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MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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ARMY

The future is here

THERE has been a lot of dogma dispelled recently on the issue of diversity and maximising talent within the Army but in this issue we have dug around and discovered a unit that is walking the walk as well as talking the talk (see page 30).

G Company, 7th Battalion, The Rifles has around 60 active members and one third of these Reservists are drawn from the ethnic minority community.

This is largely down to the local population, which is one of the most racially diverse in the country.

Crucially, recruitment is also growing strongly across the battalion with the total number of new soldiers enlisting in 2014 up 182 per cent on 2013.

A contributory factor is the work of commanding officer Lt Col James Bryant and his team who have fostered a brilliant ethos that transcends turbans, reconciles Ramadan and harmonises with Halal.

CSjt Jayesh Gajjar, who acts as a mentor for many of the new arrivals, told us: "If you can't come here and enjoy yourself something's missing. It doesn't make sense to make people feel like they don't belong."

If they haven't done so already, perhaps senior officers should take the trouble to gauge the views, efforts and results of the Reservists of West Ham.

The Army rightly has high ambitions to recruit the best talent from a far broader strand of society than it does now and the key to achieving this goal could well be sitting in its midst.

Personnel, like those in G Company, have been quietly plugging away at a local level to break down multicultural barriers for years, and have been remarkably successful in the process. ■



Steve Muncey • Managing Editor

Turn to pages 37-41 for our exclusive preview of the Wildcat helicopter and its new crews



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‘WE CAN GET INTO THE FIGHT QUICKER AND WE’RE BETTER PROTECTED’



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More than 40% of those serving are dissatisfied with their pension*; good reason to join the Forces Pension Society

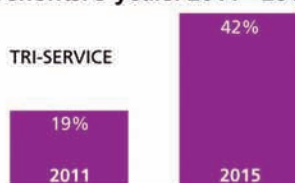


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AND THEIR FAMILIES



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Rising dissatisfaction with Pension Benefits. 5 years: 2011 - 2015



* 2015 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey

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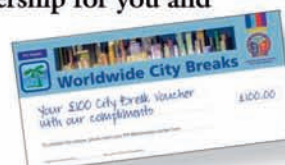
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LIVE ON

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION





Leading from the front

A new voice represents soldiers at the top of the Army

NEW Army Sergeant Major, WO1 Glenn Haughton, is a busy man to say the least.

He has input across matters affecting the Service and sits on a number of boards and committees, including the Army Medals Board, the Army Dress Committee and is a trustee of the Army Central Fund.

Most importantly, though, he is the only serving soldier to sit on the Executive Committee Army Board (ECAB), the body that is responsible for setting the Force's policy.

This means he has a say at the most senior level on the key decisions that will affect the Service and ECAB members, a contribution that he says will be crucial.

"I want to make a real difference to the soldiers' lives by giving their perspective directly to the board and the Chief of the General Staff," he explained.

"That's important because many of the members will probably not have had direct involvement with soldiers for some time.

"I'm in close touch with the grass roots, either directly or indirectly through the command sergeant majors I meet with every quarter.

"With their feedback I can make views from the lowest ranked soldiers heard right at the top level, and I can feed direction back the other way, from the Army chiefs into the regiments."

WO1 Haughton, who joined the Grenadier Guards in 1988, may have reached a pinnacle in his career and have the ear of the Chief of the General Staff, but he has not forgotten his roots as one of the Army's disciplinarians.

He has kept the unmistakable demeanour and stature of an RSM and his added status and connection to the head of the Service gives him an effective platform from which to tackle unacceptable behaviours.

"We should treat human beings as they should be treated," he said.

"That means cutting out derogatory and harmful language, unacceptable actions and differentiating between banter and bad conduct."

He is also a passionate champion of the Army Leadership Code, which he helped create, and believes its introduction this month will make a huge difference to the Service in the long term (see right).

“
I want
to make
a real
difference
to
soldiers’
lives
”

Q&A

Army Sergeant Major WO1 Glenn Haughton on why the Leadership Code is relevant to the Army

➤ **How important do you think the new leadership code is?**

The content isn't anything particularly new or revolutionary, but it does set out the values and standards we should all be living and working by. It will prove absolutely vital to the future of the Army.

➤ **In what way?**

It is a necessary step if we are going to change the culture of the Service and cut out the unacceptable behaviour that still goes on. The code is about making everyone feel wanted and equal.

➤ **How will the code's effectiveness be measured?**

Statistics will tell a story in time I suppose. If records of disciplinary cases show that incidents of bad behaviour are going down then it will obviously be working.

But, initially, the numbers could move the other way because people may feel emboldened about raising concerns through the chain of command. In the long-term, though, what the leadership code stands for can only be a good thing.

It will help recruiting and retention, especially when you tie it into what CGS has been speaking about regarding making the Army a more modern employer. The code will make more people feel valued and I think that will prove to be its enduring legacy.





ON TARGET

Rapier specialists mount final exercise ahead of Falklands tour – pages 26-29



1 UK

STORMING THE PLAIN

SALISBURY Plain formed the setting for soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment as they prepared for an armoured infantry test in Canada.

The challenging mission saw troops carry out an urban raid in an attempt to capture enemy forces. The personnel have now joined the rest of the battalion on Exercise Prairie Storm.



2 GERMANY

BRIDGING BROTHERS

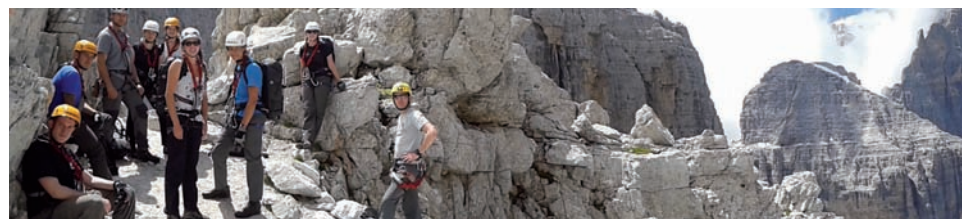
BRITISH and German soldiers joined forces to support a tactical river crossing by US Forces during Exercise Minden Shock.

