."

Being handy with a needle and thread may be somewhat of a niche trade within the military, but the select few who master these skills play a vital role in maintaining the Service's ceremonial standards and proud traditions.

And thanks to the latest batch of stitchers to complete the basic tailoring course, the British Army's reputation for perfection on the parade square is secure for years to come. ■

I'm sure it will be a challenge when I eventually get to do a kilt!

Cpl John Nacamavuto (4 Scots)



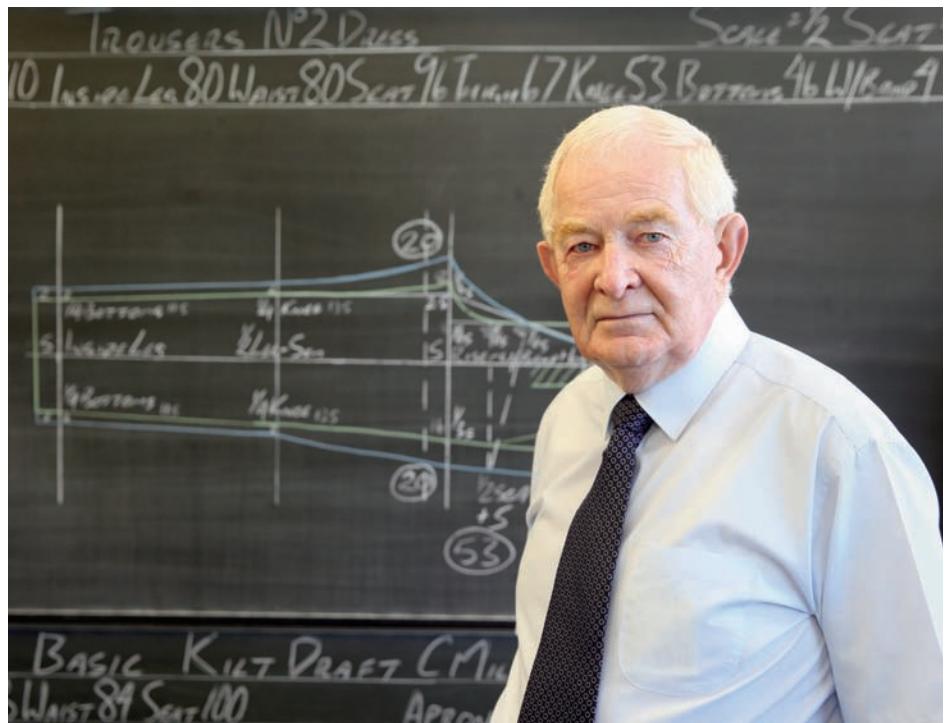
Did you know?



Tartan "trews", such as those worn by officers from the Royal Regiment of Scotland, are cut from the bottom up so that all the stripes line up on parade.

711

soldiers have completed Army tailoring courses since they first started in 1957



Ben Parry will leave his role with the DCLPA when the facility moves from Deepcut to Worthy Down

Veteran tailor bids 'sew long'

WITH more than 30 years as a tailoring instructor under his belt, Ben Parry can claim to have taught every master tailor currently serving in the Army.

But with the DCLPA beginning its move from Deepcut to Worthy Down next year, the former Welsh Guardsman has decided to hang up his needle and thread for the last time.

Having chosen tailoring as a trade shortly after joining the Army as a boy soldier in 1967 Parry's trusty sewing machine accompanied him throughout his career, including on deployments to Cyprus, Kenya, Belize and the Falklands (pictured opposite).

He remains proud of the dual role still carried out by his successors.

"These guys are double-hatted," he said. "They'll deploy to places like Iraq and Afghanistan but in peacetime they're working hard behind the scenes in the battalion tailors shops.

"They're the people burning the midnight oil before major events such

as the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge."

And he admitted still casting a critical eye over those on parade during ceremonial occasions.

"When I watch the troops on television I do inspect them – especially the other battalions," he continued.

"I'll be sad to go. In this job you never knew who was going to come through the door, but at the end of the course they'd go back to their various units having picked up new skills and got the bug for tailoring.

"That made it all worthwhile."



A radical overhaul of Service accommodation is on the cards...

THE MoD is rethinking how it provides housing to Armed Forces personnel and their families. The so-called future accommodation model will eventually see more soldiers living in private digs or helped onto the property ladder, and fewer occupying Service dwellings. Although no details have been finalised yet, many are already speculating on the impact this could have on patch life. *Soldier* got a sitrep on the plan as it stands.

WHY ARE THINGS CHANGING?

To address falling satisfaction and allow the Army to stay flexible, without costing extra money. Military housing is not working for many soldiers – those who are single but need space at home for visiting children, for example – and rank is currently prioritised over need when allocating. This means a significant number are unhappy with the sort of property they inhabit and its location. So much so that some opt to leave the military. Simply widening the number of people entitled to Service family accommodation (SFA), however, is unaffordable because the MoD would have to build many more properties. Under the current system, empty dwellings also have to be maintained to enable operational flexibility. This costs money that the department says could be spent elsewhere.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The general idea is for the MoD to provide the cash so that more personnel can live in private accommodation, either near to their base or in a location further afield. Allowances would then help with commuting and rent costs.

WHERE WOULD TROOPS MOVE?

Planning is at a very early stage but the four options facing soldiers could be: **Renting privately near work** and receiving an allowance to cover that and the daily commute. If posted elsewhere, the soldier receives disturbance allowance and other support to help find a new home.

Owning near work. If posted elsewhere, soldiers then have the choice of getting a contribution towards private rent if serving accompanied or a weekly commuting allowance with subsidised overnight accommodation if unaccompanied.

Owning away from work. Perhaps a good option for those who have been assigned away from where they want to live long-term, or with families who want to stay in the same place. Commuting and weekly accommodation allowances are then provided.

Service accommodation, which would continue to be available for single personnel but probably on a reduced basis for families.

WHO WILL IT AFFECT?

The abbreviation for the future accommodation model – FAM – is leading to some confusion that these changes just apply to families. But they affect everyone.

WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?

It is a complex project that will take until the end of the year to consult on and make any decision about. If approved it would be introduced gradually, beginning with a pilot in a few years' time. ■

GIVE YOUR VIEW

- The MoD wants the views of as many soldiers as possible on the proposed changes. A survey will be emailed directly to all troops this month, and will also be available on the defence intranet and at gov.uk

"None of this will be easy, and it could involve some quite radical changes," Chief of Defence People, Lt Gen Richard Nugee, said in a letter to Service personnel last month.

But he emphasised that things must alter one way or another, due to the number of individuals for whom the current system doesn't work.

"Affordable and good quality accommodation must be available for all our personnel," he added. "This is central to the offer now, and will continue to be so in the future."

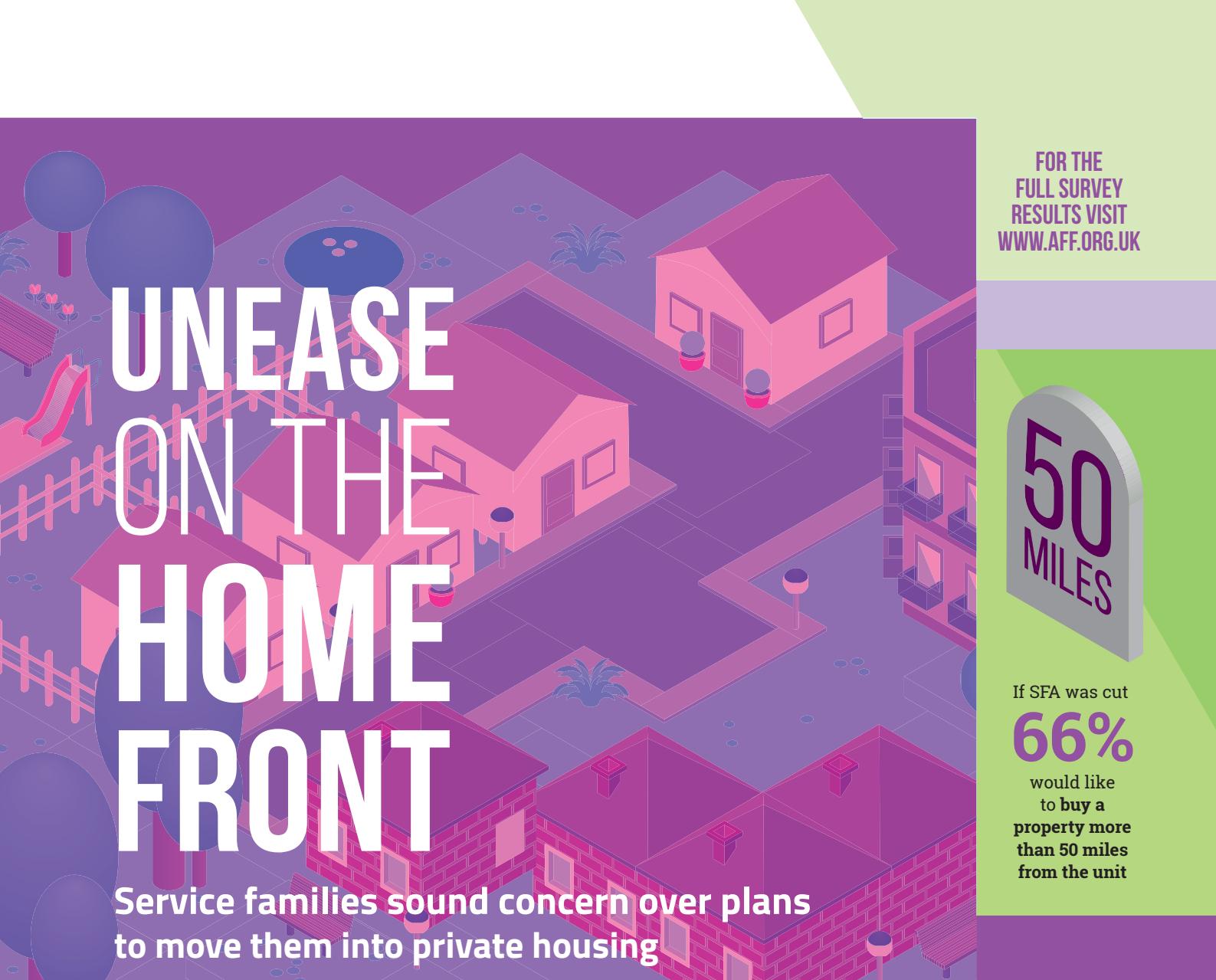
TIME TO SCATTER?



“ The Army is top of my husband’s priority list. If we did not live in SFA we would never see him ”

Turn the page to find out what Army families are saying about the proposals





FOR THE
FULL SURVEY
RESULTS VISIT
WWW.AFF.ORG.UK

UNEASE ON THE HOME FRONT

Service families sound concern over plans to move them into private housing

WHEN the Army Families Federation distributed its annual Big Survey – this year on the hot topic of military housing – it had no idea of the volume of replies it would attract.

Some 8,322 individuals took part – more than the total number of respondents to all of its previous questionnaires put together.

But with plans afoot to move more troops out of traditional military communities and into their own home or private rented accommodation, perhaps this is unsurprising.

Such an overhaul (detailed on the previous page) would see fundamental changes to the way soldiers and their loved ones live.

Responses showed particular unease with the idea of losing the empathy and security experienced in Service digs.

"The support network provided by 'the patch' is invaluable," one respondent told

the survey.

"Nowhere on civvy street will you get the understanding, help and camaraderie which is provided for spouses and partners."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the AFF has echoed the same sentiment.

"This support network is nearly impossible to replicate outside of the Service family accommodation model due to a limited understanding of what 'following the flag' really means by civilians," the organisation said in its follow-up report.

"AFF senses that this is being driven by a financial agenda rather than a genuine desire to provide a flexible housing package."

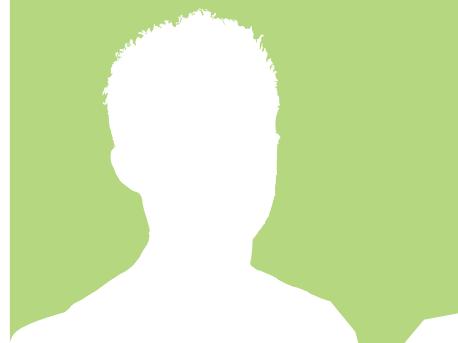
"We already know that people are leaving the Service because they cannot make the balance between family life and a military career work; the AFF feels that the future accommodation model would further aggravate this situation." ■

50
MILES

If SFA was cut
66%
would like
to buy a
property more
than 50 miles
from the unit

“
For me, the
provision of SFA
was a crucial
element of the
offer. I would
seriously have
to consider my
long-term future
if this changed

”



WHAT FAMILIES TOLD THE AFF IN THE SURVEY



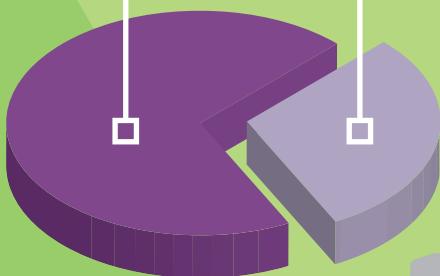
Almost

50%

of those questioned said that if Service family accommodation (SFA) was reduced and a rent allowance offered instead, they would consider leaving the Army

If given the option of remaining mobile, 70% would **prefer their family to continue living in SFA** with the existing package of removal and disturbance expenses

The other 30% would like a **rent allowance arrangement** as outlined by the plan



Given the choice, 39% said they would **prefer to live in Service accommodation**



Asked what they like most about living in Service housing,

74%

said it was **being close to other military families and being part of a community**

43%

would like the **flexibility to decide how to live on each posting**

4% said that, given the choice of how to live, they would **prefer a rent allowance**

SURVEY SOUNDBITES

“ Removal of SFA would make working in the Army a job, rather than a way of life

“ Every time the Army changes something to ‘make it fairer’, it ends up costing us more

“ Moving to mixed civilian/military estates will cause a great deal of harm; to both morale and unit cohesion

“ The Army is top of my husband’s priority list, with his family a close second. If we did not live in SFA we would never see him

“ The outcome will be more time spent commuting, less time spent with family and reduced security

“ Living and working together is the backbone of the British Army





FRONT-LINE FIRST

SEPTEMBER 15, 1916

In the early hours of the day a 25-year-old captain of the Machine Gun Corps called Harold Mortimore got into his tank – "Daredevil" (pictured above) – with seven crew members and headed off towards the German front line near Delville Wood.

Their Mark I vehicle straddled a German trench and caused havoc amongst the defenders before continuing on to attack the village of Gueudecourt.

Progressing forward, "Daredevil" was hit by shellfire – probably from the supporting barrage. The platform was abandoned and its personnel safely made their way back to British lines.

Mortimore had become the first man ever to take a tank into battle.

Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief, had hoped the fighting machines would be ready for the first day of the Somme offensive in July. But production difficulties meant they were delayed and the vehicles' crews from the heavy section of the Machine Gun Corp (later the Tank Corps) had little training.

The battle continued over the summer and Haig was pressured to advance by the French, who were under devastating attack at Verdun further south. The commander was also keen to see what the new tanks could achieve.

Of the 49 platforms that were sent into the last major offensive of the Somme campaign at Flers-Courcelette, 32 reached their start positions for the attack.

Of these, seven failed to start, leaving just 25 to move off towards the German lines.

Only nine reached or penetrated the enemy's front line.

And of those, a few created panic in the opposing forces.

Despite such a modest impact, these "mysterious monsters", as the British press described them, had demonstrated potential and Haig immediately ordered 1,000 more. ■



One hundred years ago to the month, this British Serviceman became the first soldier to command a tank in action



BIRTH OF THE BATTLE TANK



British Army Mark I and V tanks on display at The Tank Museum

THE First World War saw the tank in its infancy. It was mechanically unreliable, slow, with a limited range and poor capacity. There were simply not enough of them to considerably alter the course of 1916's battles but had Germany held out for another year, a new military strategy called Plan 1919 would have seen thousands of tanks being deployed by the Allies.

Britain, France and America combined their efforts to build a new machine called the International – or Mark VIII.

By November 1918, just about all the tank types we still see in service today had been designed and were being rapidly produced.

There were fast tanks for scouting and exploitation, bigger breakthrough vehicles, engineer tanks to lay a bridge or carry a mine roller, the first self-propelled artillery and armoured personnel carriers.

The potential of this exciting new weapon was quickly seized on by the British Army in particular, and its presence on the battlefield undoubtedly affected German morale and hastened

the country to appeal for an armistice.

It was seen as a symbol of growing Allied dominance in the industrial production race.

Germany – ironically for a nation which would become so famous for its use of the tank – only managed to produce 20 of its own before the agreement was signed.

Britain's pioneering tank commander, Capt Harold Mortimore, survived the September attack detailed opposite but was gassed in November.

He returned to Britain to train new crews before becoming a company secretary and later dying in 1967.

● **Tank Men: The Story of the First Crews** is a permanent exhibition at The Tank Museum



How would today's troops have fared on-board the first ever tank?

I WOULDN'T HAVE HIT A THING

EXHAUSTIVE training packages, strong radio communications and 360-degree vision are a given for the soldiers operating today's Challenger 2 main battle tank.

