

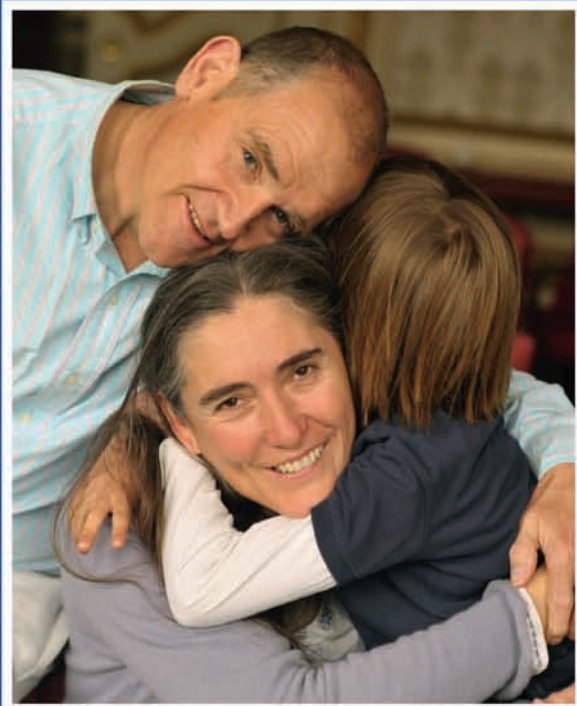
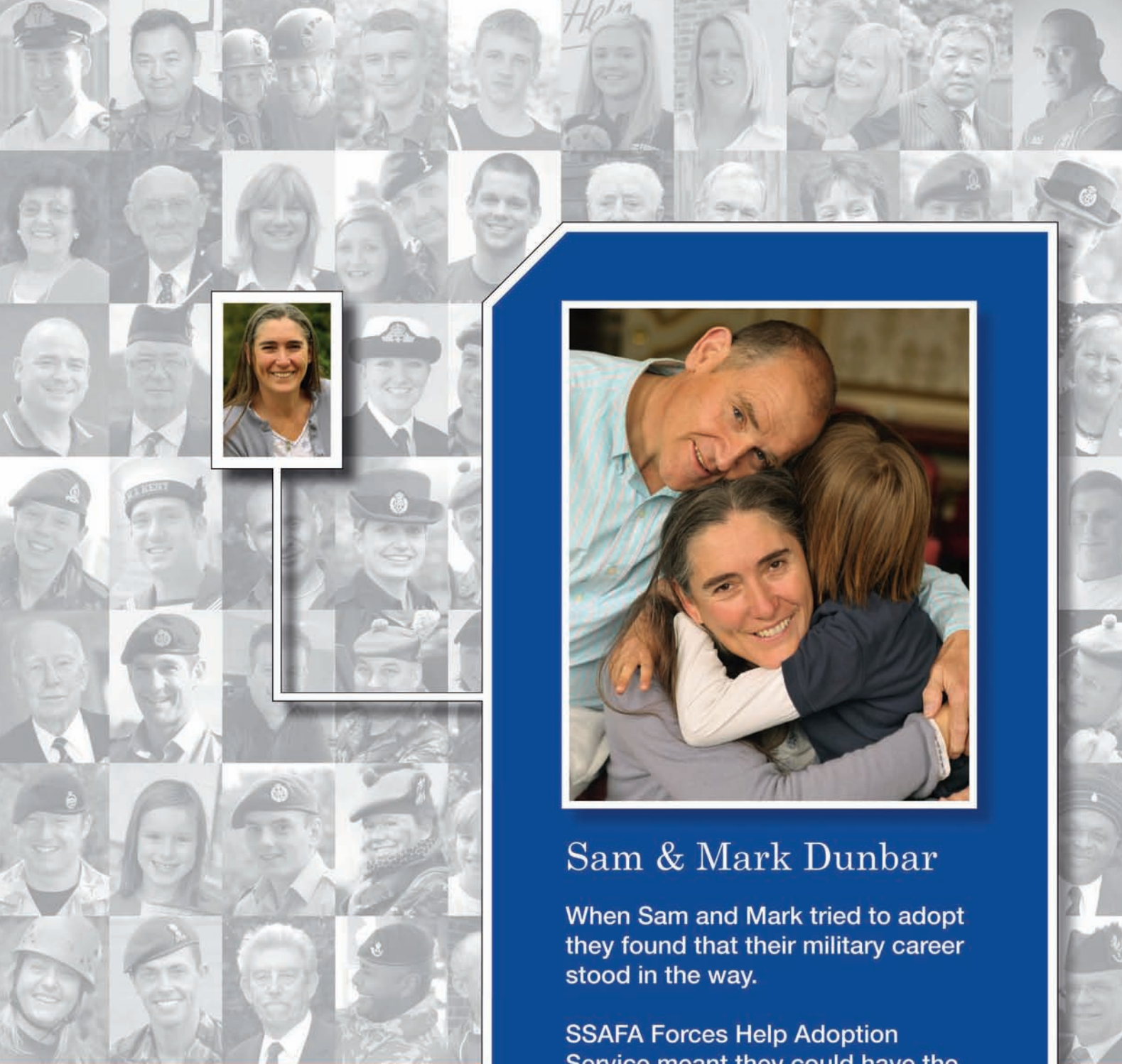
# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JUNE 2012  
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# SOLDIER

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JUNE 2012  
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**SOLDIER**



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**W**ELCOME to our Diamond Jubilee issue. Inside, troops take time out of training and operational duties to give us their thoughts on the relevance of the monarch to British Army personnel today (page 90).

Although it often seems that we have entered an age of economic disapproval and diminishing sentiment when it comes to the royal family, the reason why soldiers continue to show such unwavering support for Her Majesty is not hard to fathom.

In a speech to Servicemen and women before the celebrations, the head of the Armed Forces commented that: "The real test of character is the ability to maintain morale and a positive spirit in bad times as well as when things are going well."

The statement may seem obvious – particularly to those who have suffered loss in Afghanistan in recent weeks

(page 15) – but in a month of further redundancies (page 5) and the Army's top soldier responding to widespread concerns (page 8), it is comforting to know that our sovereign is far from out of touch.

As the royal family's first ever female full-time, active member of the military – and someone who has waved her own grandson off on Op Herrick – this lady knows perfectly well what it means to be in a Service family.

She may not have lived through the economic and lifestyle realities (page 57), but her empathy is both tangible and invaluable.

**Sarah Goldthorpe**  
Editor

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# FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF **HELP *for*** **HEROES**

## ARE YOU IN THE ARMED FORCES?

### HAVE YOU BEEN MIS-SOLD PPI?

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In May's issue of *Soldier*, an advert for our services carried a photograph of Maj Gen Andrew Gregory at the Royal Artillery Gold Cup. The picture was accompanied by the following text: "[Major General Andrew Gregory] fully supports our cause to raise awareness for soldiers in the UK."

While Reclaims UK did meet with the senior officer at Sandown, we wish to make it clear that our services are in no way officially endorsed by Maj Gen Gregory, the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.

# THE informer...

BRITISH TROOPS' GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ASSET

news@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Picture: Cpl Paul Morrison, RLC



**New horizons:** Troops who are asked to leave the Service should feel confident about their skills, Brig Nitsch says

## Troops to learn their redundancy fate

**N**EARLY 3,000 Army personnel will lose their jobs this month in the second round of the Strategic Defence and Security Review redundancy programme.

Servicemen and women are set to discover their fate on June 12 with approximately 2,900 in-line to leave the organisation, two thirds of which will be applicants.

Explaining the process that soldiers and officers will go through, the new head of Army manning, Brig Rob Nitsch (right), said: "Firstly we will be notifying all of the non-applicants who have been selected for redundancy.

"Next we will inform applicants who have been successful and, thirdly, those who have not."

All troops who applied to go – with the exception of those preparing for, deployed on or recovering from combat operations – will be expected to leave the Service before December 11 this year.

Those who did not, but have been chosen nonetheless, will depart within

12 months of being given the news.

The senior officer added: "It is the Army's intention to inform people about redundancy face-to-face.

"This is a very personal process and these are life-shaping decisions for individuals; some of them have been exceptionally loyal servants to the Service."



All outgoing soldiers will be handed a letter and a "next steps" DVD by their notification officer, explaining the action they need to take.

However, those whose careers have been terminated are being urged to look for jobs elsewhere in the organisation if they

want to remain in the military.

"I would encourage anyone who wishes to continue their service to transfer within the Army or to the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy where there are vacancies," Brig Nitsch said.

"We do have some areas where there are opportunities while other parts are over-manned."

Personnel are also being invited to

join the Reserves if they would like to continue an Armed Forces career.

Offering advice to those who have been discharged, Brig Nitsch said: "Take time to understand what is available to you and exploit it.

"Have the confidence in what you have to sell to future employers.

"People have got training which indicates self discipline and various other skills; a proven track record of dealing with and thriving under stressful conditions."

He added: "We have tried to ease the process of moving into civilian life through the Career Transition Partnership and are actively seeking to engage with employers to promote Service personnel as good employees.

"Redundancy is against the wishes of some, but they can make it work for them – I would urge personnel to trust themselves."

For further details on tranche two of the job reductions – or information about how to appeal a decision – visit the defence intranet or the career section of ArmyNet.

● Chief tunes in to troops – page 8



# Specialist Military Motor Finance

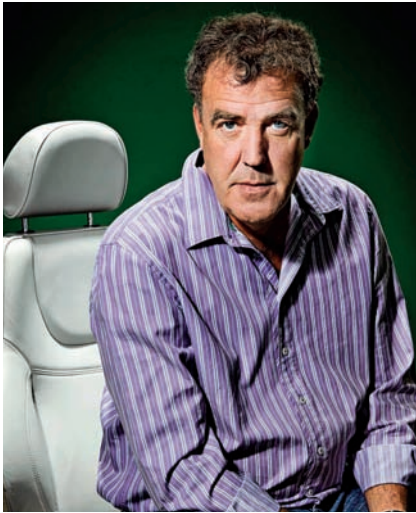
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Picture: BBC Pictures

### CLARKSON CALLS ON TROOPS

■ *TOP Gear* star Jeremy Clarkson has dropped in on residents of Tedworth House in Tidworth.

The plain-speaking TV presenter was meeting the latest batch of troops at the flagship personnel and recovery centre, which is funded by Help for Heroes. He is a patron of the charity.

Describing his trip afterwards in *The Sun*, the columnist admitted the home was not the “spit and Kleenex, spend as little as possible, make do and mend” facility he had been expecting.

“It’s like the best hotel in the world, the best school and the best sports arena where visitors can do any of the events featured in the Paralympics, except sailing,” he wrote.

“It’s exactly what our wounded troops need. Not just now, but for the rest of time.

“Partly because legs lost in Afghanistan never grow back. And partly because, since the Second World War, there has only been one year when no British Serviceman was killed in combat.”

### TANKS VERY MUCH

■ **COMMANDER** Land Forces has thanked troops for helping to avert the threat of strike action by fuel tanker drivers.

Earlier this year around 1,400 military personnel were trained to run petrol deliveries when a long-running dispute over workers’ terms and conditions spelt industrial action.

But the row ended when members of the union Unite narrowly voted to accept a deal.

In a message to staff, Gen Nick Parker said: “This must in part be thanks to extraordinary efforts across the command, in the other Services and, in particular, to staff at the Standing Joint Command. I am very grateful.”

He added that lessons would be learnt in order to maintain an appropriate level of contingent capability in future.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey paid further tribute to soldiers who had been preparing to step in.

“A strike would have been disruptive to the hard working lives of millions of motorists around the country and put unnecessary pressure on our essential and emergency services,” the government minister commented.

## Details of drawdown revealed

**D**EFENCE Secretary Philip Hammond has announced details of how the UK’s Armed Forces will achieve a reduction of 500 Service personnel in Afghanistan by the end of the year.

In a statement to the House of Commons, the minister outlined the growing strength and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and confirmed the majority of cuts will be made up of combat troops.

The reduction was first announced by Prime Minister David Cameron last year and reflects the pace of transition of front-line roles to home-grown military personnel.

Changes are being planned to the UK’s headquarters in Nahr-e Saraj, with centres in the north and south of the district due to merge to better align with Afghan administrative boundaries while delivering efficiencies and manpower savings.

A total of 36 Task Force Helmand checkpoints, patrol bases and positions have been handed over to the ANSF in the past six months and a further 16 new posts have been constructed and occupied by Afghan soldiers.

“The ever greater ability of the Afghans to manage their own security is allowing a gradual and deliberate drawdown of UK and International Security Assistance Forces,” Mr Hammond said.

Following the announcement, Nato heads of state met at a summit in Chicago to agree a strategic plan for the country. Discussions at the international gathering, attended by the prime minister, foreign secretary and

defence secretary, focused on training, advising and assisting Afghan forces post-2014.

Speaking at the summit, the organisation’s secretary Gen Anders Fogh Rasmussen commented: “This will not be Isaf under a different name.

“It will be a new mission, with a new role for Nato.”

Leaders stated that Afghan forces will reach their full surge strength of 352,000 ahead of the scheduled deadline in October, and that a decision to gradually reduce these forces to a sustainable level would be taken once the transition process is complete.

In a statement made after the top-level discussions, Gen John Allen, commander of Isaf, explained: “This campaign has been long, it has been difficult and it has been costly.

“But I believe that our campaign is on-track.”



Picture: Sgt Wes Calder, RLC

**Steady progress:** Withdrawal of combat troops will mark the start of a new mission in Helmand

## Falklands War memorial unveiled

**A NEW memorial to honour the 255 British personnel who died in the Falklands conflict has been unveiled, nearly 30 years after the task force landed on the South Atlantic islands.**

**More than 600 veterans and their families attended a ceremony at the monument at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.**

**Prior to the event, Kathryn Nutbeem, whose father Maj Roger Nutbeem (RAMC) was among**

**the men to die on-board the *Sir Galahad* in 1982, said: “The surroundings are beautiful and you can come here and get a real sense of peace.”**

**The new 7ft Cotswold stone structure is the first permanent tribute to victims of the war at the arboretum.**

**Sara Jones, widow of Lt Col “H” Jones, who received a posthumous Victoria Cross for his bravery in the struggle, said:**

**“I think it’s very**

**important for our families to have somewhere they can go which is special for them.”**





**“AT THE START OF THE SEASON WE THOUGHT WE COULD DO WELL AND THIS HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC VICTORY”**

**– SKIPPER REFLECTS ON ARMY CHALLENGE CUP GLORY, PAGE 81**

## GOOD DRILLS

### EX-SERVICES SUPPORT

AN advice centre offering support to the ex-Services community has opened at the Guild Hall Arcade in Preston. For more information call 01772 251108.

### FLOWER POWER

INJURED Service personnel from Headley Court put together an impressive display at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. It is the first time staff and patients at the rehabilitation centre have exhibited their work, which was the product of a horticultural therapy scheme run at the facility.



### INCORRECT STANDARDS

SOLDIERS are being reminded of the correct procedures for the care of standards, guidons and colours amid concerns they are not being treated properly. For full guidance read Army briefing note 30/12.

### BIEBER'S BIGGEST FANS?



DODGY images of Canadian troops wearing skin-tight pink Justin Bieber t-shirts have caused a stir on the web. The pictures were viewed by more than 750,000 people and show the Afghanistan-based soldiers posing as big fans.

### STEALING CIVVY

A PERSONAL assistant employed by the MoD at Abbey Wood has been jailed for six months for pocketing £45,000 in fraudulent expenses claims. Bristol Crown Court heard how Helen Baggaley, 32, of Bradley Stoke took advantage of a "lax accounting system" which allowed her to sign off her own paperwork. The civvy admitted three counts of fraud by abuse of position and asked for another 117 to be taken into consideration by the court.

## BAD DRILLS

# Army chief tunes in to troops

THE country's top soldier has responded to the biggest worries of Service personnel, offering reassurance over family housing allocation but stressing that redundancies cannot be rushed.

Every four months the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, is told about the issues on the minds of his troops courtesy of a briefing team who travel the country talking to the ranks on his behalf.

In his latest feedback, the senior officer reports that a "clearer picture" is being formed on the implications of imminent changes to the Armed Forces pension scheme.

"I fully understand the wide concern over this," he replied.

But answering suggestions that cuts to personnel could be accelerated, he added: "This is a complex business which the Army cannot afford to rush, but we will improve it where we can. I will ensure you are fully informed as soon as possible."

Other



common concerns noted by the general's staff from their recent discussions with soldiers include doubts that the Army will reach its target of 30,000 Reserves by 2020, frustration at a growing reliance on e-learning over instructor-led courses and stressful delays in the medical downgrading process.

Troops also claimed there was ineffective control of accommodation applications. Seven housing information centres have been merged to create a single hub and electronic forms have been introduced but soldiers told the team that only direct involvement from military personnel would prevent problems with the system.

"We will continue to monitor this closely to ensure the new services meet the user needs," Gen Wall said.

He conceded that more quarters were needed in many garrisons as a result of recent base changes but said that support services would be watched closely by his staff during drawdown in Germany.

The full report, which covers January to May this year, can be read on ArmyNet or the intranet.

## Royal visitor presents Gurkha honours

THE Prince of Wales visited members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles as they carried out pre-deployment training on Salisbury Plain ahead of operations in Afghanistan later this year.

The second in line to the throne, who is colonel-in-chief of the regiment, met the families of serving personnel during his trip.

He also presented the Prince of Wales Kukri, an honour given to the unit's most exceptional non-commissioned officer, to CSgt Jiwan Gurung and the Elizabeth Cross to the parents of Rfn Sachin Limbu, who died earlier this year from wounds sustained in Helmand province. CSgt Gurung called his award a "great honour".



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### POLE WALKERS MEET PRINCE

■ INJURED personnel who recreated the famous Scott-Amundsen race to the South Pole have celebrated their achievements at a reception with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The teams, which included Servicemen from The Rifles, Royal Marines and The Parachute Regiment, covered 900 miles to pay homage to the gruelling polar contest and raise money for The Royal British Legion.

### COURSES FOR FORCES

■ TROOPS of all ranks are being reminded about the business and management courses available to them on the Civil Service Learning portal.

Online training is free, while face-to-face programmes incur a fee, and the modules can lead to further tutoring in commercial, financial and project management.

For more information on tuition visit <https://civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk>



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SERVICE SUMMIT FOR SIKHS

■ THE sixth Armed Forces Sikh conference has taken place at Amport House near Andover.

Followers of the religion from across all three Services came together to explore their faith and values within the military world, discuss problems and offer support to one another.

Sikh civilian chaplain Mandeep Kaur said: “We are not a big community, which is why it is so important for us to come together.”

“You will often find that there is only one Sikh in any regiment, which could make things very easy for them or very difficult.”

“It is therefore important to meet up to refresh our faith and our core values, which are very much the values of the Armed Forces.”

### FAMILY SURVEY STARTS

■ THE Army Families Federation launches its “Grab” survey this month.

The poll gives Service personnel and their loved ones the chance to comment on the issues concerning them and it will be available online between June 11 and 29.

For more information visit [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

### JONES JOURNEYS TO JAPAN

■ FORMER para Nathan Jones is in the midst of a gruelling cycle ride from the UK to Japan to raise money for Combat Stress.

The ex-soldier funded the venture using his tour bonus and all money raised will go to the charity's Enemy Within appeal.

The route has so far taken him through Serbia, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan.

For more information on the ride or to donate visit [www.cyclingtowardsthesun.co.uk](http://www.cyclingtowardsthesun.co.uk)

■ FOXED by the clues on the spine of last month's mag?

Inspired by the tales of derring-do from those who fought in the Falklands War, Wharton, Moffit, Danson and Findlay are all the names of harbours found in the South Atlantic archipelago.

This month, we are giving away ten pairs of RHA ([www.RHA-Audio.com](http://www.RHA-Audio.com)) MA-350 earphones worth £29.95 each.

Designed and engineered in the UK, this kit is compatible with all devices that contain a standard 3.5mm connection including iPods, iPhones and computers.

To be in with a chance of winning, tell us what links the words on the side of this issue. Answers, plus your postal address, to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by June 29. Good luck!



Picture: Cpl Paul Morrison, RLC



**Final frontier:** Personnel from 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards undertake a foot patrol to prevent insurgent movement in Babaji, led by members of the Afghan National Police. Nahr-e Saraj is the last remaining part of the country where Task Force Helmand retains a lead following the transition of Nad-e Ali and Lashkar Gah to local control.

# Medal study and censure

DAVID Cameron has announced an independent review of the way in which military campaign medals are awarded.

Undertaken by Sir John Holmes, the study will look at existing rules including the prohibition of troops being rewarded twice for the same campaign and the restriction on awards being given more than five years after action.

“The review will make recommendations where appropriate for any change,” the prime minister explained in a written ministerial statement. “It will consider the existing medallic recognition situation and examine guiding principles and current processes.”

Previous campaigns and decisions will be looked at by Sir John Holmes, as well as rules covering future conflicts, but his work will not include individual gallantry awards or those for long service or good conduct.

In 2010 the coalition stated its intention to look at the regulations as a part of its commitment to rebuilding the Armed Forces Covenant.

A report with recommendations for any change is due to be presented to the government by the summer.

Any interested parties can contribute by writing to: Medals Review Team, Cabinet Office, Room 2.23, 26

Whitehall, London SW1A 2WH.

Meanwhile, the government has criticised the online sale of Diamond Jubilee Medals by some recipients.

Thousands of decorations have been issued to soldiers and other public sector workers on behalf of the Queen as she marks 60 years on the throne (pages 30-31).

But it has been revealed that scores of the commendations are being exchanged for more than £100 each on auction website eBay.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent £7 million on a contract to produce around 400,000 of the medals before the end of this month.

But in an interview with *The Daily Telegraph*, one recipient said: “I could have a nice, shiny medal or the cash and, personally, I'd rather have the money.”

A spokesman for the department said: “It is very disappointing to think that some of those so honoured have decided to take this action.”

“However, as long as the medals in question were legitimately acquired by those trying to sell them, then doing so is not unlawful.”

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt had previously said that beneficiaries would wear the commemorative honours with “care and pride”.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES

■ UNITS and locations have been confirmed for the latest programme of overseas training exercises for Reservists.

The Yorkshire Officers' Training Regiment, 73 Engineer Regiment and 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have already deployed to Cyprus on Lion Star.