Using M3 bridging equipment, personnel from 23 Amphibious Troop, Royal Engineers and Pionierbataillon 130 spanned a 75-metre gap over the fast-flowing River Weser.

More than 40 American vehicles armed with Patriot missiles then crossed the structure.

"We have not done a crossing like this on a river with our amphibious assets for some time," said Brig Robert Walton-Knight, commander 8 Engineer Brigade. "The UK has this niche capability and it is great to exercise this alongside our allies."

“It is great to exercise alongside our allies”



3 ITALY

SIGNALLERS SOAR

ADVENTURERS from 21 Signal Regiment tested their fitness and nerves during a vertigo-inducing expedition in the Italian Alps.

Dubbed Exercise Beaufighter Brenta, the trek saw the ten-strong team traverse the "Via Ferrata", a system of metal routes embedded into the cliffs that were used to move troops across the mountains during the First World War.

Commanding officer and instructor Lt Col Adam Corkery said: "I witnessed several displays of genuine courage with individuals who were clearly uncomfortable about the exposure just getting stuck in and working through their anxiety."

British Army Training Unit Suffield

British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

The Falkland Islands

Gibraltar

Germany

Cyprus

British Army Training Unit Kenya

Sierra Leone

IN NUMBERS:

3,500

NATO troops on Exercise Allied Spirit II at the Hohenfels Training Area in Bavaria, Germany. The trip saw personnel from 1 R Irish working alongside their US, Canadian and Czech counterparts.

● Fighting with Foxhound – pages 49-51



Afghanistan

Brunei

4 UKRAINE

TALKING TRAINING

SOLDIERS from 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment and 4 Armoured Medical Regiment have showcased the work they have been doing to train the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon flew to the Eastern European state to meet UK personnel before their home-grown counterparts demonstrated the new skills.

A total of 13 training teams have deployed so far, focusing on specialist medical, infantry, logistics and intelligence drills.



“The cold seeped into our bones”



5 MOROCCO

TAMING TOUBKAL

THRILL seekers from 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have completed a hiking adventure in the Atlas Mountains with counterparts from the Moroccan army.

The team battled strong winds, snow flurries and temperatures as low as -4 degrees Celsius before reaching the summit of Jebel Toubkal – the highest peak in North Africa.

With the mission complete the soldiers concluded their trip with a battlefield tour of Tangier, which is referred to as the birthplace of the British Army as it is the site of one of the Service's first battle honours.



7 BOLIVIA

MOUNTAINEERS HIT THE HEIGHTS

AN expedition team from the Army Mountaineering Association has completed an ambitious mission to scale a range of high altitude peaks in Bolivia.

The group's first success came at Point Austria, which offered stunning views of the Condorri valleys from 5,300 metres.

From there the soldiers climbed Piramide Blanca, Pequeno Alpaymayo and Illusion before setting their sights on Huayna Potosi at 6,088 metres.

And with another peak ticked off they braced themselves for the most daunting leg of the trip – Illimani.

"We were in tents and the cold seeped into our bones as the sun dipped below the horizon," said SSgt Stuart Low (205 Scottish Fd Hosp).

"The gradient led unrelentingly upwards but we struggled onwards with a shuffling gait.

"Finally it levelled out and the summit was just a few footsteps away."

6 UGANDA

AFRICAN ASSISTANCE

SOLDIERS from 7th Battalion, The Rifles completed a stint as a short-term training team in Uganda, where they were helping the country's Armed Forces prepare for their upcoming African Union mission in Somalia.

A total of 35 personnel, including 17 Reservists, spent two weeks instructing members of the latest Ugandan battlegroup to deploy in a peacekeeping role.

"Their next stop is Mogadishu and it was a great responsibility and a privilege to provide that final bit of polish to the training," said the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col James Bryant.



Rifles Reservists talk diversity
– pages 30-33

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"IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE HOW THE ARMY WORKS" - WILDCAT HAS ARRIVED, PAGES 37-41



Family fortunes set to rise

THE Army's plans to base troops around major hubs will be warmly welcomed if the results of this year's Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey are anything to go by.

The study, conducted between February and May, disclosed that 31 per cent of Army families had upped sticks in the previous 12 months, compared to 27 per cent for the Royal Air Force and just 16 per cent for the Royal Navy.

As a result, a quarter of Army children had changed schools in that period, a higher figure than for the other two Services.

It also meant Army spouses were less likely to be employed than their Forces counterparts.

However, once the new basing structure is in place the omens look good as more than 40 per cent of

Army wives and partners living in Service housing said they felt advantaged compared to the general public – more than was recorded by the other military arms.

The survey also revealed that while most families took enormous pride in their serving partners, more Army spouses felt this way (85 per cent) than their Navy and RAF equivalents.

In addition, the Army recorded the fewest number of partners who said Service life had been detrimental to their relationship and had the smallest number of respondents who felt the separation brought about by serving had adverse effects on home life.

With three quarters of military families having children aged under 18 this finding, combined with the new basing structure, could prove crucial to recruiting and retaining more personnel in the future.

On the up: Army families recorded high levels of satisfaction with many aspects of Service life

IN NUMBERS And the survey says...

67%

Partners of Army spouses in employment – RAF 77% and Navy 78%

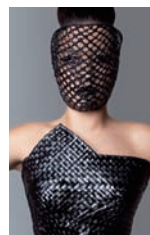
32%

Say Service life has negative effect on relationship with spouse – Navy 41% and RAF 34%

FIJIAN FASHIONISTA

■ A CHIC Servicewoman is promoting the best of Pacific apparel at fashion shows in the capital this month.

Cpl Ana Lavekau (AGC (SPS)) launched the London Pacific Fashion Collective in 2013 to champion styles from countries including New Zealand, Tonga, Hawaii and her native Fiji.