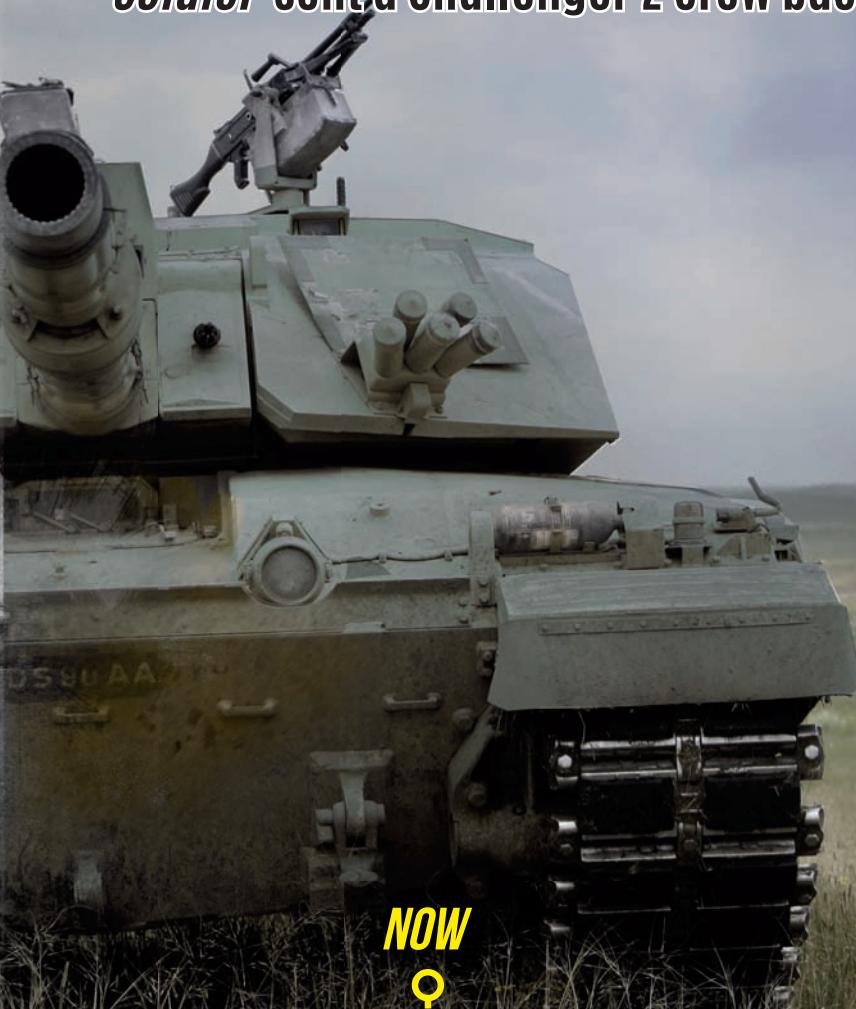
But for those at the helm of the Mark I – the first-ever fighting vehicle to be deployed – such things would have been an unimaginable luxury.

With little more preparation than a two-week training stint and the knowledge they brought from their civilian jobs in farming or engineering, a crew of eight were tasked with unleashing this exciting new weapon at the Battle of the Somme.

After getting their hands on the world's only surviving example of the platform at The Tank Museum in Bovington, *Soldier* asked a troop from the Royal Tank Regiment's Ajax Squadron how they think they would have coped on that pioneering mission... 



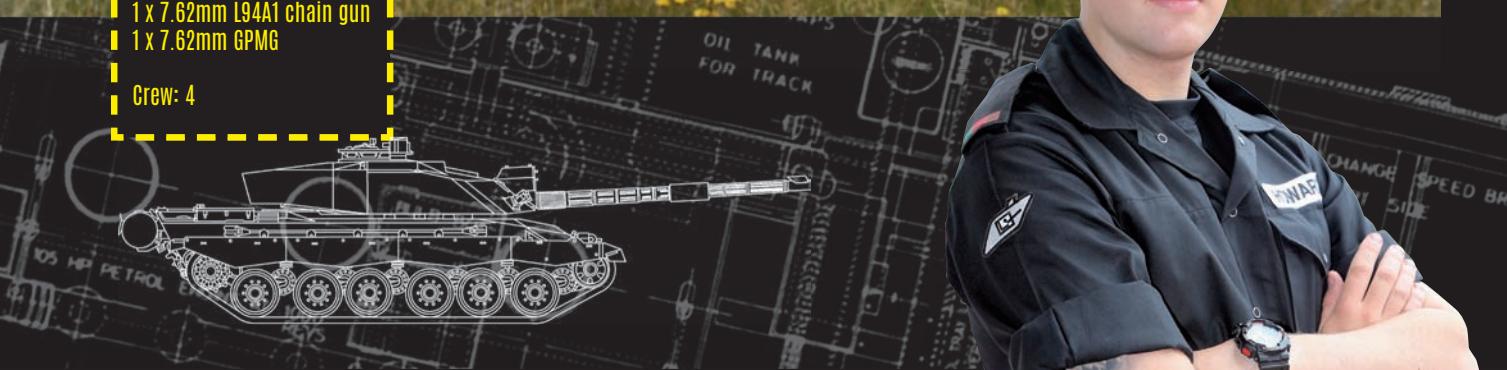
Soldier sent a Challenger 2 crew back to 1916 to find out...



Challenger 2

Weight: 70 tons
Speed: 37mph
Firepower:
1 x 120mm L30A1 gun
1 x 7.62mm L94A1 chain gun
1 x 7.62mm GPMG
Crew: 4

THE ENEMY
MUST HAVE
THOUGHT IT
WAS SOME
SORT OF
SUPERPOWER





CPL AARON HAWKEN
COMMANDER

“ There were no radio communications so from my point of view as commander, it would have been difficult to speak to anyone.

They had to bang on the tank and scream at each other to get the guys' attention or steer.

We don't even think about the comms now; it's stuff we simply take for granted.

Without a turret they would have had no situational awareness, either.

There would have been a lot more risk as a crew, for sure. They could have looked out but would probably have lost their heads.

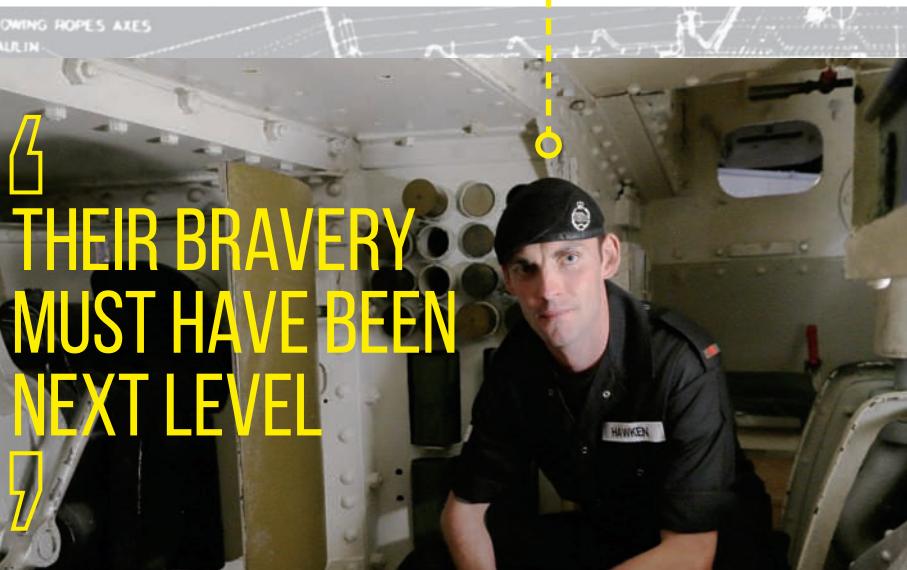
Compare that with today, when we have a 360-degree view of the battlefield as well as periscopes and thermal imaging.

There are so many things that make our lives easier.

Only one of the originals got to the German lines but they still played the part of protecting the infantry behind. That in itself was a battle changer.

I'm sure it saved a lot of lives and won the war.

Their bravery and courage must have been next level. ”



TPR WILLIAM BIDDLE
DRIVER

“ Even though it was effectively less cramped in there than it is in the Challenger, there was no suspension so as soon as you went over a ditch you would have been shaken about.

Also, as a driver you wouldn't have had full control of the steering mechanism.

You can imagine that being a lot more stressful.

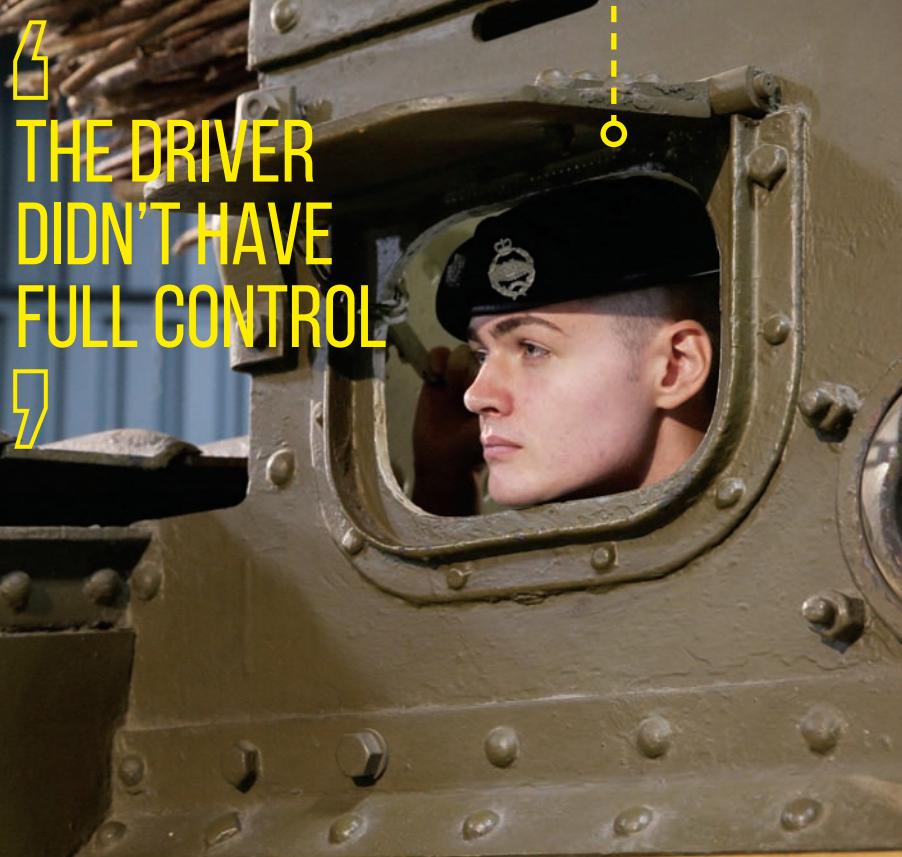
Back then there were three guys doing the driving.

If even one of them messed up on turning it, there would have been a problem.

And if it stalled it would have taken several soldiers to restart the engine.

They must have been pretty brave. They were taking it into one of the bloodiest wars in history and most of them were average guys who would have had about two weeks' training before being sent out.

We have half a year's training just on Challenger. ”



“ **THE DRIVER DIDN'T HAVE FULL CONTROL** ”



LCPL WILLIAM LIP
OPERATOR

Imagine eight blokes trying to talk without radios, and banging a spanner on the engine to get attention of the guys controlling the gearbox – it's staggering.

It makes you appreciate how much technology has changed over the last 100 years.

Today, I load the main gun, make sure the radios work, make hot drinks for the crew, keep the weapon system in order and the machine gun working.

But back then I think it would have been harder.

Operating the tank would have involved a lot more, and a lot of men went down with carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fundamentally we are still doing the same job but computers help us.

Radios and the turret are probably the two things I am most grateful to have these days. //

IT
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
HARDER

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE HIT
A THING

TPR TOM HOWARD
GUNNER

Today the gun does everything for us but back then it looked impossible to operate.

If someone told me our tank had been fitted with one of these, I wouldn't have hit a thing.

There was no suspension either. Troops are closer in today's platform; you are practically on each other's laps.

They must have been really good soldiers, to go out there and be successful on the battlefield.

With a crew of eight, if two or three got injured there was still some manpower I suppose.

If that number got hurt with today's crew of four you'd really be in trouble.

Learning about the Mark I makes you proud that you are continuing something that, in military terms, has only started quite recently.

The enemy didn't have this asset; they must have thought it was some sort of superpower. //



A THING OF THE PAST?

IN AN AGE OF DRONES, CYBER TERRORISM AND URBAN WARFARE, COULD BATTLE TANKS BE DESTINED FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS?

NO, SAYS TANK MUSEUM CURATOR DAVID WILLEY...

TANKS have consistently been written off as obsolete. At the end of the First World War they were brought back to Bovington to be cut up for scrap metal, a process that continued into the 1930s.

At the end of "the war to end all wars" it was assumed they would not be needed again.

There were similar debates just after the Second World War and the vehicle has often been seen as doomed by attack helicopters, tandem warhead rocket-propelled grenades and so on.

Yet most contemporary conflicts still see the tank appearing and adapting to the new environment.

Those forces without the asset are keen to acquire it or improvise tank-like vehicles – just look at the Kurdish forces whose amazing homemade vehicles based on bulldozers and road diggers can be seen online.

'New' countries like Turkey are entering the tank-building fraternity too.

And some forces that disposed of their heavy armour only later realised their error and brought them back into service.

Armies in Europe that have downsized their fleets are now increasing them once again by hiring tanks or taking them back from reserves and industry.

With very little fanfare, Germany and France have quietly agreed to begin a new main battle tank programme.

So why is this?

The vehicle has a number of features that are timeless assets in warfare.

Mobility, firepower and high levels of protection are attributes that any soldier would want.

Unlike some modern battlefield machines such as the helicopter, the tank doesn't only produce shock action but holds ground.

The majority of those in service today were designed in the Cold War era with an East vs West scenario in mind.

But to the surprise of many, they have proved remarkably adaptable to a great variety of very different conflicts.

Tanks have been used in counter-insurgency, jungle warfare, border protection, urban operations, peace enforcement, asymmetric warfare and so on.

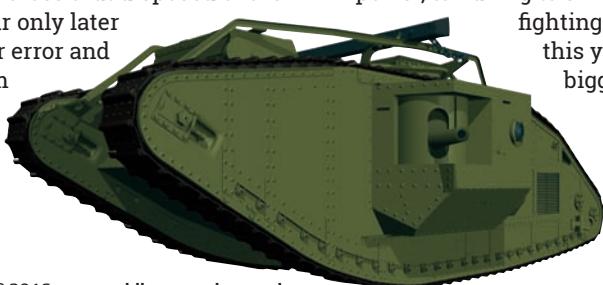
Another feature that is easy to overlook until you are physically near one is the tank's symbolic value and its almighty presence.

This can work in a number of ways from the dictator wanting to show overt power, to having to simply stop any fighting occurring; with this you may have the biggest stick.

The tank quite simply looks



■ David Willey



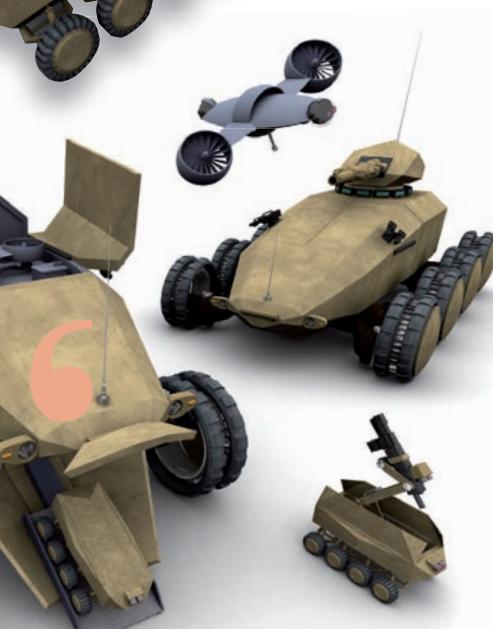


like you mean business.

The asset can seem expensive, its training and logistic requirements considerable and yet compared to some weapon systems it is remarkably cheap.

The modern phraseology of "platform" for a tank perhaps gives a clearer indication of what it is, and its potential as a modular system.

Items can be added or changed – such as protection levels or firepower – to suit the nature of a particular conflict.



Upgrades are inevitable during a service life that is likely to be many decades, so relatively old vehicles can be given an impressive new lease of life, often at a fraction of the cost of building from scratch – something Treasury departments like.

Britain's Challenger 2 – a proven and still very effective bit of kit is about to go through its own programme to keep it at the cutting edge.

The adaptability of the machine to new types of conflict is evident from its recent history but we should not rule out its employment in the more "traditional" tank-on-tank engagements.

As the British Army refocuses for future conflicts, the scenario of fighting a sophisticated well-equipped tank force must be high on the agenda.

And with this, it is an obvious but easily overlooked thing to say – the tank, however well designed, is only as good as its crew. This is where the real investment is made. ■

ONE DAY PERHAPS, SAY EXPERTS FROM THE DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY...

William Suttie is the organisation's technical lead for future vehicle concepts and has been developing tank technology for more than 30 years.

CHALLENGER 2 will be around for another 25 years at least but we are already considering what could replace it.

In my opinion, the era of the heavy battle tank could be coming to a close and we are probably heading for assets that are smaller and lighter.

We'll still need something with survivability in a hostile arena that can oppose other tanks, but new developments in place now

and anticipated to be production-ready in a few years mean we could be able to move away from the reliance on heavy passive armour.

One proposal we're looking at involves robotic wingmen, where one vehicle is crewed and it controls two other unmanned platforms which go forward and scout for the enemy.

We're also evaluating new technologies that allow you to break the traditional mould of the tank.

Armament may change as missiles get smarter, smaller and more agile so that, potentially, reliance on a huge gun may become an outdated concept.

Active protection, where sensors that detect incoming projectiles and can jam



■ William Suttie



their guidance systems or throw out countermeasures that nullify their threat, is also under consideration.

That means the vehicles can carry less armour and so be smaller and more agile.

We're even re-evaluating the use of tracks. They give you the ability to go virtually anywhere but the trouble is they make the vehicle quite slow and require a lot of maintenance.

Adopting wheels to replace them is one line of thinking and with electric drive they make a compelling case because you don't need a big propshaft underneath, and this allows for high travel suspension.

Potentially, such a vehicle could go everywhere a tracked one can but be pretty resistant to mines and IEDs as well as being a lot quicker over ground and more economical.

Also, in recent years small cameras

ARMAMENT MAY CHANGE AS MISSILES GET SMALLER

have been developed with retina displays that show a view of the outside world as well as a pair of binoculars and that makes unmanned turrets totally feasible.

The biggest challenges for us, however, stem from the environment the tanks may have to operate in in the future.

Situational awareness in the urban canyon is the subject of one programme we have running at the moment and it's a major issue.

How does the crew receive information and how do we present it to them in a way that allows them to make quick and accurate decisions?

In the Cold War we had an enemy who was easy to find but difficult to kill; now we have foes who are easy to kill but difficult to find. ■



A graphic simulation of a future protected vehicle

Mike Dalzell is the capability adviser for mounted close combat and has a scientific research background in armour technology.