Other serials to be held this year will take volunteers to Denmark on Viking Star, Italy on Roman Star, Germany on Rhino Spanner and Leopard Star plus further packages in Macedonia, Nigeria, Canada and the US.

## UNIFORM REVAMP

■ PART-time soldiers will start to receive the updated personal clothing system combat uniform from September, it has been announced.

The new kit is being rolled out across the Service but in some cases will reach Reserve units before Regulars.

Troops who are being mobilised in support of the Olympics were due to receive the uniform – which

replaces the Combat Soldier 95 clothing – last month.

It has been designed using lessons learnt in Iraq and Afghanistan and the most noticeable new feature is a change from disruptive pattern material to multi-terrain pattern.



## TRAINING CENTRE SHIFT

■ REGIONAL Training Centres have been retitled Army Training Units, in a wide-sweeping review of the way part-time troops are instructed.

The Service says the modified hubs will have closer ties to the Regular Army and allow troops undertaking phase one training to change location if needed.

## SUPPORT COMMAND CALL

■ THE newly-formed Support Command is looking for 36 Reservists to join its Aldershot-based headquarters.

Captains, majors and lieutenant colonels are all required to fill a range of posts in operations, training, security and other areas.

More details can be found through Armysnet or the military secretariat pages of the intranet.

## FOR MORE TA NEWS...

Log onto *Armysnet*, visit [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk) or follow the Territorial and Reserves link on the intranet



In with the new: Reservists will benefit from access to the same platforms as their Regular colleagues

## Upgrade to Force's fleet

THE Reserve Force's "B" fleet of vehicles are to be revamped as part of the Army's "whole force" initiative.

The change has been introduced to enable both part-time and Regular personnel to train and operate together more effectively over the coming years.

The Land Rover Defender 90/110 will be replaced with the car maker's Wolf variant by the end of the year.

Similarly, the Territorial Army's fleet of Bedford trucks will be upgraded to MAN Support Vehicles by March 2013 to bring them in line with the platforms used by full-time Servicemen and women.

"The Land Rover Wolf is not just a newer model, but is also far more

powerful than the old Defenders," a Ministry of Defence spokesman told *Soldier*.

In further changes, the four Yeomanry regiments will receive Land Rover RWMK [re-life weapons mounted installation kit] between August and October.

"This platform upgrade will enable the Yeomanry to better conduct mounted reconnaissance and to fight from their vehicles," said the spokesman.

According to British Army bosses, the improvements are just the first of a number of major equipment enhancements over coming months.

"More are planned and will be announced as soon as details are finalised," added the spokesman.

## Cyclists slog for Service charities

SEVEN Reservists have completed a gruelling 900-mile fund-raising bike ride around the UK.

The team, led by SSgt Matt Spruce (RAMC) and including two Regular soldiers, visited all ten headquarters locations of mainland Field Hospitals in just nine days, raising more than £14,000 for good causes.

The cash will be split between ABF The Soldiers' Charity, a Salford home for former Service personnel and Life for a Life Memorial Forests.

"The fantastic attitude of the team



helped overcome all obstacles," the organiser said.

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SOL/05/12



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SITE TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

■ A SOCIAL networking website has been set up to allow the loved ones of Armed Forces personnel to chat online.

CamoConnect was launched by Allee Campbell, the girlfriend of a US marine, and now the portal has members from across the world.

“The site is intended for parents, siblings or anyone who loves a military service member,” she explained. “The idea is to provide a forum of mutual support, a place where people living through deployments of their loved ones can swap stories, tips and, if necessary, just vent.”

Visit [www.camoconnect.com](http://www.camoconnect.com)



Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

### RECOVERY CENTRE OPENS

■ THE latest personnel recovery centre has been opened in Colchester to assist wounded, injured and sick soldiers.

Chavasse VC House (above), named after a First World War medical officer, was funded by Help for Heroes with a contribution from The Royal British Legion towards operating costs.

The development can accommodate up to 27 residents, including two families, and a further 30 day visitors. Its facilities include training areas, classrooms and state-of-the-art gymnasiums.

Similar complexes have already been opened in Tidworth, Edinburgh, Catterick and Germany.



Picture: Graeme Main

On the money: MoD spending over the next decade will include a £1-billion upgrade to the Warrior

## MoD says books are balanced

THE Ministry of Defence will spend £152 billion over ten years on Armed Forces equipment after its budget was balanced for “the first time in a generation”, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond has announced.

Following a decision to reduce Army personnel from 102,000 to 82,000 – and radical reforms of financial processes – the £38-billion “yawning black hole” in the MoD’s accounts has been eliminated.

In a statement to the House of Commons, the politician said the improved financial picture would enable his department to deliver its Future Force 2020 plan, as set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Under the programme, the Armed Forces will receive 14 additional Chinooks, an Apache life-extension and a Puma upgrade alongside the delivery of new armoured fighting vehicles worth around £4.5 billion.

Mr Hammond explained that investment would include the previously announced £1-billion upgrade to the Warrior and £7 billion on smart missiles and torpedoes.

An extra £8 billion has been left unassigned and can be spent on new kit chosen by commanders.

“For the first time in decades we have delivered a credible and sustainable budget and we can now confidently pledge to deliver almost £160 billion-worth of equipment over the next decade that we know we can afford,” the minister commented.

“This allows us to begin to put the uncertainty of the last few years behind us and build for the future on a solid foundation as we move forward with defence transformation.”

Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir David Richards, said: “Taking tough decisions and dealing with unaffordable projects has given us clarity to plan.”

## IN MEMORIAM



GDSM MICHAEL ROLAND (22)  
 1ST BATTALION,  
 GRENADEER GUARDS  
 KIA APRIL 27 – AFGHANISTAN

AN AMBITIOUS soldier has been killed during a patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand.

Gdsm Michael Roland of Queen’s Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards was on a three-day operation to disrupt insurgent activity in a contested area in the north of the region when he was fatally wounded by small arms fire.

He was taken to hospital at Camp Bastion but did not survive.

Originally from Worthing in Sussex, the Serviceman completed the Combat Infantryman’s Course at Catterick in 2009 before joining the regiment’s Nijmegen Company.

He spent a year conducting public duties at royal palaces, undertaking state ceremonial tasks and later joined the battalion.

Lt Col James Bowder, commanding officer of 1 Gren Gds, said: “Sparky, diligent and super-fit, Gdsm Roland was a terrific soldier with a bright future.

“That he achieved so much in his short life is testament to his drive and ambition.

“He was an absolute pleasure to command and will be missed hugely by the battalion and the regimental family as a whole.”

Maj Piers Ashfield, captain of Queen’s Company, added: “His stoic devotion to duty and the generous friendship he offered to all those he met, epitomised the man for whom no hardship was worthy of complaint.”

The 22-year-old leaves behind his parents and girlfriend.

# 30 years on, Veterans are still fighting for peace

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June this year it will have been 30 years since the Falklands War ended. But for many Falklands Veterans, the battle still rages in their minds.

Combat Stress is the leading UK charity specialising in the care of Veterans' mental ill health. We are supporting over 200 Veterans who served in the Falklands War and who, 30 years on, are still suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, paranoia or depression from what they endured in battle.

**We know there are hundreds more out there who need our help.**



## Darren's story

Darren Horsnell joined the 4th Field Regt, Royal Artillery at sixteen and was nineteen in 1982 when they were deployed to the Falklands. Here he bravely shares some of his experiences to explain why treatment is so vital.

'I saw the Argentinean jets coming down bomb alley and opening fire on our ships, dropping their bombs. A feeling of uselessness came over me. Our men were sitting targets. We were firing small arms at the airplanes and I remember screaming at them, "Leave them alone!" I still wake up screaming.

Later I was injured and evacuated to the field hospital. While they were operating on my right calf, I could see the body of a guy in the next bed who had had his back blown out. I used to dream about this guy and in the dream he'd turn around and start talking.

When I came home I didn't tell anybody that I was having nightmares, or flashbacks. But all that was sinking deeper and deeper into me, and obviously it was getting harder to

hide. But I was in denial. It was everyone around me who had the problem, not me.

It was nearly 14 years before I got any help. My [then] wife forced me to go and see my GP, who told me about Combat Stress. They assessed me and diagnosed me with PTSD.

One day, the Activities Centre Manager said to me, "Why don't you try some art therapy?" When I was painting it took all the bad memories away. I am now teaching other Veterans to paint. It is a great form of therapy.

I also do Cognitive Behavioural Therapy at Combat Stress, once a month. And I am on a health management course too. I can honestly say Combat Stress saved my life. Without them I don't think I would be here today.

**There's nothing wrong about going to ask for help. Go and see somebody.'**

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## IN MEMORIAM



**CPL ANDREW ROBERTS (32)**  
23 PIONEER REGIMENT,  
THE ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS  
KIA MAY 4 – AFGHANISTAN



**PTE RATU SILIBARAVI (32)**  
23 PIONEER REGIMENT,  
THE ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS  
KIA MAY 4 – AFGHANISTAN

MEMBERS of 23 Pioneer Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps are mourning the loss of two dedicated and popular colleagues.

Cpl Andrew Roberts and Pte Ratu Silibaravi were serving in support of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh as part of Combined Force Burma when they were killed by indirect fire in northern Nahr-e Saraj, Afghanistan.

Advanced search team commander Cpl Roberts joined the Army in 1998 and had served on operations in Bosnia and Iraq.

The 32-year-old junior NCO had already helped to save the lives of local people and international personnel on what was his second tour of Helmand.

A very able sportsman, the physical training instructor will be remembered for his trenchant efforts in the regimental boxing ring and during squadron fitness sessions.

Lt Col Simon Bell, CO of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Task Force, said the Serviceman's work had been making a difference in the region.

Lt Col Dom Fletcher, commanding officer of 23 Pioneer Regt, added: "This junior commander was the epitome of a Pioneer soldier; brave, fit, robust and a 'salt of the earth' character who led his troops from the front and by example at all times.

"He could lighten any dark moment with his cheeky wit and northern banter, and was a selfless man of complete integrity."

Pte Cayah Ware-Roberts (RLC) said: "Cpl Roberts was the sort of bloke that if you needed something and he could help, then he couldn't do

it readily enough. A true friend and Pioneer all the way to his core."

The Serviceman leaves behind his three young children, their mother, his girlfriend, parents, brothers and sisters. A family statement said: "We will never forget you and will love you forever."

Pte Silibaravi, also 32, was born in Fiji and joined the British Army in 2002.

He took up his post in the Bicester-based regiment a year later and went on to complete one tour of Iraq and two of Afghanistan.

The regimental rugby player had proved himself to be a fine runner and represented his unit at athletics.

"A quiet yet determined and popular soldier, Pte Silibaravi was a professional and committed individual," Lt Col Bell commented. "Strong and fit, he had an excellent work ethic, throwing himself wholeheartedly into every challenge."

He added: "In Afghanistan, his quiet confidence and clear inner strength had a positive, calming effect on those around him."

Maj Derren Battersby, officer commanding the regiment's Operations Squadron, said: "Pte Silibaravi was highly respected by all he encountered in whatever endeavour.

"He was also instrumental in bringing together individuals from across the UK at the annual Fijian Community Church service."

Capt Andy Shannon, squadron 2iC, added: "The regiment has lost one of its brightest and best. He will always be remembered."

Pte Silibaravi leaves behind his brothers, sisters and extended family.



**CPL BRENT MCCARTHY (25)**  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
KIA MAY 12  
– AFGHANISTAN



**LCPL LEE DAVIES (27)**  
1ST BATTALION,  
WELSH GUARDS  
KIA MAY 12 – AFGHANISTAN

A POLICE advisory team in Lashkar Gah have paid tribute to two of their UK personnel after Afghan colleagues turned their guns on them.

Cpl Brent McCarthy of the Royal Air Force and LCpl Lee Davies of 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards were shot as they guarded a meeting with officials at the local Uniformed Police headquarters near Patrol Base Attal in Helmand.

After joining the military in August 2008 and training at Halton and the Defence College of Policing and Guarding, Cpl McCarthy began his career with the RAF Police.

During pre-deployment exercises the 25-year-old showed an aptitude for mentoring and was chosen to embed with the Welsh Guards as part of the Police Mentoring Advisory Group (PMAG).

Lt Col Dino Bossi (1 WG), commanding officer of the PMAG, said: "Cpl Brent McCarthy's intelligence, ready wit and his desire to muck in and take part in all aspects of communal life meant that he fitted seamlessly into an extremely tight team.

"He was extremely popular and hugely respected among the men with whom he lived and fought – not always an easy trick for a military policeman from another Service, but one he achieved with ease and some style.

"Ever to the fore and sharing danger and discomfort, his light-hearted approach to life, easy going nature and cool professionalism made him a natural adviser to the Afghan National Police."

The Serviceman leaves behind his mother,

father, sister and partner.

A family statement said: "Brent was a loving, sensitive young man. He excelled at sport and had the whole world in front of him.

"Life will never be the same for any of us."

LCpl Davies began his Army career at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, in 2009 before joining the Welsh Guards in 2010.

After standing out as a natural leader he was promoted the following year.

Speaking about the 27-year-old from Carmarthen, Lt Col Bossi explained: "LCpl Davies loved being a soldier – it was who he was. The Serviceman was very much the up-and-coming junior non-commissioned officer; he had big plans and the personal qualities to make his ambitions a reality.

"He was a sports fanatic, both watching and playing, and would throw himself into any outdoor activity. He was the living embodiment of the Army's 'work hard, play hard' ethos."

Lt Col Alex Potts (KRH), commanding officer of Combined Force Lashkar Gah, added: "LCpl Davies was a key figure in a thoroughly professional and successful police adviser team. His contribution has been significant and we will continue his good work with the determination that was his trademark."

Gdsm Timothy Roe said: "There's only one word to describe LCpl Davies: legend.

"He was one of those lads who anyone could get along with. He was such a good man to have around and full of banter.

"He is going to be truly missed by everyone."



**“IT GIVES YOU A FEAR THAT YOU WOULDN'T GET FROM OTHER SPORTS OR TRAINING”**

– CAVING TESTS OFFICER CADETS (PAGES 33-35)

# Officer's mission to prevent 'silent killer'

**A** ROYAL Engineer whose ten-year-old son died suddenly last year has embarked on the most heart-wrenching mission of his career – to make people aware of the “silent killer” that robbed him of his child.

WO2 Barrie Burns lost his seemingly healthy little boy, Charlie, in October after he suffered two seizures within days of each other.

After extensive tests following a post mortem examination, an inquest confirmed the youngster died from a condition called Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (Sudep).

Now his father – who has served in the Army for 30 years – is fighting to prevent others from going through the same pain his family has experienced.

“We had never heard of this condition before the death of our gorgeous boy,” said the Serviceman, who works with the personal development advisory team at HQ Infantry in Warminster.

“More worrying still is that many people in the medical profession have also never heard of it, even though more people die from it each year than from cot death and Aids put together.”

WO2 Burns, who lives in Larkhill garrison with his wife Jan and daughter Izzie, added: “If I can raise the profile

of Sudep and its supporting charities it will help people understand what they can do to prevent deaths.

“There is no cure for this silent killer but there is medication you can take to reduce the chance of seizures.

“We can also fund research to find out how such a fun-loving, full-of-life little boy suddenly drops down dead.”

According to the charity Epilepsy Bereaved, about 500 people are lost to Sudep in the UK each year. A study has revealed that 42 per cent of these fatalities are potentially avoidable.

“Charlie's death hit the whole town hard and now everybody in the military

community is stepping up to try to do something,” WO2 Burns explained.

“We've had lots of people getting in touch, with individuals holding coffee mornings, gymnastics events, sponsored walks and all sorts of things to show their support.

“14 Regiment, Royal Artillery have been outstanding too – they have sorted out all of my family's welfare issues – and the garrison has been phenomenal, so I must thank them.”

For more information about the warrant officer's crusade and details on how to donate visit [www.justgiving.com/SUDEP-Awareness](http://www.justgiving.com/SUDEP-Awareness)



**“Gorgeous boy”:** Charlie Burns (10) died last year



**Fighting:** WO2 Burns is trying to raise awareness

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CLASSROOM CONVERSION

■ AN overhaul of Army education is set to improve the standard of literacy and numeracy in senior NCOs and warrant officers.

A new policy states that troops must now gain level two qualifications – the equivalent of a good GCSE grade – for both skills before attending the command and leadership management course. Previously, the requirement was set at level one.

The changes have been introduced to make Service personnel more effective.

Maj Phil Green, desk officer responsible for Army literacy and numeracy, said the alterations were likely to have a significant impact.

“Increasingly, it has become apparent that our middle managers are doing more tasks that require a higher level of these skills than they ever have,” he explained to *Soldier*.

“Senior NCOs and warrant officers write annual reports on troops but previously that would have been done by platoon commanders.”

He added: “You have to do this if you want to get promoted but it's good for long-term prospects too. Courses are run by civvy instructors in a friendly, unthreatening way.”

From 2014, the rules will be extended to include late entry officers.

Details of the modifications, which also comprise more realistic examination questions, can be found in Army briefing note 18/12 or from local Service education centres.

## LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

SWAG	FORCE FOR GOOD	QUIDS IN
£17,000	ROAD MOVIE Dave Muckle, a former corporal in the Royal Engineers, and a team of motorcyclists on Triumph Bonneville completed a European rally, visiting famous wartime sites associated with Steve McQueen's hit film <i>The Great Escape</i>	The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and other military charities
£4,150	RIDE OF RESPECT Friends of Pte Martin Bell (2 Para), who was killed in 2011 while serving in Afghanistan, cycled 220 miles from Bradford to Colchester last year. Their proceeds have been used to buy a new wheelchair for Sgt Paddy Caldwell (3 Para), who was injured in Helmand province in 2006	The Afghanistan Trust, charity of The Parachute Regiment
£604	QUID FOR A CLICK The Forces Car Hire portal ( <a href="http://www.forcescarhire.com">www.forcescarhire.com</a> ) donated £1 to charity for each booking completed between January and March this year. Its donations were further boosted by the launch of the service's iPhone application	SSAFA Forces Help

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## THE BIGGER PICTURE

BRITISH troops around the world will salute the Queen this month as she marks her Diamond Jubilee. The sovereign's keen interest in the military dates back much further than her 60-year tenure as head of the Armed Forces. As Princess Elizabeth, she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (above left) and has held various appointments and honorary ranks ever since. Pictures: Soldierarchive

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# MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS SIGNS & MYTHS

## What is Mental Health?

People who are mentally well are able to carry on their usual daily activities, cope with their emotions, and overcome problems in a positive manner, have self-respect and have confidence in their ability to deal with life's challenges. People who are experiencing mental health problems can experience a significant impairment of thought, mood, memory or the way they view the world that affects their judgement, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality, and/or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life. They may also be experiencing difficulties at work or home as a result.

## What are Common Signs?

People who experience mental health problems exhibit certain signs; these can be physical, mental or changes in behaviour. Below is a list of signs common in most people who have mental health problems. A person may exhibit one or several of these signs.

- Withdrawal from their normal activities.
- Excessive tiredness or fatigue.
- Confused or distorted thinking, difficulty concentrating.
- Inappropriate expression of emotions (excessive anger, guilt, tearful, shame or fear).
- Loss of touch with reality.
- Inability to maintain their normal positive personal relationships.
- Inability to cope with daily life problems.
- Inability to take care of one's personal needs.
- Negative self-image and outlook.
- Feelings of hopelessness or helplessness.
- Violence towards self or others (including self-harming).

## What is Stigma?

The biggest obstacle facing those with a mental illness is Stigma. Stigma is a mind-set that disadvantages an individual and justifies their exclusion from normal life. A mental health problem can be made worse when it is accompanied by misunderstanding, rejection, and ridicule. Stigma contributes to a worsening of the symptoms of mental illness. It will prevent many people from seeking help until it is too late.

## Mental Health Myths.

Myth 1. 'Only weak people have mental health problems / my bosses will blame me'.

**Fact:** Anyone can be affected by mental health problems at any time in their lives.

Myth 2. 'If someone has a problem, they will get help'.

**Fact:** Most people do not get help because they are concerned about the consequences at work or their relationships or are worried about confidentiality.

Myth 3. 'My mate's / colleague's mental health problems are none of my business'.

**Fact:** Mates / colleagues are best placed to notice problems and provide both support and encouragement to seek help.

Myth 4. 'The military doesn't support personnel who have mental health problems/I don't know where to get help'.

**Fact:** The Army fully supports personnel with mental health problems as with any other illness or injury. The Army provides multiple ways to get help such as a TriM practitioners, Chaplains, your Unit Welfare Officer, your Medical Officer or Nurse...if they can't help they will know who can.

Myth 5. 'No-one can help me if I have a mental health problem / I don't trust mental health professionals'.

**Fact:** You can be helped. Good evidence shows that professional treatment helps, the earlier the better.

Seeking help early may help you get back on track at home and at work...Don't Bottle It Up.



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Autumn 2007. Helmand Province.  
Climate extremes are the norm. Swirling sand. Swirling snow. Flying debris. You need to be ready for anything. Revision Bullet Ant® Goggles give you the flawless optics and powerful protection Revision is known for, combined with a low profile design for optimum comfort and versatility. "Brilliant kit – they're the dog's!... the most effective in the field... gave me great peace of mind in a volatile operational environment."

— W02 British Infantry serving with U.S. Forces



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— D.C. Special Operations Command (not pictured)



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# BEGINNING OF THE END

## Final days of the Falklands War

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe

**D**ESPITE attempts by the United Nations to force a ceasefire, the bloody fighting of 1982 continued from April into a third month.

As the sun set over the Falklands on June 13, evening battles blazed on Wireless Ridge and Mount Tumbledown.

The conflict was beginning to ebb away enemy morale; many of those fighting were teenage conscripts with little training and, after taking the ground surrounding Stanley, British forces marched into the capital almost unopposed.

The Argentines lay down their weapons and surrendered the following day.

"The last night of the war found me in a house on the outskirts of Stanley," recalled Maj Gen Julian Thompson in *Falklands Memories*, a book compiled by the charity Combat Stress.

"All around me marines and soldiers of 3 Commando Brigade, which I commanded, waited in the freezing darkness of a Falklands winter, hoping that the negotiations would be successful

but ready to go on fighting if the Argentines felt so inclined.

"My radio operator tuned his set to the BBC World Service and, from 8,000 miles away, I heard that the Argentine commander had surrendered to Maj Gen Jeremy Moore 800 yards from where I stood."