The events take place on September 19 and 20 to coincide with the start of the Rugby World Cup and will showcase trends such as ethnic fibre and couture, "steampunk", blanket design and tribal swimwear.

Tickets costs £20 (£10 for children) but a handful are available for free via Tickets for Troops. There is also a ten per cent discount for MoD personnel.

For further details on the event visit www.londonpacificfashion.com



VETERAN HONOURED

■ A VETERAN of the D-Day landings has been awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French government in recognition of his bravery 71 years ago.

Ernest Payne was 29 years old when he drove his Sherman tank onto the beaches of Normandy while serving with the 24th Lancers. He received his medal from Capt Ed Aitken, who serves with his modern equivalent unit – The Royal Lancers.

"It's wonderful and couldn't be better," the 101-year-old said. "I feel very privileged that Ed has come to give this to me."

Country unites to mark VJ Day

A LARGE number of veterans turned out to take part in events marking the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, the day Japan surrendered and the Second World War ended.

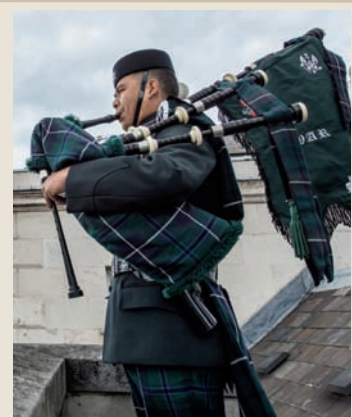
The former Service personnel, many of whom arrived in wheelchairs and are now in their nineties, were joined by the prime minister and the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at a moving service of remembrance at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square.

A wreath was laid by Lt Col Tony Slater of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association at

the church's memorial to Far East prisoners of war, which includes an original section of the notorious Burma-Siam Railway.

Nearly 2,000 people also attended a commemorative event on Horse Guards Parade where wreaths were laid by the Prince of Wales, David Cameron and representatives of The Royal British Legion and Burma Star Association.

It is estimated that there were 71,000 British and Commonwealth casualties in the war against Japan, including more than 12,000 prisoners who died in captivity.



Picture: Sgt Rupert Freire, RLC



“EXPERIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD AT ANY LEVEL AND WE HAVE GOT THAT”

– REDS EYE CUP DEFENCE, PAGES 80-81



SAPPER'S BIG SCREEN SUPPORT

AN Army officer is experiencing a mini dose of stardom thanks to his role in the newly-released documentary – *Warriors*.

Defence Academy instructor Maj Mark Baker (QGE, pictured below) became involved in the film while on exercise at British Army Training Unit Kenya in 2013.

As one of their community engagement tasks his squadron constructed a cricket ground for the Maasai team on scrub land near the remote village of Il Polei.

At the time a movie was being made about the Kenyan warriors, who had adopted the sport as a way of promoting Aids awareness and an anti-genital mutilation message to the locals.

"I don't believe any of us fully appreciated at the time how significant one new pitch could be," Maj Baker said.



Allan plays the pain game

BOXER Capt Nathan Allan (Coldm Gds) endured a punishing test in the ring when he completed 24 hours of sparring as part of a fundraising challenge.

The newly commissioned officer embarked on the feat at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and his efforts generated more than £12,000 for Cancer Research UK and ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

To make his ordeal even more difficult the Serviceman invited a handful of fighters from the sport's professional ranks into the ring.

Among those taking part was ex-soldier

and European champion Ross Burkinshaw.

"It was epic and it took a while for my body to recover," Allan said.

"To complete 24 hours of boxing is hard going and there were so many things I wasn't expecting, such as palpitations and double vision. I lost the feeling in my chin and jaw after four hours."

The athlete had originally planned the challenge for 2008 but had to put it on hold after undergoing a hip replacement.

Donations to the cause can still be made at www.justgiving.com/nathan-allan

FEARLESS

FUNDRAISING



Target:
£5,000
For:
Macmillan Cancer Support

RESERVIST SAYS FAREWELL TO LOCKS

A HIRSUTE former Army officer has shaved off her crowning glory in aid of a cancer support charity. By "braving the shave" Royal Air Force Reservist Flt Lt Michelle Pitchers (ex AGC (ETS)) not only hopes to raise thousands of pounds but will donate her waist-long plaits to the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair to the disease. Flt Lt Pitchers' locks were being shorn as this issue went to press. To boost her total and view "after" pictures go to www.bravetheshave.org.uk

WATTISHAM WONDERS

THE ninth annual Wattisham Triathlon saw 244 competitors brave grim weather to complete a 300-metre swim, 20-kilometre bike stage and a five-kilometre run for charity. The event attracted a mix of civilian, military, novice and club athletes.

Money raised:
£4,000
for:
SSAFA

CAMPBELL'S MUNRO MARATHON

FORMER soldier Jack Campbell, who served in the Household Cavalry Regiment, is in the midst of a challenge to climb all 282 Munros in Scotland. The 31-year-old is due to complete his quest on October 1 and has already braved torrential

rain, heavy snow and blazing sunshine. To donate visit www.justgiving.com/jack-campbell6

Target:
£20,000
For:
Household Cavalry Foundation





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Initial Payment	£295.70
34 Monthly Payments	£295.70
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Duration of Agreement	36 months
Representative APR%	6.9% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.72%

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“THE VALUES AND STANDARDS THAT YOU STAND FOR IN THE ARMY CARRY OVER” - LIFE ON CIVVY STREET, PAGES 20-25



LUDGERSHALL LIFT

■ **DEMOLITION** work has started at Corunna Barracks in Ludgershall – a site that has been earmarked for 246 new Service family homes.

As part of the tasking specialist contractors will have to pull down 62 buildings, remove car parks and lift and transfer temporary MoD accommodation blocks.

“Preparing the site for development is a significant job,” said project manager Andy Corcoran. “Some of the hangars are about the same size as the Twickenham pitch.

“Other buildings being levelled include workshops, kit stores, catering facilities and vehicle servicing bays.”