WE can't keep on the road we've been on. The Challenger and the American Abrams tanks were initially designed to be 50-ton vehicles but over the years things have been added to them – extra armour, weapons and command systems and electronic countermeasures, for instance – and their weight has grown so much the engineers need to build stronger bridges, more fuel is used and there is a larger logistic burden as a result.

We need to get lighter but I am not sure we can get down to 10-20 tons and still do what we do with the Challenger.

At the moment we have infantry fighting vehicles and tanks working together to support troops on the ground so we are looking at whether to keep on with that strategy or produce a single platform that can satisfy both roles.

We have worked for a number of years on electric armour, where thousands of amps of electricity in the armour plate vaporise the incoming munitions, and work is ongoing with the feasibility of such a system.

Ten years ago we did a demonstration of it on a Warrior, and it worked, but to put it on a tracked vehicle in the field with high voltages and how that will

be operated safely is still being assessed.

We're also looking at developments in armour known as e-camouflage or electronic ink, that uses electronic sensors to alter the colour of the exterior in concert with the environment.

It's hard to say at this stage exactly what we'll end up with in 25 years' time but it's safe to say that armour will become more modular – with Challenger you can only add armour and make the platform heavier but in future we will look at being able to add or take it away as situations demand.

What will also change from the crew's perspective is the way technology will allow them to interact with the vehicle.

At the moment they are in a cluttered and confined workspace but in future they will have an environment that is a lot more user-friendly. ■



■ Mike Dalzell

BATTLING THE BEASTS

Troop commander recalls facing Germany's fearsome tanks in the Second World War

“I HAD ONE DAY IN MY UNIT AND WAS THEN TOLD I WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE TROOP”

BRITAIN had been one of the first nations to use tanks on a mass scale during the First World War but when a second global conflict erupted just two decades later it was the enemy's armoured assets that seized the early initiative.

With tanks at the forefront of their thinking the Germans were able to make rapid gains at the outset of the war as the speed and armour of their machines saw them smash through defensive positions in a tactical approach known as blitzkrieg.

The North African campaign, which ran from 1940 to 1943, depended heavily on these vehicles but British Army models such as the Valentine and Crusader faced a tough fight due to recurring mechanical problems and the fact they were relatively lightly armed.

However, the introduction of American-produced hardware, including the Grant and Sherman platforms, aided the soldiers' cause and by the latter stages of the fighting the Germans began to lose the upper hand.

While they still benefited from highly armoured assets – most notably the Tiger – the industrial might of the Allies ensured they had far greater quantities, which delivered an obvious advantage.

But numbers alone do not win wars and the reality of this front-line combat makes brutal reading.

In 1944, the average life expectancy of a newly commissioned tank troop officer in Normandy was estimated at being less than two weeks.

One of those young officers was David Render.

Fresh out of Sandhurst, he

joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry five days after the D-Day landings.

The new arrival defied the odds to survive action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and recently charted his exploits in the book *Tank Action – An Armoured Troop Commander's War*.

Soldier sat down with the author to learn more about the deadly campaign and soon discovered that his first battle came closer to home than expected.

“I had one day in my unit and was then told I would be in charge of the troop,” he recalled.

“This consisted of blokes who had been up and down the desert for two years fighting Rommel. They totally resented me as an inexperienced 19-year-old second lieutenant.

“So with that I had two wars to fight.

“I soon discovered they were scared of the 88s found on tanks such as the Tiger so I decided that I had to show them I wasn't afraid.

“My sergeant did not want to be in the lead so that's exactly where I went. I just led all the time and gradually they came round to respecting me; eventually they thought I was alright.”

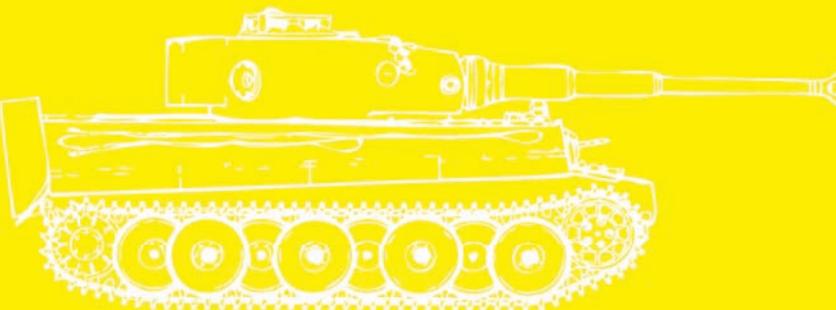
Having gained acceptance the veteran threw himself into crew life and, while each soldier had a different role, equality was key for the man in charge of the fearsome Sherman (pictured over page).

“Some of my blokes would be playing cards as we headed into action,” Render, now 91, explained. “They could only see through a small hole and had no idea what was going on.

“But as commanders we were immersed in it, knowing there was danger round every corner.

“When it was quiet and there were food parcels and cigarettes from home you would immediately share





them with the men as you lived and died with them.

"I was always brought up to be polite and I made sure I treated them properly."

With one battle won, attention quickly turned to the other.

Superior machinery meant the Germans held the advantage so tactical nous would be crucial to advancing the British cause.

Fortunately, Render had a formidable squadron leader in the shape of Capt John Semken.

A veteran of the gruelling campaign in North Africa, he knew the Sherman's mobility, shorter barrel and faster rate of fire could be decisive and created a simple plan to exploit these strengths – fire first.

A gunner and loader could get three or four rounds into the air before the first shell hit its target, whereas the equivalent Tiger crew would struggle to load the heavier and longer ammunition into the breach for a second shot.

This quick turnaround would prove vital as the heavier German tank could be disabled if sufficient weight of fire was targeted on its optics and tracks.

"He said 'whatever you do fire first'," Render recalled.

"The Germans had their heads down and it worked to a degree. However, eventually they would fire back.

"But our casualties, as officers, were far less while he was in charge.

"We carried on fighting like this day in, day out. Each morning you woke up not knowing if you would survive the day.

"We relied on the blokes to be good chaps and if you did not act quickly you were dead. When a tank gets hit – which happened several times to me – fear takes over; the men freeze and they cannot move.

"A petrol-powered Sherman would go up in three seconds. If a bloke stood there he would find himself in a 'Tommy cooker', as the Germans called it.

"We had to shake them out of it and get out quickly."

It is clear there were advantages and disadvantages to the machines used by both sides but Render is of the firm

opinion that armour was crucial to the outcome of the war.

"Absolutely," he continued. "If we did not have tanks the Infantry would probably still be fighting today.

"A colonel might complain about a machine gun nest holding things up, we would slam into it and wipe them out in 30 seconds.

"The German tanks were far better than ours but we were okay, to a degree, with the Mark 4.

"The Tigers and Panthers had fearsome reputations and you never knew when you were going to be confronted with one or the other.

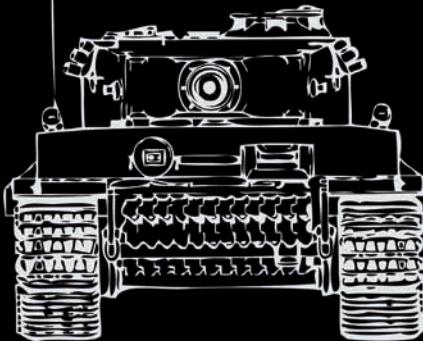
"Today's Challenger 2, when fully loaded up, is around 90 tons and we could have done with something like that to a certain extent.

"But the Tiger was 60 tons and there were occasions when it crashed through bridges and into the water below. They also kept running out of petrol. It was the Russians who were well ahead with the T-34.

"When analysing the war there is very little talk about tanks but they were vital. We had the firepower, radio and protection which meant we were able to advance when the Infantry couldn't."

While armour had evolved significantly from the early incarnations seen in the First World War it was still a role that was fraught with danger.

Surviving the action was an achievement in itself and while personnel such as David Render lived to tell the tale there were countless others who were not as fortunate. ■



The fearsome but flawed German Tiger 1 heavy tank. Today, only a handful survive in museums and exhibitions worldwide. The Bovington Tank Museum's Tiger is the only one restored to running order.

EACH MORNING
YOU WOKE UP
NOT KNOWING IF
YOU'D SURVIVE
THE DAY





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Hard-won lessons

A subject of Army redundancy talks money, mental health and making the most...

Name: Stacey Nunn

Age: 37

Dates of service: 1995-2015

Cap badges: R Signals & RADC

Standout operations:

- Op Agricola (Kosovo, 1999) as one of the only females to drive a FV432 armoured personnel carrier through the conflict. "An eye-opening tour, with a lot of death and many life skills learnt."

Op Fingal (Afghanistan, 2002).

One of the first troops on the ground, the dental hygienist treated civilians in a "humbling" hearts and minds campaign.

Current status: Since her redundancy in 2015 the challenges have kept on coming for this former Army dental hygienist, who has faced the loss of her military pension, mental health problems and the adjustment to motherhood. Married to a paratrooper, she now runs a successful business as a professional network marketer.

BE PROUD OF SERVING. Joining the Army shows strength, courage and determination, and many people don't have those skills. Own it, and don't let the pride get stripped away with your uniform and ID card when you leave – even if you are suffering with mental health problems.

KNOW YOUR PENSION RIGHTS at all points in your career. I wasn't aware that my pension scheme had changed and because I left before 40 I lost it. That had a massive impact. Request forecasts regularly so you know your entitlement.

20 YEARS GOES FAST and transition is one of the hardest things I have ever done. So have smart goals of what you want to achieve in life, which go beyond the military. You often hear soldiers say "when I get out," but one year of resettlement is not enough to work out what you want to do for the next 30. By then you are worrying about other stuff like your house, pension and how you'll fit into civilian life. If you don't want to suffer from poor mental health, get your stuff together. I think it is the leaving process that does it for most people.

KEEP CONNECTED TO THE CIVILIAN WORLD. When you're in the Army you are in a bubble. But civilian contacts can be helpful when you leave. LinkedIn is a good idea, or volunteering.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT. Ditch the Xbox and do all the adventurous training you can, take pictures and meet people.

EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES. I call mine my battle scars, and you need to have them before you can move forward. I think it's good to screw up now and again, and to learn from that. All the things I have been through are what make my business successful. I will not be defeated and that's what the Army taught me.

4 Don't let the pride get stripped away,

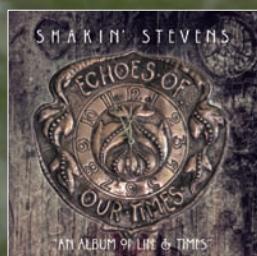


Orchestra Songwriter

Singer uncovers military connections as family research spawns new album



Dad was very tight-lipped about it all. He had medals but they were put away in a drawer



● *Echoes of Our Times* is released on September 16, with a tour to follow

CELEBRITIES delving into their family histories have provided a great deal of fascination for the general public thanks to the BBC show *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Whether it is uncovering ancestry from overseas or learning about tales of derring-do, the programme has shed light on some colourful backstories to the famous faces we know and love.

But when platinum-selling artist and 1980s icon Shakin' Stevens made a similar journey into the past he decided to swerve the television route and use his discoveries as the inspiration for new album *Echoes of Our Times*.

A blues, roots and Americana feel has replaced the mainstream sound found on his chart-topping successes and it is a strong military connection that forms the driving force for the title track.

Stevens knew of his father's service during the First World War but further research revealed a tragic story relating to his late uncle, Leonard Venables.

On August 20, 1914 the then 17-year-old lied about his age to join the Army. Fifty days later he was discharged for being too young.

Not to be deterred, he signed up again in January 1915, overstating his age once more, and became a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery.

He was married in May 1917 but died early the following year, aged 21, and is buried in Ypres.

"My father and his three brothers went to war and all came back, which was quite unusual," the singer told *Soldier*.

"Leonard Venables was an uncle on my mother's side. He was blown up but took eight days to die; his son was then born 11 days later.

"When you read something like that you realise the tragedy of the situation.

"Growing up, as young children we were seen and not heard. I didn't know anything about these situations until I started researching my family history."

Further material was found closer to home, with Stevens' brother Roy serving in The Parachute Regiment and siblings Freddie and Jackie in the Royal Navy.

"Jackie enlisted as a 16-year-old in 1940," he explained. "He was on the destroyers and got torpedoed twice."

"It was horrific. I have spoken to him about it and the memories have never left him."

"It all comes back from time to time and he used to ask 'why am I the lucky one?'. He still

talks about it today at 93 years old.

"When he went into the water he managed to grab hold of a raft and there he was for eight hours. He clung on to that piece of wood; I don't know how he survived that."

While Jackie was forthcoming with his experiences it was a different situation with their father, who revealed little about his background in the military.

Stevens said: "Dad was very tight-lipped about it all. He had medals from the war but they were put away in a drawer."

"He didn't want to talk about the conflict; he hated war films and just wanted to forget about it all."

"We've all seen documentaries on television, particularly around Remembrance Day, and you can imagine what went on but you don't really know until you hear about it first hand."

Despite having such a proud Forces tradition running through the family a military career was never really an option for Stevens.

Music was his true passion and it was the path he was determined to take.

"All I ever wanted to do was sing," he recalled. "When I lived at home as a youngster there were vast collections of records from the 1940s and 50s."

"When I left school I was very musical and the first thing I aimed to do was start a band. It went from there really."

With 33 singles and four UK number ones to his name Stevens was right to follow his ambitions but now he has reached his sixties he is relishing a change in musical direction.

As well as reflecting on his military connections the new album examines the hardships of life in the copper mines – a profession embraced by his grandfather – and takes an ecological diversion on the track *Last Man Alive*, which talks about the way the human race has abused the planet.

"All the research I have done has been fed into this record," the star said. "And we've enjoyed ourselves in the process."

"I've always had very good musicians with me and we've used instruments like the harmonica, mandolin and banjo on stage and that has been incorporated in the album."

"I have not played the hits for a while now and my music has changed from a live perspective. I think there's a time in everyone's career where you need to move on."

"People have listened to it and are surprised it is me. The reaction has been really good and I can't ask for any more than that." ■

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Veterans Employment Transition Support (VETS) is a free, five stage mentoring programme aimed at helping Armed Forces service leavers and veterans into gainful employment.

VETS was founded by large corporates such as ISS, JLR, Deloitte, Barclays, ICTS and Laing O'Rourke who all recognise the talent leaving the Armed Forces every year and wanted to ensure this did not go to waste. VETS has a number of partners such as The Career Transition Partnership, Stoll and Help for Heroes, who all work together to create the best outcome for service leavers and veterans.

The programme is completely free and funded by the savings the employers make by not paying recruitment fees. If you join VETS you can expect to receive your own mentor, access to workshops and job opportunities, one-to-one advice on your CV, interview preparation and access to a network of pro-forces organisations, all of whom guarantee that a human reads your job application.

To join or find out more, visit: www.veteranemployment.co.uk



ISS Facility Services, the world's fourth largest private company and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award holder, unveiled in March a new combined retail concept at Keogh Barracks.

The Union House Coffee, Store and Bar is decorated with the unmistakable Union House branded counter area and furniture where there is plenty of space for customers to come in and enjoy breakfast, lunch and a few drinks in the evening, or simply take away a hot or cold drink or purchase essential items from the Keogh store. Everything is covered in one place.

The Union House Coffee, Store and Bar has been busy since the day it opened and has improved the lives of those serving at Keogh Barracks, particularly since 4 Armoured Medical Regiment moved back to there in June 2015 and has been without a coffee shop or traditional SPAR store since both closed down in 2014 when the previous unit on site moved out.



“

TALKBACK

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

”

‘Leaving left me broke’

I WANT to express my disappointment with the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).

I would also like to tell others what to expect when they leave the Army.

Communication to me from the organisation was virtually non-existent throughout the whole departure process.

At no point prior to my exit did I receive any information explaining exactly how much and when I would receive my pension payments.

I assumed that my lump sum would be paid on or slightly after my termination date.

But it wasn't sent until approximately four weeks later, which would be useful to know if you required funds for a deposit on a house.

I also thought I would receive my lump sum and commutation at the same time; again I was incorrect and this is also something personnel should be informed about.

I am still waiting for my P45 and, as a result, I'm now entering my third month paying emergency tax. — Name and address supplied

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, replies: The Service leaver's pack should be issued to all personnel six months prior to their exit.

It provides information on how to claim your pension and when payment of your termination benefits are likely to be made.

It is also worth noting that **2015 DIN01-138** was issued specifically to inform soldiers of the increased time scale for payment of Armed Forces pension benefits.

It explains how it can take up to 30 working days to receive funds; the scheme is based on career-average earnings so the pay run for the month in which the individual leaves must be completed before payments begin. This ensures that every day served is included when calculating pension benefits.

Under the



legacy schemes, it took up to 30 days for payment to be made.

For those on AFPS 15 it means that the initial pension or early departure payments, including those from legacy schemes, will be made within a maximum of six weeks from the date of leaving.

We continue to monitor the actual time it takes to deliver these funds, and where possible refine the process to keep the delay to the absolute minimum.

All Service personnel are encouraged to estimate their entitlement using the Armed Forces pension calculator.

Those who are leaving are advised to use their notice period to ensure they have a robust financial plan and websites such as www.moneyforce.org.uk can assist with this.

The Joint Service Housing Advice Office holds regular briefings to provide personnel and their dependants with civilian accommodation information. For more details go to www.gov.uk

With reference to your P45, SPVA has confirmed that yours was generated and sent to your primary address within two weeks of your leaving, along with a final pay statement.

Unfortunately, the law means SPVA cannot provide a replacement but your new employer can collect the required information to work out your correct tax code for the future.



Slippery slope for Reservists?

● WHY don't Reservists who instruct on adventurous training expeditions qualify for longer separation allowance (LSA)?

When I was a Regular soldier I became accustomed to receiving this and, possibly naively, expected the same rules to be applied to Reserve personnel.

After all, the Service is trying to promote a "one Army" culture.

Having raised the issue with my pay staff, I was offered the following responses: "You've just had a holiday, why should you get it?" and "You volunteered to go, so you don't qualify."

Actually, I was asked to attend to facilitate the training.