A formal end to the war was declared on June 20.

The opposing force's government collapsed and a new leadership vowed to uphold the ceasefire.

Some 255 UK personnel had been killed and an estimated 300 were left wounded.

A significant number of troops would also go on to suffer mental anguish for years to come (page 29).

While no official records are available relating to enemy casualties, the figure for fatalities is estimated at 655.

In addition to military deaths, three civilians lost their lives when a British

shell hit a house on the islands.

"The Falklands War was almost certainly the last colonial conflict in which Britain will ever engage," reflected journalist and historian Sir Max Hastings in the charity publication.

"It made a decisive contribution to the reputation of Margaret Thatcher

and the revival of Great Britain's self-confidence after decades of perceived national failure.

"But we should never forget the debt we owe to all those who fought, and above all to those who never came home."

To that end, veterans will mark the anniversary of the conflict at ceremonies across the world this month. Observing the

commemorations, their successors will rest easy in the knowledge that, despite sabre-rattling from Buenos Aires, the might of the British garrison on the islands means history will not be repeated. ■

**We should never forget the debt we owe to all those who fought**

## TIMELINE: How the conflict unfolded in June 1982

June 8

More than 50 die when RFAs *Sir Galahad* and *Sir Tristram* are bombed by Argentine aircraft off Fitzroy

June 13-14

The UK takes Argentine positions on mountains overlooking Port Stanley including Mount Tumbledown, Wireless Ridge and Mount William



June 16-17

Official counts of Britain's war dead and injured are announced. Argentine President Leopoldo Galtieri resigns as leader of the country's military junta

June 11-12

British troops take Mount Longdon, Two Sisters and Mount Harriet. Destroyer HMS *Glamorgan* is badly damaged by a shore-launched Exocet missile

June 14

British advance to the outskirts of Stanley. Gen Mario Menendez surrenders to Maj Gen Jeremy Moore and UK troops march into the capital

**Background, Victory in sight:** British troops move forward from San Carlos

**Right, Going home:** Capt Alan Barley (RMP) clears the weapons of young conscripts after Argentine surrender

Pictures: Paul Haley, Soldier archive



A close-up portrait of Cliff Caswell, a middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a brick building and greenery.

Interview: Cliff Caswell

**T**HREE decades after he was left bleeding, in shock and with his sense of reality warped by morphine, retired naval commander Diego Garcia Quiroga still clearly remembers the moment when he thought his number was up.

As a lieutenant in 1982, he had been cut down by a barrage from the Royal Marines as the first Argentine forces on the Falkland Islands came under contact. He was left limp against a vegetable patch tool shed at Government House in Port Stanley, lying on the soil his country had claimed and afraid to look at his wounds.

By the time he was taken to hospital in the capital he was already aware that his superior officer – Lt Cdr Pedro Giacchino, who had been hit alongside him – had bled to death as the first battle of the Falklands War raged around them.

Then a nurse confirmed the junior officer's worst fears. "You're through, baby."

Speaking after a seminar on the conflict at Nottingham University, Quiroga pointed out that he had long since established the turn of events that left him fighting for his life.

But back on the morning of April 2, 30 years ago, his existence was a mixture of chaos, pain and confusion. He faced every soldier's worst nightmare – being wounded and exposed in no man's land.

Now involved in reconciliation work for veterans of the conflict and having met many former adversaries, he has written a book – *Stories of My Time Without a Skin* – in which he reflects on his experiences through fictional narratives. And he certainly has a great deal of experience to impart.

# ENLIGHTENED BY FIRE

**Argentinean Falklands veteran recalls how being wounded in no man's land led him to reconciliation**

In particular, a heightened sense of mortality was very real for him as the nurse's words rang in his ears.

From what he could piece together of what had happened, the prognosis was far from good. His memories were scrambled but he remembered the lights of Stanley and the time being around 0530. He recalled all hell breaking loose and being swiftly cut down in an ambush.

Earlier events were, however, easier to put into context. As an operations officer in the Agrupacion de Buzos Tacticos, a professional and respected navy special forces unit, he had been among the first to be ordered to land on the Falklands as part of Operation Rosario – the Argentine action to take the islands.

After arriving by inflatable boats at midnight on April 1, the men were ordered to head for Government House and attempt to snatch Governor Rex Hunt in a move to take control of the territory. But the team were compromised as they advanced on their target and found themselves on the receiving end of a volley of rounds from the handful of defending Royal Marines.

"Even 30 years later I still remember seeing bullets from a machine gun impacting on a door, then turning around to see Giacchino spinning," Quiroga, who retired from the Argentine navy in 1999 and now lives in Geneva, told *Soldier*.

"And that is when I was hit – it was like being kicked by a mule. I was lying against a tool shed and I could feel a huge pain in my back. I have to admit that I was afraid to look at the wounds I had taken. I knew I'd been badly hurt."

Although he was unaware of what had happened at the time, Quiroga had actually fallen victim to three different snipers. One of the bullets passed through his right elbow while another pierced his lower torso. A third was stopped by a Swiss army knife fastened to his belt over the left side of his groin.

The 28-year-old lieutenant and Lt Cdr Giacchino – who had taken a fatal round to the chest – were caught in a crossfire between the British marines and Argentine special forces and could see the tracer zipping over them.

Although the South American troops tried to dispatch a medic to administer first aid he was also shot and injured.

Quiroga recalled that the two sides traded rounds for more than 90 minutes, with his consciousness blurring as the morning wore on. In a surreal twist, the three men also found themselves trampled and harassed by geese plodding around the garden.

As he felt himself weakening, the junior officer remembered the sun rising to reveal a beautiful, deep blue Falklands morning.

He was then dimly aware of somebody probing around his chest. In addition he recollected fleetingly seeing RADM Carlos Busser, the commander of the Argentine landing forces, and hearing the rotor blades of a helicopter.

"The images were coming and going – but I do recall the face of this huge guy over me. He was a Royal Marine, not one of ours, and I later found out he was injecting me with morphine. He used my blood as ink to write 'M' on me as a precaution to make sure that I did not get a second dose."

After receiving initial treatment in Stanley, Quiroga was flown to a hospital ship where the crew battled along narrow corridors to bring his stretcher on-board.

"In all of this, I remember a few things – there was a medical officer who said something like 'we can do nothing here', although I later found out he was talking about Giacchino. And at one point the nurses remarked that I had turned blue."

Returned to Argentina, Quiroga was reunited with his parents and finally learnt that none of his vital organs had been damaged in the battle.



It was the beginning of months of recovery, which would eventually culminate in the continuation of his naval career and tours of duty that would include service on Antarctic support craft and at the Tall Ships School in Buenos Aires.

It is his time on the Falklands, however, that still holds a place as a defining period of his life and he admits that his recent reconciliation with old opponents has given him a fresh insight into how war defines the lives of combatants.

"In *Stories From My Time Without a Skin* I look at a fictional group of people who fought in 1982 and reveal what happened to them later on," Quiroga said. "None of them individually speak with my voice, but taken together they do."

While he admitted that his reflections on war are also played out in the book, it is the sense of camaraderie that comes with wearing a uniform that shines through when he remembers his own part in the battle for the Falklands.

"I've enjoyed the privilege of fighting alongside brave men and surviving almost unscathed," Quiroga said. "I gained the satisfaction of proving my faithfulness to my comrades and country – and I cannot imagine a better deal." ■



## Interview: Cliff Caswell

**B**EING in combat for the first time on an enemy-occupied island, 8,000 miles from home would be intimidating for any soldier. Add an order to be a decoy and draw fire from an entrenched opposition into the mix and you are into the stuff of nightmares.

But Steve Duffy, who in 1982 was a guardsman in the recce platoon of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, had never been more awake. And as the tracer fire lit up the pitch black of the hostile Falklands landscape, the lethal reality of his situation hit home.

Under the cover of darkness on June 13, he and a group of 28 colleagues were given the job of mounting a diversionary action against the Argentine forces dug in around Tumbledown (pictured right) – a craggy, mountainous area that was the gateway to the capital Port Stanley. It would culminate with him seeing comrades wounded and killed before he was seriously injured himself.

But the 21-year-old soldier and his fellow troops had a crucial mission. As they traded rounds with a well-prepared enemy, the left and right flank companies of the battalion moved to strike a hammer blow against the South Americans.

"We had been told that we would be fighting the Argentine marines, who were very capable, and that was the responsibility we were given," Duffy recalled. "I just remember wanting to finish the job – by this time the cold had become a huge issue and I knew that when we got to Stanley it would all be over."

"At the time I never had any doubt that we would win the war. With the passing of 30 years, however, it is clear to me that might well not have been the case."

By all accounts, Duffy and his comrades in the Scots Guards faced a demanding task. The battalion had been correctly told that they were up against the best of the Argentine military – assembled among the rocks of the mountain and dug into the peat were the troops of the 5th Marine Infantry Battalion.

Under the command of Cdr Carlos Hugo Robacio, the soldiers had a fearsome reputation and had been establishing their defences for several weeks. While the Argentine military relied heavily on conscripted men, this battalion fielded a strong contingent of professional personnel and was well equipped with kit

including the latest-generation night sights.

Despite being pounded with more than 15,000 artillery shells and rounds from Royal Navy ships before the assault was launched, the marines were ready for a fight and moved to attack the Scots Guards as soon as they arrived in the area.

"We were flown by helicopter to Goat Ridge, near Tumbledown, and quickly came under mortar fire," Duffy told *Soldier*.

"It went on to last for the whole day. But we were soon heading for our objective – to make as much noise as possible to convince the Argentines that ours was a battalion attack and then withdraw."

The British assault was, however, immediately greeted with the full force of the occupiers. Two of the young soldier's colleagues were killed and others wounded as the enemy rained down fire from their positions.

Despite the lethal barrage, the British pressed on determined to keep up the facade.

"We took high casualties, but three decades on I still think we helped to save our battalion – we made an awful lot of noise during the battle," Duffy added.

"We were fighting at night and it was really difficult but we kept up the attack and moved through the Argentine position. It was a case of being very aggressive. We were well organised and that paid off."

As the diversionary assault reached its conclusion, a fierce battle for the main objective had begun. At its height, the men of the left and right flank companies

**'WE WERE FIGHTING AT NIGHT BUT WE KEPT UP THE ATTACK AND MOVED THROUGH THE ARGENTINE POSITION'**



were just metres from the enemy defenders and hand-to-hand fighting ensued. But although the spoof advance had served its purpose, the recon platoon troops found the weakened opposition remained highly dangerous.

"I was injured at the very end of the engagement," said Duffy. "Our withdrawal was under way but a wounded Argentine soldier gave us a parting present of a grenade. I actually heard it roll in and I was injured badly in the explosion.

"The Argentine was shot quickly afterwards, but I recall lying there and coughing up blood, knowing this was bad news – I thought I was dying.

"I remember a sergeant, Gary Nicholson, shouting at me to stand up and I will always be grateful to him because that is what I did. He pretty much carried me out of there but we ended up in a minefield where we were mortared."

Duffy had sustained injuries including a collapsed right lung and shrapnel to his chest. But under contact, the two men had to fight every instinct and remain standing, despite the incoming bombs, if they were to avoid the threat of the mines. Both walked out of trouble and headed for the regimental aid post, from which Duffy was moved to a Falkland islander's home for treatment.

"It was strange but I remember it vividly – there was a field ambulance team and I was stabilised on the dining room table," he said. "It was incredible that, having been through the intensity of battle, I felt completely safe when I was with the medics."

As Duffy went under the knife, the battle was concluding. The Scots Guards ultimately provided the resolution and firepower that was to eventually end



the Falklands conflict.

The young guardsman went on to make a full recovery and concluded an 11-year period of service in 1988. After leaving the Army he joined the police and following a highly-successful career in uniformed and plain clothes roles, he is now approaching retirement as a detective inspector in the Thames Valley.

But his involvement with the regiment continues. As well as the friendships forged through the shared experience of one of the most brutal and pivotal battles of the Falklands War, one of his sons is now

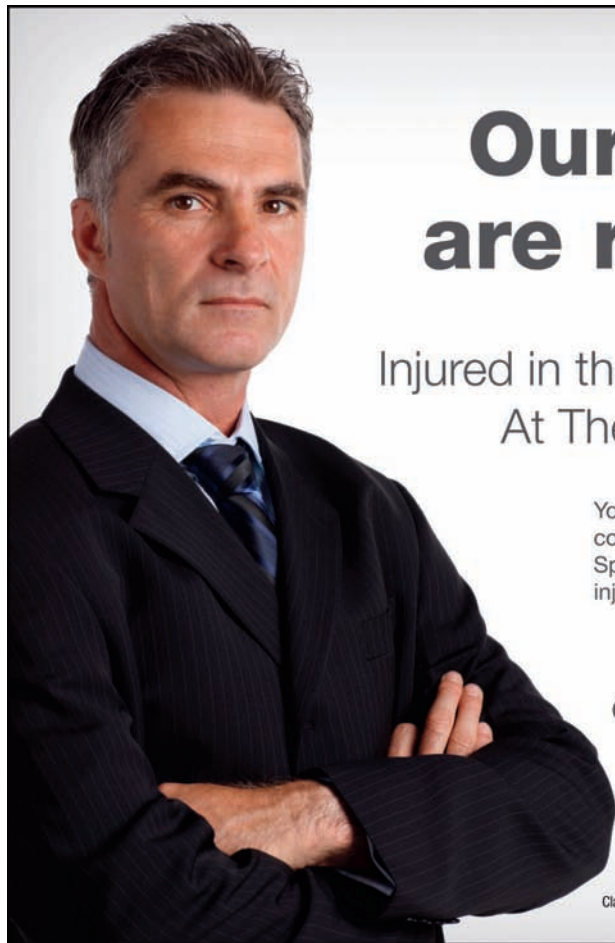
in 1st Battalion, Scots Guards and has seen action against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"There is always a strong bond between those of us who fought on those islands," Duffy said. "Within 18 months of leaving the Army, I was lucky enough to find my second career in the police and there are many others who took the same course.

"I learnt a lot that continues to serve me well, particularly about making important decisions with little critical information and remaining strong in the face of difficulties." ■

# FACING THE BITTER LAST STAND

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**Interview: Sarah Goldthorpe**  
**Picture: Graeme Main**

**A**S the success of Britain's war heroes was applauded on their return from the Falklands in 1982, a quieter and far less glorious legacy of the conflict began to take shape.

Michael "Iddy" Iddon (below right), a former private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, was a teenager when he deployed to the South Atlantic as a combat medic.

After treating Welsh Guard casualties as the *Sir Galahad* was bombed by Argentine troops, the junior soldier almost drowned while carrying out orders to abandon ship.

Thirty years later, the 49-year-old post-traumatic stress disorder sufferer is still haunted by those memories and the way in which he and other veterans were left alone to face mental illness.

But as the Army's "Don't bottle it up" campaign restarts this month, the Lancastrian is urging personnel to talk to their colleagues about feeling unwell.

"Thirty years ago, sufferers got swept under the carpet and vanished out the back door but that doesn't happen now," he explained to *Soldier* at a quiet pub in Chorley. "Army mental health has changed a huge amount.

"Post-traumatic stress is only like any other medical condition and it's treated as an illness.

"To be honest it's just like catching the clap. If you address it now, it won't become deep-rooted."

Iddon's sense of humour appears to have served him well throughout an incredibly

dark period of his life.

In the wake of his experiences at sea, he spent years being too terrified of water to drink it and living out of a trench in his parents' back garden for fear of going indoors. His nightmares continue.

"At the time they [the Army] said I had an 'inability to communicate with people'," the keen motorcyclist recalled.

"I had trauma therapy and they knew it was down to the *Galahad* but they didn't want to think it was a problem.

"My mother hadn't been able to get any information about where I was when I was in hospital and the MoD denied me access to a war pension."

Thanks to the charity Combat Stress and the support of friends at The Royal British Legion's Riders Branch, the veteran's life is improving.

But the process has been slow and his message to troops returning from Op Herrick is clear: act now, not later.

"Post-traumatic stress is a multitude of illnesses; drinking, disassociation, depression and anger," the former Serviceman commented.

"But the only person who knows how you are really handling things is you.

"We lost 255 lads in the Falklands but it's well documented that more have committed suicide because of what they saw.

"The sooner you get treatment, the lower the chance that you will end up a basket case like the rest of us."

Iddon continued: "I spent most of my life avoiding psychiatric units but things have altered enormously now.

"When you are in a war zone and you have just watched a man

being blown up, you have to bury it deep inside and let the job take over.

"But now you can see someone part way through a tour.

"If you speak to your guv he will sort you out and get you the help you need.

"If it means sending you to Combat Stress for six weeks or to the Army psychiatrist, it's nothing to be ashamed of.

"Seeing things at war will change you but it shouldn't change who you are.

"So if you get offered some sort of treatment don't sit there and brush it off, bloody do it!" ■

**'Seeing things at war will change you but it shouldn't change who you are'**

● If you think you are suffering from mental health problems contact your unit TRIM practitioner, welfare support officer, padre (epadre@armymail.mod.uk) or the charity Combat Stress on 0800 138 1619. Samaritans can also provide round-the-clock support on 08457 909090.



**'Don't brush it off'**  
**Veteran's plea to traumatised troops**

# Momentous

## Elizabeth II marks 60 years

**Before celebrating her Diamond Jubilee this month, the Queen sent the following message to British soldiers and their military colleagues:**

**I**T is a tradition of very long standing that the sovereign, and members of the royal family, are intimately associated with the Armed Forces and have been proud to serve in all three Services.

In addition, we have special connections with particular commands of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, corps and regiments of the Army and air stations of the Royal Air Force.

We greatly value these connections as it means we meet the wider family of wives and husbands of the currently serving men and women of the Armed Forces.

We are very proud of the selfless service and sacrifices made by Servicemen and women and their families in recent years.

It is very gratifying to celebrate and take pride in successful achievements, but the real test of character is the ability to maintain morale and a positive spirit in bad times as well as when things are going well.

# milestone

## as head of the Armed Forces



### Monarch and the military: five things you might not know

**1** The Queen is the only person who can declare war and peace. Today, this power is exercised on the advice of government ministers

**2** Unlike members of the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines, Royal Navy personnel do not have to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen

**3** Her Majesty meets regularly with the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall. She also keeps in touch with the work of the military through a defence Services secretary

**4** In 60 years, the Queen has undertaken 261 official overseas visits

**5** Elizabeth II was the first female member of the royal family to be a full-time, active member of the Armed Forces, serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (pages 18-19)



Picture: Peter Gowling



Picture: Gai Linmy Cash



Picture: Soldier archive

The Queen's Message To Her Armies



Picture: Top Mark Lamer, NY

## Jubilee jubilations

HAVING already mounted a spectacular tribute to Her Majesty at Windsor (pictured above), British soldiers will continue their Diamond Jubilee duties this month as the country marks the monarch's 60-year reign.

### Saturday, June 2

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery will perform the **Coronation Day gun salute**

### Sunday, June 3

**From 1200: Thames Diamond Jubilee pageant.** The Honourable Artillery Company will fire a gun salute for the Queen heralding her arrival at the Tower of London.

### Tuesday, June 5

**From 1015:** Personnel will line the steps of St Paul's Cathedral for Her Majesty's arrival and departure at a **service of thanksgiving**. The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry and the Band of the Welsh Guards will perform there.

**From 1420:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals) will provide a sovereign's escort of nine officers and 109 other ranks for the **carriage procession** from New Palace Yard to Buckingham Palace. The route will be lined with members and musicians of the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards of the Household Division

and personnel from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The King's Troop will perform a **gun salute**.

**From 1440:** A **guard of honour** by members of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards will greet the Queen on her return to the royal residence. They will perform a **"feu de joie"** as she appears on the balcony.

● For more information on civvy events celebrating the Diamond Jubilee visit [www.thediamondjubilee.org](http://www.thediamondjubilee.org)





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# BRAVE IN THE CAVES

## TROOPS DELVE INTO DARK SIDE OF ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Report: Joe Clapson  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**B**ENEATH a serene field in picturesque North Yorkshire, soldiers are plunged into darkness to put their courage to the test in a context far removed from Afghanistan.

In the name of adventurous training, they drop into an inconspicuous hole to find a maze of black tunnels standing between them and the end of a six-hour underground tour.

*Soldier* donned a hard hat to join the latest batch of troops on the caving foundation course at Ripon's Joint Service Mountain Training Wing to find out what can be achieved in such a tight space. >>



Squeezing between walls of limestone rock while knee-deep in sediment-infused water shatters any illusion that this kind of activity is a "jolly away from work" for Sandhurst officer cadets.

"Adventurous training is part of soldiering and something to look forward to but it is definitely not time off," said Sgt Gaz Osborne (RAPTC), an instructor on the course. "As far as pushing boundaries goes, caving is the pursuit that does it."

The tutor explained that many participants are often apprehensive about the prospect of abseiling into a black abyss or prising themselves out of a rocky duct.

"If you are in a cramped space it doesn't matter whether you are just under the surface or 200 metres down, it's the same feeling," he added.

"You have to persevere and push through otherwise you'll remain stuck."

"Sometimes people will freeze but it's all about having the ability to get out of tight conditions."

The overarching aim of adventurous training is to develop key attributes in Armed

Forces personnel, from physical robustness and discipline to leadership and courage.

Inside Goyden Pot – part of a five-kilometre underground network at the home of Army caving – these characteristics are certainly put to the test.

Reacquainting himself with daylight after braving the murky experience, OCdt Ian Hodgkiss commented: "It was very different to what I had expected – I didn't think we'd be thrown in at the deep end so quickly."

"It completely takes you out of your comfort zone and gives you a fear that you wouldn't get from other sports or training."

Emphasising the reason for pushing personnel to their limits, Sgt Osborne said:

"Often when people are stuck in a dark hole they've never been so scared in their lives."

"That feeling of fear can be applied to the operational environment."

"Once you get through that, you can reflect and realise you are a stronger person."

Under the Earth's surface, radios and mobile phones do not work

and satellite systems cannot aid navigation.

Instead, messages must be passed from person to person and troops rely on their map-reading skills.

"We get people here who have coped in very dangerous situations in Helmand province but don't like the caves," the instructor continued.

"It's about moving out of your comfort zone and working through it."

"Once you climb into that hole, you are in there together until you all get out."

Safety in the caves is the course leaders' first priority and all movements are watched intensely by the experts.

However, those under supervision are left to find their own solutions to any problems they encounter.