The work is due to be completed early next year and is part of the plan to relocate 4,300 extra troops to the Salisbury Plain area under the Army basing programme.

IN NUMBERS

3,000

THE value of tables and chairs, in pounds, donated to the Victoria Cross Trust by hospitality industry supplier Pub Stuff. The items will be used to kit out the organisation’s museum cafe.



RENTALS MADE EASY

■ **A NEW** loan scheme has been launched that will allow civilian and Armed Forces personnel to apply for an advance on their salary to help cover the cost of a deposit for a rental property.

The initiative has been developed by the Department of Communities and Local Government in a bid to eliminate some of the barriers to moving home.

It only covers the cost of a deposit and must be repaid within 12 months.

For more details see 2015DIB/16.



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

“
The relationship between a soldier and his spouse involves two very different life experiences
”



Pitfalls of postings

FEEDBACK from last month’s column was that I could be more optimistic, with the suggestion that, rather than finishing on “the outlook for pay is dismal”, I should have mentioned defined benefits such as the non-contributory pension and incremental progression.

So there we have it – two good reasons to stay in the Army with my sincere hope that as incremental progression has been highlighted it is here to stay.

But how positively do families really view Service life? This year’s FAMCAS (page 11) shows an encouraging reaction, which is good news as no one wants a repeat of the bleak years of redundancy.

We’ve seen a reduction in the number of operational tours and the defence budget seems more secure.

Housing took a chaotic reverse turn with the new CarillionAmey contract – but there have been improvements and for those aspiring to get on the property ladder the Forces Help 2 Buy scheme has been very popular.

However, I am also aware that the relationship between a soldier and his partner/spouse involves two very different life experiences – which can be said of any marriage – but it’s more challenging to get the balance right in the Army.

Take postings for example. These are great opportunities for troops

but they could have an entirely opposite effect for the spouse.

A partner may have to relocate away from friends and family to a house they haven’t chosen, give up their own career-defining role and start all over again without the ready-made network that personnel benefit from.

And even if you are not moving the impact of supporting your soldier can be felt as this comment from AFF’s Big Survey shows: “Most Army families are single-parent families a lot of the time.

“Not being able to rely on my husband for anything has a huge impact on us.”

The feedback I received also suggested that I end on a high – but I confess I’m not best placed to do that. My husband is a volunteer for his next post – overseas. It’s a really good match for him and the job is challenging, interesting and exciting.

However, I recognise, like many families, that the huge positives for my soldier are at great personal expense – I’m making many compromises and taking a huge financial risk to enable him to do his role.

But I have heeded the advice of one officer – that I take my sewing machine to our next posting – although I am still working out how that will help me with my MBA.

www.aff.org.uk

Picture: Mike Weston

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“IT’S ABOUT THE BROAD EXPERIENCE THEY BRING” – DIVERSE TIMES, PAGES 30-33

ARMY 2020 UPDATE



Pictures: Cpl Ross Fernie, RLC

RATS AT THE READY

■ THE Desert Rats – formally known as 7th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters East – have reached full operating capability after completing structural changes.

Formed earlier this year following the merger of 7th Armoured Brigade and 49 (East) Brigade, the force will undertake a range of tasks including providing units for operations and working with partner nations overseas.

In the past six months they have delivered personnel from 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment to Afghanistan on Op Toral while providing training teams to Africa.

And next month a company from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment will deploy to the Falkland Islands.

“We will take this historically great brigade and establish it as the pre-eminent leader in 21st century operations,” said commander Brig Jonny Bourne.

LOGGIES’ NEW HOME

■ A FLAG raising ceremony has been held at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham to mark the arrival of 102 Logistic Brigade in the UK.



The formation was previously based in Guetersloh and its role is to provide a force to receive troops and equipment into theatre, organise their forward movement and then sustain units on the front line.



Battling on: Capt Jon Armstrong braves the punishing Arctic climate

Gurkha quest complete

TWO soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have returned from a 1,500-mile endurance epic in the Arctic Circle.

Capt Jon Armstrong and Cpl Arjun Limbu were attempting to set a new world record by trekking and kayaking around Ellesmere Island off the coast of northern Canada in 100 days (*Soldier*, May).

While they managed the feat in only 91 days, unseasonal levels of packed ice along the Nares Strait on the east coast of the island prevented them from completing a full circumnavigation.

Commenting on the brutal

conditions they encountered, Capt Armstrong said: “There were a few points at which we thought we were going to be in serious trouble and maybe even need rescuing.”

“Snow blindness, debilitating illness and exhaustion all had an impact but we trained hard for what we faced and pushed through some pretty harsh moments.”

The pair have raised more than £10,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust – money that

will be spent on clean drinking water and sanitation projects in Nepal.

To boost the Servicemen’s total visit www.justgiving/arcticgurkha



“We pushed through some pretty harsh moments”



Wingman grooming gear

LAST month’s spine line clues would have been a breeze for fans of Army track and field.

(Pte Diva) Tuilovoni, (Pte Cyprian) Onderi, (Gdsm Peter) Moreno and (Cpl Linda) Waddell all caught the eye with medal-winning performances at the 2015 Inter-Services Athletics Championships.

This month, Wingman (www.worldofwingman.com), are offering the chance to win one of 50 three-in-one essential packs from their range of grooming products.

The company has created items that do the job without baffling users with pseudo-science.

To be in with a chance of winning tell us what links the clues on the side of this issue. Answers to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by September 30.

To show their support to the Armed Forces Wingman has partnered with Help for Heroes – donating five pence from every sale to the charity.

In addition, *Soldier* readers can enjoy a 20 per cent discount on all orders by using the special code MOD20 on the company’s website.



IN MEMORIAM



LCPL MICHAEL CAMPBELL, 3RD BATTALION, THE ROYAL WELSH
DIED JULY 23
— QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM

COMRADES from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welsh have paid tribute to LCpl Michael Campbell who has died as a result of injuries sustained on Op Herrick 16 in April 2012.