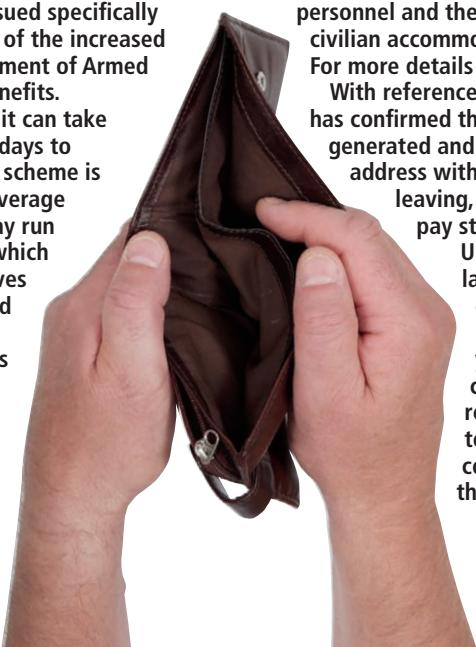
Given the nature of my employment, most of my service is voluntary so does this mean I should expect to have my pay reduced because I turn up of my own free will? — Name and address supplied

Maj Derek Saunders, Personnel Capability, Army Headquarters, replies: Though your enquiry doesn't mention the fact, I assume you deployed as an adventurous training instructor under the authority of the Reserve Forces Act 1996, section 27, which is voluntary training/other duties.

Despite being requested to attend, you had the choice whether to go or not because this regulation is not binding on either party.

Your question is a recurring theme from the Reserve community but the answer remains the same; this type of duty does not accrue LSA.

However, if your task was to facilitate the training, then you are eligible for LSA under JSP 752, chapter five, section four, paragraph 05.0407.



GOT A GRIPE?

✉ mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk
Twitter @soldiermagazine

RANT OF THE MONTH

Get it off your chest and on social media



www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine

READERS OF OUR BOOK REVIEW SECTION HAVE BEEN GETTING HACKED OFF WITH TITLES THAT FOCUS ON MISTAKES MADE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR..



Alain Chissel

I'm getting a bit tired of historians/writers who use hindsight and their imagination as to what could/should have happened. They weren't there on the ground making the decisions based on information that they had and to use the resources available to them at the time.

“
IT IS PLAIN WRONG THAT SOLDIERS HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM
”



Bill Mason

Very well said and I absolutely agree with you! Some of them are not military historians, just writers trying to sell a book and the only way to do that now is to either be controversial or follow populist myths.

Beat that, anyone?

● I JOINED the Army in September 1982 and am still serving.

Does that make me the longest-serving Regular non-commissioned officer in the Service? – **Sgt Tim Garner, CAMUS**

“
Some people feel forced to get married
”

Should signing a piece of paper make such a difference?



Picture: Shutterstock

Furious at fiance fiasco

IHAVE a gripe about the marriage policy we adhere to.

I am based at the Joint Service Signal Unit in Cyprus and pay 350 euros per month to live in rented accommodation with my fiance of three years.

Someone who signs a marriage certificate can access free health and dental care, housing and reserved jobs on camp. This isn't fair; just because I am not yet married doesn't mean my fiance is not my dependant.

I believe some people feel forced to get married quicker than they want to just for the well-being of their partners and this has a massive effect on relationships in the long-term and the divorce rate.

Obviously, if a couple have only been together for a short time the non-military partner shouldn't be given access to these services and facilities but could a registered long-term relationship of more than two years be treated differently?

The Army says it wants stability for its soldiers but it also expects me to leave my fiance at home for three years. – **Name and address supplied**

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, replies: Wherever possible the term "entitled family member" is now being used to describe dependants.

Concerning your own circumstances, I have sympathy that the personal choices you have made sit outside the current policy for support.

However, the MoD is reviewing the future provision of Service accommodation to potentially embrace more modern ways of living and offer greater choice.

The future accommodation model (FAM) seeks to provide a range of subsidised options based on need, regardless of age, rank or relationship status.

An important FAM survey goes live on September 5 (see pages 30-31) which aims to capture the opinions of all Servicemen and women and their families on a host of housing options that could be implemented in 2018.

Agreement has yet to be finalised on these changes, so make your voice heard by taking part.

Of course, this does not help you in the short term but significant work is being undertaken to review how we meet the requirements of our personnel and their families.

New flash point

● BRIG Donnelly's response to the letter "No cash to splash on flash" in the July issue beggars belief.

I wonder which soldiers he will be around to support when their RSM responds to his assertion that flashes are considered optional items.

I am fortunate that my unit funds and issues these to us gratis. It is plain wrong that soldiers and/or their unit are having to pay for pieces of uniform they have to wear.

Isn't it time to find the money, do the right thing, and issue them?

– **Name and address supplied**



Moans about funding recognition flashes like this one rumble on

Time to smarten up

● I LEFT the Army a couple of years ago and remember new number two and barrack dress uniforms and footwear being issued to all ranks.

Has it all been withdrawn?

The soldiers I see around town these days look like they have just come off exercise or guard duty.

They are rarely in anything other than multi-terrain pattern (MTP) clothing, even when it comes to freedom parades and church services.

Surely this should be used in the field and on operational deployments and exercises, not in barracks.

I live in Aldershot, close to a major headquarters, and even staff officers based there seem to work in MTP gear.

Why don't they look smarter while in the public eye and on duty?

I visited a college open day recently where mayors and local dignitaries were present and the Army officers who were in attendance looked scruffy by comparison.

Some of the defence budget is being spent on these new uniforms so why are they not being worn by personnel?

– John Cracknell

Brig John Donnelly, Head of Army Personnel Services Group, replies:

Number two dress and barrack dress are still issued items and there are no plans to withdraw them but the standard working outfit of the Army in operational



and regional headquarters and units is the personal clothing system – combat dress (PCS).

This is in line with most of our Nato counterparts.

Issues of the clothing to every Regular and Reserve officer and soldier has only recently been completed so in the past you may have seen parades where everyone was wearing PCS.

All freedom parades, church services and similar occasions should be conducted in number two dress unless there are particular circumstances that exclude this requirement.

Jammie dodger takes the biscuit

● WHILE on exercise recently I opened up my ration box to find I had peanut butter and raspberry jam.

I used this fortuitous turn of events to indulge in a culinary delight.

I took my ration biscuits and spread the peanut butter on one and the jam on the other, squeezing them together to make a most delightful treat.

The first of my concoctions was good, the second was even better!

Now, imagine my disappointment when I realised I had just five biscuits and could not have more tasty snacks.

Why on earth would they put an odd number of biscuits into a ration pack?

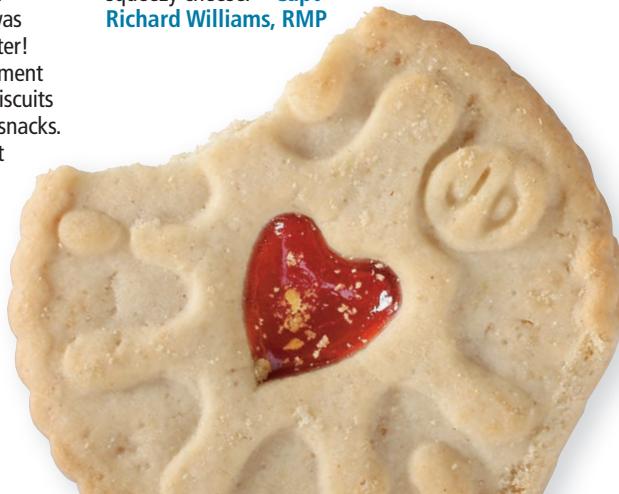
I was disgusted with this turn of events and even now I burn with disappointment, nay anger.

Please can I make an

appeal to rectify this so no other person will go through the same gastronomic heartbreak as me.

In today's modern Army I don't think it is too much to ask that our troops are fed with an even number of biscuits.

And don't get me started on the squeezy cheese. – Capt Richard Williams, RMP



‘Our surveys mean zilch’

● DESPITE its length and loaded questions, I set about answering the annual tri-Service families continuous attitude survey (FAMCAS) and was on the verge of returning it when this year's miserly one per cent pay award (or should that be “insult”) was announced and, thus, decided to bin it.

Attending Armed Forces' pay review body events and answering their questionnaires do nothing to improve my soldier's or family's position.

Pay is dwindling, pensions are depleted and housing remains as dire as ever.

It's clear that the “jam tomorrow” we were asked to wait for after the 2010 strategic defence and security review is really “gruk forever”.

The only way I can see to improve our quality of life is to make a quick exit to civvy street as nothing collected by these tick-box exercises seems to ensure that the many compromises of Service life are balanced by an attractive and equitable financial package.

In fact they seem only useful for identifying where else to trim.

– Name and address supplied

An Absolutely Fabulous idea?

● IN recent years we've seen changes to the titles of many senior officers, none of which have brought any greater clarity to what they actually do. Why can't they be easy to remember and explain their jobs?

We have a Commander Home Command, so why can't Commander Field Army become Commander Away Command?

Then, as budgets shrink, these two posts could be merged so we have Commander Home and Away.

Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe could become Deputy Commander Neighbours, the Surgeon General renamed Commander Casualty, Chief of the Defence Staff would be Commander One Foot in the Grave and the chiefs collectively known as Commanders Antiques Roadshow. Just a thought. – Name and address supplied

Child's logic is hard to beat

● I TOOK the opportunity to take my 13-year-old son into work one day as it was a rare chance to show him what his daddy does.

He had a great time because we had a battlegroup training day going on that consisted of Jackals, Foxhounds and WMIKs and he was able to meet a few of our great people and see a range of our first-class equipment.

I diligently explained how we were testing the battlegroup within a realistic hybrid threat scenario to see how personnel synchronised effect to harness combined arms ground manoeuvre in concert with aviation (notional) and joint fires (synthetic) all while endeavouring to achieve culturally attuned ground-based reconnaissance and optimised situational awareness to outmanoeuvre the adversary.

Bless him, he seemed to grasp much of the complexity.

Indeed, he told me he wants to explore the concept of doing both his homework and the household chores in a notional manner!

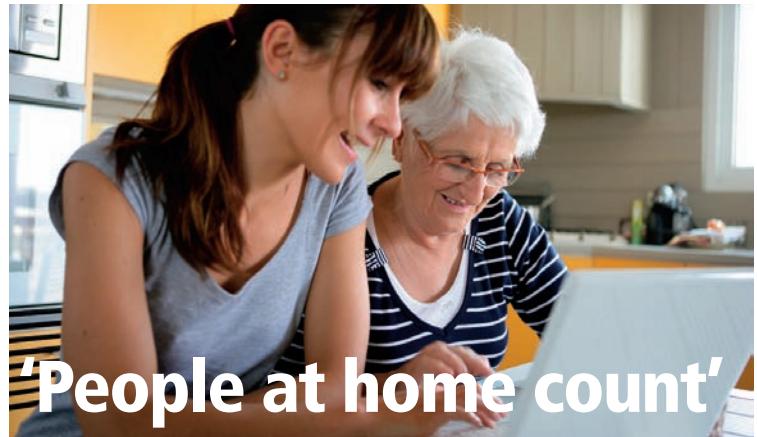
Throughout my explanation he nodded sagely and then with childhood clarity asked why if the trees and grass are green does the Army paint its Jackals, Foxhounds and WMIKs yellow?

He said he still had some matt green paint left over from a model-making project and he could lend it to us. He may have a point.

– Maj Greg Blunden, RE



A Jackal on home soil in its desert colour scheme... but who knows where it will be operating next?



‘People at home count’

Picture: Shutterstock

THE get-you-home travel allowance GYH(T) helps with the cost of ensuring that we can see our dependants at weekends.

These are normally classified as spouses or children but with the ageing population and more personnel supporting their parents by paying their utility bills, is it time for a rewrite of the joint Service publication relating to this issue? – Name and address supplied

Brig John Donnelly, Head of Army Personnel Services Group, replies: The aim of this allowance, as set out in JSP 752, chapter five, section five, is “to reduce the impact of separation on personnel in order to improve retention whilst also supporting the mobile nature of the Armed Forces”.

It achieves this by contributing towards the cost of travel from the duty station to a qualifying residence when both are within the same country and the Service person carries out such travel.

GYH(T) is extremely important and in relation to your specific case it would be useful to know

more about whether or not your circumstances fulfil the criteria outlined in chapter one, section one, which states: “It must be where the Service person would normally reside during weekends, stand-down periods, and periods of leave and for which they have full or partial responsibility for the council tax”.

But the fact remains that the aim of JSP 752 reflects the underpinning purpose of this allowance, which is to allow the individual to make a return journey home on a regular basis.

You feel that parents should be included as named dependants if a Serviceman or woman is paying their utility bills.

However, this is not the allowance’s aim and there has to be a clear policy boundary concerning eligibility that considers the full range of potential claimants – for example, personnel who want to visit their children from a previous marriage.

Without this, the scheme would simply be unaffordable.

Blind carbon copy cop-out

● I HAVE noticed a worrying trend to BCC emails, a practice at odds with the ethos of an organisation that needs to be grown-up enough for open and frank conversation, irrespective of rank, post and experience.

I have seen several messages recently that have included a BCC, obviously without the action recipient’s knowledge, followed by a short angry response from an officer providing a “shot across the bow”.

Moral courage, integrity and respect for others are all undermined by the

devious nature of this action, frequently sent with the motivation of raising the profile of the sender rather than resolving a specific problem.

If an individual lacks the moral courage to say something face-to-face, either as an action addressee or a CC, they are deficient in a fundamental component of what earns them the privilege to serve.

The BCC provides cowardly individuals unfettered access to a “blamethrower” and should be disabled. – Name and address supplied

Reserve training rocket



Some artillery courses are highly technical and time-consuming

AM a Royal Artillery Reservist and needed to complete the command systems level four course to be eligible for promotion.

After waiting seven years for a Reserve version to be developed I did the eight-week package for Regulars.

This decision made seeking full-time employment in the period beforehand largely futile as few employers would take on someone knowing that they would lose them in the near future for two months.

It has potentially cost me thousands of pounds in lost earnings and put back my civilian career.

There are not many firms that would be willing to lose a staff member for this amount of time without the financial assistance that comes with mobilisation. As a result, junior non-commissioned officers in command systems and observer trades are, effectively, career-fouled at lance bombardier level.

The fact that we receive just five days' pay per week while away on Regular courses isn't exactly an incentive either because this would represent a pay cut for many.

The current situation discriminates against Reservists and is not in keeping with the "one Army" concept.

Having spoken to colleagues, I know I'm not alone in feeling this way. To my mind, the most viable solution would be to change the rules to allow mobilisation for significant periods away on Regular courses.

In the letter "Reservists Careers Come Under Fire" in July 2015, it was stated that Reserve versions of these programmes would be released in the next few months.

Could you please let us know what

progress, if any, has been made?
— Name and address supplied

Lt Col Angus Cameron, Assistant Commandant, Royal School of Artillery, replies: The Royal School of Artillery aims to provide modular, adaptable and integrated learning that caters to Reserve availability by running programmes at the school, at other locations or at units.

We take the Regular package and divide it into multiple training solutions to meet the situation and individuals, promoting integrated operational capability in the process. Reservists are also welcome to attend Regular courses if they prefer.

The development of Reserve-friendly offerings with significant pre-course distance tuition started with the simpler courses at the bottom of the career ladder.

The level four (detachment commander) artillery command systems qualification, required for promotion to sergeant, is demanding and generally lasts longer than two weeks.

It involves a high degree of hands-on tuition with physical equipment and demands technical and theoretical understanding.

I am very sympathetic to your complaint, and it is unfortunate you and your colleagues have had to wait for training to be developed for the top-level classes you are interested in.

The conversion of highly technical courses to an electronic format is both time and cost-intensive, but we will get there.

Mess moan

● CAN I be forced to pay a mess bill? I live 46 miles from camp and never step foot in the mess during the day or in the evening. So why should I pay £17 per month for a facility I'm never going to use?

I've heard stories of regimental sergeant majors threatening to make people's lives hell if they book out, so where do I stand before I make my case to mine?

— Name and address supplied

Col David Wheeler, Assistant Head of Personnel Services Group, replies: Your query concerns a corporals' mess which is not officially recognised within Queen's Regulations so you cannot be forced to be a member.

Many units establish these to build a strong identity, developing cohesion and acting as a springboard into the warrant officers' and sergeants' mess.

Opting out will mean that you would not be making the most of these opportunities.

“THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE "ONE ARMY" CONCEPT”

Convoy query

● IN July 2003 I was in a convoy in Iraq heading straight for the Kuwait border.

We spied a line of vehicles heading towards us and we flashed our lights at each other.

As they closed we realised it was a group of half a dozen or so black Range Rovers – and they were flying Union Jack flags.

They turned off the road to let us pass but were now waving their fists at us, so I merely waved back and shouted "thank you".

I don't know who they were or what they were doing there but I'd love to know. Can anyone help?

— Name and address supplied



Queen Ethelburga's - Girls and Boys

Thorpe Underwood, York. YO26 9SS. Tel: 01423 333 330 Email: info@QE.org. www.QE.org

Living as a member of a Forces family is an unusual experience and not normally one understood by those unfamiliar with service life. Civilians find it difficult to imagine a job where you can be moved at little or no notice and where you can be sent into a hostile zone with no regular means of contacting your family.

Rest assured, we understand the pressures that your family has to go through. About a fifth of our pupils come from Forces backgrounds and we work hard to support those children and the difficulties they face being away from home and worrying about their serving parents.

The College has seen another outstanding year with its A-Level results. 80% of grades at A-Level were A*-A and 98% were A*-B. The Faculty of Queen Ethelburga's, which offers students the opportunity to do more vocational subjects at BTEC, celebrated some of its best results ever. 80% of grades at A-Level were A*-A (up from last year's

76%) and 96% of grades were A*-B (up from last year's 90%). The Faculty's 88% Distinction*-Distinction pass rate at BTEC (equating in UCAS points to an A/A* grade at A-Level) shows equal strength in these qualifications.

Over the last few years our Combined Cadet Force has gone from strength to strength and we have a thriving contingent with cadets split between the Air Force and the Army.