"Looking out for warning signs, being self-reliant and taking responsibility are important skills which can be transferred elsewhere," explained Sgt Osborne.

"A major part of the training is learning to have faith in the instructor and listen to what he or she says – similar to trusting a section commander on a mission."



**'IT GIVES YOU A FEAR  
THAT YOU WOULDN'T  
GET FROM OTHER  
SPORTS OR TRAINING'**

Obeying orders, the officers-in-waiting traverse round the cave's main chamber, attached to a rope and dangling over a dark vault.

In preparation for both deployment and general Army life, a week under the training wing's tuition appeared to tick the right boxes for OCdt Benjy Barks.

"This forces you to try things that you think might be outside your capability," the Serviceman admitted.

"The ability to keep a good attitude when you're wanting to be elsewhere is useful to have."

After the explorers finish the course it is hoped that, armed with new rope skills and the tools to face anxiety, they will share their experiences with others.

"We want guys to go back and deliver adventurous training to their blokes," said instructor Sgt Glenn Batty (RAPTC). "These activities aim to develop people as soldiers."

For years British personnel have consistently proved their mental resilience and physical prowess on the Afghan battlefield.

But away from Op Herrick, another test of their mettle is taking place below the landscape of northern England.

And with combat troops due to return from the desert by the end of 2014, individuals are being encouraged to sign up to the Service's free adventurous training courses.

"You can't teach somebody how to be courageous but if you're surrounded by people trying to do something it brings your level up," said Sgt Osborne.

"Caving instills a sense of being able to trust someone else with your safety and, potentially, your life."

The Joint Service Mountain Training Centre provides courses and exercises in the UK and abroad and has hubs in Snowdonia, North Yorkshire, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

For more information visit [www.facebook.com/JSMTC](http://www.facebook.com/JSMTC) or search for the Adventurous Training Group (Army) on Armysnet. ■

Report: Richard Long  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**HE tranquil art of angling is often considered the perfect pursuit for escaping the stresses of everyday life.

This philosophy is gathering momentum in military circles and increasing numbers of personnel are taking to the riverbanks thanks to the continued success of Fishing for Forces, an organisation offering peace and quiet outside of the British Army.

More than 40 serving, wounded and former soldiers took part in the outfit's latest event in Theale, near Reading in Berkshire, where a team of expert mentors were on hand to teach them the basics of the sport.

Founder Bill Howell launched the initiative in 2010 and now stages regular sessions throughout the fishing season.

"The idea is to take them to the water's edge and get them away from the military routine," he told *Soldier*.

"We wanted to introduce them to fishing as it has fantastic therapeutic qualities.

"It is almost like a form of yoga and your worries wash away.

"You are focused on just one thing and everything else takes second place."

Former combat medic John Hayman, who served during the first Gulf War, was quick to praise the calming influence of angling and explained how it has helped him cope with the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"If I was not fishing I would be at home banging my head against the wall," he said.

"I didn't think I had a problem, but it turned out I did.

"This chills me out, I can escape from the world and relax with my friends. It does not matter what is wrong with you, the guys here do not discriminate.

"We can talk about different situations and we stay in touch outside of fishing. It is like our own treatment group."

Among the mentors in Theale was television presenter and keen angler Chris Tarrant, who is an avid supporter of the Armed Forces.

His father was a major in the British Army during the Second World War and was awarded the Military Cross for his actions during the conflict.

"I've done quite a lot of work with Help for Heroes," the star explained. "With more and more bodies coming back from Afghanistan, people are a lot more interested in what our soldiers do.

"If I can give up some of my time to help them I will.

"Fishing is something they can enjoy and it is a chance for soldiers to share their mutual experiences and problems.

"The organisers deserve a lot of credit for this and it is a great way of giving something back to our Servicemen and women."

Fishing for Forces arranges regular events at venues across the country, with volunteer mentors on hand to offer expert tuition and guidance. ■

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YOUR WORRIES  
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# RIVERSIDE

# RETREAT

SOLDIERS JOIN  
BLOSSOMING  
FISHING  
INITIATIVE



Who wants to be an angler?:  
Chris Tarrant mentors Pte  
Enuha Manneh (RLC) during  
the Fishing for Forces event  
held at Sportfish Haywards  
Lake, Theale, Reading

# CAPITAL COVER

## ARMY PERSONNEL STAND READY TO DEFEND OLYMPICS

Report: Joe Clapson  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**A**S the world's eyes focus on London for the 2012 Games next month, a monumental defence system will ensure terrorists cannot mount a sky-bound attack akin to September 11.

While 10,500 elite athletes compete at the biggest sporting showpiece on the planet, a tri-Service team armed with cutting-edge assets stands ready to eliminate any potential dangers.



Under the event's security plan, a 30-mile restricted flying zone will be created around the Olympic Park, with Army personnel continuously monitoring the area for rogue aircraft.

*Soldier* joined troops on Exercise Olympic Guardian as they worked on tactics and procedures for the imminent role using ground-based air defence systems.

Stationed in the unlikely operational area of Blackheath Common – usually home to dog-walkers and kite-flyers – personnel in charge of hi-tech surface-to-air missiles explained their purpose.

“For us to engage an aircraft it would be looking to attack the Olympic village or at worst the park,” said the detachment commander for the Blackheath site.

The sergeant, serving with 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery, must remain anonymous for operational security reasons.

Personnel from his unit will control the unparalleled Rapier short-range weapon at four different locations in London, providing 24-hour defence against aeroplanes, drones or any other kind of rogue aircraft.

“It has to be weighed up,” the NCO continued. “We will take an asset out of the sky to save what could be thousands of lives. A projectile which comes off the beams would result in the platform being destroyed.”

The Starstreak high-velocity missile, designed to counter threats from high-performance, low-flying



**Surface strength:** Rapier's sophisticated radar gives surveillance capability to detect air threats. The weapon can engage two targets at once

aircraft, will be manned at two sites close to the capital's iconic athletics stadium by members of 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Although these systems are seen as the last line of defence after Royal Air Force Typhoons and helicopters from the Army Air Corps and Royal Navy, their role could prove vital in preventing attacks such as the twin towers atrocity, which claimed nearly 3,000 lives in 2001.

Events on July 7, 2005 – the day after London was awarded the Olympics – highlighted the desire of terrorists to strike in the capital. >>



Coordinated bombings of the city's public transport system killed 52 people and injured more than 700.

AVM Stuart Atha, air component commander for Olympic security, explained the level of danger faced during the three-week event.

"There is no specific threat to the Games," he insisted. "This is prudent precautionary preparation for what may come. Our hope is that anyone contemplating a malign attempt, when they see the capabilities we are developing, would be deterred."

Part of the multi-layered plan includes posting Army air observers to a number of sites across London to provide an "unblinking" watch of the sky, using binoculars with thermal imaging detection systems.

The Rapier also features world-class radar and can pick up low, slow aerial objects.

Col Jon Campbell, commander of ground-based air defence, said: "This means we're able to get the very best picture of what is happening in the skies of London."

But he added: "No one is pretending for one minute that if we are required to deal with something there will be no impact."

Speaking about what

will be the first deployment of air defence in the capital since the Second World War, AVM Atha added: "We have developed this looking at the worst case so that we can respond as quickly as possible if required."

"But we want the focus to be on Usain Bolt this summer, not us."

If there is deemed to be a threat to life, those manning weapons will await a decision to destroy it from the top of government before firing on the enemy.

The last time the UK fired an air defence missile was 30 years ago during the Falklands War, but Maj David Joyce (16 Regt, RA) said his men were prepared for action.

"We have explored a number of different types of threat and we have war-gamed how we would react," he commented.

Bdr Jonathan (12 Regt, RA), a detachment commander with the Starstreak system (pictured below), added: "Usually my job would be to give the call to fire, but with this type of operation we'll be given that signal from the Cabinet Office."

"We'll analyse where the aircraft is then, with the authority to act, engage it if necessary."

"The missile is designed to take the rogue asset out of the sky and we are trained to aim at the centre of the target."

There is no specific intelligence to suggest that terrorists plan to strike at the Games, but by lying prepared with state-of-the-art surveillance kit and a first-rate defensive arsenal, the British Army will help to ensure

## **'WE WANT THE FOCUS TO BE ON USAIN BOLT THIS SUMMER, NOT US'**



**Firewall:** RAF Typhoon jets and military helicopters from the Army and Royal Navy could be tasked to intercept aircraft that enter restricted airspace established to protect Olympic venues

the occasion remains secure.

When July 27 arrives it will not only be athletes who are mindful of the Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" ("Faster, Higher, Stronger"), but those Service personnel working in the background too. ■

● At the time of going to press the air security plan for the Olympics had not yet been officially endorsed by ministers.





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A photograph of three soldiers in camouflage uniforms working at a computer in a dimly lit room. The soldier in the foreground is a man with short dark hair, looking intently at the screen. Behind him, a woman is also looking at the screen, and further back, another man is visible. They are all focused on their work. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on their faces and uniforms against a dark background.

# READY TO REACT

**Multinational headquarters prepares  
for global mission**

**Report: Richard Long**  
**Pictures: Graeme Main**

**H**AVING returned from a challenging tour of Afghanistan last year, personnel from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps' (ARRC) headquarters could be forgiven for dreaming of a well-deserved break.

But instead of resting on their laurels, the multinational soldiers are in the midst of preparing for their next major tasking which could see them deployed anywhere in the world.

From January 2013, the ARRC will assume the role of the Nato Response Force, a 12-month posting that requires the formation to provide immediate countermeasures to emerging international threats and crises.

This could include peacekeeping missions, disaster relief and defence tasks or helping to promote national stabilisation, governance and development where needed.

Planning for this vital work is already well under way and the 450-strong headquarters' staff – 60 per cent of which stem from the British Army – were put through their paces during Exercise Arcade Returner 2 last month.

The week-long training package in Staffordshire introduced the officers to some of the challenges they could face in the near future and they gained valuable experience of operating together on a grand scale.

"This exercise has been a very good run out for us," ARRC commander Lt Gen James Bucknall told *Soldier*.

"The last time we deployed in the field like this was in 2009. After that it was specific training for Afghanistan, so we have had to re-learn a lot of old lessons.

"We have got people coming back from theatre and we now have to knit them together

as a headquarters.

"This exercise has illustrated how much work we still have to do but our officers have vast individual experience and they are picking it up very well."

The serial tasked personnel with running a stabilisation campaign in a fictitious country known as Arnland.

While working to achieve this goal they faced additional challenges such as IED strikes, a downed helicopter, road traffic accidents, radio disruptions and the theft of weapons.

"The idea behind this is to get the relevant processes working within the headquarters," explained Brig David Paterson, the ARRC's chief of training.

"We have to make sure our people know who they have to talk to and how they should interact with various air, maritime and Special Forces capabilities.

"At this stage it is pretty low-level stuff but it is enough to get the thought processes flowing in the cycle."

The Gloucester-based formation faces a sterner test of its credentials in a final certification exercise later this year and chief of operations, Lt Col Adam Edmunds, believes the initial training will hold them in good stead.

He said: "We have a lot of people with experience of southern Afghanistan so we need to check that the procedures we have in place are appropriate.

"We need to prepare for a range of potential missions, some of which will be at the softer end of military life.

"This is about familiarisation and identifying areas for further work, so it has been a worthwhile exercise.

"The beauty of a headquarters like this is that there is a vast array of nationalities and military cultures. We have to harness that expertise to meet our goals."

While the officers within Headquarters ARRC were tested on their specific roles, a host of supporting units were on hand to ensure the exercise ran smoothly.

More than 80 soldiers from 22 Signal Regiment, Royal Signals were responsible for installing telephone lines, computers and email systems ahead of the serials, before offering 24-hour technical support throughout the training.

"We had to have all this ready for when the staff arrived on site," Lt Phil Taylor said.

"Our aim was to make this as



seamless as possible, but there are always going to be some problems.

"The regiment has been learning and training for the past six months without a full deployment and this has been our first opportunity to get out.

"The lads have been tested and they have taken a great deal of job satisfaction from what they have been doing."

Elements of the ARRC Support Battalion also deployed to Staffordshire to ensure the necessary preparations were made prior to the exercise commencing.

Security checkpoints, force protection and tented accommodation were all provided by soldiers from 23 Pioneer Regiment, while Royal Logistic Corps chefs fed up to 700 troops a day.

And personnel from the Royal Engineers operated and maintained 36 generators and were responsible for setting up power cables, lighting and heating.

"We have had to modify some kit to make it work and it should have been a lot more comfortable than it has been," Spr Neale Baldwin explained.

"But we will take a lot from this in terms of training value. We can reflect on what has happened and learn from it.

"This is the first time we have been on this exercise. We have got a few new guys in the troop and they have never seen anything on this scale before." ■

● For more information on the role of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps visit [www.rrc.nato.int](http://www.rrc.nato.int)





## FACT FILE: HEADQUARTERS ALLIED RAPID REACTION CORPS

- There are seven other high-readiness headquarters in the world but the ARRC is the oldest having formed in 1992.
- A total of 16 countries are represented in the formation including Great Britain, the USA, Germany, Canada and Denmark.
- Based at Imjin Barracks in Innsworth, near Gloucester, the headquarters boasts 450 staff.
- As well as having a strong Armed Forces contingent, civilian experts are employed to look at operations from a wider perspective.
- Personnel have deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq, and have completed two tours of Afghanistan.
- In their role as the Nato Response Force, lead elements will be required to deploy with just 48 hours' notice.





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# TALKBACK

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



## Drink driver denied decoration

**WRITE** with regard to the issue of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which is awarded to personnel for a trouble-free 15 years in uniform. For many, my self included, this decoration is recognition of dedication to a job that becomes more thankless as time progresses.

My query concerns the ruling that individuals given a regimental entry for a drink driving-related offence are barred from ever receiving the medal.

While I fully understand that the British Army has a zero-tolerance approach to such matters, I also feel that those responsible for deciding eligibility should take into account the circumstances surrounding the misdemeanour.

I was awarded a regimental entry for drink driving, however, I was stopped the morning after the night before – something that many soldiers do today.

Is it not possible for a plea of mitigation to be sent via the chain of command to the medal office?

Before other readers write a response to this letter, can I request that they consider their own motoring record and think back to the last time they drove onto camp after a heavy night out.

I guarantee those who have were still over the legal limit, regardless of how they felt. – **Name and address supplied.**

**Brig Mike Griffiths, Director Personnel Operations, writes:** Drink driving is one of several categories of offence that is assessed to be of such gravity that the offender must forfeit his or her right to receive the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal despite a further period of 15 years in uniform without committing another misdemeanour.

Other such exclusions to the award include those found guilty of theft, actual bodily harm and assaulting a superior or junior colleague.

The rationale behind these robust rulings is deliberately designed to maintain the high level of personal conduct required to be a recipient of this prestigious award.

Your question focuses on the circumstances of your own case.

The simple fact is you committed a very serious offence.

You might feel you were somehow committing a lesser crime by getting behind the wheel the day after consuming alcohol, but the court who heard your case clearly felt you were drink driving and punished you accordingly – as did the British Army.

You crossed a very clear line and were caught and your harsh and long-term lesson may deter others.

### DECORATION DELINQUENCY

■ AS a regular reader of *Soldier*, I have followed the debate surrounding the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal with interest.

I served for a combined total of 30 years in the Royal Engineers between 1975 and 2005, as both a Regular and Reservist, and was one of the many who felt wronged by the award's qualifying criteria.

Aggrieved, I signed the petition on the government website calling for a change in eligibility and am disappointed that no action has been taken.

While on eBay recently I happened to notice that a number of serving personnel and members of the emergency services are selling their Diamond Jubilee medals. These people clearly have no sense of pride in receiving and wearing this award and are only interested in its monetary value.

I am aware of the growing concern about "bling" medals being worn on parade by veterans, but when I see decorations for sale on internet auction sites it is no wonder that ex-soldiers are resorting to this tactic.

Individuals selling the award should be sought out, dealt with by the military command and have the honour rescinded.

I would be interested to hear back from personnel as to why they chose to offer up their medal to the highest bidder.

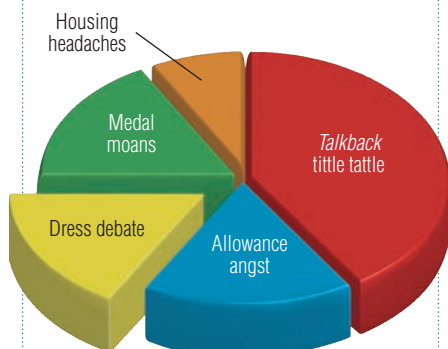
Doing so allows the Walter Mittys out there to get their hands on decorations they are not entitled to. – **Al Honeyman.**



● Medal study and censure – page 9

### Slice of Service life

This month's ruminations from the ranks...

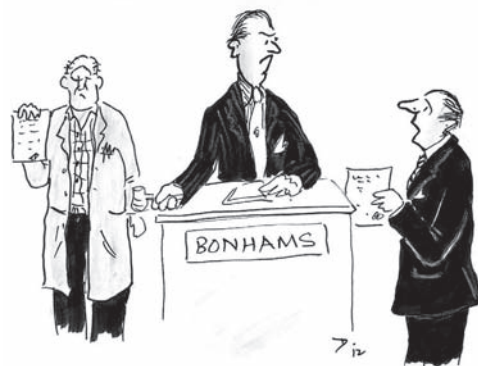


■ I READ with interest your article in April's issue about the original telex announcing the surrender of Argentine forces during the Falklands War going under the hammer.

Described as being "of great historical importance", the item sold for £7,250 to an anonymous buyer in the USA.

As a Falklands veteran (then a Royal Marine), I too have a surrender document and like checking a lottery ticket word for word and digit for digit, am certain it is the same telex – albeit mine has a little mud on it as my tactical air controller HQ at the time was in a slit trench.

I wonder if any other copies survived? I have contacted Bonhams but as yet they have not replied. – **Tom Eadie.**



"Sorry to interrupt, Charles... we may have jumped the gun... just received another Falklands surrender telex from some marine."



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**Front-line first aid:** A combat medical technician tends to a simulated casualty during a pre-deployment training exercise on Salisbury Plain Picture: Steve Dock

## Resuscitate regimental role for combat medics

I AM astounded by the decision to scrap the role of the regimental combat medical technician (RCMT).

The difference between working at a medical regiment and, as in my own case, being attached to an Infantry battalion is vast.

While on tour I had to wean people onto the doctor for treatment simply because the soldiers did not know him. Personnel would rather come to a familiar face regardless of the difference in training. Had I been attached for the duration of the deployment rather than as a posting then I would have encountered the same problems.

On the flip side, my infantry skills – although not at the same level as an infanteer – are greatly improved and in sync with the battalion.

With this in mind, why doesn't the Army bolster field hospitals and regimental aid posts and scrap medical regiments? This would surely better suit the order of battle.

Ask any combat technician worth his salt and they will tell you that medical regiments are not the place they want to be due to the lack of exposure to hospitals or Infantry battlegroups.

RCMTs strengthen the Royal Army Medical Corps despite not being a part of it; please don't let them go without a fight. – [Name and address supplied](#).

**Col Nigel Partington, Army Medical Directorate, responds:** Whilst the letter writer makes a valuable point about the benefits of familiarity between infanteers when seeking medical advice, there are numerous management issues with the RCMT cadre.

Medical regiments perform many functions in a much larger context than just that of manning the regimental aid post. The evacuation and logistics chain in the echelons is a large beast with many moving parts, starting at the point of wounding and continuing all the way back to the UK.

However, whilst the RAMC recognises it can benefit from the infantry experience brought with them by those transferring in, one must be candid; the standard of RCMTs varies greatly from excellent infanteers with highly proficient healthcare knowledge to those soldiers who are medically non-deployable and/or “bottom third” troops who are poor infantrymen and not competent medics.

As a result of this disparity, the RAMC was having to backfill Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps regimental aid posts at short notice.

This is a situation that cannot continue as it makes life unreasonably difficult for the corps to plan for providing medical support against operations.

Under the new policy, combat medical technicians can be assigned into regiments for a few years which will help to build good relationships.

In addition, only “top third”, physically fit personnel with good soldiering and medical skills will likely be assigned to teeth arms posts, in order to ensure the fighting troops have the best possible medics supporting them.

Currently, the RAMC has little control over the teaching of RCMTs (when not in common core school) so the benefits

from the standardisation of training that will result from these personnel being brought into one large professional cadre will be enormous.

At the time of writing, RCMTs complete the same class one and two qualifications as combat medical technicians but have few opportunities to go onto further accredited courses and there is little validation of their clinical practice which can lead to governance failings.

Essentially, if a RCMT has an aspiration to continue a career in healthcare, the job opportunities, professional training and accreditation the RAMC can provide them, such as the NVQ Level 4 Emergency Care Technician qualification, are considerably better.

CMTs can opt for employment as patrol medics, medical logistics specialists, support to special forces and working in primary healthcare.

In addition, RAMC promotion opportunities to warrant officer and commissioning also far exceed the Infantry and RAC's likely healthcare ceiling of medical sergeant.

The RCMT must decide if they wish to work in an increasingly professional healthcare environment or remain as a fighting infantry soldier with their battalion.

This transfer scheme has been implemented due to many higher and lower level healthcare management issues, and it is inevitable that some good aspects of the current system like familiarity will be lost. However, the Army must adapt in order to provide the best possible support to patients.

# Unpleasant rise in maintenance

I AM currently serving on Op Herrick and want to know how the MoD can justify allowing longer separation and unpleasant working allowance payments to be taken into consideration by the Child Support Agency (CSA).

Surely these are paid as compensation for being apart from loved ones and for having to work in arduous conditions.

I do not begrudge paying for my children but I do take exception to being deployed and working for no extra money. – **Name and address supplied.**

**Brig Tim Hyams, Director Personal Services (Army), replies:** There is a detailed and long-standing memorandum of understanding between the MoD and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (previously the CSA).

This sets out in detail the elements of your pay and allowances to be included in the maintenance calculation. In essence, any allowance upon which tax is paid will be included. As longer separation allowance and unpleasant working allowance are taxed, they are taken into consideration by the commission.

Those payments not included generally are those that reimburse you in some respect for expenditure in support of a duty undertaken, such as home to duty travel or night subsistence.

On the other hand, there is an



"I don't care what it says in *Soldier* about Army allowances... it might be 'unpleasant' being my personal assistant but that doesn't mean you're in line for any extra payments."

undertaking from the commission that it will not impose new deductions of earnings if you are on operations.