The junior NCO was shot while on patrol after his unit had come under attack.

Despite being wounded he suppressed the enemy, drawing fire onto himself so that his colleagues could cross an exposed area to get into better cover.

LCpl Campbell was later airlifted to Camp Bastion and then back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Sgt Paul Thomas said: "A highly motivated, dedicated and professional soldier, Michael was always the first to volunteer.

"His knowledge and enthusiasm rubbed off on all around him, especially when guiding the younger members of the platoon."

Cpl Robert Lawton added: "He was a man of big stature and presence and a go-to guy.

"His grit and determination to succeed, even through his injury, was inspiring; his thoughts were always for other people and their welfare before his own."

An experienced Reserve soldier, LCpl Campbell had completed tours of Iraq and Cyprus as well as three previous deployments to Afghanistan.

On all of these operations he proved to be highly capable and was consistently commended for his maturity, professionalism and dedication to his fellow troops and his regiment.

KEEPING TRACK OF KIT

■ A NEW £18 million contract has been awarded to Lockheed Martin for the provision of logistics technology to keep tabs on UK military kit.

The deal extends the MoD's use of the company's Joint Asset Management and Engineering Solutions for a further six years.

The system allows personnel to quickly identify the status, availability, condition, ownership, location and quantity of equipment, big or small.

It can even be used to keep a record of how many miles a vehicle has been driven or how many shots a weapon has fired.

The technology was first used in 2004 and now handles more than ten million transactions every month that are carried out by 27,000 users.



Picture: Steve Dock

Lynx puts on a fine display

WITH the final flight of the Lynx Mk7, a 39-year chapter in military aviation history came to an end at Middle Wallop.

Aircrew past and present watched the pass out of the last students to use the asset and they proudly hovered and flew in formation to mark the occasion. The display was aptly rounded off with a backflip performed by WO1 Mick Kildea and Capt Neil Posthumus.

The Lynx is one of the few airframes that can undertake such a manoeuvre and its aerodynamics and performance have made it popular with pilots over the years.

Only a handful of helicopters can hit 200mph, turn and climb like the Lynx, which made it more than just a battlefield taxi.

It has had several roles – most notably during the first Gulf War in 1991 when a variant fitted with TOW anti-tank missiles destroyed four Iraqi tanks and two personnel carriers.

This was the first time a British helicopter had used such a weapon in earnest against armour.

Pilot WO2 Richard Misselbrook, who flew the platform for nine years, said: "It's been a real



Picture: Graeme Main

pleasure to operate the Lynx.

"It has always amazed me how much we have achieved with a 40-year-old airframe, particularly on operations and in the hot and high environments of recent deployments."

Just 22 Mk9As will remain in service until the Wildcat is fully rolled out in 2016.

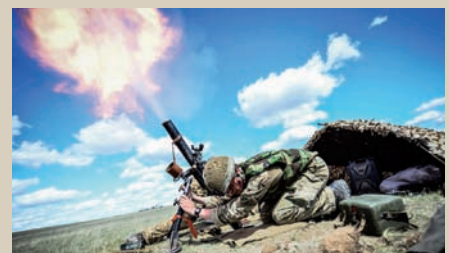
● We have lift off – pages 37-41

Photo comp countdown

REGULAR and Reserve personnel, cadets and MoD civilians who work directly for the military have less than two months to send in submissions for this year's Army Photographic Competition.

Entries are invited from professional Service and amateur photographers for images and video taken between September 5, 2014 and October 2, 2015 (apart from the Op Herrick categories) and must be submitted by October 2, 2015. There are 15 sections in total and some great photographic equipment and prizes are up for grabs.

New for this year is a category reflecting ten



Picture: A/Sgt Mark Webster, RLC

years in Helmand province, which is open to professional Army and ex-Army photographers and their MoD civilian counterparts who served in theatre between 2005 and 2015.

For more details on eligibility and entry go to www.army.mod.uk/photocomp



THE BIG PICTURE

> ARMY CRICKET GROUND, ALDERSHOT

TOURING PARTY

PAKISTAN Army batsmen push hard at the crease as they chase victory against their UK rivals. The match was one of two games played during a week-long defence engagement trip, with honours split between the sides.

Picture: Graeme Main



> THE SMELL OF SUCCESS

How one veteran is making a pile out of other people's rubbish

AFTER leaving the Army in 2013 Dickon Leigh-Wood knew his career was going to be total garbage.

But it had nothing to do with his job prospects.

The former Blues and Royals captain was determined to fulfil a long-standing ambition to work, literally, with other people's junk.

"I always wanted to go into recycling," he told *Soldier*.

"The idea for my new business was inspired by an internship I completed with a security company in Dubai immediately after leaving the Service.

"It struck me how much rubbish they produced but they didn't recycle anything at all.

"I realised that a more environmentally-conscious place like London would have big opportunities for people who wanted to work in this sector."

Leigh-Wood's spell in the United Arab Emirates also helped him come to the firm conclusion that a nine-to-five office job wasn't for him.

As a result he returned to the UK and joined Agrivert, an organic waste reprocessing company owned by another ex-Serviceman, Alexander Madden, to get a feel for the sector.

Then, at the beginning of this year, Leigh-Wood took the plunge and launched The Good Rubbish Company, an enterprise offering bespoke junk clearance for private properties and commercial firms across London.

The outfit's unique selling point is that it ensures, where possible, recovered material does not end up in a dump.

"If the items we collect are good enough we'll give them straight to charity," he explains.

"If we can fix it, we'll resell it. If it can't be fixed, but can be turned into something else then it will be and if it can't it'll be broken down into its basic components.

"If it still can't be reused, then it's sent for incineration to create electricity."

After six months in business turnover has grown exponentially and Leigh-Wood currently employs two

ex-Servicemen and aims to double that number in the not-too-distant future.

"I feel comfortable using veterans," says the former officer, who completed tours to Northern Ireland and Afghanistan on Op Herrick 7 and 11.