With the backing of The Collegiate Charitable Foundation we are able to guarantee that your contribution to fees is no more than £795 per child per term. This makes us one of the most competitively priced boarding schools in the United Kingdom for Forces children. With our investment now standing at £100m, 2015 has seen more facilities come online including a new sport science lab, state-of-the-art gym and Activity Centre with further developments underway for 2016. Please see our dedicated sports

village website (www.sportsvillageqe.org) for further information, including Elite Rugby (supported by Yorkshire Carnegie) and Netball (with Yorkshire Jets).

With the number of young people we have living on campus it is important that there is always a range of things to do in their spare time. This is the idea behind our new Activity Centre, packed full of all the favourite things young people like. It combines outdoor energetic activities and challenges such as a huge climbing tower, assault course, trampolines, roller boating, go-karts, Segways and professionally built BMX track with indoor activities like electronic games, musical activities plus much more. Don't just take our word for it, pay us a visit and see for yourself.

Call us on 01423

333330 for a prospectus and DVD.

Next Open Day is 1st October 2016



Co-ed	All types	UK's 2015 Top 20 Boarding Schools	
		Based on Sunday Times % A*/A A-Levels	% A*/A
1	1	Wycombe Abbey School	85.7%
	2	Westminster School	85.4%
	3	Brighton College	85.1%
	4	Winchester College	84.2%
	5	Sevenoaks School	82.9%
3	6	Queen Ethelburga's College	82.5%
	7	St Paul's Boys School	81.4%
	8	Eton College	80.7%
4	9	Faculty Queen Ethelburga's	80.2%
	10	Concord College	79.9%
5	11	Tonbridge School	78.0%
	12	St Mary's School Ascot	77.1%
	13	Cheltenham Ladies' College	74.5%
	14	Whitgift School	73.0%
6	15	Wellington College	72.8%
	16	Ruthin School	72.8%
7	17	St Swithun's School	71.0%
	18	City of London Freemen's	70.5%
	19	Downe House	70.4%
9	20	Westbourne School	69.7%



→ **Your parental termly contribution is only £795**

For four years we have pegged your contribution per child, per term, at £795. Childcare Vouchers also accepted. This now means we rank as one of the most competitively priced schools for UK Forces

→ **Queen Ethelburga's College is league table ranked as the 3rd best UK independent co-educational boarding school for academic results and our Faculty is 4th.**

We accept a broad range of abilities. As one parent said "QE has the ability to turn the average youngster into well above average academically and have them also turn out as happy and well-rounded." 95% of Year 13 students go to University with majority to Oxbridge, Ivy League or Russell Group universities.

→ **Our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. No one else even comes close.**

Every bedroom has its own private shower and toilet plus telephone, voice mail, large plasma TV/DVD player + gaming port (on timer), a Sony PS3, fridge, microwave, trouser press and hot drinks facilities. House staff are friendly and caring.

→ **A vast amount of fun filled activities and trips out.**

Each week we run 150+ non-sports and sports extra-curricular activities. Fun packed weekends.

→ **£30m Sports Village with 7 Astro-Turfs + 250,000 sq feet of indoor facilities**

QE is Regional Performance Coaching Centre for: England Basketball, England Hockey, England Netball, and Regional Centre Developing Player Programme England Rugby, plus QE Cricket Academy in association with Yorkshire County Cricket Club. In 2015 QE won the British Colleges Rugby National Cup Final.

→ **More British Forces children than any other boarding school - because we care.**

We understand the needs of service families with staff who are married to serving members of the Forces. With years of experience in ensuring our 300 + Forces children settle well, are confident and successful. Easy to get to by road, rail and air. Dedicated, professional, friendly and helpful staff go the "extra mile" to ensure your child is happy and doing well. We have Forces families from all over the UK.

→ **Over £100m invested in new facilities in the last 8 years.**

Why choose an independent school education for your child if you qualify for CEA? If you made a list, the same reasons would keep appearing. We think the list might include: happy children, academic results, a personalised approach, top quality teachers with specialised expertise, good discipline, latest technology and superb facilities, excellent pastoral care, excellent sport, first class boarding accommodation, diverse experience, small classes, university success, excellent career prospects, first class confidence and self assurance. If you want the best for your child, and to stand a chance of achieving most of this list, we believe you would need to pick one of the top 10 UK Independent boarding schools as ranked by the Sunday Times. BUT, most importantly of all, we unashamedly also offer TLC - tender, loving care!

BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW



CAREERS

Veteran Employment Transition Support programme, aimed at connecting ex-Forces personnel with employers. For details visit www.veteranemployment.co.uk

Transition Force uses a combination of technology and events to provide personalised career support for ex-Service personnel nationwide. Visit www.transitionforce.com/events

Ex-Military Recruitment assists former soldiers from specialist technical regiments trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, logistics and telecommunications. For details log on to www.xmr.co.uk



COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: Andrew Hoare, Ludgershall, Hampshire; Glyn Coney, Shaftesbury, Dorset



DIARY

September 7-8: DVD 2016 at Millbrook. A key event for UK Land Forces equipment and support. Visit www.theevent.co.uk

September 8: Reserves Day



DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity: 0845 241 4820

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

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

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

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

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

Army Libraries: 01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society: www.armybirding.org.uk

Army Welfare Service: 01904 882053; www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support

Big White Wall: www.bigwhitewall.com

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

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans: 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 020 7469 6661

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

Combat Stress: 01372 841600; www.combatstress.org.uk

Defence Humanists: www.defencehumanists.org.uk

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

Family Escort Service: 020 7463 9249

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

Forces Pension Society: 020 7820 9988

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

Heroes Welcome: www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

HighGround: www.highground-uk.org.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office: 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

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

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

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

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

Remount: 01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion:

0808 802 8080; www.britishlegion.org.uk

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

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

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

SPACES (Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services): 01748 833797; www.spaces.org.uk

Veterans Welfare Service: 0808 1914 218 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas) www.gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfare-service

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

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

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

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

The Royal Star & Garter Homes: 020 8481 7676; www.starandgarter.org

The Veterans Charity: 01753 653772; info@veteranscharity.org.uk

uk4u Thanks!: 01798 812081; www.uk4u.org

INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 108/16: Performance management workshops in TLB

ABN 107/16: Changes to Army Reserves phase 3 training

ABN 106/16: Upcoming career management changes

ABN 105/16: *Career Management Handbook*, part 3

ABN 104/16: Enhancement to core meal under pay-as-you-dine

ABN 103/16: Army employment events guidance 2016

ABN 102/16: 2016 Families continuous attitude survey

ABN 101/16: Agile Warrior 2015/16 report

ABN 100/16: Army Rifle Association AGM

ABN 99/16: Amendment 1 to *All-Arms Tactical Aide Memoire*

ABN 98/16: Somme 16 exploitation conference

ABN 97/16: Lead first scheme

ABN 96/16: Reserve attendance process change

ABN 95/16: Tactical doctrine note 16/02 – *Human Security: The Military Contribution*

ABN 94/16: Defence language audit

ABN 93/16: Asian Achievers Award nominations

ABN 92/16: LGBT forum

ABN 91/16: Regular soldiers rejoin policy

ABN 90/16: Future civil service in the Army

ABN 89-16: Performance management review

ABN 88-16: Senior soldier continuity posts

ABN 87-16: Women in ground close combat

ABN 86-16: Military engineer (geo tech) financial incentives

DIN 2016DIN01-123: Medical technician (biomedical scientist) student entry criteria

DIN 2016DIN01-122: Medical technician (radiographer) student entry criteria

DIN 2016DIN01-121: Medical technician (operating department practitioner) student entry criteria

DIN 2016DIN01-120: Internal structural reorganisations within HQ Surgeon General

DIN 2016DIN01-117: NHS agenda for change grades; deadline extension for submission of 2015 performance appraisal and development reports

DIN 2016DIN01-116:

Reimbursement of professional body fees for Regular Armed Forces allied health professionals

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INTELLIGENCE CONTINUED

DIN 2016DIN01-115: Women in ground close combat: lifting of exclusions for women in ground close combat roles across defence

DIN 2016DIN01-114: Regular Army soldier rejoin policy

DIN 2016DIN01-113: Senior soldier continuity posts for Army other ranks

DIN 2016DIN01-112: Regulations governing the payment of overseas nursery allowance

DIN 2016DIN01-111: Reporting the death of off-duty non-mobilised Reservists to JCCC deceased estates

DIN 2016DIN03-030: Diplomatic clearance requirements for foreign state aircraft in the USA

DIN 2016DIN03-029: Contact with the media and communicating in public

DIN 2016DIN04-146: Declaration of obsolete: Matel field telephone system and AESP 5805-T-150

DIN 2016DIN04-145: Declaration of obsolete: fixed base force protection and AESP 5895-A-200

DIN 2016DIN04-144: The removal from service of charge demolition conical 12kg L7A1, charge demolition underbridge 17.5kg L11A1 and charge demolition overbridge 72kg L12A1

DIN 2016DIN04-142: Fridge scientific 24-inch all refrigerator 6CARFX101

DIN 2016DIN04-141: Declaration of obsolescence: HF Mark 3 battery

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DIN 2016DIN04-140: Declaration of obsolete: Warrior user headset and test set

DIN 2016DIN04-139: Weapon equipment declaration of obsolete obsolescent status

DIN 2016DIN04-138: Amendments to operational medical modules contents April to June 2016

DIN 2016DIN04-137: The withdrawal from service of command detonated munition and the introduction of the replacement fixed direction fragmentation weapon

DIN 2016DIN04-136: Declaration of obsolete: Special Forces counter-terrorist team helmet

DIN 2016DIN04-135: Interim policy directive periodicity variation of electrically powered medical dental and veterinary

DIN 2016DIN04-134: Amendments to operational medical modules contents March 2016

DIN 2016DIN04-133: Sysmex 1000i haematology analyser

DIN 2016DIN04-132: Fuji NX 500 dry chemistry analyser

DIN 2016DIN04-131: Joint counter-chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear availability working group direction for the demanding of CBRN individual protective equipment

DIN 2016DIN06-026: The Defence Road Safety Rose Bowl Award 2016 – results

DIN 2016DIN06-025: Clarification

of defence policy on the service life expiry date of ammunition

DIN 2016DIN06-024: Laser safety policy letter 16-01 – *Control of Optical Radiation at Work Regulations for Broadband Services*

DIN 2016DIN06-023: Introduction of Altair 4X personal gas monitors for use in confined spaces

DIN 2016DIN06-022: JSP 454 – *Land Systems Safety and Environmental Protection, version 7*

DIN 2016DIN06-021: Publication of JSP 800, vol 4a – *Dangerous Goods by Air Regulations, version 3*

DIN 2016DIN06-020: Implementation of defence safety authority enforcement policy

DIN 2016DIN06-019: Issue of amended JSP 309 – *Fuel and Industrial Gas Health, Safety and Environmental Protection*

DIN 2016DIN06-018: Management of land non-ionising radiation hazards to personnel, fuels and flammable gasses

DIN 2016DIN06-017: Release of JSP 319, version 4.1 – *Joint Service Safety Regulations for the Storage, Handling of Gases*

DIN 2016DIN07-102: BSc (hons) degree in human resource management

DIN 2016DIN07-101: Key logistic messages

DIN 2016DIN07-100: Adventurous Training Group (Army) ski courses

DIN 2016DIN07-097: Aeronautical meteorological personnel

DIN 2016DIN07-096: Maritime Warfare Centre courses, summer term 2017 to spring term 2018

DIN 2016DIN08-009: Funding for operations, version 2

DIN 2016DIN08-008: Charging rates and accounting for concessionary travel

DIN 2016DIN10-038: Shotokan karate novice course

DIN 2016DIN10-037: British Army motorsports event, Autumn Leaves

DIN 2016DIN10-036: Shotokan karate development course

DIN 2016DIN10-035: Army Rifle Association target shooting courses December 2016

DIB27/16: Updated ministerial portfolios and Private Office contacts

DIB26/16: Pay award for MoD main civilian staff below SCS

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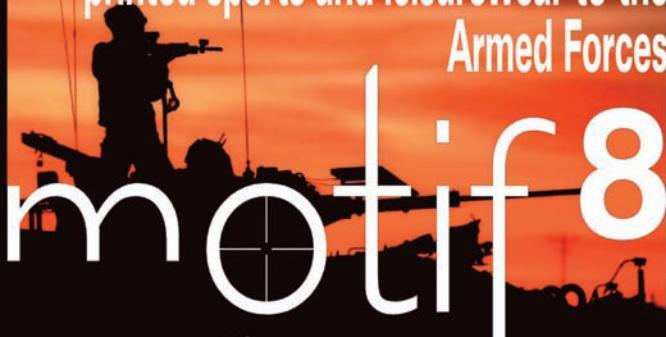
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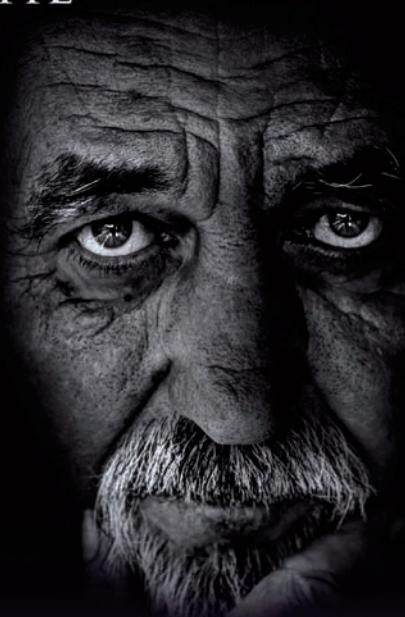
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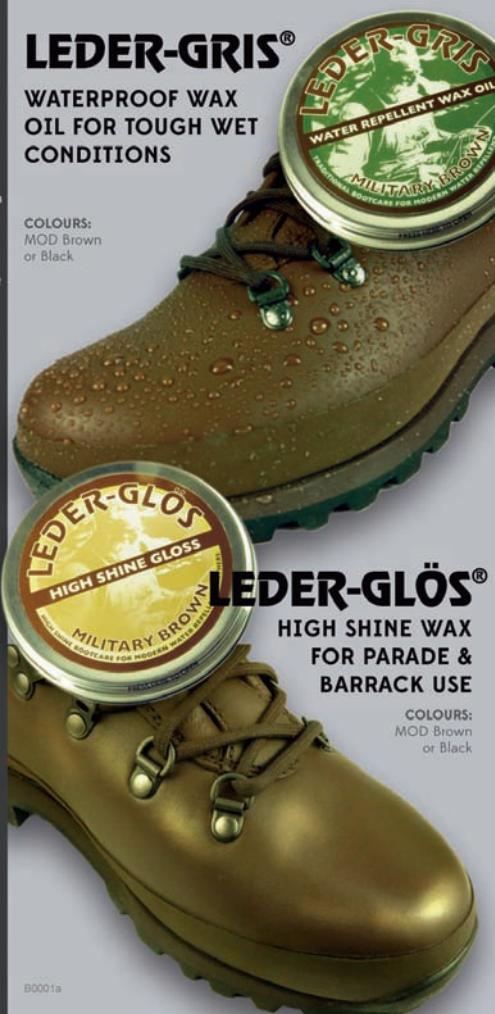
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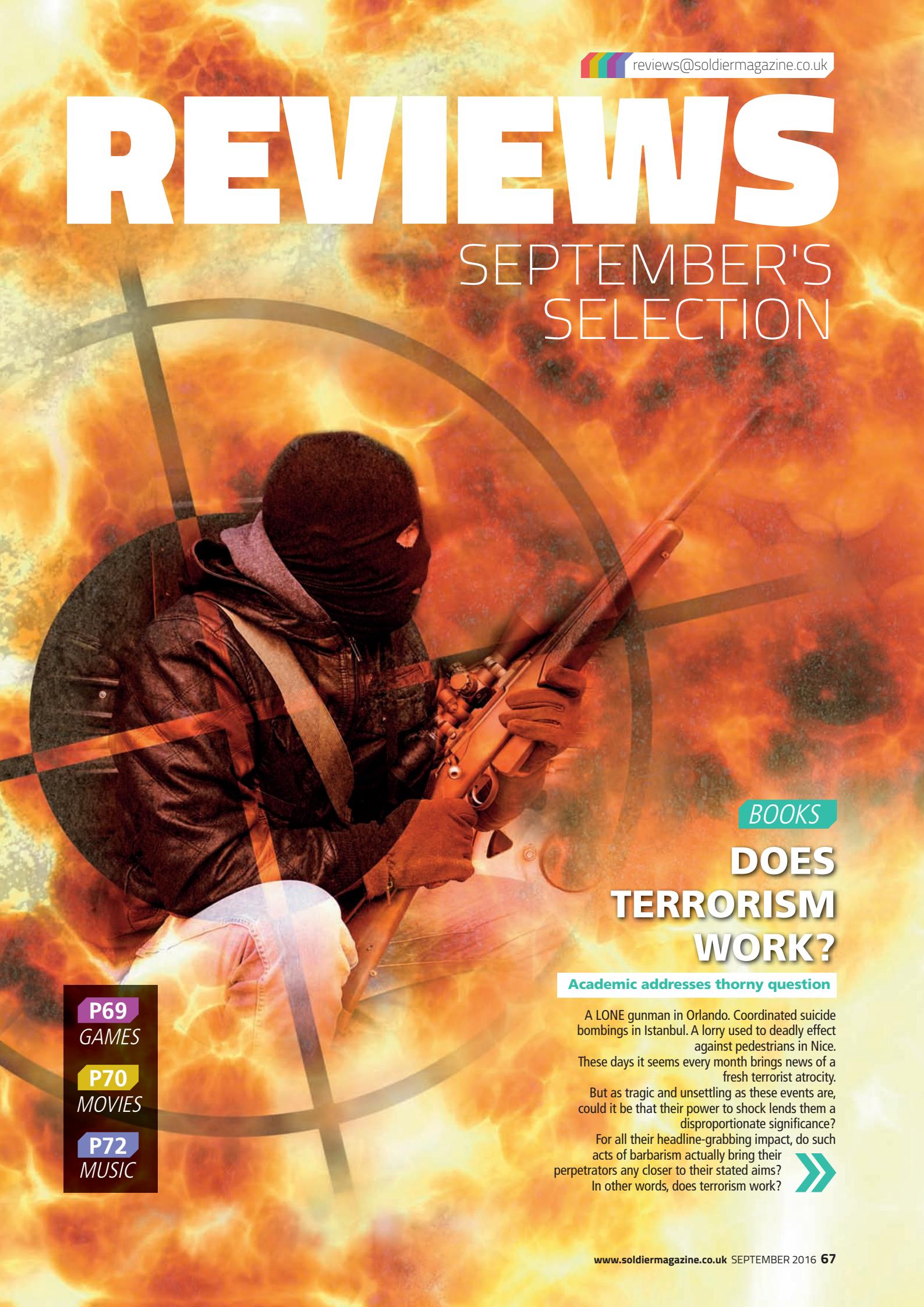
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REVIEWS

SEPTEMBER'S SELECTION

BOOKS

DOES TERRORISM WORK?