If this is the case, then you should speak to your regimental admin officer so that the chain of command can, if appropriate, take up your case with the organisation's Forces focal point.

## Sexism stance is small-minded

I WAS deeply disappointed to read Chantelle Taylor's response to Capt Doug Searle's review of her book, *Bad Company*, in April's issue. Clearly, the author is very proud (and rightly so) of her work but she should be mature enough to recognise criticism for what it is.

Taylor's work, like any art, is subject to interpretation and taste; whether she likes it or not, not every person who reads it is going to agree with her perspectives and opinions.

Claiming those officers and men who review titles for *Soldier* have prejudiced views seems strange and the writer's specific targeting of Capt Searle's effort is especially unfair. The reviewer in question gave up his own time to read and promote *Bad Company*.

If Taylor looks at some of the other reviews published she'll notice that I too write for the magazine and was particularly harsh on a soldier's book about being a sniper. I was critical not because I'm a snobbish officer but as a consequence of the awful writing and the author's small-minded perspectives.

My advice to Taylor is to get used to criticism and contain the vitriol when a review doesn't go your way. The response she submitted to May's magazine simply made her sound petty, while reinforcing the view that some of her perceptions on others are unjustified. – **Capt Nick Mazzei, AGC.**

## NO CAUSE FOR NEEDLE

I READ with astonishment the letter in your April issue from someone complaining that he had to pay to have his badges sewn onto his uniform, "Signaller counts cost of stitch-up".

While I fully appreciate that the Army has completely changed since I was called up on January 1, 1948, give me strength!

One of the items issued to recruits back then was a housewife, pronounced hussiff [a white cotton wallet containing needles, thread and spare buttons].

At the end of my six weeks' basic training I was given four long Royal Armoured Corps badges to sew on to my battle dress tunics. Just 24 hours later I was told to unpick them and replace them with REME titles.

All this for four shillings a day less stoppages. – **Paul North, ex-Army.**



## Deny Bounty eaters their bounty

I WRITE in response to a letter bemoaning the number of individuals in the Reserves who use the medical system inappropriately, "Fight fitness fraud" (March). Personnel who are downgraded should not get a full bounty until they can pass their military training tests.

While I pride myself on keeping fit, it is



demoralising to see non-participants watching on and knowing that these individuals will not be judged and yet still be fully paid.

Furthermore, it seems that being overweight and downgraded within the TA and Regulars is no barrier to promotion. How can this be acceptable? We should be soldiers first and tradesmen second. – **Name and address supplied.**

## Bemused by barrack dress direction

I AM confused. The British Army has recently spent a significant amount of money designing, producing and introducing the new personal clothing system (PCS) combat uniform and updated barrack dress.

Notwithstanding any observations there may be in regards suitability and value for money, there is a very clear lack of direction over when items should be worn.

Paragraph 3c of the relevant Army briefing note (71-11) states "in barracks, the decision to wear PCS or barrack dress is delegated to local commanders".

And yet paragraph 9 of the same document offers "[...]PCS [...] was not designed for wear in or around barracks".

So which is it? If we have, as paragraph 3c also remarks "[...] a comfortable order of

dress for wear in barracks [...]", then why is the decision left to local commanders?

Surely the direction should be that barrack dress will be worn when in barracks, unless there is a specific requirement for the unit to wear PCS. – **SSgt Woolfitt, Templer Coy, DSI.**

**Brig Mike Griffiths, Director Personnel Operations, responds:** The instruction is very clear. Local commanders have the delegated authority to decide what is the appropriate order of dress for their people to wear during the working day.

Around the Army, many units and organisations do wear barrack dress when their work routine suits it.

Perhaps your letter will prompt others to think about this option.



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# Proof of Army service should not be painful

**T**HIS letter to *Soldier* is prompted by my recent attempt to become a paid member of the Victory Services Club in central London.

Having enjoyed the benefits offered by the military charity during my junior, Regular and Territorial Army service from 1976 through to 2011, I encountered a bit of a problem.

The club has accepted my application and fee, but have requested I provide a photograph and proof of address and Armed Forces career.

In relation to the latter, I approached the Veterans and Service Personnel Agency but was told no such document exists.

The Joint Personnel Administration Centre then informed me that I was not entitled to a discharge pack as they are only presented to Regular soldiers.

This leaves me in the position, after 35 years' service, of having no official certificate of my time in uniform.

In light of the Future Reserves 2020 report, an increased reliance and deployment of Reservists, this small acknowledgement is an embarrassing omission to the commitment given.

I am lucky that I kept a scanned copy of identity documents such as my driving licence, passport and old MoD 90 and rediscovered my Red Book, which was presented on discharge from the Regular Army in 1982.

Looking ahead, what is the Reservist going to have to prove that they have served their country? – **Neil Palmer.**



**Capt D Thursby, Reserves Directorate, responds:** Anyone leaving the Army Reserve is entitled to a Joint Personnel Administration certificate of service

report. This is the same document as those received by Regular leavers, although it is not sent out automatically by the Army Personnel Centre and must be requested through the individual's unit human resources staff.

Specifically, it is the management information and termination officer roles that have the authority to print this report.

Failing that, proof of Reserve service for membership to military associations such as the Victory Services Club (pictured left) can be demonstrated by several other means.

Personnel or veterans should provide an Armed Forces pay statement, appropriate P60 or sight of issued medals (which have the individual's name and unit engraved on the edge).

Organisations will often also accept military letters addressed to the individual or unit photos in which the person can be clearly identified.

Alternatively, former soldiers can apply for a copy of their personal service records from the Army Personnel Centre.

Details on how to apply can be found by visiting [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk) and searching for "access to personal data held by the Ministry of Defence".

You may not be aware, but ex-Reservists are also entitled to apply for the Armed Forces veterans' lapel badge and details of this can be found at [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

● Reserves round-up – page 11

# Taxed by Revenue and Customs laundering rules

I WAS recently informed that as a nurse serving in the Army I am entitled to claim a tax rebate to cover the costs of cleaning my clinical dress, which has to be laundered separately from other clothing using a 60 degree wash to comply with infection control standards.

Consequently, I downloaded a claim form from the Royal College of Nursing's website and submitted it to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

A few days later I received a reply stating my tax code had changed to reflect my professional registration and subscriptions and that I was not eligible for a rebate.

The reason given was that HMRC is currently in talks with MoD to establish whether personnel really do launder their own uniforms.

Since joining up my military clothing has only ever been cleaned by the Service during basic training and while deployed on overseas operations.

Are there talks and, if so, why have some of my colleagues received a rebate?

Finally, if we are expected to practise as professionals, why do we have to meet the expense of professional registration



"Have the tax people no conscience, Henry... they won't accept my nylons as clinical dress."

ourselves? – **Name and address supplied.**

**Brig Tim Hyams, Director Personal Services (Army), replies:** Thank you for your letter, in which you raise two separate issues: the payment of professional body fees (PBF) and tax relief on the laundering of uniforms.

Financial assistance with professional subscriptions was previously given to Armed Forces personnel in cases where membership of an organisation or association was considered mandatory for

career progression.

However, the introduction of Joint Personnel Administration in February 2006 highlighted disparities in approach across the Services and the top-level budget holders. As a result, the provision was withdrawn in 2010.

The good news is that professional fees and/or subscriptions are still allowable as a deduction against tax and, dependent on your circumstances, you may be able to claim when completing your tax return or by writing to HMRC. Further guidance on tax relief for PBF is contained in 2011DIN01-080.

The MoD and HMRC met recently to discuss tax relief on laundering of Service uniforms. It was argued that not all military personnel are able to access employer provided cleaning (as per JSP 886) and therefore there should be some allowance made.

Talks are continuing to determine what types of uniform might qualify for tax relief. Pending the outcome, personnel should refrain from submitting claims seeking tax relief for the washing of Army attire, as per 2012DIN01-092.

## Diamond eligibility rough on Reserves

JUST a brief note to enquire why Territorial Army personnel had to have amassed five years worth of bounties to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Reservists who failed to receive their commanding officer's certificate of efficiency were not presented with an award even if they had exceeded the required number of days.

Why were these individuals not eligible? – Pte K Young, 6 Scots.

**Brig Mike Griffiths, Director Personnel Operations, responds:**

The qualification criteria for all those eligible to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal includes a minimum duration of service to the Crown.

For Regular Army personnel who were serving on February 6, 2012, the minimum period of aggregated service is five years.

For volunteer Reserve forces personnel who were in paid military service on the same date, eligibility is defined as having received at least five annual certificates of efficiency.

These benchmarks apply not only to the Armed Forces but to all emergency services personnel and the Prison Service.

No civil servant is eligible to receive the jubilee decoration unless he or she is a part-time member of one of the emergency services and has completed the minimum period of service.

The five certificates of efficiency are very clearly defined indicators that an individual has completed the required military service so there is no discrimination against the Reserve Forces.

It is inevitable in setting any qualification criteria that some Regular and Reservists will miss out on receiving an award, perhaps by only a few days.



**Sword it out, Soldier:** How could the official magazine of the British Army possibly publish a photograph of personnel from 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment alongside a caption suggesting they "...demonstrated the correct order of dress for the British Army's new personal clothing system..." when the shot shows drawn swords being carried by officers on a parade in combat dress? It's not the first occurrence of this unfortunate practice but since when has doing so ever been correct? – Lt Col (Retd)

Michael McCabe, Army Headquarters, Andover. Picture: Graeme Main

## Why are rooms unfairly rationed?

**H**AVING read the letter by SSgt Anthony Taylor regarding accommodation, "Service housing a tight squeeze" (March), I have to agree with him.

It's all very well explaining to families that a limited number of properties are available but it's very hard to remain calm and understanding when there are plenty of large houses standing empty.

I am the parent of four children, aged between 13 and 19, who should be able to stay with my partner and me every weekend and for the duration of the school holidays but cannot due to the fact we are living in a two-bedroom property.

Our house is barely big enough for one teenager, let alone four.

With the current housing situation we have made do with an already stressful situation. After all, what parent does not want to spend time with their children?

However, the annoyance was exacerbated by the fact a young couple moved into a much bigger three-bedroom house across the road from us.

Our new neighbours seem to have no children and are rarely there.

Is this fair? Absolutely not. Something needs to be done and more consideration taken for families who have children on a joint agreement.

You don't see parents with kids in boarding school being told their sons and daughters don't actually live with them. – Rebecca Dodds, BFPO 16.



■ AS a former member of 16 Air Despatch Company, Royal Army Service Corps, I write in reference to last month's *Ranked* feature, "Top ten iconic rifles".

I am 99 per cent sure that the Lee Enfield (pictured above) featured at number two was still being used by the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy well into the 1960s and did not go out of service in 1958 as stated in the article.

If the magazine ever decides to do a similar feature on pistols, my unit was still armed with the Enfield 38 – contrary to a number of reports which suggest the Army switched to using the 9mm FN in 1958. Most were missing their cocking hammers, which had been filed off during the Second World War as they kept getting caught in soldiers' webbing. – Richard Dimmock, Ordnance Corporate Facilities.



## COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winner:** Mark Pocock, Aldergrave.

**Memory-Map Adventurer 3500:** Joy Whitelock, Bridgwater, Somerset.



## DIARY

**June 1-2:** The **Dover Tattoo** will feature the Royal Signals' motorcycle display team, massed bands, a traditional lone piper and fireworks display. Tickets range from £12 to £25. To book or for further information visit [www.dovertattoo.org.uk](http://www.dovertattoo.org.uk)

**June 16:** The **Military Wives Choir** will perform a concert with **One Accord** and soloist **Jenny Abbot** at Dartington Hall, Totnes, South Devon. The event, which starts at 1900, is raising funds for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Tickets are priced £20 and are available by calling 01392 273111.

**June 16:** Held in support of Help for Heroes, the **Throckmorton Air Show** will feature the world famous Red Arrows. Other flying displays include The Breitling Wing Walkers and Boeing Sentry. For further details visit [www.throckmortonairshow.com](http://www.throckmortonairshow.com)

**June 16:** A clay shoot in aid of **ABF The Soldiers' Charity** will be held at Wattisham from 1000 to 1600. The fund-raiser is open to soldiers and civilians with entry priced £25. Call 07810 573020 for more details.

**June 30:** **Armed Forces Day.** Visit [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk) for a full list of events happening up and down the country.

**July 8-15:** **Ride for the Wounded.** A joint venture between Troop Aid and Pilgrim Bandits will see injured Service personnel travel in classic motorcycle and sidecars for eight days. The 643-mile trip starts in Inverness and finishes at Plymouth.

**August 4:** **Arsenal FC's little troopers coaching day and stadium tour** is free for children of British Army personnel. To book a place visit [www.mydaddyisasoldieradventures.org](http://www.mydaddyisasoldieradventures.org)

**September 15:** The **Troop Aid annual ball** will be held at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. For more information visit [www.troopaid.info](http://www.troopaid.info)



## DIRECTORY

**Armed Forces' Christian Union:** 01252 311221; [www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Humanist Association:** [www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk](http://www.armedforceshumanists.org.uk)

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:** 0845 241 4820

**Army Welfare Service:** 01980 615975; [www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx)

**Army Families Federation:** 01264 382324; mil 94391 2324; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**Blind Veterans UK:** [www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk)

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:** 0208 590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:** 0207 766 8020

**Children's Education Advisory Service:** 01980 618244; [enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk)

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

**Family Escort Service:** 0207 463 9249

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

**Forces Pension Society:** 0207 820 9988

**Help for Heroes:** [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01722 436575

**Medal Office:** 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

**Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group):** [www.mutualsupport.org.uk](http://www.mutualsupport.org.uk)

**National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office:** 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; [www.ngvfa.org.uk](http://www.ngvfa.org.uk)

**Regular Forces' Employment Association:** 0121 236 0058; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

**Remount:** 01451 850 341; [www.remount.net](http://www.remount.net)

**Royal British Legion:** [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:** 01622 795900; [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk)

**SSAFA Forces Help:** 0845 1300 975; [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:** 0800 169 2277 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

**The Not Forgotten Association:** 020 7730 2400; [www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)



## INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 21/12:** Army recovery capability – families' guide for wounded, injured and sick personnel

**ABN 34/12:** Formation of capability directorates – information, combat support and combat service support

**ABN 35/12:** Wearing of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

**ABN 36/12:** Army Operational Shooting Competition 2012 – warning order (amendment 1)

**ABN 37/12:** First call-up of Army Reservists for Olympics

**ABN 38/12:** Update on the allocation of tickets via the defence intranet for the Armed Forces Diamond Jubilee muster at Windsor

**ABN 39/12:** New employment model update

**DIN 2012DIN01-119:** Community covenant grant scheme panel dates

**DIN 2012DIN01-113:** Notification of the revision to the systems engineering functional competence framework

**DIN 2012DIN01-112:** JSP 764, amendment 5 – Armed Forces pension scheme 2005 including RFPS, EDP and AF redundancy schemes

**DIN 2012DIN01-111:** Queen Victoria School admissions process for academic year 2013/14

**DIN 2012DIN01-108:** Chartered Institute of Public Relations membership for defence communicators

**DIN 2012DIN01-106:** ToPaS – a compensation scheme for MoD civil servants and Service personnel insured by third parties whilst on duty

**DIN 2012DIN01-105:** Defence industrial Whitley formal disagreement meeting – USVF use of local national direct hires

**DIN 2012DIN01-104:** Naval Service – OJAR/SJAR recommendations for instructional duties/key positions in training establishments

**DIN 2012DIN01-103:** BFPO and Royal Mail introduce shadow postcodes to recognise BFPO addresses for web-based products and services and to improve credit rating referencing by agencies

**DIN 2012DIN01-101:** Pension tax relief, lifetime allowance – change of factors to calculate the reduction in benefits

**DIN 2012DIN01-100:** Process for exceptional case funding requests

**DIN 2012DIN01-099:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender quad-Service conference, July 6

**DIN 2012DIN01-098:** Change of command and location for the Army JPA liabilities team

**DIN 2012DIN02-009:** National security vetting – capping

**DIN 2012DIN02-008:** Official Secrets Act declarations – removal of requirement for completion of MoD form 135 on termination of service

**DIN 2012DIN03-012:** Policy and procedures for the use, prioritisation and tasking of command support air transport

**DIN 2012DIN04-081:** Introduction of high performance mooring and towing equipment

**DIN 2012DIN04-079:** Removal from service of aircrew and ground crew headsets

**DIN 2012DIN04-078:** Amendment to 2012DIN04-033 (rescind obsolete declaration of test and measuring equipment)

**DIN 2012DIN04-077:** Major amendments to the intensive care operational medical module

**DIN 2012DIN04-076:** Declaration of obsolete – charge demolition 8oz cartridge, No 4 PE

**DIN 2012DIN04-075:** Joint support chain requirements change process and revised requirements change form

**DIN 2012DIN04-074:** Marine fuel supply arrangements for ports in the UK and overseas

**DIN 2012DIN04-073:** Introduction of new SnakeEye III basic remote video viewing aids into service

**DIN 2012DIN04-071:** Publication of JSP 800, volume 2, 5th edition, version 2

**DIN 2012DIN04-070:** Enabling contract for the purchase of all MoD photographic equipment and associated peripherals

**DIN 2012DIN05-020:** Joint Capability disbandment

**DIN 2012DIN05-019:** MoD art collection – a guide for borrowers

**DIN 2012DIN06-021:** Contractor for the handling of employer's liability and third party motor claims

**DIN 2012DIN06-020:** Updates to JSP 375, volume 2 – *Health and Safety Handbook*

**DIN 2012DIN06-019:** Clinical management of Helmand fever

**DIN 2012DIN07-079:** Nuclear department course dates, March 2013-March 2014

**DIN 2012DIN07-077:** Changes to the procurement of external training – cancelled by sponsor prior to publication

**DIN 2012DIN07-076:** Mountaineering in Alaska – Denali expedition

**DIN 2012DIN07-075:** Joint Service Alpine ski leader accreditation to the British Association of Snowsport Instructors

**DIN 2012DIN07-073:** Postgraduate studies – fellowships, masters and part-time doctorates within the naval service

**DIN 2012DIN07-072:** Information management courses at the Defence Academy, College of Management and Technology – August 2012-July 2013

**DIN 2012DIN07-071:** Army Inter-Unit Orienteering Championships

**DIN 2012DIN07-070:** Military training element HMNB Clyde, joining instructions

**DIN 2012DIN07-069:** City and Guilds Intelligence Management Award

**DIN 2012DIN07-068:** Tactical medical wing, schedule of courses for 2012/13

**DIN 2012DIN07-066:** Joint and single Service security, intelligence, photographic and geo-spatial training courses – April 2012-March 2013

**DIN 2012DIN07-065:** Scottish educational requirements for officer entry

**DIN 2012DIN08-004:** Insurance arrangements for visits to units for community engagement, open days and other functions

**DIN 2012DIN10-022:** Cheviot 2000 Fell Race, June 23

**DIN 2012DIN10-020:** Armed Forces Parachute Championships, July 6-13

**DIN 2012DIN10-019:** Services Offshore Regatta, June 11-16

**DIN 2012DIN10-018:** Inter-Services Paragliding Championships

**DIB 15/12:** *The Defence Security Handbook and Pocket Guide: Protecting our people, information, property and the way we do our business*

**DIB 16/12:** Publication of the Service complaints commissioner's fourth annual report

**DIB 17/12:** Chancellor's 2012 budget statement

**DIB 18/12:** Armed Forces Day 2012

**DIB 19/12:** Security and civil policing changes – safeguarding our sites, people and assets

**DIB 20/12:** Contingency plans to use the Armed Forces to support the delivery of fuel to essential services

**DIB 21/12:** Consultation launched on future Armed Forces pension scheme

**DIB 22/12:** Changes to the civilian performance appraisal and recruitment processes

**DIB 23/12:** Transforming defence – Joint Forces Command achieves initial operating capability

**DIB 24/12:** Guidance on conduct during forthcoming election and referendum campaigns

**DIB 25/12:** How reduction of 500 British Forces personnel in Afghanistan will be achieved

**DIB 26/12:** The carrier strike programme and Britain's future carrier strike capability

Continued on page 56

NO. 847

## JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN  
£100

TEN details have been changed on this photograph of the Starstreak high-velocity missile, which is designed to counter aerial threats and could be deployed as part of this summer's Olympic security measures (pages 38-40).

Circle the differences in the left image

and send the panel to **HOAY 847**, *Soldier*, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by June 29. A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will

receive £25 gift vouchers. The results will be announced in the August issue.

**April's competition:** First correct entry drawn at random and winner of the £100 was S Simpson, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.

**Runners-up:** Anja Bedford, Wiltshire and Mrs J Chown, Sturminster Newton, Dorset.





## REUNIONS

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association:** The annual reunion will be held at Worcester Rugby Club from 1230-1800 on Saturday, June 2. There will be a bar, food, raffle, shop, march past and drumhead service. Past and present members of the regiment and their families are welcome. Admission is £1 per person.

The **78th Artillery Clerks' reunion and association dinner** will be held at Larkhill from June 15 to 17. For further details contact Andy Tibble on 07793 266705, via email at [andy@tibble86.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andy@tibble86.fsnet.co.uk) or visit [www.artyclerkassn.org](http://www.artyclerkassn.org)

**RMP Memorial Parade** at the National Memorial Arboretum. This event will be held on Saturday, June 16 at 1115. In 2013 the date will return to the first Saturday of June. Email [rhqmp@btinternet.com](mailto:rhqmp@btinternet.com) for further information.

**10 Trg Bn REME, Bordon:** Reunion for all serving and former recovery mechanic SNCOs to be held in the sergeants' mess on June 29-30. For further details contact Sgt Simmo Sieminski at [7739siemi@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:7739siemi@armymail.mod.uk) or on 01420 485557.

The **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association's** annual **pre-Crich supper** will be held in Foresters House, Chilwell, Nottingham on June 30 at 1930. For tickets, priced £15, and further details contact RHQ Mercian on 0115 9465415.

**The Mercian Regiment:** The annual pilgrimage to the Regimental War Memorial, Crich, Derbyshire will be held on July 1, with the remembrance service starting at 1500. All those wishing to attend should be at the memorial grounds no later than 1430. The refreshment tent will open at 1200.

**Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association:** The annual veterans day will take place at ATR(W), Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on July 14. Attendance is open to all past and present riflemen and their partners. Contact

Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or by email at [roy.stanger787@mod.uk](mailto:roy.stanger787@mod.uk)

**654 Squadron, 4 Regiment Army Air Corps:** A family day will be held from 1200-2100 on July 14 to celebrate the squadron's 70th anniversary. All current and previous members are welcome. Those wishing to attend should contact Capt Scott Hewitt ([scott\\_hewitt1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scott_hewitt1@yahoo.co.uk)) or Sgt Paul O'Leary ([pauloleary4@hotmail.com](mailto:pauloleary4@hotmail.com)).

**30th Anniversary of the Falklands War:** Organisers of the War and Peace Show are offering free admission to veterans of the Second World War and Falklands campaign. Guests will have the chance to meet up with old comrades and see a huge variety of weaponry and vehicles. The event takes place at The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, Kent from July 18-22. For more information and to book tickets call 01304 813945 or email [rex@warandpeace.uk.com](mailto:rex@warandpeace.uk.com)

**Serving/ex-members of JARIC:** An informal closure party will be held on July 26. For more details contact 01480 52151 extension 7988 or email [ICGJARIC-Closure-Events@mod.uk](mailto:ICGJARIC-Closure-Events@mod.uk)

**Close Protection Unit:** Anyone who has passed the Royal Military Police close protection course is invited to Longmoor Camp over the weekend of August 4-5 for an informal reunion. For further information contact SSgt Drew Bear on 01420 537082 or at [cpureunion@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cpureunion@yahoo.co.uk)

**Crewman/door gunner** reunion on September 27 at the Victory Services Club in London. £40 per person. For details contact Cpl James Price at 8 Flight AAC on 94475 2731 or at [aviationcrewman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aviationcrewman@yahoo.co.uk)

David Sykes is planning a reunion for all members of **4 Sqn, 22 Signal Regiment** who served between 1970 and 1975. Considers September/October as a suitable time as hotel prices should be favourable. Anybody interested in attending can contact him by email at [churchill422@sky.com](mailto:churchill422@sky.com)

**56th Signal Squadron (V) (Eastbourne):** Reunion dinner will be held at the Cavendish Hotel on October 20. Application forms can be obtained from the UHO either by email at [39sr-56-paySNCO@mod.uk](mailto:39sr-56-paySNCO@mod.uk) or in writing from SHO, TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7NL. Telephone 01323 728116.

**Birgelen Veterans Association:** The 12th anniversary reunion will be held at the Cavendish Hotel, Torquay from September 28 to October

1. Bookings will be restricted to the first 100 applicants. Members wishing to attend the event should apply via the association's website at [www.birgelenenvts.org](http://www.birgelenenvts.org)



## SEARCHLINE

**Tony Levy**, ex-Royal Signals (1972-1981), is trying to locate the **commemorative wall plaque** he was presented with in recognition of his time served as a permanent staff instructor on **Exercise Snow Queen**. The former signaller is happy to pay any reasonable expenses incurred in returning the item to him. Contact 07860 715603.

Richard Wareing is looking for information from current or former members of any **Royal Horse Artillery** unit. He is particularly interested in personal accounts from barracks and operations for research prior to writing an historical account. Email [Richard.wareing79@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.wareing79@gmail.com)

Dan Mills, author of *Sniper One*, is looking for Servicemen and women who served on **Op Telic** to contribute to a new book about the conflict. Personnel with interesting or emotive stories are asked to email [dmillsiraqbook@gmail.com](mailto:dmillsiraqbook@gmail.com) outlining their experiences.

Brett Forman is researching the late **Terrence Frank Hall**, born in Fulham on July 17, 1932. The former Serviceman grew up in London and is thought to have served with the Royal Signals in Cyprus. The last four digits of his Army number were 2269. Anyone with information is asked to contact Mr Forman by email at [gforman21@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gforman21@hotmail.co.uk)

The **Aldershot Garrison warrant officers and sergeants' mess** is closing and moving to Evelyn Woods Road. Any previous member who has donated a presentation to the mess can claim it back from April 1 to September 1. Contact WO1 McCabe, HQ Aldershot Garrison, on 01252 348209.

Anthony Clayton is writing a **book** entitled **Battlefield Rations about food given to front-line personnel** and wants to discover troops' views and memories of provisions on operations. All royalties from the book will go to ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Write to Anthony at 43 Ford Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3NB.

Ian Martin is seeking the family of **George H Tyler**, who served at Westlake, Cape Town during the Second World War. He was possibly an entertainments officer involved with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy at Simon's Town. Mr Martin has sheet music for a song Tyler, a pianist, composed for a RAF Benevolent Fund concert. Please email [martin.ianb@gmail.com](mailto:martin.ianb@gmail.com) if you have any information.

Yulia Beardshaw is looking for **someone to write up the life story of her husband**, who served in the SAS. Anyone interested is asked to contact her on 01405 815275.

Dominic Mabbett is looking for his brother **Cpl Jon Mabbett** who is believed to be serving with 47 Air Dispatch Squadron. Contact Dominic on 07528 576980 or email [dmabb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dmabb@hotmail.co.uk) with any information.

Myra-Ann Simpson is looking for a **John Meyers** who was posted to Wick in 1943. If anyone knows of his whereabouts contact [myra.ann.simpson@hotmail.com](mailto:myra.ann.simpson@hotmail.com)

## WEB WATCH

[www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## BOOKS

**www.militaryhistorybooks.com**  
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# HOME TRUTHS

A PERSONAL view from Julie McCarthy, chief executive of the Army Families Federation. Log on to [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk) for more information



**Off to Oklahoma:** As she waves goodbye to the UK, Julie McCarthy is nervous about the road ahead for British troops



## Observations on heading across the pond

**M**Y HUSBAND has managed to get one of those jobs – you know, the role that everyone else seems to have but never you. We're off to Oklahoma in the US for two years.

I can hear you all now: "Lucky bugger, how did you manage that?"

To be honest I don't know. Overseas was on the posting list but it has been for the last 18 years and we have never been successful before. I was stunned.

After the worry of leaving sons number one and two at school here in England, saying goodbye to my job is the thing I am most upset about.

Five years of hard slog, building experience and knowledge, has gone down the drain – or so it feels.

Juggling home and work alongside the demands on my husband (including a six-month deployment) has not been easy and I admit that sometimes I have wondered if it was worth it.

Army Families Federation (AFF) surveys into spousal employment suggest that many Service partners feel the same.

They desperately want to work but trying to build and maintain some semblance of a career when your other half is a soldier is difficult to say the least.

Army husbands and wives report instances of discrimination; not always outright but a definite change in attitude once the penny drops and the reason for all

those address changes becomes apparent.

Some manage to get around this by buying a home and settling in one place while the soldier commutes.

But having tried this for six months, it didn't suit our family and questionnaires indicate that it doesn't for most others.

The AFF recognises that employment is a major issue for families, which impacts heavily on finances and well-being.

For me, working is key to my mental health. That might sound drastic but I do feel that I would go to pieces and lose my motivation if I didn't have something to go out of the house for.

Many partners that I meet feel similarly; working is their escape, their sanity from the trials of Army life.

The AFF Employment Campaign therefore aims to raise the profile of issues facing Service partners in the job market.

It is not about the MoD finding work for us all but acknowledging that the Army places extreme pressure on spouses.

Employers should also recognise the unique set of skills we bring to any role.

The government's commitments in the Armed Forces Covenant could go much further in this area and the campaign will look for more action.

For me, being the organisation's chief executive has been the role of a lifetime. It

has enabled me to help the community I've been part of for the last 18 years.

That's not to say I haven't been frustrated or even downright angry at what is being done by those who call on us in their hour of need: myriad reviews and damaging budget cuts have undermined much good work of previous years.

What has kept me going, however, is the knowledge that senior officers care as much as I do about what is happening to troops and their loved ones.

But defence remains highly politicised, making it difficult

for those at the top to make a decision without considering the subsequent headlines and political consequences.

Whilst promoting the covenant, economic circumstances have seen politicians enforce a pay freeze, review pensions for the second time in seven years and cut budgets to the bone. Families are understandably nervous of their military futures over which they have little control.

I have to wonder what we will come back to in two years' time. If further tranches of redundancy have been implemented by then, perhaps we will return as civvies.

I will watch closely from over the pond as rebasing, Army 2020 and the future Armed Forces pension scheme develop.

But I am not sure I'll like what I see. ■

**'I have to wonder what we'll come back to in two years' time'**

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## NOTICE

**1 Medical Regiment and Munster Station Officers' Mess** would like to inform all members past and present who have presented any item to the mess, that they can apply to have their presentation returned to them due to the regiments relocation to Bergen-Hohne. All applications should be made to Maj DA Jones (RAMC) on Munster Mil 60 2677 or alternatively on DII(F) - 1MED-SPSqN-OC by no later than July 31, 2012.

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**A POSITIVE CDT GUARANTEES  
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**Certificate of Service**  
ARMY

(TO BE ENTIRELY FREE FROM ERASURE)

Surname and Number: Caine - 30000001

**Description of Soldier on leaving Army Service**

Hair: Brown Height: 176 cm Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Brown Blood Group: O Negative

Marks and Scars visible: 2 inch scar on Forehead

**Assessment of Military Conduct**

Military Conduct: 5 - Unsatisfactory

**Note.** The range of Military Conduct Gradings possible are:

1 Exemplary 2 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 4 Fair 5 Unsatisfactory

Private Caine made a promising start to his military career. He completed initial training and was posted to Germany, where he continued to develop his academical and vocational knowledge. During this time he exercised in Cyprus, Kenya and Canada; demonstrating his ability to operate as an effective team member and demonstrate his sporting ability.

Unfortunately, Private Caine failed a random drug test and was discharged for taking a class A drug; this is incompatible with Service life. I am unable to recommend Private Caine for any form of employment that may impact on health and safety or where other employees rely on his actions.



# reviews

## ON TARGET: JUNE'S HIGH-FLYERS

P66 MOVIES **ACES FIGHT RACISM**

P68 GAMES **PRECISION SHOOTERS**

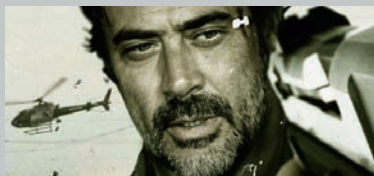
P70 MUSIC **MOSH-WORTHY METAL**

P72 BOOKS **OFFICER HONESTY**

P74 TOP GEAR **KIT CRAVINGS**

[reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

# VIVACIOUS VIEWING



## THE COURIER out June 11

IF you see the name **Mickey Rourke** on the cast list of a film, you might think you're in for a cracking good watch. Unfortunately, with this offering you'd be wrong. The movie centres on "the courier" (**Jeffrey Dean Morgan**) who is basically a hired gun tasked to deliver a briefcase to the underworld's most dangerous hit man (Rourke). Although the flick seems to have all the elements of a good action thriller, it just doesn't get started. It is slow and boring to follow, with a musical score that attempts to keep a tension that just is not there.

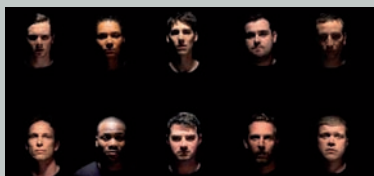
**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**



## CORIOLANUS out June 4

THIS is a 400-year-old script, seamlessly combined with smart phones, T-72 tanks, an A-list cast and high-budget production. Set in Rome amid famine-fuelled civil unrest, the city is under threat of attack by Aufidius's (**Gerard Butler**) revolutionaries. The violent and bloody battle scenes are more akin to contemporary war films than anything Shakespeare probably intended and the slick camera work makes the screenplay even more gripping. Don't let the Shakespearean language put you off, there's something for everyone here.

**Maj Neil Johnson, AAC**



## THE SOMNAMBULISTS out now

A POWERFUL but very intense film based around monologues conducted straight to camera. Based on genuine interviews from British personnel who have served in Iraq, *The Somnambulists* is a dedication to the psychological scars soldiers were left with after the war. Although you can't help but sympathise with them – and many of us will be familiar with their stories – it's a bit heavy for me. Not one to watch with a loved one but definitely something you should get people to peruse when they ask "what was it like in Iraq?".

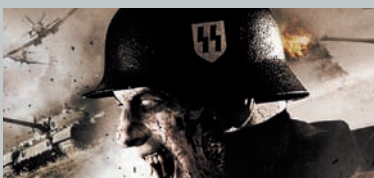
**Capt Nick Mazzei, AGC (ETS)**



## PIGGY out now

AFTER the violent death of his brother on the streets of London, Joe is visited by Piggy – a man who says vengeance is the key to his recovery. The film begins as a stylish drama with much to say about the nature of violence in modern society. But despite strong performances it loses focus and degenerates into nothing more than a gratuitously vicious revenge thriller that leaves a nasty taste in the mouth. *Piggy* dares to tread the same path as the likes of *Fight Club* and *Dead Man's Shoes* but they are very large shoes to fill and it fails.

**Jools Finch, MPGS**



## WAR OF THE DEAD out now

THIS is not a blockbuster by any stretch of the imagination and I'm not surprised it didn't tear up the cinema screens. However, it does everything a B-movie needs to do to get your attention. It is rather trashy and pretty "out there" but if you're into war movies and you enjoy a bit of Nazi zombie action, then it's definitely for you. It is also the most expensive film to have been shot in Lithuania, so what more do you want? I would not put it on top of the pile for a Friday night in with a loved one but it will entertain you, if you let it.

**Gdsm Michael McMurty, IG**



## WIN... CARNAGE

BOASTING a glitzy cast including **Jodie Foster**, **John C Reilly**, **Kate Winslet** and **Christoph Waltz**, this comedy is released on June 18. **Roman Polanski** directs the tale of two kids fighting in a playground, followed by a meeting of their parents. What begins as a cordial chat results in bedlam. *Soldier* has teamed up with SBS Productions to offer a copy of the DVD to five winners. To be in with a chance, tell us who directed the film. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or send an email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

**Closing date: June 29**

**Review: Joe Clapson**

THE remarkable story of the black American pilots who overcame racial discrimination to fight the Luftwaffe in the Second World War hits cinema screens this month.

The much-anticipated project from George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, tells the tale of the heroic 332nd Fighter Group of the US Army Air Corps who, despite facing unthinkable prejudice, went on to become one of the most distinguished squadrons in the devastating conflict.

The movie opens with an impressive battle featuring realistic dogfights and blankets of bullets being laid down by Nazi aviators. Accompanied by a militaristic drumbeat soundtrack, the tone is set for what proves to be a thought-provoking film.

Set in Italy in 1944, we quickly get the picture that the talented all-black squadron – known as the Tuskegee Airmen and including characters played by Cuba Gooding Jr, Terrence Howard, Nate Parker and David Oyelowo – are not considered worthy of a front-line role by the military top brass.

Describing the convincing action movie, Lucas said: "*Red Tails* has been a passion project for me for nearly two decades.

"It embodies the youthful energy of *American Graffiti* combined with the exhilarating action of the trench run from *Star Wars* and I believe it sheds light on an important chapter in our history that has been often overlooked."

The film was written by John Ridley (*Three Kings*) and Aaron McGruder (*The Boondocks*), directed by Anthony Hemingway (*The Wire*) and to its credit much attention to detail has been paid to the authenticity of airbases, uniforms and social attitudes of the 1940s.

To ensure the picture stayed true to real events, the surviving Tuskegee heroes were drafted in to meet the actors and advise on how the war unfolded while cameras rolled.


On having the real air soldiers on hand, Oyelowo, who plays an enigmatic ace pilot nicknamed Lightning, said: "I was on the set in my uniform and I would walk up to one of them and ask if I was wearing it right.

"Having them there was a constant reminder of the fact that this wasn't just any old acting gig."

Although *Red Tails* focuses primarily on the daring and brilliant actions of the "Negro" Servicemen, the race issue is never far from the forefront and for a feel-good movie it handles serious points well.

When the men of 332nd finally get their chance to take on the "Jerries" one-on-one, they prove how devastating they can be. Following their success and against the wishes of a very white Pentagon, they are chosen to protect the Allied bombers on their first raid on Berlin.

*Red Tails* places an important segment of history into the public domain in a big-budget way. ■




OUT IN  
CINEMAS  
JUNE 6

PICK OF THE MONTH: *RED TAILS*

# ALL-BLACK HEROES

US PILOTS DUAL BATTLE AGAINST  
RACISM AND THE LUFTWAFFE



JUNE'S  
HOT SHOTS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

# SHARP SHOOTER

STEALTH AND CUNNING FORM THE KEY TO SUCCESS  
IN SNIPER'S CAMPAIGN TO DOWN NAZI SCIENTISTS

Review: Richard Long

**H**AVING seen rival shooters such as *Modern Warfare* and *Battlefield* deliver a serving of fast-paced action and weapons galore, developers Rebellion have taken a different tact with the release of *Sniper Elite V2*.

While gung-ho attacks and a trigger-happy approach may prove fruitful elsewhere, such strategies will leave players distinctly short-changed in this realm.

The action unfolds around a ruthless campaign to assassinate key German scientists involved in the V2 rocket programme during the Second World War.

Each mission is delivered in a similar fashion as lone American sniper Karl Finburne is dropped into an area of conflict with a fatal objective to complete.

But it is not a simple case of lining up the target and delivering the decisive shot.

A plethora of Nazi troops must be eliminated in advance and stealth and forward thinking are key in ensuring the elite marksman remains undetected.

Preparation is vital and binoculars can be used to scout an area and mark targets with the squeeze of a button, making their location instantly recognisable.

Trip wires and booby traps can protect escape routes and firing positions, while downed enemies can be lifted and hidden to avoid raising suspicion.

Our hero has the ability to throw rocks to distract German troops before sneaking into buildings and the sound of mortars and alarm sirens provides the perfect foil for the noise of a sniper round.

As the nature of such a game suggests, the majority of time is spent behind the scope of a rifle.

Factors such as distance, wind speed and enemy movement all have to be taken into account before pulling the trigger and Finburne's lung capacity is put to the test as he holds his breath before delivering each deadly shot.

Accuracy is rewarded with a slow-motion "killcam" that traces the path of the bullet to its intended target before capturing the horrific impact of the round as it pierces flesh, shatters bones and rips through organs.

The sniping element of this game has been well conceived and comes as welcome variety from other combat titles.

However, *Sniper Elite* does have some shortfalls. The control and accuracy of accompanying weapons – a Thompson machine gun and pistol – is challenging at best and if your position is compromised it is extremely difficult to repel the descending German horde.

The enemy AI also falters at times, with highly skilled Nazi foes finding themselves stuck behind doors or rocks.

But these misgivings should be put to one side. The controls are easily mastered thanks to their similarity with other titles and there is a lot of enjoyment to be had.

The stealth needed for success brings a new dimension to the shooter experience, meaning this sits comfortably alongside its more celebrated contemporaries. ■

# VIRTUAL PLAYGROUND

## SUMMER CHALLENGE

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

FANS of the original *Track and Field* will enjoy this as it involves a vast amount of stick wiggling and well-timed button presses. It isn't going to win any awards for its representation but it goes a long way towards modernising the niche and graphically it is more than up to task. The events are spread across eight sports and 20 different disciplines. By the end of my first 100-metre sprint my hand was slightly sore; by the end of my first 400-metre race I was sure that it was going to fall off. With 2012 being the year of the Olympics this is a good value purchase.



SSgt Graeme Russell, Scottish Tpt Regt

## MAX PAYNE 3

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of *Grand Theft Auto* and *Red Dead Redemption*, *Max Payne* is the latest Rockstar franchise to undergo a revamp. Some of the charm of the previous *Payne* titles – the overblown plots and comic book storytelling – has been sacrificed in favour of a grittier, more realistic tone with a cinematic presentation and you cannot argue with the results. The game looks and sounds fantastic, the gunplay has been refined to near perfection and these elements combine superbly to make this one of the best shooters around.



Stephen Smith, MoD Corsham

## DIRT SHOWDOWN

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

HAVING released the complete edition of the franchise's third instalment earlier this year, Codemasters make an immediate return to the grid with this turbo-charged offering. Players can use nitrous to fly past their rivals and tackle courses riddled with ramps, obstacles and tight turns in the race mode, before resorting to all-out carnage in a series of demolition derbies. Drivers can also showcase their freestyle skills in huge, free-roaming stunt parks. *Dirt Showdown* offers hours of fun and is a definite purchase for those who like their racing with an edge.



Richard Long, *Soldier*

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

for PS3

AS a massive fan of the *Back To The Future* movies I was worried that this would be another tacky spin-off from a successful movie franchise. Thankfully this is not the case. It isn't a top-of-the-range title but it doesn't need to be. The game boasts an adventure that focuses on content only hinted at in the movies and creates a whole new story as you travel back to the prohibition era and beyond. The action flows almost like a fourth film, while voiceovers from **Christopher Lloyd** and **Michael J Fox** add to the realism. A must-buy for anyone who enjoyed the trilogy.



Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

## GHOST RECON FUTURE SOLDIER

for Xbox 360/PS3

THIS latest instalment in the **Tom Clancy** saga offers little progression. The graphics have improved but the storyline for the single campaign is weak. A new synchronised shot system provides the biggest change, allowing you to mark targets before ordering your team to shoot them. The programmers have placed the emphasis on the multiplayer experience and there are four game types available but the now obligatory Kinect function proves to be clunky and it is far easier to use the controller. Not a *Modern Warfare*-beater, but worth a try.



Sgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps


## WIN... SNIPER ELITE V2

on Xbox 360/PS3/PC

SET against the backdrop of the Second World War, *Sniper Elite V2* is a superb combat shooter that takes the fight to German scientists developing deadly rocket technology for use against the allies. *Soldier* has teamed up with Bastion PR to give away six copies of the game – two on Xbox 360, two on PS3 and two on PC. To be in with a chance of winning, tell us the name of the American sniper hero who features in the title. Answers, along with details of your preferred console format, on a postcard to the usual address or email **comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk**



Closing date: June 29



JUNE'S  
BRIGHT SPOTS

PICK OF THE MONTH:

# COMEBACK KINGS

ROCK DUO EMERGE FROM THE WILDERNESS ON A  
MISSION TO RECLAIM MUSICAL RESPECT

# TUNES FOR THE TROOPS

Review: Richard Long

**W**ITH Tenacious D receiving mixed reviews from critics following the release of their 2006 album *Pick of Destiny*, a subsequent six-year break from the music scene came as little surprise.