"I know the quality of their character from their experience, it gives us something in common and I understand who they are, what they know and what they've been through in training or on combat operations.

"Crucially, I also know I can rely on them to go that extra mile when necessary and they can adapt to the situation.

"Our work is very varied; we can be clearing out a squatted office one day and the next dismantling a soft play unit or emptying a luxury pad wearing covered shoes and with servants watching us."

Leigh-Wood believes his Army experience has also provided him with a vital edge that has helped him gain new business.

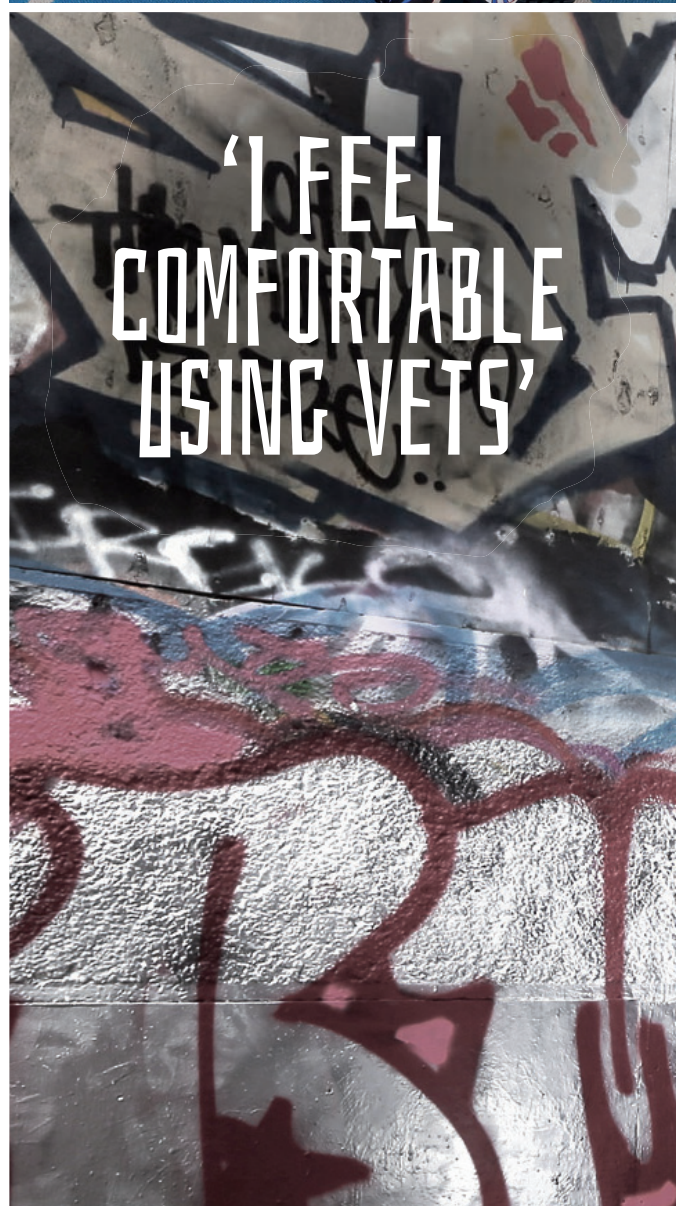
"Doing this, you need an ability to adapt," he says.

"The military teaches you that – we're told the mission but not how to achieve it.

"We're all trained to think three or four steps ahead, playing out different scenarios very quickly in our mind. And as an entrepreneur, you never know what will happen the next day, so you naturally think quickly but logically.

"I am presented with new problems every day and no one's going to help me. If I want to succeed I need to adapt to the situation and find a solution."

With the benefit of his own experience, Leigh-Wood has come to the conclusion that there are some basic tenets all personnel leaving the Service should adhere to if they are to make a smooth transition to civilian life.



FIVE SERVICE LEAVERS
EXPLAIN HOW THEIR MILITARY
SKILLS ENABLED
THEM TO FORGE SUCCESSFUL
CIVILIAN CAREERS



Career advice:
These Service leavers
have used their
military training to
good effect. Pictured
clockwise from top
left: Phill Wright,
Mitchell Gunn, Gemma
Gardner, Andrew
Perrin and Dickon
Leigh-Wood

STREETWISE



"It's key for all soldiers who are coming to the end of their time in the Army to manage their expectations and remember that they are not the best in the world, they were part of the best army in the world," he says.

"The chances are they will have to swallow their pride, start off in a lowly position and prove themselves to be reliable and skilled over time.

"It doesn't matter what they did in the Service, civilian employers will always ask, 'what else have you got?'

"What they are really interested in is very relevant experience so do all the courses you can and prepare for leaving three or four years before you actually do by gaining some work experience in your time off.

"A lot of Army personnel go on their resettlement leave not knowing what they want to do and sign up for, say, the plumbers course and then think 'I don't want my face behind a lavatory all day'. Then they're stuck for what to do next."

Leigh-Wood certainly didn't make that mistake and while he admits that life running his own business is a rollercoaster ride, he doesn't regret a thing. "Some days go tremendously well and others less so," he says.

"But I employ two people, I'm doing about five jobs a day on average and I'm looking to purchase my second truck soon, so it's not going too badly at all – it's certainly not dull!"



Interview: Becky Clark



> FROM SERGEANT TO 'SIR'

Signaller-turned-trainee teacher on life in the classroom

Interview: Becky Clark Pictures: Steve Dock



> "I'M BACK IN MY COMFORT ZONE"

This ex-sergeant turned her experience of depression into a support network for others

WHEN my career ended it ripped my heart out. I'd put work before my family, kids and husband."

Many Service leavers will relate to the sense of turmoil Gemma Gardner felt on her last day in Army uniform.

Having joined up at the age of 17, she was climbing the ranks of the Adjutant General's Corps when illness brought her ambitions to a sudden stop.

Plagued by swelling and pain in her legs, the senior NCO

was eventually diagnosed with compartment syndrome, a disorder that causes pressure to build up in the muscles.