Academic addresses thorny question

A LONE gunman in Orlando. Coordinated suicide bombings in Istanbul. A lorry used to deadly effect against pedestrians in Nice. These days it seems every month brings news of a fresh terrorist atrocity.

But as tragic and unsettling as these events are, could it be that their power to shock lends them a disproportionate significance?

For all their headline-grabbing impact, do such acts of barbarism actually bring their perpetrators any closer to their stated aims? In other words, does terrorism work? 

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GAMES

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MOVIES

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MUSIC

BOOKS



In his book of the same name, University of St Andrews professor Richard English draws on more than 30 years of experience in the field to dissect this timely, if uncomfortable, question.

Using four case studies from recent history – al-Qaeda, the Provisional IRA, Hamas and Basque separatist group ETA – along with many other examples, he analyses what, if any, gains these organisations have made through the use of violence.

Acknowledging it is controversial to suggest there could be some method to the terrorists' madness, he sets out a rigorous framework to assess how effective each group's activities have been.

"I break it down to four basic levels," he told *Soldier*.

"Strategic victory – has the organisation achieved its central or primary goal?

"Partial strategic success – has it achieved any secondary goals or managed to set the agenda so its opponent is prevented from securing victory?

"Tactical success – this could be an operational victory, gaining publicity or securing interim concessions.

"Finally, has it secured any of what I call the inherent rewards of struggle? That could be as simple as revenge or, for the individuals involved, a sense of pride, glamour or celebrity."

By this reasoning, therefore, 9/11 constituted a huge tactical success for Osama Bin Laden and his followers. However, strategically, it could be viewed as counterproductive because in goading the United States into its "War on Terror" it led to more Western boots on Muslim ground – directly at odds with one of al-Qaeda's primary aims; expelling America from countries in the Middle East.

While the question of partial success is much more complex, on the whole this trend of strategic failure is continued among the other groups covered in the book – some well known, others more obscure; the author's knowledge of the topic is encyclopaedic.

So if terrorists, by and large, don't achieve their higher goals, should governments and policy makers set about altering their approach?

"I would argue we need a calmer response," replied English. "Terrorist violence tends to seize headlines but we should strive for a more measured approach and avoid overreacting."

"If strategic goals are unlikely to be achieved, perhaps states should take this into account and focus on other issues instead – such as making terrorists' tactical operations as difficult as possible, as well as recognising their own contribution to the problems from which terrorism arises."

With attacks filling our newsfeeds with depressing regularity it seems scant comfort that zealots usually fall short of their grand plans.

This comprehensive title doesn't claim to have the answers but it certainly makes an interesting contribution to the debate. ■

REVIEW: BECKY CLARK

VERDICT:

An impressively detailed analysis of a perpetual problem

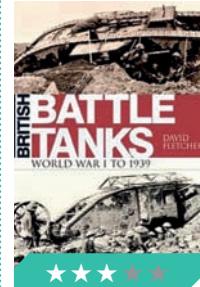


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Does Terrorism Work? by Richard English is published by Oxford University Press and priced £25

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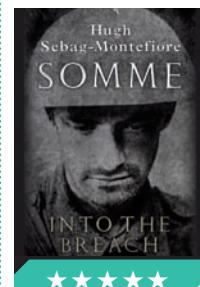


British Battle Tanks
by David Fletcher

ONE hundred years ago, born out of necessity and a dogged stalemate on the Western Front, the Mark 1 battle tank was introduced to the world and the way wars were fought changed forever. The path of these

mighty machines wasn't an easy one, with many bogged down in the mud and left to be stripped bare where they lay. This book contains a lot of technical data but that's where its strength lies because it's telling the story of a very technical vehicle. Tank aficionados will want as much information about their subject as possible and this title definitely delivers on that front.

TONY DAVID, ex-RE

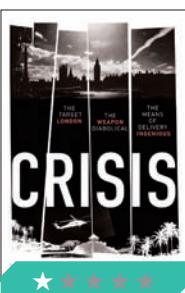


Somme: Into the Breach
by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore

MARKING the 100th anniversary of the most tragic day in British Army history, this book can only go down as one of

the greatest battlefield studies ever put to print, up there with Anthony Beevor's *Stalingrad*. The first-hand accounts from the Tommy in the line bring the horror of the conflict to life in a way we in the 21st century cannot comprehend. Hugh Sebag-Montefiore details how tactics improved through the introduction of the creeping barrage and the invention of the tank, and how British and Empire troops eventually wore the German Army to a standstill.

LCPL SCOTT ROBERTS (RIFLES)


Crisis
by Frank Gardner

A WORK of fiction is what you get with this book by journalist Frank Gardner – and not much else. The story has been told over and over: a drug cartel in Colombia, North Korean dissidents thrown into the mix and a kidnapped girlfriend who escapes in farcical circumstances. The main character, Luke Carlton – an orphaned ex-Royal Marine, ex-Special Forces soldier etcetera – is as unlikely and unbelievable an action hero as you're likely to find. This book was a chore to read. The author should have looked for new material instead of flogging a storyline that others have rolled out on numerous occasions in the past.

Tony David, ex-RE


**Operation
Barbarossa 1941**
by Christer Bergstrom

THE scale and ferocity of the fighting on the Eastern Front in the Second World War can sometimes be difficult to follow. This book examines the first 12

months of the ill-fated German invasion of Stalin's Russia in some detail. Barbarossa was a huge and complex operation launched in the summer of 1941. Using a wealth of photographs and maps Christer Bergstrom delivers an informative and easy to follow account of the titanic and desperate struggle that ensued. It is quite an expensive buy but worth it if you are interested in the campaign.

Mike Peters, ex-AAC


Spin Zhira
by Chris Green

MEANING "old man" in local Afghan dialect, this book tells the story of Chris Green, a former Regular Army officer who built a successful civilian career before

having a bit of a mid-life crisis and joining the Reserves. Attached to the Grenadier Guards on Herrick 16, he was a much older captain than his contemporaries. This is a very readable account of his recollections in which the humour, fear, comradeship, worry about family and sheer hard graft of an operational tour come across well. A very informative title, it is not so much about the conflict itself but about how one man got through it.

Andy Kay, ex-RS


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» COMPARED to mainstream headphones, usually reserved for music, you might be forgiven for thinking that the video gaming equivalent isn't quite as good – that it's not something to be taken seriously.

Well that isn't the case here at all.

Some headsets provide basic audio feedback for gamers – they allow you to hear the music, listen to character dialogue and provide the vaguest indication of when an eight-foot tall alien is trying to shoot you in the face.

But Turtle Beach appears to have taken this concept and turned it up to eleven.

The Elite Pro headset is the cutting edge of audio immersion, whether you are playing the likes of *Call of Duty*

or *Battlefield*, or *The Division* and *Rainbow Six Siege*.

It is the first piece of kit from the company that has been designed for the most hardcore and dedicated eSports player.

Here, aural accuracy is the difference between hearing the baritone roar of a Ferrari engine in *Forza* or snatching victory in *Halo 5: Guardians*.

In reality, the Elite Pro is unbelievably comfortable, able to sit firmly on your head without resulting in any discomfort or excessive heat, and they are thoughtfully designed to accommodate a pair of spectacles.

The audio is utterly flawless, projecting frighteningly accurate indications of friendly and enemy fire.

In fact, it is so good





SOLDIER SELECTS


Lego Star Wars: The Force Awakens
 Playstation, Xbox, PC, iOS and Android

THE last few *Lego* titles have been a blast. But *The Force Awakens* really pushes this concept to new levels. It's awash with fantastically animated levels, voiceovers from the film's cast and features plenty of characters to play around with. Unlike in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, this iteration doesn't snatch moments from the movie – they're

specifically recorded for the game, giving it a fresh feel. The gameplay is smooth and seamless and the audio is superb, especially the soundtrack. What's not to like? Well, to be honest, the only bugs are literally just that – several annoying bugs that pop up every now and then to hamper the experience. But hopefully these are relatively remote. Buggy problems aside, this really is a superb *Lego Star Wars* combination and worthy of your attention.

David McDougall, *civvy*


Worms W.M.D
 PS4, Xbox One and PC

FANS of this much-loved franchise will know exactly what to expect from the latest instalment in this over-elaborate

artillery battle. While the game remains largely the same as its predecessors there are more than enough tweaks to make it worth a look. A fresh raft of crazy voices, explosive deaths and lethal weaponry add to the entertainment value while a new crafting mechanism, in which you can collect strewn items from the battlefield to enhance the classic *Worms* arsenal, is a welcome addition. The gameplay is easy to master and you'll be launching a super-flatulent sheep at your enemy in no time. This is by no means innovative, but if it isn't broken why fix it?

Richard Long, *Soldier*



it's likely to make mainstream headphone brands, such as Beats and Sennheiser, sit up and take note and perhaps weep quietly in the corner.

Voice chat is crisp and clear and the choice of optional accessories all add to the experience.

From a bespoke audio controller (pictured left) to a noise-cancelling mic, this is a must-have for any dedicated gamer, regardless of your preference for online or campaign play.

The only downside is the price. The basic kit will set you back £169.99, and if you are intending on buying the tactical audio controller and the noise-cancelling mic you are looking at spending almost £400 in total.

But lets be honest, the opportunity to gloat is worth every penny. ■

REVIEW: DAVID McDougall, CIVVY

VERDICT:

Audio never sounded so good
 ★★★★☆


PICK OF THE MONTH:
BRENT IS BACK
But the big screen does him few favours

AFTER two brilliant series of *The Office* (which I was horrified to learn is 15 years old) and an even better Christmas special, *Ricky Gervais* had a lot to live up to with *David Brent: Life on The Road*.

And while in many ways the return of Slough's cringeworthy boss is a very welcome one, its lack of any real plot or character development means it fails to live up to the big-screen format.

In an age where the inexplicable *Mrs Brown's Boys* is considered to be comedy, it is hard to be too scathing about Gervais's decision to promote his award-winning character to this new format.

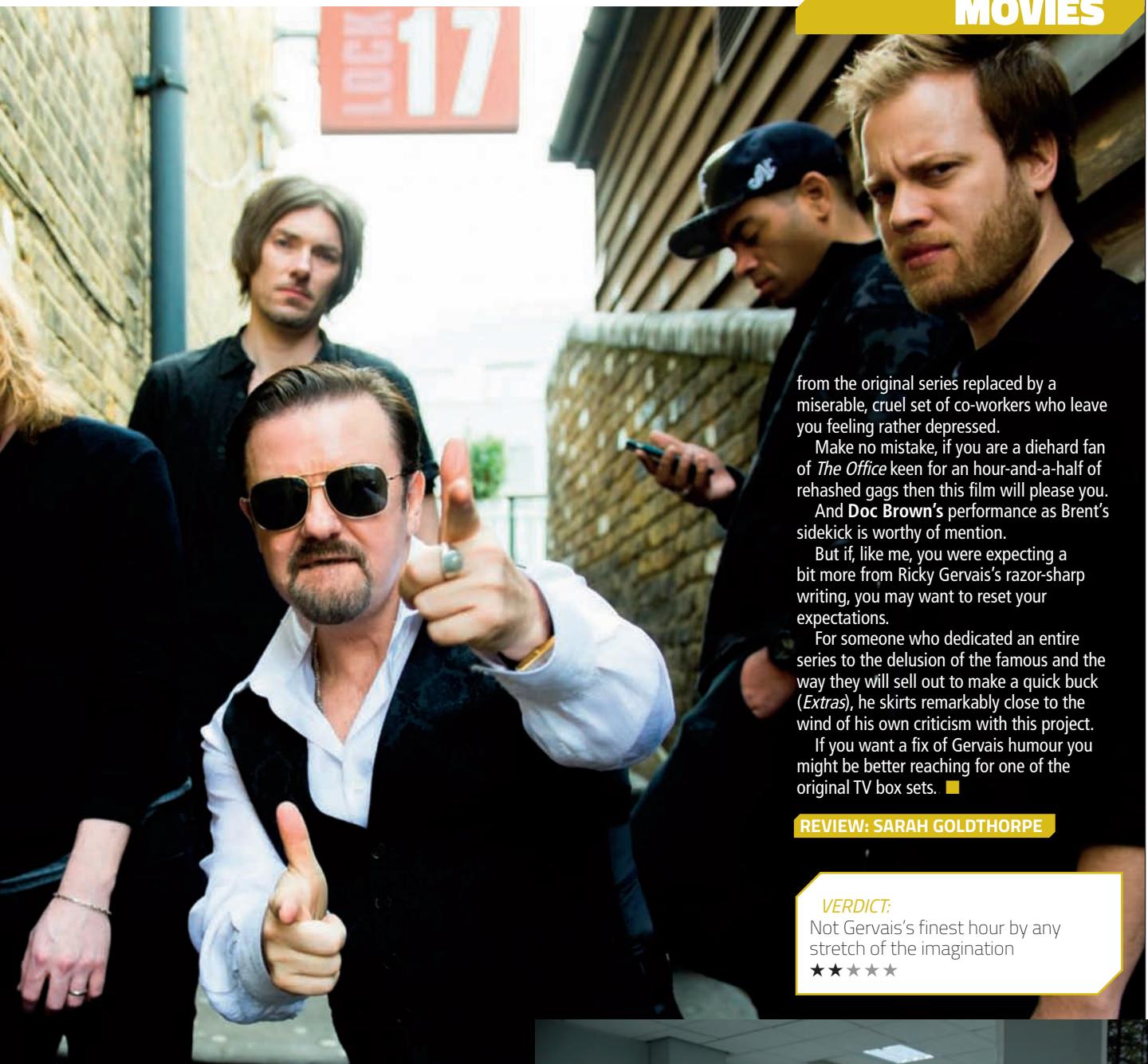
In a desert of soul-sapping, lowest-common-denominator tosh the agonising interactions of the sales rep-turned-singer-songwriter are as refreshing as they were back in 2001.

But the script falls short of the TV series in a big way, and at times the gags feel cheap.

The story centres on Brent's attempts to hit the big-time by taking his band Foregone Conclusion on tour.

Since we last encountered the business guru, he has suffered a breakdown, gone into therapy and found a new repping job.

But other than that he is the same old character, just with the likeable colleagues



from the original series replaced by a miserable, cruel set of co-workers who leave you feeling rather depressed.

Make no mistake, if you are a diehard fan of *The Office* keen for an hour-and-a-half of rehashed gags then this film will please you.

And Doc Brown's performance as Brent's sidekick is worthy of mention.

But if, like me, you were expecting a bit more from Ricky Gervais's razor-sharp writing, you may want to reset your expectations.

For someone who dedicated an entire series to the delusion of the famous and the way they will sell out to make a quick buck (*Extras*), he skirts remarkably close to the wind of his own criticism with this project.

If you want a fix of Gervais humour you might be better reaching for one of the original TV box sets. ■

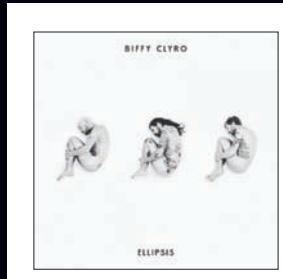
REVIEW: SARAH GOLDSBOROUGH

VERDICT:

Not Gervais's finest hour by any stretch of the imagination

★★★★★





PICK OF THE MONTH:

ELLIPSIS

Biffy Clyro

LAST month's headline set at the Reading/Leeds Festival confirmed **Biffy Clyro's** status as one British rock's heavy hitters.

But in a career spanning more than 20 years and seven albums the Scottish trio have earned their recognition the hard way.

Such efforts are now reaping handsome dividends with latest offering *Ellipsis* peaking at the top of the album charts.

However, this change in fortunes has created new problems for the group and with previous release *Opposites* also reaching number one there was a certain degree of pressure on the musicians as they headed into the studio on a quest to record fresh material.

"It is probably the only time I have struggled to write the first few songs for an album, to get the ball rolling," explained frontman **Simon Neil**.

"*Opposites* went better than we ever anticipated and we toured for a couple of years on the back of that so when we got home the well was dry.

"For a couple of months I was really beating myself up trying to write these amazing tracks. But, of course, not every tune can be amazing.

"So it took a while to find which ones were going to guide us forward and I'm glad we took our time and were patient.

"It is a luxury we can now afford to take. Our art is important to us and we were not going to rush things."

The slower tempo also allowed the band to adopt a more experimental approach in the studio, which came as a contradiction to previous ways of working.

"For the first time we were quite open as to what would happen," said bass player **James Johnston**.

"Usually we have every little detail worked out and when we get to the studio

we are trying to record what we've heard in our heads.

"But for this, probably half the songs hadn't even been played in the practice room so they were an open book, which left a bit more space for the production to take centre stage."

"It is quite nerve-wracking to go in the studio and not know what you'll eventually come out with."

Despite this change in direction, *Ellipsis* is as fresh and invigorating as their first record.

Neil retains the crystal clear vocals that stand impressively above the screeching riffs and this showcases the quality Biffy Clyro have in spades – and not just as a heavy metal rock act.

It almost feels like a double-sided affair. Early tracks such as *Wolves of Winter* and *Friends and Enemies* serve as an attack on the group's doubters before the latter numbers adopt a more thought-provoking approach, with *Medicine* charting Neil's treatment for depression.

The album has everything I was expecting and more, I loved *Small Wishes* with its country-style telling of Scottish independence.

It has a feel about it, which showed the recording studio was a fun place to be in and that oozes out of each track.