But *Rize of the Fenix* sees the self-proclaimed greatest band in the world ending their hiatus with 13 new tracks that form the backbone for a UK tour throughout June.

For Jack Black, one half of the group's core duo, it is a chance to regain the adulation of the fans as well as fire back at those who have criticised their past efforts.

"I guess the inspiration for the record was the haters, the non-believers – they inspired us to fight much harder," the *School of Rock* star said.

"It's definitely our comeback album. We've been gone for years.

"I hope that they [the critics] speak the truth, my only fear is that they'll speak what they think they're supposed to think.

"They're going to say what they're supposed to say 'oh these guys are just clowns', right? 'We don't take these guys seriously', right?"

"It's lazy. I'm open to critics who will really listen to it and say what they really think."

The album was recorded at the home of producer John Kimbrough and features Black and partner Kyle Gass performing alongside Foo Fighters star Dave Grohl, John Spiker and John Konesky.

"We worked down and dirty in a friend's garage with a shoestring budget of 600 dollars, much like Nirvana's first album *Bleach*," Black explained.

"Rough and yet a masterpiece."

*Rize of the Fenix* features the obscene and humorous lyrics you would expect from the over-the-top movie star.

And while this is unlikely to win any awards for its quality of songwriting or musical excellence, there is enjoyment to be had.

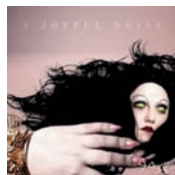
The title track is a witty response to the negativity of the past, while *Low Hanging Fruit* boasts a strong Foo Fighters feel and some superb guitar work.

There are some lows though, particularly *Classical Teacher*, which proves to be an unnecessary and unfunny comedic interlude that is littered with bad language and crudity.

However, this is far from fatal and fans of Black's screen persona will undoubtedly be won over. Those who aren't can revel in the array of classic riffs that launch from one track to the next. ■

## A Joyful Noise by Gossip

THIS album has a sound which has been splendidly influenced by **Abba** and **Madonna**. *A Joyful Noise* is unrepentantly bold, blase and very much accessible – and is a million miles away from the indie rock sound which has been the group's resonance over their previous releases. The tracks have an almost nostalgic feeling of being back in the 80s, while others boast bass lines similar to those of the German band **Kraftwerk**. This is a courageous endeavor at something new and points towards possible chart success, which would be richly deserved.



## Sgt Brian Morris, AGC (SPS)

## Thousand Mile Stare by Chicane

**CHICANE** had a spectacular opening to his career with the infectious Ibiza dance anthem *Offshore* in 1996. From then on he has delivered four albums but with diminishing returns. So what now? *Thousand Mile Stare* does not stray far from the usual formula. The well crafted, chilled out melodies and unobtrusive beats are still in evidence and are tastefully conveyed. Several tracks peter out without distinction, but these are few and far between, and this album proves that artists no longer in vogue can still produce fine bodies of work. One to seek out and enjoy for the summer.



## SSgt Charlie Lloyd, RLC

## Electronic Earth by Labrinth

THIS debut album from singer-songwriter **Labrinth** is packed with fantastic vocals and sparkling collaborations. The music is uptempo and has a refreshing feel thanks to its mix of pop and RnB. The tracks are instantly recognisable and easy to sing along with, while the host of guest stars combine superbly to produce an array of top summer tunes. The standout offering is *Let The Sun Shine*, which will certainly get you in the mood for the hot weather to come. *Electronic Earth* is an outstanding effort from an artist with a fantastic voice who puts his full emotions into the songs he sings.



## Kim Cresswell, Army wife

## Pryda by Eric Prydz

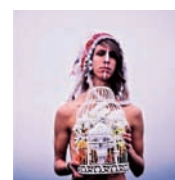
PRIOR to receiving this album, my only real experience of **Eric Prydz** was the song *Call On Me*, or more specifically the video, which I enjoyed immensely as did every other virile red-blooded male in the UK. With this in mind, my hopes were high for this triple CD that bills itself as "no-nonsense house music that has dance-floor destruction firmly in its sights". The first disc is filled with previously unreleased songs, while the others consist of older material that has been expertly sequenced and mixed and features some of the artist's special re-edits. This receives a definite thumbs up.



## Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

## Death by Jim Lockey & the Solemn Sun

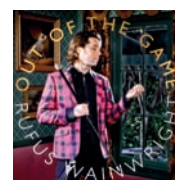
THIS is the second studio album by Anglo-anarcho folk rock quartet **Jim Lockey & the Solemn Sun**. Their phenomenal ability to blend acoustic lead guitar with the backing of a full band, coupled with a unique and instantly recognisable voice produces one of the best sounds to come out of the West Country for many years. Combine this with Lockey's superb lyrics and the end result is nothing short of spectacular. The emotion and unbounded energy invested in the delivery of every track makes *Death* one of the must-have albums of 2012 and it comes highly recommended.



## Rfn James Clark, Rifles

## Out Of The Game by Rufus Wainwright

I'VE got a wide-ranging musical taste, from classical to heavy rock and everything in-between, however, this latest offering by **Rufus Wainwright** just didn't excite me in any way whatsoever. The artist describes this as the "most pop album" he's ever made, while producer **Mark Ronson** believes it's the best work of his career. In all fairness the first track isn't too bad, but from then on it goes downhill. The pop gets slower and Wainwright seems to be just singing along before the album finally ends with a bagpipe solo that had me wondering what was going on. Thankfully, there are only 12 tracks, which in truth is 11 too many.



## Rodge Tapply, ex-RE

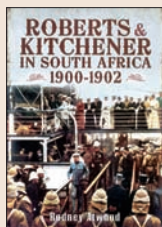
# RECONNOITRING READING

Review: Andrew Simms

## Roberts & Kitchener in South Africa

by Rodney Atwood

THE Boer War in South Africa marked a turning point for the British Empire, but this is not the tale of that campaign, rather of the two men – Fd Marshal Roberts and Gen Kitchener – who were parachuted in to save the day after initial setbacks. There are interesting parallels to the Iraq invasion of 2003; an initial series of victories which came quicker than expected, the conflict declared pretty much over and then several years of guerilla warfare. For an insight into Victorian-style counter-insurgency, this book is well worth a read.

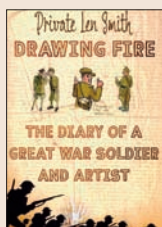


## Capt Douglas Searle, RLC

### Drawing Fire

by Len Smith

A REPRODUCTION of a private's Great War diary, I couldn't put this book down. **Len Smith's** campaign was anything but dull. Starting life as an infantry soldier, his talent for drawing brought him to the attention of his superiors and he subsequently trained as an observer, spying on the German trenches and creating detailed plans for use by the Allied artillery. Copies of the author's sketches highlight his upbeat attitude despite the death and destruction that he witnessed. By far the best account of the First World War I have read.



## Sgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

### Trust in Military Teams

edited by N Stanton

THIS is a weighty, in-depth and academic tome comprised of a series of essays on the development of teams in the military and focusing on the concept of trust.



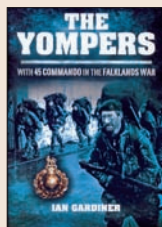
Though not light reading, it is a fascinating study into the use of multinational elements, technology and personality and the effect they have on the capability of a unit. One for those late night study sessions during the command and staff course but also of use to those on their junior and senior NCO cadres or completing a command, leadership and management programme.

## Capt Nick Mazzei, AGC (ETS)

## The Yompers

by Ian Gardiner

THE author – a company commander in 45 Commando during the Falklands War – gives an honest, graphic, humorous and intimate portrayal of his men yomping across East Falkland to Port Stanley. He describes in vivid detail the crucial night battle to capture high ground known as the Two Sisters. A brilliant and invaluable book and one of the best written on the conflict. *The Yompers* is absorbing to read, exciting and hard to put down. For those unfamiliar with Royal Marines jargon, yomping is the act of carrying heavy loads for long distances.



## Lt Col (Retd) Dawson Pratt, R Signals

### Always By My Side

by Christina Schmid

BEAUTIFUL, charismatic and forthright, the widow of SSgt Olaf Schmid is for many the living embodiment of a nation's war conscience, for others she is a beguiling opportunist, at times the darling then the demon of the press. **Christina Schmid's** book will confirm readers' own views. It is a frank, emotionally-charged and tragic tale of love and loss. Highly personal, it is a difficult read and some may recoil from its intimacy. While the title will appeal most to a female readership, it is accessible to all as a tribute to love, humanity and a British hero.

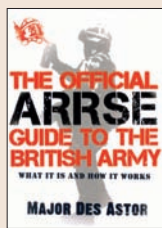


## SSgt Paul Barnes, RLC

### ARRSE Guide to the British Army

by Maj Des Astor

THE perfect book for the coffee table of any soldier. As those familiar with the Army Rumour Service website would expect, this title is full of humour and the occasional tongue-in-cheek assessment of parts of uniformed life only fully appreciated by those who have worn green. The book is actually very informative, providing an extensive explanation of almost all elements of the Service. I particularly enjoyed the "living the Army life" segments scattered throughout, which impart knowledge of things like the humble egg banjo. A good, fun read.



## Spr Craig Don, RE

**O** PIUM farmers are not the only group to have profited from Afghanistan's troubled terrain. Helmand province, the poppy-growing capital of the world, has also proved extremely fertile ground for authors.

Whether written from the ranks of the press corps or by Service personnel keen to discover if the pen really is mightier than the sword, the West's decision to take on the Taliban has led to a bumper harvest of books.

But with the market saturated, is there really the demand or space on the shelves for Graham Lee's first foray into publishing, *Fighting Season*?

Having sampled most of the titles seeded in southern Afghanistan, I will concede that the prospect of digesting yet another tour tale was not the most palatable proposal presented to me last month.

But from the opening chapter of this former British officer's account of a six-month stint in Helmand during 2008, my appetite for first-hand accounts of operations was renewed.

In *Fighting Season*, Lee, who served for four years in the Royal Corps of Signals as a member of 16 Air Assault Brigade, challenges the convention of such memoirs.

His debut book is neither a guns-blazing boy's own adventure or a top down tactical and political analysis of the UK's intervention.

Instead, the author recollects his deployment with a refreshing air of modesty and without hyperbole.

Perhaps unusually for a military missive, *Fighting Season* does not read like an extended CV carefully contrived to present its subject as a beacon of British excellence.

Far from it, in fact. Kicking off his "war story" standing in a corridor of an officers' mess in Colchester with his kit and rifle the other side of a locked door, Lee is a master of self-deprecation.

Unafraid to acknowledge his own flaws, those of his colleagues, the Service and the Afghans under its mentorship, the former Signals officer serves up a heartfelt and frequently funny account of life on operations.

The military humour – inevitably rather black at times – does not detract from the author's considered observations of the ongoing challenges faced by Afghanistan and those working to bring stability to the country.

Lee's experiences and frustrations of training an army with a very different outlook to his own will strike a chord with all those exposed to mentoring tasks.

However, it is the Cambridge University graduate's own personal battle – to sample a firefight and escape being labelled a "REMF" – that will intrigue non-uniformed readers.

For those who fall firmly in the camp of Chris Ayres, the author of the excellent *War Reporting for Cowards*, *Fighting Season* is a first-class education in the psyche of the British soldier.

Humble, humane and hungry for action, Lee typifies the mindset of military personnel.

The honesty with which he acknowledges his pursuit of a Taliban encounter – despite the inherent dangers – sets his work apart from the rest of the crop. ■

# books

JUNE'S MUST-READS



PICK OF THE MONTH:

## PERSONAL BATTLE

FORMER OFFICER REGALES READERS WITH TALES OF  
MISTAKES, MENTORING AND MASTER PLANS



Above, Welcome arrival: Graham Lee's *Fighting Season*, published by Duckworth and priced £16.99, is out now

Main picture, Theatre tuition: The author shares his experiences – good and bad – of working alongside Afghan National Army personnel

Picture: Cpl Paul Morrison, RLC

# STUFF FOR SUMMER

SOPHIE'S SIZZLING PICK OF THE BUNCH...

## PLAYSTATION VITA

THIS handheld wants to save portable gaming. Yes, it's pricey but Sony's sexy successor to the *PSP* is no slacker. It sports a five-inch touchscreen OLED (organic light-emitting diode) display, twin analogue sticks and a touchpad at the back. Games are roughly the size of SD cards – make *Uncharted: Golden Abyss* your first purchase.



## MOTOROLA MOTOACTV

DON'T fret, the *MOTOACTV* isn't an *iPod Nano* with a strap – it's a revolution in GPS that blurs the boundary between MP3 player and training gadget. It learns which songs make you move faster when you're running and if you add a pair of Moto's optional wireless headphones, you can track your heart rate as well as your position and distance.



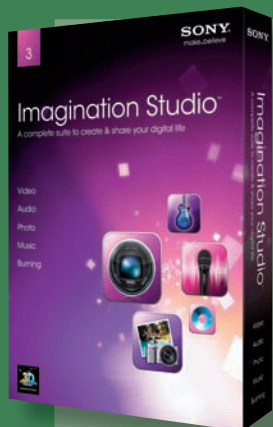
## PARROT AR.DRONE 2.0

*STUFFS* favourite smartphone-controlled quadricopter, beating off swarms of rivals (ok, not really any). With a neat stabilising system, on-board barometer and HD video skills, you can play augmented reality games with animated opponents overlaid on your *AR.Drone*'s camera footage. Download the *FreeFlight 2.0* app for Android or *iPhone* and then get ready to put some hours into perfecting your landings.



## WIN... SONY'S IMAGINATION STUDIO 3

ONCE armed with the latest gadgets to capture videos, photographs and audio, a complete multimedia editing suite is a must. *Soldier* has teamed up with Sony to offer an *Imagination Studio 3* package – worth £115 – to two lucky readers. The splendid software allows you to weave your digital media into high-quality presentations to be uploaded for sharing or burnt directly to DVD or Blu-ray. To be in with a chance of winning, tell us which football boots are currently the best according to *Stuff* magazine. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by June 29. Good luck!



Review: Sophie Charara, *Stuff* magazine

IT'S already shaping up to be a year of mind-blowing gadgets; there's never been more ways to smack boredom right in the face.

Unless you're allergic to words, our number one downtime device is the Amazon *Kindle Keyboard* – with a free 3G connection for downloading e-books, a crisp E Ink display and a battery life of up to a month. This one's a no-brainer.

Next, upgrade your headphones. Do it now and don't just get *Beats by Dr. Dre* cans. The tiny in-ear Phonak *Audeo PFE 012s* were made for training with fantastic sound and noise blocking. Or why not go all out with the chunky, over-ear *Focal Spirit Ones*, made from aircraft-grade aluminium.

Music fans, don't bother purchasing an *iPod* – just make sure there's enough memory on your smartphone by buying a 32GB or 64GB model.

Top of the heap right now is the Samsung *Galaxy S3* in the Android camp, running on Google's mobile operating system, and the *iPhone 4S* flying the flag for Apple.

*GTA III*, the touchscreen version of Rockstar's classic *Grand Theft Auto* title, is an essential gaming download on both of these phones, as is *FIFA 12*.

The latest *iPad*, with its incredibly sharp "retina display", and the light but powerful *MacBook Air* head up our best tablet and laptop lists right now.

But if you want both in one gadget, try the hybrid *Asus Transformer Prime*. It too has an amazing screen that can't match the *iPad*'s resolution but is so dazzlingly bright you probably won't notice.

The *Prime* is a 16:10 Android tablet that's perfect for watching movies but transforms into a netbook thanks to the keyboard dock, with track pad and USB port. It gives you a total of 18 hours' battery life.

Asus's multi-talented piece of tech works hard, letting you game, take 8MP photos, film high-definition videos and operate Microsoft Office-style apps.

But gadgets don't have to get you flabby; the *MOTOACTV* by Motorola is a mind-reading DJ and nasty personal trainer rolled into one.

And if you want a camcorder that's tougher than you are, give the *GoPro HD Hero2* outdoor edition a try. Shoot high-quality video or ten 11MP photos per second with this helmet-cam, which comes with outdoor, motorsport and surf accessory packs.

Last but not least, strap on a pair of Adidas *Predator Lethal Zones* for extra power and ball control in your next 100-a-side game of footie.

The future looks even more appetising when it comes to gadgets. The *Lytro* camera lets you focus a photo after you've taken it by capturing the direction of light rays and colours, and this should be coming to Europe any month now. ■



DAZZLING  
DEVELOPMENTS



PICK OF THE MONTH:

# TECHNOLOGY TO TEMPT

GADGET MAGAZINE EXPERT EXPLORES THE  
SUMMER'S HOTTEST HI-TECH KIT



Gallery



SuperNote



Music





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# SOLDIERSPORT

Picture: Graeme Main

**BIG HITTERS:** ARMY CRUSH  
ROYAL NAVY CHALLENGERS TO  
REIGN SUPREME AT TWICKENHAM





## ARMY 48 - NAVY 9

Babcock Trophy match  
Twickenham Stadium, London

**Army:** Cummings; Speight; Nacamavuto; Wessels; Rokoduguni; Prasad; Chennel; Dowding; Dwyer; Reeves; Bates; Ball; Boladau; Lee; Kava.

**Subs:** Silvester; Budgen; Llewellyn; Koroiyadi; Damudamu; Duffus; Read.

**Tries:** Rokoduguni (3); Ball; Speight; Duffus.

**Conversions:** Cummings (3).

**Penalties:** Cummings (4).

**Navy:** Humphrey; Drauniniu; Bamford; Sleeman; Vance; Glover; Pascoe; Mason; Priddey; Blackburn; Quarnivalu; Cormack; Fox; Laird; Evans.

**Subs:** Smith; Beasley; Mitchell-Heggs; Cooper; Raumakita; Foster; Huntley.

**Penalties:** Pascoe (3).



# Ruthless Reds reign supreme

Report: Richard Long  
Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**HE Army mounted an emphatic defence of their Inter-Services crown by crushing the Royal Navy 48-9 on the hallowed turf of Twickenham Stadium.

A record 65,302 crowd saw the rampant Reds run in six tries against a shell-shocked Senior Service side that failed to find any momentum in Rugby Union's premier fixture.

Flying wing LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) was the star of the show with a sublime hat-trick, while the boot of Cpl Ceri Cummings (REME) yielded a healthy 18 points in challenging kicking conditions.

Having struggled to overcome the Royal Air Force in their opening match, the Navy started in confident mood against the defending champions.

Skipper POAET Dave Pascoe slotted an early penalty after England Sevens star Logs (CS) Josh Drauniniu was impeded during a surging run at the Army's defence.

Pascoe then saw an ambitious kick from his own half fall agonisingly short as the challengers tried to extend their

lead, before the Reds opened their account in the 12th minute.

Mercurial fly half Pte Jack Prasad (Scots) was illegally checked as he chased a kick over the top and Cummings superbly converted from the resulting penalty.

Pascoe then missed a difficult chance from wide on the right and Rokoduguni ruthlessly punished the scrum half just moments later.

After repeated phases of play deep in opposition territory, LCpl Gerhard Wessels (RE) fed the marauding wide man and his pace and power saw him crash through a weak Navy rearguard to charge over.

Cummings added the extras and his accuracy in front of goal continued as he dispatched three further penalty attempts to pile on the points.

Pascoe regained his composure with the boot to stem the flow but the Army held a comfortable 19-6 advantage at the interval.

Any hopes of a Navy comeback suffered a devastating blow within minutes of the restart.

With the champions camped deep inside their opponents' 22, scrum half Cpl Tom Chennel (REME) spun the ball to Rokoduguni who lunged to the line and was awarded a try courtesy of the video referee.

Cummings missed the conversion and Pascoe reduced the arrears with another penalty but the Reds fired an immediate response through skipper Sgt Darrell Ball (RE).

The Army forwards demolished the Navy pack at the scrum and a pick and drive from replacement forward LCpl Isoa Damudamu (RLC) created the space for Chennel to feed Ball for an easy score.

Rokoduguni completed his hat-trick after Prasad cut through the Senior Service lines and floated a perfectly-weighted pass out wide before fellow speedster LBdr Sam Speight (RA) turned on the style to cross for the try of the match.

Capt Mark Lee (AGC (ALS)) gathered the ball and sparked a breathtaking counter attack involving Rokoduguni and Prasad that was rounded off by Speight sprinting home from the halfway line.

Cummings again kicked the extras and substitute Capt Dave Duffus (Scots) completed the rout with a late try in the corner.





**Hot to trot:** Wing LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) was the star of the show for the Army and his hat-trick helped the Reds to a 48-9 victory over the Navy

Rokoduguni, Prasad and Speight were constant attacking threats while Cpl Dave Bates (R Signals), LSgt Matt Dwyer (WG) and Ball dominated the battle of the forwards.

Speaking at full-time, head coach Capt Andy Sanger (RE) praised his team's clinical showing in the heavy rain at Twickenham.

"It was a tremendous performance," he told *SoldierSport*.

"To score 48 points in those conditions was a superb effort. We played some great rugby and dominated all phases of play.

"Rokoduguni capped an excellent season with a hat-trick and was named man of the match, but I thought Matt Dwyer was outstanding.

"He and all the forwards created a

## "TO SCORE 48 POINTS IN THOSE CONDITIONS WAS A SUPERB EFFORT"

great platform for the backs.

"The bad weather can sometimes be a leveller.

"We spoke about it during the week but decided to stick with our game plan, which was to try to expose them out wide where we were stronger.

"We had a plan B but we didn't really need it in the end."

Inter-Services success proved to be the perfect farewell for Sanger, who stepped down as head coach after two years at the helm.

The officer has started a new job with the explosive ordnance

disposal team and is due to deploy to Afghanistan next year. He will also be part of the security operation at this summer's Olympics.

"I'm jumping from one fast-paced wagon to another," he explained.

"From a personal perspective it could not have gone any better. We had two comprehensive wins at Twickenham and this year was the first time we have not conceded a try in either Inter-Services game.

"It has been a tremendous period and a lot of praise has to go to those behind the scenes.

"I definitely see myself coming back to Army rugby in the future.


"We are all soldiers first but if my military job allows it, I would love to be involved again." ■



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**Champions league:** 2 Signal Regiment battled their way to a 2-0 victory over 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Army Challenge Cup final

# Signals shine bright in cup showdown

**Report: Richard Long**  
**Pictures: Graeme Main**

**A**RASPING volleyed goal from LCpl Danny McGhee was the highlight of a comprehensive 2-0 victory for 2 Signal Regiment in the 112th Army Challenge Cup final.