Despite rehab, the condition worsened until she was unable to walk without crutches and in 2014 she was medically discharged, a move that triggered a mental breakdown.

"When they said: 'Sgt Gardner, thank you very much, you are now Mrs Gardner', I felt like my whole identity had been taken away and I couldn't cope,"



she explained. "My husband, who is also in the Army, came home and I was sat there shaking.

"I closed all the curtains and turned the furniture round so I couldn't see any sign of the military out of the window. I didn't leave the house for three months."

Hooked on painkillers and seeing no way forward, she attempted suicide by taking an overdose.

"At that point my husband gave me an ultimatum," she added.

"I could continue on the path I was on or I could realise my family needed me. I decided I had to stop feeling sorry for myself."

The former Servicewoman set about researching alternative therapies, and 18 months later has not only drastically improved her own health, but has made a second



ANDREW Perrin may have served on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but according to the former sergeant, his new life as a teacher in training is every bit as challenging.

An ex-telecoms engineer in the Royal Signals, he was medically discharged in 2011 after 13 years in the Army and is now forging a second career for himself through the government-funded Troops to Teachers scheme.

The 36-year-old explained why the two-year course, which is aimed at non-graduates, was the ideal route for him.

"I was lucky because I got a job in a private school after I left but as I didn't have a college degree I couldn't go any further," he said.

"Then I looked into this programme and the kind of things you needed to fit the bill and found that I ticked all the boxes.

"It fits perfectly because it's giving me a degree and a teaching qualification and I also get paid while I'm doing it so I can get by.

"It wouldn't have been possible to do this for two years without earning money."

The scheme takes the form of on-the-job-training four days a week, with study days every Friday.

"We come together over the web and maybe have a lecture on a certain module or a group discussion," Perrin explained.

"It's a clever system, you can digitally put your hand up to ask questions and interact.

"We also have an online portal where we have to submit work. It's a good way of doing distance learning."

His training is taking place at East Barnet School, an impressively modern comprehensive with state-of-the-art facilities, where the motto is "I want to learn".

"It's a great place, with great people," he added.

"I get a lot of support.

"The hours are long – you could do a full day in the classroom and then be marking work until 2300 for instance – but it's massively rewarding, especially when your pupils do well and you can see that they are motivated."

Perrin opted to become a design and technology teacher because of the crossover between that topic and his trade while in

the Service.

The father of one said that many of the other skills he gained in the Armed Forces were also transferable.

"Timekeeping, an understanding of management and calmness under pressure all come into it," he commented.

"I think being in the Service gives you a presence too. I wouldn't have described myself as one of those massively confident military instructor types but I've surprised myself by how comfortable I feel!"

Schoolchildren may not follow orders in the same way junior soldiers are expected to in the

Army but the former senior NCO said his tactic was to employ patience and avoid becoming "Mr Shouty".

"It's about setting clear boundaries," he continued.

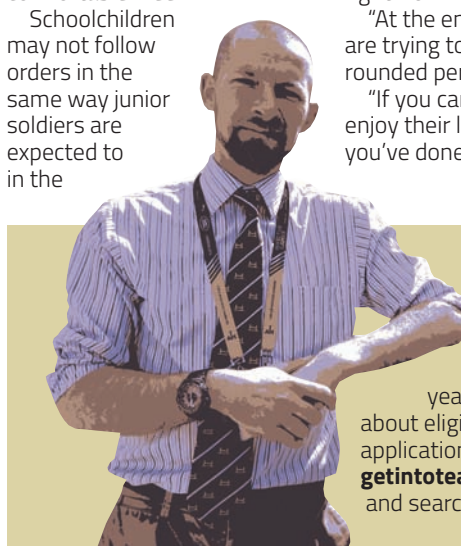
"There's a misconception that we're here to add discipline but it's not about punishment it's about encouraging engagement.

"The values and standards that you stand for in the Army carry over as well.

"You're trying to teach them valuable life skills – teaching them morality and knowing right from wrong.

"At the end of the day you are trying to develop a nice, rounded person.

"If you can do that and they enjoy their learning I guess you've done your job."



The Troops to Teachers scheme has recently been extended to include those who left the Forces up to five years ago. To find out more about eligibility criteria and the application process go to www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk and search "Troops to Teachers".

career for herself in the process.

Drawing on the organisational skills she had gained in the Army she set up Holistic Dreams, which began life as an events company to showcase alternative medicines but has now morphed into an international online directory of wellness practitioners.

Although the business generates a profit, the 34-year-old's main goal is not to make money but to assist others like her.

"I get my Army pension so any more seems greedy," she said.

"All the funds go towards the charity I have set up, Direct Transitioning Help, which enables Service leavers to access support for many of the problems they face in the civilian world.

"Lots of ex-military people are asking me for advice because

**PEOPLE TELL
ME THEY'RE
WORRIED AND
I SAY 'DON'T
BE – USE WHAT
YOU HAVE DONE
AND YOUR
QUALIFICATIONS'**

they're seeing the success of the company and thinking they could go into business themselves.

"They have the range of skills and the mindset from the Army and it really breaks me that they do not use them, other than taking the first security job that comes along.

"You see a retired officer walking into this job or that job but at what point do you see a private soldier getting a similar kind of position.

"People tell me they're worried and I say 'don't be – use what you have done and your qualifications!'"

As well as continuing to promote the health benefits of wellness, Gardner blogs and posts video clips offering resettlement advice and structured plans for those struggling with the process.

"My message to people in that situation is: Stop. Clear your head. Look at what you have achieved and establish what you are about," she said.

"Don't just apply for job after job. If your specialist area is clerical work, for example, join a temping agency. Slowly bed yourself into civilian life.

"I'm not saying it will work for everyone but I encourage individuals to regain control."

Having fought her way back from the brink of despair, Gardner hopes others will take heart from her story.

"The Army was my family for a long time," she said.

"Then I had the rug pulled out from underneath me but now I feel like I've found a new family.

"I'm back in my comfort zone."