For me, this record firmly pushes Biffy Clyro into the realms of being a peerless British rock band. ■

REVIEW: TONY DAVID, EX-RE

VERDICT:

A band with pure pedigree



MOVIES CONTINUED

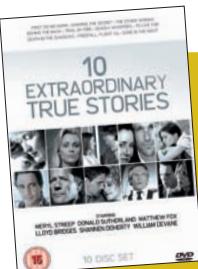


Rock the Kasbah out now

I'M not going to lie, this is not a great film. I expected a lot with it having such a great cast, but there's very little to recommend. Even the soundtrack is weak. The movie centres on a washed up

music manager (**Bill Murray**) who embarks on a mission to get a young singer noticed while visiting Afghanistan. I just felt let down watching it, to be honest. Disappointing.

Cpl Adam Jackson, Para



WIN!

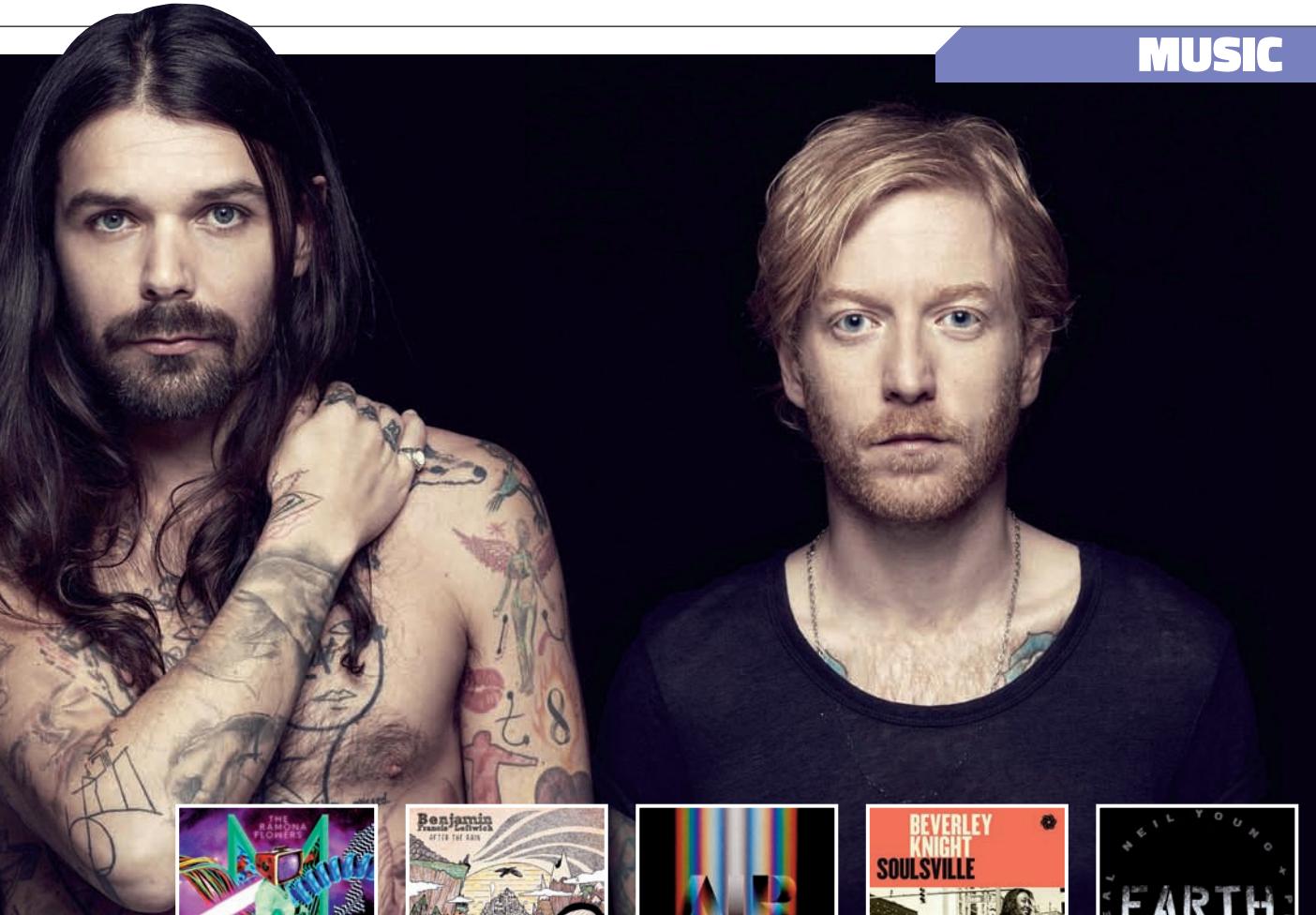
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STARRING screen legends **Meryl**

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SOLDIER SELECTS

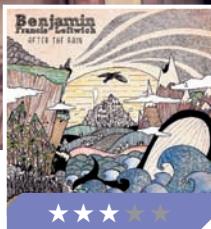


Part Time Spies
by The Ramona Flowers

THIS up-and-coming Bristol band have a tendency to write about the more day-to-day aspects of life. Heavily influenced by 80s electronic music, their second album has a mellow but upbeat feel to it. The title track surges with energy and melodic vocals, while *Midnight Express* is pure electronica and the slow building *Sharks* takes on a serious note in dealing with the loss of a loved one to a brain tumour. This retro but modern collection will appeal to the masses and the group's growing popularity will be further boosted by their support to **White Lies** and **Stereophonics**.

Their success is even more surprising as they also hold down day jobs in labouring, drainage and bar work.

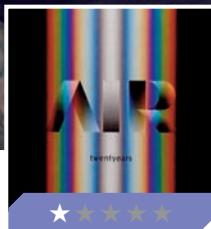
Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals



After the Rain
by Benjamin Francis Leftwich

WRITTEN in the shadow of his father's death, *After The Rain* is the second album from Yorkshire singer-songwriter **Benjamin Francis Leftwich**. In the guitar, piano and his own breathy vocals Leftwich has found a hauntingly beautiful vehicle to convey the sense of sadness and isolation he felt during this time. It is, however, the unrelentingly sedate tempo and sweet melancholy that lets the record down slightly. Moments of lyrical clarity and majestic chord sequences sometimes get lost in all the tinkling and strumming. Standout numbers *Day by Day* and *Kicking Roses* pick up the otherwise plodding pace but on the whole this is a raw, honest portrayal of grief and its eventual resolution.

Capt Kat Hunter, RAMC



Twenty Years
by Air

APPARENTLY Air have released nine albums, not that I or anyone else would have heard of them. Either way, tenth offering *Twenty Years* is a mix of band throwbacks and new songs that made little, if any, positive impression on me. It all sounded like backing music for a black and white student film, especially *Playground Love* and *La Femme D'argant*. The only familiar song is *Sexy Boy* and even then you'll spend more time trying to work out what film/programme/advert it was in rather than actually listening to it. This record has no redeeming features and is perfect for those who sit in coffee shops taking themselves too seriously in a vain attempt to look cool and blasé amongst their equally boring circle of friends.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles



Soulsville
by Beverley Knight

AFTER an absence of five years, the much-loved **Beverley Knight** bursts back onto the scene with her eighth studio album. *Soulsville* is a celebration of the music, sounds and legacy of the city she fell in love with many years ago – Memphis. It takes in original songs and a handful of classics and features a collection of stirring new tracks co-written by the singer herself. It is a bit of a mixed bag and has the feel of a covers record at times, while also sounding new and innovative. Take the cover of *Hound Dog* for example. You're likely to think of the **Elvis** version but Knight actually references the original rendition by **Big Momma Thornton**. It's different but it sounds really good and that is the general theme throughout.

Rodge Tapply, ex-RE (SPS)



Earth
by Neil Young

THIS is a strange affair from one of music's most respected artists. It is a faux-live album that was recorded while on tour and the tracks have then been dubbed with animal and audience sounds to make it sound like a concert. Sound bizarre? It is. He has chosen songs from his vast back catalogue that are solely about the environment, hence the title. It is all very peculiar and the weird sounds make the record irritating – despite the jammy groove and great performances from the backing band throughout. Still, for those of us who've been following his twisting career for decades it's hard to complain too vociferously when **Neil Young** makes yet another daft musical statement. It's just what he does sometimes.

Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)



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SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Trying times: The Army's triathlon stars locked horns with a determined Royal Air Force outfit at the Inter-Services championships. Find out how they fared on pages 76-77...



TRIATHLON PAIN GAME



Royal Air Force lead the charge as Army's triathlon stars play second fiddle in the Cotswolds

THE Royal Air Force seized control of the Inter-Services triathlon championships as emphatic displays in the individual and team events saw them dominate the field.

Availability issues hampered Army selection this season but the Reds mounted a strong charge in South Cerney, with Capt Edd Charlton-Weedy (RA) claiming a hard-fought silver medal and Sgt Ryan Smith (Int Corps) finishing fourth.

But the duo could do little to prevent RAF sensation Luke Pollard from retaining his title as the full-time athlete surged to the line in a time of 2hr 2min - a lead of more than one-and-a-half-minutes over his nearest rival.

Pollard signalled his intent in the swim, where he trailed teammate Ben Terry by just three hundredths of a second

as they exited the water and headed for the transition.

The Army were firmly in the hunt with four competitors positioned in the top six and some fast times on the bike ensured the contest remained in the balance.

With the ten-kilometre run to finish proceedings the RAF were well placed with Pollard and Terry in first and second.

But with the latter fading in the closing stages Charlton-Weedy narrowed the gap and overtook the airman on the final lap to secure the runner-up spot.

Smith finished strongly to take fourth place, however, the light blues occupied fifth, sixth, eighth and tenth spots as the team total edged towards a decisive margin.

"There was quite a good battle at the back-end of the podium and it wasn't really

decided until the last kilometre of the run," Charlton-Weedy told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"At the start of the season we won the Inter-Services duathlon by just two places so we knew this would be a pretty close affair.

"But that makes things more interesting.

"If you look at some of the names on the trophy in recent times you'll see a lot of people coming and going; that's what makes this competition so hard to call.

"This year it has been really hard to get a slot on the team and that is a good sign of where we're at."

The officer's comments are supported by the fact that more than 200 soldiers competed at the Army sprint championships, with a further 100 tackling the standard distance finals.



“I PUSHED REALLY HARD ON THE BIKE AND THAT IMPACTED ON MY RUN”

Sgt Ryan Smith (Int Corps)



Teammate Smith was one of those to accept the challenge and he walked away with the Service title before taking fourth place at the Forces showdown.

"I pushed really hard on the bike and I think that impacted on my run," he explained.

"I was 14th last year and fourth this season so I'm happy with that."

"It has been a good team effort. We are missing a few guys so it has been great experience for some of our newer members."

"Luke Pollard is a full-time athlete and he is an example of the talent that exists within the Services."

"We are developing a good

rivalry with the RAF. They go away on their training camps and we stage ours and then we fight it out every July."

Lt Col Chris Stuart (RLC), chairman of the Army Triathlon Association, believes the sport is in a healthy position – despite missing out on top honours in 2016.

A programme of winter training sessions and overseas camps is ensuring the conveyor belt of talent keeps churning and the future is looking bright.

"We have got real strength in depth," the officer explained. "The guys get a taste for it at our events in Aldershot and there is a novice camp in April.

"We always stage our



warm-weather training in May so everything is nicely consolidated.

"The Royal Army Physical Training Corps are away at a half Ironman event and had that contingent been available here we would have been more confident."

"But that has given an opportunity to others. This year we had one or two veterans who were quick enough to compete in the open category but we didn't do that as we wanted other people to test themselves."

"The RAF have been really strong so we will go away and double our efforts."

"It is a good motivator for us moving forward." ■

Inter-Services Triathlon

Men's championship

Royal Air Force 69
Army 88
Royal Navy 327

Women's championship

Royal Air Force 140
Army 173

In Numbers

98

Entrants in this year's Inter-Services Triathlon Championships at the Cotswold Water Park



6

Servicewomen in action for the Army



HOARE BRACED FOR IRON TEST

» IT was a similar story in the women's race, where newcomer Sam Rose secured gold for the RAF in a time of 2hr 14min 13sec.

Army star Sgt Becky Hoare (REME) finished second but with the light blues claiming the next three places the team title was never in doubt.

The event came at the wrong time for Hoare, who competed in an Ironman event ten days earlier and was still suffering the after-effects.

"I had a good swim and the bike course was nice and fast," she told *SoldierSport*. "But I knew the run would be tough."

"It was just about getting round. I managed to pick up the pace on the final lap but it was so hot."

Hoare specialises in the long distance Ironman races and is returning to form having been struck down with chronic fatigue following a hectic 2014.

"When you train for these events you don't really concentrate on the high intensity work that is needed for triathlon," she added.

"It is a different race entirely."

"I will be competing at the European Half Ironman Championships in Germany and it would be great to walk away with a podium place."

"From there I will hopefully qualify for the World Championships in Hawaii, so it is another busy year."

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REDS TOAST COURT DOUBLE

Inter-Services Tennis

Men's championship

Army 9
Royal Navy 7
Royal Air Force 2

Women's championship

Army 11
Royal Air Force 5
Royal Navy 2

A LAST-minute venue change failed to break the focus of the Army's tennis aces as they completed a team double at this season's Inter-Services.

With Wimbledon out of action the contest was due to be held at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton but an unfavourable weather forecast saw the action split between two locations.

The men headed to the indoor courts at Portsmouth, where avenging last year's loss to the Royal Navy was at the forefront of their minds.

Top seed Capt Ben Rogers (RA) gave his side the perfect start as he made short work of Senior Service number one

LCpl James Herbert and the Reds quickly added another win as Lt Scott Sears (RGR) triumphed over Flt Lt Jon Bond, of the Royal Air Force.

However, the second round of matches did not go to plan as Rogers came out on the wrong side of a three-set battle with Sqn Ldr Chris Evans, and Cpl Laurence Tere (RAMC) narrowly lost to Mne James Scales.

Normal service was resumed in the day's final fixtures as Sears and Tere both picked up victories to leave the Army tied with the Navy on four rubbers.

The outcome of the competition would therefore be determined in the doubles and the Reds took five of the six games played to regain the trophy.

In the women's championship at RAF Halton it was very much business as usual as the soldiers put their rivals to the sword with another emphatic display.

Newcomer and top seed Pte Chloe Pike (Int Corps) signalled the team's intent as she thrashed Navy number

one AB Sunny Parker 6-0, 6-0 and with Maj Fiona Welborn (RADC) and Lt Preet Chandi (AMS) also in top form the Army won every match in the singles draw.

They looked set to repeat the feat in the doubles but a narrow loss in a three-set epic dented their hopes of a 100 per cent record.

"We won 11 rubbers last year and we were trying for 12 this time round but it wasn't to be," said women's captain Maj Charlie Walsh (AGC (ETS)).

"We knew we had a strong team. The only match we lost was a tight affair; everything else was won in two sets.

"What has been really pleasing this season has been the level of commitment among the players."

1

Game dropped by Lt Preet Chandi in two winning matches

Court report

Date: August 1-2, 2016

Competition: Inter-Services Tennis

Venue: Portsmouth Tennis Centre/ RAF Halton



Singles results

Men

Capt Ben Rogers beat LCpl James Herbert 6-2, 6-3

Lt Scott Sears beat Flt Lt Jon Bond 6-2, 6-1

LCpl Laurence Tere lost to Mne James Scales 2-6, 7-6, 6-7

Capt Ben Rogers lost to Sqn Ldr Chris Evans 5-7, 6-3, 4-6

Lt Scott Sears beat S/Lt Devarin Chowdhury 7-6, 3-6, 6-2

LCpl Laurence Tere bt Flt Lt Andy Keeley 4-6, 6-2, 6-3

Women

Pte Chloe Pike beat AB Sunny Parker 6-0, 6-0

Maj Fiona Welborn beat Sqn Ldr Nikki Lofthouse 6-1, 6-0

Lt Preet Chandi beat Lt Katie Scott 6-1, 6-0

Pte Chloe Pike beat Wg Cdr Delia Chadwick 6-0, 6-2

Maj Fiona Welborn beat LCpl Alice Hudson 6-0, 7-5

Lt Preet Chandi beat Flt Lt Jane Evelagh-Hall 6-0, 6-0



● The women's set-up is holding coaching sessions and a tournament for new players at the Army Tennis Centre in Aldershot on Wednesday, September 14.

For more details email tessa.grieves101@mod.uk

MONTH in sport

September's key fixtures...



WHAT: Inter-Corps Twenty20 Cricket Championships

WHEN: September 6-8

WHERE: Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot

COMMENTS: The annual corps showdown has been shifted to the latter half of the season but expect plenty of action as the RLC look to retain their title



WHAT: Army Indoor Freestyle Championships

WHEN: September 15

WHERE: The Snow Centre, Hemel Hempstead

COMMENTS: The Service's ski and snowboard stars will take to the piste as part of their preparations for the upcoming winter season



WHAT: Inter-Services Downhill Mountain Bike Championships

WHEN: September 20-22

WHERE: Antur Stiniog, North Wales

COMMENTS: The Forces' adrenalin junkies will tackle one of the finest courses in the country as they challenge for honours in Snowdonia



Garside geared for Forces battle

THE Army rugby league stars return to competitive action this month on a mission to avenge a miserable Inter-Services campaign in 2015.

A comprehensive defeat at the hands of the Royal Air Force was followed by a 10-2 loss to the Royal Navy as the Reds finished bottom of the pile but head coach SSgt Liam Garside (AAC) is predicting a stronger showing this season.

The squad embarked on a week-long training camp in Cyprus last month as their preparations stepped up a gear and performances on the pitch have prompted an optimistic outlook.

The soldiers pushed a Newcastle Thunder side boasting 12 first-team players all the way before losing 38-

26 but went on to down the Scottish Warriors 50-32 in an Armed Forces Day fixture.

"There has been a lot of changes in the squad this year with younger, vibrant players coming through," Garside told *SoldierSport* on the eve of the annual tournament.

"But we still have a couple of seasoned Inter-Services campaigners involved. The difference at this level is about managing the occasion, we need people who think clearly and will not get riled up."

"We play the Navy in our opening match in Salford. They will be our strongest rivals so victory in that game will hold us in good stead for our clash with the RAF."