The York-based soldiers were too strong for their rivals from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and a late penalty from skipper LCpl Kieron Clayton sealed a deserved win at a rain-swept Aldershot Military Stadium.

McGhee ensured the contest started in spectacular style when he lashed home an unstoppable strike in the fifth minute. The forward controlled an awkward pass on his chest before lifting the ball over an opposing defender and firing past keeper Cpl Colin Bell from

**“BOTH SIDES PLAYED WELL BUT WE MANAGED TO EDGE IT ON THE DAY”**

the edge of the area.

The signallers almost doubled their advantage moments later, but Cpl Kevin Cameron saw his close-range effort slide agonisingly wide.

Bell then saved bravely at the feet of McGhee and teammate LCpl Ryan Longworth produced a superb goal-line clearance from a powerful header by Sgt Dave Graham.

Despite enjoying an even share of possession, the fusiliers struggled for momentum in the final third and the pattern continued in the second period.

LCpl Callum Mulholland fired straight at Bell following a deep cross from McGhee and a poor clearance

from the keeper saw Sig Daniel Cormack race clear before his shot was deflected wide.

Sgt Mark Radcliffe had a great opportunity to equalise but was thwarted by Sig Mike Magrino in the Signals' goal and when Bell brought down Cormack for a penalty late on, the fusiliers' fate was sealed.

“It was a hard-fought game, both sides played well but we managed to edge it on the day,” man of the match Clayton told *SoldierSport*.

“The rain made life difficult but we produced some decent football.

“Despite only being 1-0 up we were quite confident. They only had one real shot on target and the penalty at the end sealed it for us.

“At the start of the season we thought we could do well and this has been a fantastic victory.” ■



**A FOUR-goal burst from Sig Damien Burrell saw 4 Mechanized Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron retain their title in the Minor Units Cup final.** The striker scored a hat-trick inside the opening seven minutes as the defending champions romped to a 7-2 triumph over 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery. A brace from Sig Jay McAnespie and a sublime chip from Cpl Chris Kettleon completed the rout. Sgt Ian Saunders replied with a double on a sorry afternoon for the gunners. “I am delighted with the performance and the professionalism we showed throughout,” victorious player/manager WO1 Darren Kidd said.



Picture: Peter Spurrer, Intersport Images

**Golden girls:** Capt Heather Stanning (RA, left) and Helen Glover made a superb start to the World Cup season with victory over their rowing rivals in Belgrade

# Stanning stars in Serbian showpiece

**Report: Richard Long**

**R**OWING sensation Capt Heather Stanning (RA) laid down an impressive marker ahead of next month's Olympics by taking gold in the opening event of the World Cup season.

The 27-year-old, who was competing alongside civilian Helen Glover in the women's pair, held off a strong challenge from American duo Erin Cafaro and Eleanor Logan to surge to the line in Belgrade.

The British pairing, who were silver medallists at last year's World Championships, made a strong start to the final and opened a half-length lead at the 500-metre mark.

They were more than two seconds

ahead after 1,500 metres but found themselves in a race as Cafaro and Logan clawed back their advantage.

However, a strong final push saw them secure a deserved victory.

Speaking at the end of the race, Glover said: "That was our first final of 2012 and it's good to get the win."

Stanning added: "Now we go back home and go through the phases of training for the next two World Cup events before we even think about the summer Olympics."

The duo were due to compete at the World Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland, as this issue went to press.

While Stanning enjoyed an air of familiarity in her Games build-up, double amputee Capt Nick Beighton

(RE) tasted a new challenge as part of his Paralympic preparations.

Having qualified the mixed double scull for London 2012 with rowing partner Sam Scowen, the officer was given an opportunity to race in the trunk and arms only single scull at the Gavirate International Adaptive Regatta in Italy, where he won the opening competition before finishing behind world champion Dmytro Ivanov in the second final.

"While it was disappointing not to be able to race in the double, it was a great opportunity to test myself in a single against top-class opposition," Beighton said. "I feel that I have learnt a lot from it and will go back to the double a stronger rower." ■



Picture: Sgt Steven Hughes, RLC

THE world's best marksmen descended on the historic home of the Royal Artillery for a test event ahead of this summer's Olympic Games. More than 800 athletes were in action at Woolwich Barracks during the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup, which put the venue and its military organisers firmly through their paces. "There were nearly 850 competitors from 97 countries at the contest, which is more than double the number who will be taking part in the 2012 Games," said shooting competition manager Maj Peter Underhill (Rifles). "If we can manage this we know we can do anything. For the Olympic athletes, most of whom were taking part in this competition, it was important to experience the field of play and the dynamics within the venue."

# Date with destiny

Army ace achieves sporting dream with Games place

Report: Richard Long  
Picture: Graeme Main

**J**UDO star Tpr Emmanuel Nartey (1 RTR) is shaping up for the biggest test of his athletic career after an inspired run of form saw him cement his place at next month's Olympic Games.

The Ghanaian player is in the midst of a rigorous training schedule ahead of the showpiece event and believes a top-four finish is within his grasp when he locks horns with the world's best in the 73kg competition.

Nartey has posted some superb results in recent months, including a silver medal at the World Cup in Liverpool and a fifth-place finish at the African Championships, and is relishing the opportunity of testing himself on the ultimate sporting stage.

"For myself and my coaches qualification is not really a surprise," Nartey explained.

"I had a really good season and I performed well at a lot of major tournaments, so I was expecting to get there.

"In the end it was a matter of staying focused and making sure no-one else took my spot.

"I was confident I would qualify, I just had to ensure I got everything right from the beginning."

The Army ace has been training at the University of Bath, where he has undergone an intensive pre-Games conditioning programme.

He will continue his preparations by competing in further World Cup events and other tournaments

ahead of the main event.

"To represent my country at the Olympics is a dream come true," Nartey said.

"I have been working hard for the last eight years so I'm very happy, but the job is not done yet.

"My target is to finish in the top four, to win anything from a gold to bronze medal would be fantastic.

"In judo it all depends on the draw and who is the best mentally and physically prepared on the day.

"I've got to concentrate on my training and hopefully everything will go well next month."

Maj Simon Childs (Rifles), the Army's elite judo performance manager, has been delighted with Nartey's progress and told *SoldierSport* the player thoroughly deserves his place at

the forthcoming Games.

"He has produced many impressive performances over a very long qualifying period against some world-class opposition," the officer said.

"He has been singularly driven by his desire to compete at the Olympics and his dedication and determination to succeed in his goal has been compelling.

"The qualification process is extremely difficult within judo and involves regular setbacks which constantly test the mental robustness of athletes.

"We are all incredibly proud of Tpr Nartey and I am convinced he has the talent, tenacity and above all the determination to win an Olympic medal." ■



## London 2012 judo guide

- The Olympic judo competition starts on July 28 and is being staged at London's ExCel exhibition and convention centre
- Nartey will represent Ghana in the 73kg category, with matches scheduled for Monday, July 30
- A total of 386 competitors will battle

across 14 weight categories, seven for men and seven for women

- Japan was the top judo nation at the Beijing Games in 2008 – winning four gold, one silver and two bronze medals
- Judo made its first appearance as a medal sport at the Tokyo Games in 1964

## SPORT SHORTS

■ AN appeal has been made for athletes to join the field at the Army Triathlon Championships on June 13.

The event – which features a 1,500-metre swim, 40-kilometre bike ride and ten-kilometre run – will be held at Keynes Country Park near Cirencester from 1130.

Major unit teams should include four athletes, with minor unit and female squads having three members.

For more information and entry forms visit the Army Triathlon Association page on Armynet.

■ FORMER boxing world champion Steve Collins showed his support for the Armed Forces by joining wounded personnel on a six-day trip to Las Vegas.

The visit, entitled Heroes and Legends, was organised by the Celtic Warrior and members of the London District TA and Army Boxing Gym and included a guided tour of the city's famous sporting venues and an excursion to the Grand Canyon.

■ GREAT Britain has selected a squad of nine athletes to compete in the synchronised swimming competition at next month's Olympic Games.

The swimmers, who train at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre pool, will be in action from August 5 to 10.

■ SERVICE golfers are being invited to step up to the tee and take part in an Armed Forces Day competition in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The event will be held at Cottrell Park Golf Club on Tuesday, June 26 and features a host of individual and team contests.

Entry costs £25 and more information is available at [www.armedforcesdaywales.co.uk](http://www.armedforcesdaywales.co.uk)

■ MORE than 500 cyclists are expected to compete at next month's Pain on the Plain competition, which is raising money for SSAFA Forces Help.

The event features a range of road and mountain bike races on the Salisbury Plain Training Area over the weekend of July 7 and 8.

There will also be a family ride, professional racing car demonstrations and a performance from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' parachute display team.

For more information and entry details contact organiser Capt Brett Shaw (4 CS Bn REME) on 01980 650593 or via [4REME-BHQ-RCMO@mod.uk](mailto:4REME-BHQ-RCMO@mod.uk)

■ A SMALL band of serving and former soldiers are hoping to raise £100,000 for Help for Heroes by cycling from Chatham to France, via Portsmouth.

Team Sapper was in action as this issue went to press and among those taking part was WO1 Charlie Chaplin (1 RSME), who was hoping to complete the 500-mile route by pedalling a rickshaw. Donations can be made at [www.bmycharity.com/teamsapper](http://www.bmycharity.com/teamsapper)



Pictures: Tim Wright

**Wave riders:** The Royal Armoured Corps team has been tested to the limit during a hectic start to 2012

## Sailors show signs of progress

Report: Richard Long

THE Royal Armoured Corps offshore sailing team returned to UK waters to give an encouraging performance at last month's Morgan Cup race.

Having competed in the Caribbean 600 event in February, the crew faced challenging conditions in the English Channel but managed to finish 44th in a competitive field.

The soldiers encountered problems with the spinnaker in the opening leg and saw their sail badly ripped.

Strong tides then pushed *White Knight 6* further into the channel and with the flow moving against them their speed over the water was restricted to just a couple of knots.

Despite the setbacks, the team battled hard to finish a course that forced a number of retirements.

"It was very demanding," said Tpr Freddie Butcher (2 RTR). "It was a long, challenging race and we got tired, wet and cold."

"But it was a really good reminder of the importance of working together as a team and keeping on top of one's admin while living in a confined space."

A key goal for 2012 is getting more junior soldiers and novices involved in the sport so a strong squad can be developed for future seasons.

A number of newcomers were included in the crew for the Caribbean 600 and Lt Col Paul Macro (2 RTR), who skippered the boat, was delighted to see them performing so well.

"With four complete novices on-board for 600 miles of tough racing we were really pleased to finish," the officer told *SoldierSport*.

"Overall they thoroughly enjoyed it, they came away fully enthused and we are hoping to get a good group together for this season and the Fastnet race next year."

"They did a thoroughly professional job and I would happily sail with any of them again."

LCpl Wayne Baker (2 RTR) added: "The Caribbean 600 was a great experience and I really enjoyed trying something new."

"I am looking forward to fitting in more races and qualifications around our deployment to Canada."

The Royal Armoured Corps team was in action at the Army Offshore Regatta as this issue went to press. ■





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**Base Line Supplies**  
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## SPORT SHORTS

■ ALLOA Athletic Football Club will be hosting a seven-a-side tournament this month to raise money for Help for Heroes.

The competition will be played on Sunday, June 17 and is open to Army and civilian sides. Entry costs £35 per team.

For more information on the event email [heather.gibson0208@btinternet.com](mailto:heather.gibson0208@btinternet.com)

■ **A TEAM of legends from County Championship outfit Warwickshire will lock horns with the Combined Services in a charity cricket match next month.**

The fixture will be played at Edgbaston on Saturday, July 7 and proceeds from the day will go to the Military Patients Fund at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Troop Aid.

Tickets for Armed Forces personnel cost £5. For more details on the match visit [www.edgbaston.com/tickets](http://www.edgbaston.com/tickets)

■ WOUNDED personnel returned victorious from the Warrior Games after securing five gold medals at the week-long US competition.

A squad of 21 athletes took part in the event, which was organised for injured, sick and veteran Servicemen and women.

Capt David Henson (RE) took double gold in the pool and praised military charity Help for Heroes for funding the trip.

He added: "After injury you can get a bit depressed and there are times when it is difficult to see how you can get back into the things you loved. Although you might be doing them a little bit differently, the same buzz you got from sport before is there and it makes you realise things are going to be alright."

Another highlight from the week was the performance of Pte Pa Njie (1 Mercian), who received a standing ovation for completing the 1,500 metres – the furthest he has run non-stop since sustaining his injuries.



Picture: Steve Dock

## REME triumph in spot kick thriller

**A** DRAMATIC penalty shoot-out victory saw the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers retain their Inter-Corps Tournament title at Aldershot's Military Stadium.

The defending champions needed spot kicks to see off the challenge of the Royal Logistic Corps after a tense final was locked at 1-1 at full-time.

With both teams missing twice the contest was decided via sudden death, where the REME's accuracy in front of goal helped them triumph.

The tournament marked the end of the women's football season and saw

seven teams in action.

Organiser Capt Priyum Patel (AMS) said: "Credit must be given to the players who were involved in some intense and physically demanding football over the course of the day, particularly the teams who progressed through the group stages as there was little time between matches to catch their collective breath."

"The competition was further proof that women's football in the Army is a strong and well-supported sport that displays plenty of skill, determination and tenacity." ■

## ARMY SEVENS



**THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards downed defending champions 17 Port and Maritime Regiment to lift the Army Sevens crown during a fierce day of competition in Aldershot.**

The Germany-based outfit ran in four tries to record a 22-5 victory in the final and crush the Dolphins' hopes of adding to their Premiership title from earlier in the campaign.

"We almost did not come due to our commitments to the Army," winning skipper Capt Ben McNeil said.

"But our colonel believed in us and we came. We are more than pleased to be taking the trophy back with us."

A brace from Gnr Megan Lee (pictured) helped the Royal Artillery to a 12-5 win over the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the women's final.

The men's plate trophy was presented to 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment after they defeated 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



Pictures: Graeme Main



**Plain sailing:** Wounded personnel from Mission Motorsport's powerboat team take to the waters off Plymouth for the first round of the P1 Superstock series

# Power play boosts recovery path

**Report: Richard Long**  
**Picture: Graeme Main**

**T**HE Pertemps Mission Motorsport powerboat team made a promising start to the season by securing a fifth-place finish in the opening round of the P1 Superstock series.

Driver Mark Neale and navigator Sgt Gavin Harvey (REME) made their race debuts in the P1 150 event in Plymouth, and with four rounds to come the duo are hoping to make significant progress on the water.

The powerboat initiative is an extension of the charity's aim to give wounded soldiers an opportunity to experience and compete in different motorsports as part of the recovery and rehabilitation process.

It also offers a vocational element, with work placements and secondments available to those considering a return to civilian life.

"This gives guys a focus to their rehabilitation," Maj Nigel Hindmarsh (RE), Mission Motorsport's powerboat manager, explained.

"As a young Serviceman or woman you have your life ahead of you but when injuries happen you can suddenly lose confidence.

"Activities like this give them the belief that they can get on with their life

**"THESE GUYS ARE NOT HERE TO REPRESENT DISABLED SPORT, THEY WANT TO COMPETE"**

and look to the future."

The team received a huge boost at the start of the campaign when reigning P1 250 champion John Wilson donated a Cougar race boat to the cause.

The machine, which can hit speeds of up to 60mph, will be used throughout the coming months at Superstock events in Hull, Eastbourne, Cowes and Southampton.

"Our operating costs for the year will be in the region of £12,000," Hindmarsh told *SoldierSport*.

"To buy one these boats second-hand would be around £17,000.

"We are competing against four teams who have had at least four seasons at this level. There is only one other rookie outfit taking part.

"We are determined to do well.

These guys are not here to represent disabled sport, they want to compete.

"They enjoy the racing element and the adrenalin rush, it is not about just turning up."

Double-amputee Harvey, a Mission Motorsport director, added: "There are

five events over the course of the season and we are aiming for a top three finish, or to even win it.

"Activities such as these offer holistic care for injured personnel, empowering them with greater courage and helping them to deal with disabilities in a testing environment.

"We want to provide a big bang for their buck and hope to engage up to 70 soldiers in different motorsport initiatives this year."

Neale recently left the Army having suffered with post-traumatic stress disorder and will start a boat building course in Lyme Regis in September.

And having served with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, the opportunity to sample a new activity on the water was simply too good to turn down.

"It is something I always wanted to do," he explained.

"Being involved in this has kept me on an even keel and means I have not suffered the dip that comes with leaving the Army.

"I think a top three finish is realistic. The adrenalin rush that comes with this sport is amazing and we really want to push ourselves."

For more information on how to get involved with the charity's initiatives visit [www.missionmotorsport.org](http://www.missionmotorsport.org) ■



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**Wing wizard:** Sgt Keith Emmerson (RAPTC) breaks through the German lines during the Army's 0-0 draw with the Bundeswehr at Aldershot's EBB Stadium

# Service season ends with stalemate

**Report: Richard Long**  
**Pictures: Graeme Main**

**A** RED card for star striker Sig Sam Agar (R Signals) failed to take the gloss off a spirited showing from the Army in a tough season finale against the German Bundeswehr.

The forward was given his marching orders following a mistimed challenge on winger LCpl Max Brechtel but the Reds held firm to earn a share of the spoils in a 0-0 draw. The match was the first time the Army had hosted the German armed forces in the modern

era and a healthy crowd supported the sides in the sweltering heat at Aldershot Town's EBB Stadium.

The visitors made a bright start to the clash and should have taken the lead in the opening minutes, but SSgt Florian Stahl put a free header wide.

Sgt Andreas Gerdes-Wurpts drilled the ball into the side netting after a foul on central defender Pte Sam Lake (Para) went unpunished and the striker then spurned a gilt-edged opportunity after a neat turn in the box.

After surviving the initial onslaught the Army established a foothold in the game and created their first clear chance in the 23rd minute.

Cpl Danny Haley (R Signals) swung a corner in from the left and Lake rose unchallenged but placed his header wide of the post.

The Reds produced their best attacking move on the stroke of half-time as Agar raced clear on the left and cut inside to shoot at the near post, where keeper SSgt Thomas Bohrmann tipped the ball wide.

The striker was dismissed ten minutes after the restart as he lunged at the heels of Brechtel, but the Germans failed to capitalise on their advantage.

LCpl Andreas Dick saw a speculative effort from distance fly wide and the hosts offered an instant response courtesy of Sgt Paul Douglass (RLC), who saw his stinging drive well saved.

WO2 Kev Haley (RAPTC) also went close with a controlled half-volley from the edge of the area.

Gerdes-Wurpts squandered two late chances for the Germans and the Army hung on for a deserved draw.

Speaking at full-time, head coach

Capt Joe Collins (R Signals) told *SoldierSport* he was delighted with the way his side performed against a strong Bundeswehr outfit.

"Our organisation was great," he added. "In the lead up to the game we worked very hard on our discipline and shape as we knew we would have long periods without possession.

"You cannot play free-flowing football in that heat, we had a system to get behind the ball and play on the counter attack and it worked well.

"We brought in some new faces from the corps teams and the under-23s. This was a chance for us to blood them against quality opposition." ■



# final word



**As Diamond Jubilee celebrations commenced, we asked troops whether serving Queen and country inspires them in their daily jobs**

INTERVIEWS: JOE CLAPSON  
PICTURES: GRAEME MAIN



## 2nd Lt Alex Hamilton (IG)

Working for Her Majesty is a massive motivation for me. My company is preparing for Op Herrick 18 and while strongly inspired by serving the monarch and putting on a good display, we are also very dedicated to our combat role. We take our links to the royal family incredibly seriously, but being part of the International Security Assistance Force is just as important.



## Pte Paul McPherson (RLC)

While carrying out duties you tend to forget about the Queen but when I sit back and reflect on it, I am proud to serve her. I have got Afghanistan, Op Olympics and Op Althea to think about but there's definitely a lot of patriotism this year with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We also had Kate Middleton down for the St Patrick's Day parade which was exciting.



## Gdsm Shane Orme (IG)

The Queen is very important to me and as a guardsman it is my job to protect her. Practising for six weeks solid to parade in front of the world for Trooping the Colour [June 16] is something I am very proud of. It's my first time on that ceremony and the biggest event I can do – everything boils down to this role and doing the march past will be very special and something to remember.



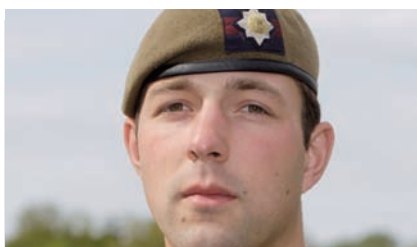
## LSgt Richard Hayes (AGC (SPS))

The monarch was certainly a key reason for me joining the Army because I think she has important roles for the country – from the rest of the world being jealous and showing respect to being a tourist attraction. When we are out on operations in Afghanistan the main focus is the day-to-day business but in the back of our minds is the fact you serve the Queen and her country.



## WO2 Colin Patterson (IG)

I wouldn't say the royal family is a main motivation for me but it's definitely a big part of what I do. As important, if not more, are the operations but whether it's Afghanistan or security for the Olympics, it's all for the UK of which she is the boss. In her Diamond Jubilee year her country is holding the Games and it's important for us to be part of that as well.



## 2nd Lt Ali Floyd (IG)

I will be the ensign for The Queen's Guard during the central Jubilee weekend, carrying the battalion colours onto the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. This will be a one-off role and I am very proud and lucky to be doing it as the monarch is a huge motivation for me. Everyone in the Irish Guards is focused on this year's celebrations and honoured to be involved.



## Lt Mark Garner (R Anglian)

The close ties the monarch has with the Armed Forces as a whole have always been apparent to me. The royal family exudes all the things that make Britain and the Army great: history, tradition and service. I'm proud to be part of a country with so much identity. Over the coming weeks, everyone here in FOB Shawqat in Afghanistan will celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in our own style.



## Sgt Pete Donohue (AGC (SPS))

Her Majesty is an important part of our heritage. Being part of the British Army and serving Queen and country is a huge honour; a sentiment that I feel should be commonplace among the three Services. All UK personnel, past and present, have played a part in serving Britain and its monarch, allowing us to have an impeccable status among other countries.

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