"I am very confident. The lads have worked really hard this year and hopefully we can

win the Inter-Services to repay that effort."

Despite positive reports so far Garside was quick to state places in the team are far from guaranteed and that efforts in Cyprus will go a long way to determining the make-up of his side.

"It will be a testing period," he added. "Some of the lads will have to take a long, hard look at themselves; they may feel they have done enough but that is never the case."

"However, we are a well-rounded team with players who can cover a number of positions and that strength in depth will be needed throughout this competition."

The Army play the Navy in Salford on Sunday, September 18 and then face the RAF in Hull on September 23. ■

BRITISH DRAGON



» **WOUNDED** veteran Mark Harding was part of the Great Britain team that took to the waters in Rome for the European Dragonboat Championships.

The ex-Serviceman was told he would never walk again after being shot in the neck by a Taliban sniper but his rapid recovery has seen him compete on the international stage alongside his able-bodied counterparts.

"The sport has opened new horizons for me," said the former lance corporal, who served in 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

"It's been an excellent way of continuing my recovery and, more importantly, helping with my rehabilitation."

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SPORT SHORTS



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» ENTRIES are still being sought for the 2016/17 Regional Command Indoor Rowing League.

The event gets underway later this month with new challenges set on a regular basis.

For details join the RCIRL 2016-2017 Facebook group or email scott.pollock228@mod.uk



Thomas triumphs

» MIXED martial arts star Cpl Alan Thomas (2 Rifles) secured the Battle Arena European title with victory over challenger David McCallum.

The flyweight fighter secured the belt on a split decision after three punishing rounds in Northampton.

"There was a mixture of nerves and excitement ahead of the bout," the soldier said. "With the place full of fight fans I was ready to put on a good show."

"It was a very emotional experience and I was over the moon with the result."

STANNING'S GOLDEN GAMES

ROWING sensation Maj Heather Stanning (RA) underlined her reputation as one of the sport's biggest stars by mounting a storming defence of her Olympic title.

Competing alongside partner Helen Glover in the women's pair the officer dominated the field in her showpiece final to maintain a winning run that stretches back to 2011.

The duo coasted to the line in a time of 7min 18.29sec as they finished 1.2sec ahead of the New Zealand crew who claimed silver.

Having lead from the outset the outcome was never in doubt but they suffered a scare earlier in the regatta, when they had to come from behind to beat Denmark in the heats.

But normal service was resumed in the semi-finals, where a commanding display saw them take the win ahead of the USA and South Africa.

With such an impressive record to their names all eyes were on the athletes and they produced another trademark performance in the final.

"This whole week I've been really nervous," Stanning said afterwards. "I think that's because we put so much pressure on ourselves to go out and deliver every time and this is the event we've been building up to for the past few years."

"We've worked hard and we've known this is what we wanted to do so it was also about trying to stay in the moment, enjoy it and deliver



the plan we've trained for."

The pair's victory in London four years ago was the first Olympic gold for British women's rowing, meaning Glover and Stanning are now the country's first back-to-back champions.

With the Games coming every four years thoughts will inevitably turn to Tokyo 2020 but the officer was quick to stress the importance of savouring the moment without looking too far ahead.

"We want to enjoy what we've done, take stock away from this environment

and not make any rash decisions," she added.

"We've worked very hard to get this record and to be where we are. We've had some fantastic opposition over the years.

"It's a tough event and you've seen while we've been competing that everyone has put up different pairs and it's pushed us on.

"Without Robin Williams, our coach, we wouldn't be the crew we are." ■

● Paralympic hopefuls set for Rio – page 90



Game brief

Date: August 2-4, 2016

Competition: Inter-Services cricket

Venue: United Services Ground, Portsmouth

Army

Prinsloo	Cooper	Simon
Green		
Varley		Narayan
Boynton		
Redfern		Booth
Ralph		
Senneck		



Inter-Services 50-over cricket

Royal Navy 114
Royal Air Force 115-2

Royal Navy 188
British Army 189-3

Royal Air Force 83
British Army 84-1



RUNNING AWAY WITH IT

Army prove too strong for their Forces rivals in emphatic title defence

ARUTHLESS display from the Army bowling attack saw the soldiers ease to a comfortable title defence in cricket's Inter-Services 50-over competition.

Having dispatched the Royal Navy with relative ease, the Reds made light work of the Royal Air Force in the tournament decider as pacemen Maj Alex Senneck (R Signals) and LCpl Brannon Varley (RAMC) wreaked havoc.

The former ripped through the top order to reduce the airmen to 33-3 and with runs in short supply the stranglehold was maintained throughout a disappointing effort with the bat.

All-rounder Varley opened his account with the dismissal

of Richie Williams for two and then combined expertly with Cpl Ian Redfern (RE) to rout the remainder of the line-up.

The RAF lost the next five wickets for just six runs to effectively end the contest, with Varley denied a hat-trick by a strong forward defensive shot having claimed two scalps in successive deliveries.

A late flurry from Kearan Pearce stemmed the Army momentum but when the tail-end was trapped leg before by Redfern the innings closed on a miserable 83 all out.

Varley recorded outstanding figures of 4-17 from his ten overs, with Senneck taking 3-30 and Redfern 3-13.

The run chase proved a formality for the Army's

batters, who coasted to a nine-wicket win in 16 overs.

Opener Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds) hit six boundaries in an unbeaten 38 while Varley finished 27 not out.

The result came on the back of a comfortable win against the Senior Service, who were indebted to a superb knock of 88 from opener Ben Kohler-Cadmore as they posted a total of 188 with the bat.

Player-of-the-tournament Senneck was again in the thick of the action as he finished with 4-18. Spinner Pte "Spice" Narayan (RLC) was the Army's other attacking weapon and claimed 4-30 from 8.4 overs, with Cpl Jay Boynton (REME) taking the other wickets to fall.

In reply, Green and opening

TALE OF TOURNAMENT



» Having beaten the Royal Navy by seven wickets in their opening match the Army head into their contest with the Royal Air Force in fine form

» Maj Alex Senneck makes immediate inroads as the RAF top order is blown away



» All-rounder LCpl Brannon Varley maintains the pressure and claims figures of 4-17 from ten overs



partner LCpl Jordan Relph (R Signals) put on 63 for the first wicket as the Navy struggled to make inroads.

The former fell for 25 and Relph followed soon after for 36 but Varley hit a brisk 45 to maintain the tempo and Senneck steered the champions-elect home with an unbeaten 52 from 65 balls.

"It has been a fantastic team performance," winning skipper Cpl Jaques Prinsloo (RE) told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"Last week we were struggling a bit but we have

come here and everything has gone like clockwork; the lads have put a lot of hard work into this win.

"Alex Senneck is a great guy and an immensely talented player. The experience he offers our team helps so much and hopefully he can stay around for another season or two.

"It is an amazing honour to captain this team. We are all from different walks of life but we come together as a group.

"It is a job I never take lightly but it is immensely enjoyable to see everyone perform." ■



Wickets in two games from Maj Alex Senneck, at an average of 6.86 runs



VARLEY CALLS TIME

VICTORY in the 2016 Inter-Services marked a fond farewell for Army cricket stalwarts LCpl Brannon Varley (AMS) and Cpl Ian Redfern (RE).

Both are due to leave the military later this year and will be greatly missed by the team given their loyal service over a number of seasons.

Speaking to *SoldierSport* at the close of play Varley said the side's latest triumph was the perfect way to bow out and he believes they are well placed for further glory in the future.

"I couldn't have asked for more," he added. "It has been an outstanding day and I've played with a great bunch of lads; it was quite emotional really.

"I had a slight injury coming into the competition

but I wasn't going to let that stop me – it is my last Inter-Services.

"The standard of players we have in the team and the level of commitment we put into our game every time we go out is unbelievable."

During his time in the Army set-up Varley has featured regularly at Lord's as the Forces Twenty20 competition goes from strength to strength and having the chance to play at the home of cricket is one of the memories he will treasure.

"There are so many things to look back on," the all-rounder said. "From charity games to a diplomatic tour to Pakistan.

"It was always a pleasure to play at Lord's and I would not have had that opportunity otherwise."

THE STANDARD OF PLAYERS IS UNBELIEVABLE

» The Reds celebrate a successful day in the field as the airmen are all out for a below-par total of 83



» Opener Maj Storm Green leads the Army run chase and top scores with 38 not out

» After starring with the ball Varley makes a useful contribution with the bat



» The result is never in doubt and the soldiers win the match by nine wickets

LE O R D S R E D M A N T H I T

» Golf plays key role in recovery mission

» Ryder Cup venue welcomes wounded personnel

» Battle Back team downs Australian rivals on the course



CELTIC Manor, home to the 2010 Ryder Cup, staged the latest on-course action for wounded personnel from the Battle Back programme.

In a competition that mirrored the format of its famed predecessor, the UK troops swept their Australian counterparts aside as they recorded a 15-5 win to lift the Clyde Pearce Trophy.

The three-day event saw ten players from each nation lock horns in fourball, greensomes and singles matches with the hosts building on an impressive victory down under in 2015.

But success on the greens is just part of the story and it is the sport's ability to aid the recovery and rehabilitation process that is of prime importance to Maj "Barney" Barnett (RAPTC), chairman of Battle Back Golf.

"It has both physical and psychological benefits," the officer told *SoldierSport*.

"Physically, it is about getting around the course and learning the mechanics of things like a golf swing.

"On the other hand, there are a lot of guys suffering with PTSD and brain trauma so for them coming together as part of a team is huge.

"Getting out on the course and managing a round is a really big part of the game. A lot of these players could not even leave the house but here they are competing and being successful."

The initiative is the brainchild of Lt Col Tristan Crew (RAMC), who saw the merits of the Battle Back project through the work he did with the disabled skiing team.

As an avid golfer he was keen to extend the success to his sport and the organisation was formed in 2009.

The scheme now boasts more than 180 members – ranging from newcomers to those with single-figure handicaps.

"The psychological aspect is really important," the senior officer said. "Golf allows them to play against able-bodied people and compete.

"Their self-esteem grows as their game improves and handicap comes down.

"We are probably the biggest Battle Back sport and I'm surprised at how quickly it has grown.

"The golf industry has been so supportive and

that ensures we are successful. Coming to courses like this, with its facilities, is fantastic."

One of those to benefit is amputee Gary Meekins, who lost an arm following a motorcycle accident.

The former Regular in The Parachute Regiment, who later served as a Reservist, was a keen golfer prior to his injury

but believed his sporting days were over.

However, he learned to play one-handed and recorded wins in his opening two matches of the tournament.

"At first you hit so many bad shots you think you'll never get better," he said. "But there is a lot of instruction available through Battle Back.

"I hadn't even considered playing until they said 'give it a bash'. This scheme gets wounded and injured people back into that military mindset – there's camaraderie, friendships and a lot of banter.

"The younger lads who have lost a limb may think it's the end of their world, but if they can play golf they can do anything."

For WO2 Jim

Fitzsimmons (RE) the initiative has aided his recovery and rehabilitation from a range of injuries suffered in an IED blast in Afghanistan.

He has previous experience of golf but moved away from the game as the tempo of operations and day-to-day life took over.

"It is about mental well-being," he said. "I was feeling sorry for myself. Joining something like this you see double amputees taking part and think 'if they can do it so can I'.

"It is nice to be with guys who have been through the same things as they understand what it is like.

"A gentle six-mile walk round the course is good phys for me as I can't run any more. Competing against countries like America and Australia was never really in my mind; it was more about fitness and camaraderie.

"But it is a huge honour to represent Battle Back. Standing on that first tee and hearing the national anthems play is such a fantastic feeling."

With another victory in the bag the golfers are now eyeing their next prize.

And with numerous competitions staged all year round they shouldn't have to wait long. ■

IT IS NICE TO
BE WITH GUYS
WHO HAVE
BEEN THROUGH
THE SAME
THINGS



SPORT SHORTS



Yorks raise the bar

» **WITH** new football, rugby and boxing seasons getting underway this month units across the Army will be returning to training in the hope of achieving sporting glory.

Last year proved to be a stellar campaign for 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, whose footballers won the Infantry Cup and Divisional Major Units Cup before losing in the final of the Army FA Cup.

On the rugby field, the team reached the semi-finals of the Premiership Cup but went on to win the Service's annual sevens competition.

And in rugby league, the super-fit personnel claimed the Yeoman's Cup and nines title.

The battalion also found time to compete in skiing, orienteering, cross-country, angling and boxing.

With the bar set high *SoldierSport* wants to hear about other units' success stories. Email rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Picture: Cpl Pete Brown, RLC

MARTIAL ARTS MAKES ITS MOVE

A HECTIC month of action saw the Army's growing legion of martial arts stars compete with the finest athletes on the international and Forces stages.

With the discipline of karate continuing to thrive a six-strong contingent of soldiers travelled to Dublin for the WVUKF World Championships, where they represented England at one of the sport's biggest events.

The fighters were quick to showcase their talents as Capt Karen Owen (AGC [ETS]) and Sgt Hayley Just (RE) claimed gold in the veterans' team kata.

The duo maintained

their form in the team sparring competition, where they scored a number of impressive victories to earn a place in the final.

However, their Italian rivals recorded a narrow win – leaving the personnel with silver medals.

Maj Ronnie Harley (RAMC) and SSgt Brian Hall (REME) helped the male veterans reach the final of their sparring competition but, again, they had to settle for the runners-up spot.

Owen added another silver in the individual veterans' B ippon kumite, however, Just went one better and claimed gold in the A class.

Hall secured another gold

in the male equivalent and Stephen Broadbridge (RLC) won bronze in the senior men's 70kg division.

In total, England won 39 medals at the competition with Service athletes contributing three golds, six silvers and two bronzes.

The frantic pace continued a few weeks later as the troops joined their counterparts from various disciplines to represent the Army at the Inter-Services Martial Arts Championships.

The event attracted more than 250 entrants and featured weapons, WTF tae kwon do, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, kendo (pictured), ITF tae kwon do and karate. ■



» **THE** cycling season speeds towards its gala event this month as the Army's top athletes square-off against their Forces rivals at the Inter-Services. Having claimed the men's and women's crowns in 2015 the Reds will be eyeing more of the same at the Redbridge Cycling Centre on September 21. Service personnel have posted some impressive results this term with full-time athlete Capt Ryan Perry (REME) claiming the national 25-mile time trial title and WO2 Chanel Mason (RAPTC), of the women's team, taking the national masters' championship.



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Final word

Wounded veterans give their thoughts on competing for Team GB at this month's Paralympics and how sport has helped their recovery...



Jo Butterfield (former MoD civil servant) – athletics

You don't want to be in hospital for six months but throughout it I did sport every Wednesday and I was one to try everything. It was a chance to do something other than stretches on the physio bed, to actually do something fun. I got accepted on a Girls4Gold programme with UK Sport and they looked at a talent transfer to British Athletics for seated throwing and very quickly I realised that this was something I was quite good at. Within about 18 months I was competing at world level.



Jon-Allan Butterworth (ex-RAF) – cycling

I've won world titles on the track, broken numerous world records, and even more national titles and national records. Then three silvers at London. I am not being greedy; all I want is one gold at Rio. It would be really nice to finish off that collection of medals.



Dave Henson (ex-RE) – athletics

My goal for sport is to keep on doing it while I still enjoy it. There will probably come a time when my body says 'Dave, you've got to start taking it easy'. Certainly on the blades, because they have quite a big impact on my body. There's a bit of a price to pay with running that quickly, but at the minute I'm feeling alright and I'm still enjoying it so that's my aim – to go as far as I can, as fast as I can, while I'm still smiling.

Micky Yule (ex-RE) – powerlifting

If you're going to do something then why not be the best in the world at it? That's what I'm trying to do. When I sit down to lift I just want to show everybody, show the whole world, show the cameras and those watching how good I am – get it lifted. Just because I got injured in Afghanistan it doesn't mean I'm ready to get thrown on the scrapheap. My coaches, Help for Heroes and my family have been there for me throughout my entire journey.



Mikey Hall (ex-QDG) – archery

Sport keeps me fit, physically and mentally. It means you can get on with your life rather than stay stuck in the house, burying your head in the sand. You get out, meet new people and start to enjoy life again. Archery lets you block everything out and you can just concentrate on where the arrow goes – you haven't got a worry in the world. The dream would be to come home with the gold, especially for my family.



Nick Beighton (ex-RE) – para-canoe

Sport was a perfect fit in a lot of ways and it allowed me to try new things that I'd never done before and reconnect with the activities I used to love, like skiing and climbing. I want to go and win a medal at Rio, of course I do. That's why we do it, we're sportsmen, we're competitive; that's what we aim to do. But if I don't it doesn't mean it's been a failure. It's about me getting out of bed and having a reason to push myself and to enjoy and be proud of what I do.

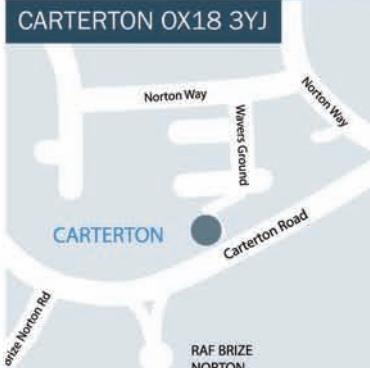
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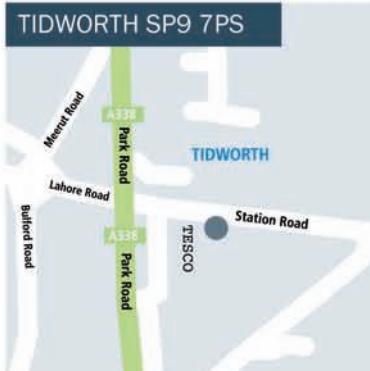
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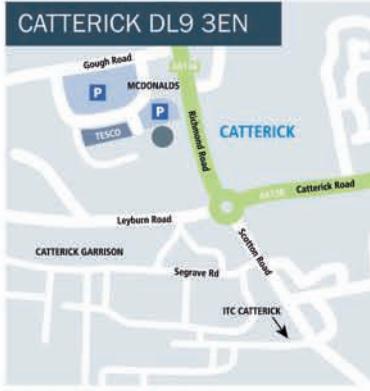
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