> WORTH THE WEIGHT

The groundbreaking exercise zone created by a former Army interpreter

WE'RE not big fans of machines – the body itself is a machine and we like to use that first," says Phill Wright, a former soldier with the Intelligence Corps who has founded a revolutionary gym at Leeds Dock.

Looking around the sparkling new fitness space there is definitely a lot less equipment in evidence than you would expect to find in other gyms.

"We don't have the range of gear that people are used to seeing, like rows of treadmills and cross-trainers," explains the former Serviceman.

The managing director of Primal Gym joined the Army in 2001 with a mild interest in keeping fit but during his time in uniform his interest in looking after his body grew.

"I got more into the gym and enjoyed taking on and passing P Company," said the veteran of two Op Telic deployments.

"Then, during my second tour of Iraq, I decided to use my enhanced learning credits (ELC) to study to become a personal trainer – it was brilliant that the Army enabled me to do that."

The former soldier then took the big leap from working in a secure job as an acting sergeant to operating as a freelancer in the fitness industry, paying £900 each month to train clients at a gym.

"It was a fantastic baptism of fire to be thrown into the business world and thankfully the PT work went well, which

led to me becoming a mentor for others," explains Wright.

"I was very fortunate and in a short amount of time I went from working in one location to managing around 40 to 50 gyms and their trainers."

However, the rapid rise into the management side of the fitness world left the ex-Serviceman with some ill feelings about the nature of the industry, which gave him an idea for his own business.

"I became disillusioned with gyms and their whole ethos," he told *Soldier*.

"At management level I realised that these corporate gyms didn't care about their members' results, they were just bothered about getting more numbers through the door.

"That was not my ethos and I decided to create something completely different."

In 2008 Wright set up a fitness bootcamp, Creating Chaos, and began writing exercise manuals and training courses.

Then in 2013, with the interest in his personal training, classes and fitness programmes continuing to grow he teamed up with two pals from the industry to set up his own facility.

Fast-forward to September 2015 and after an investment of more than £600,000 Primal Gym has been open for nine months, has 500 members and is delivering Wright's vision with 15 people on his staff.

The impressive centre is split over two floors and among other things is furnished with lifting platforms, a boxing ring, sprint tracks, climbing ropes and a purpose-built wall for slamming heavy objects into.

"We're getting people to work with their bodies, stripping out all the clutter found in other gyms and we've created a community that is fun to be part of which is just brilliant," says Wright.

Raising the bar:
Former soldier Phill Wright set up Primal Gym in Leeds after becoming disillusioned with the fitness industry

"We have rolling memberships and nobody is locked into contracts – for us it's all about keeping our members motivated and inspired."

He's also set up the Primal Academy, where personal trainers of the future are put through their qualifications in the classroom and on the gym floor.

For Wright, this aspect of the business, which employs 12 tutors, is as important as his exercise area, especially as it is accredited to coach soldiers transitioning to civvy street.

"The Army helped me with my new career so I am really happy that we are now able to allow Service leavers to use ELCs on our course," said the 35-year-old.

"It's a nice thing for me to see that happen."

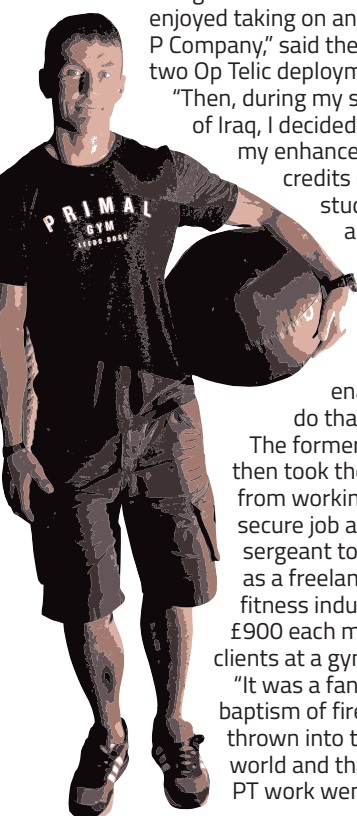
He also believes his time in uniform set him up for a career dealing with people.

"The confidence I gained and life skills I learnt while being in the Forces have undoubtedly helped me," he explained.

"And learning Arabic and serving as an interpreter has clearly improved my ability to communicate clearly."

Now that he's established Primal Gym and the Academy as successful concerns in their own right, Wright has ambitious plans for setting up more centres around the country.

WE'RE GETTING
PEOPLE TO
WORK WITH
THEIR BODIES,
STRIPPING
OUT ALL THE
CLUTTER FOUND
IN OTHER GYMS



Interview: Joe Clapson Pictures: Graeme Main



> MOMENT OF TRUTH

How civilian life clicked into place for former military policeman

Interview: Steve Muncey Pictures: Mitchell Gunn



MITCHELL Gunn has been pursuing his dream job of photographing major sporting events for the past eight years.

But it took him a while to realise that his hobby could actually become his career.

He left the Army in 1994, following three years with the Royal Corps of Transport and then four years with the Royal Military Police, and embarked on an extended stint running residential security teams for an embassy.

Gunn's decision to go solo as a freelance photographer came almost out of the blue after an epiphany following the 7/7 terrorist atrocity in the capital.

"I decided that it was time to reduce the stress levels a bit," he tells *Soldier*.

"So I took six months off, purchased an SLR camera and some lenses, and went about relearning my passion, photography. One thing led to another and I have not looked back."

Gunn had done some photographic work in the RMP but he believes his general military training has been just as beneficial to his career.

"Many of the skills I learnt in the Army are still valuable to me," he says.

"For example, in basic training

they teach you to control your breathing when firing your rifle, and the same principle applies with photography.

"Also, as an NCO you learn to expect the unexpected so whenever I am planning a job now I tend to throw in a few worse-case scenarios and work out how I would still get the commission done if they came to fruition.

"This means that when I attend a sports event I usually have a few options and I'm not having to run around like a headless chicken, like some of the guys I work with."

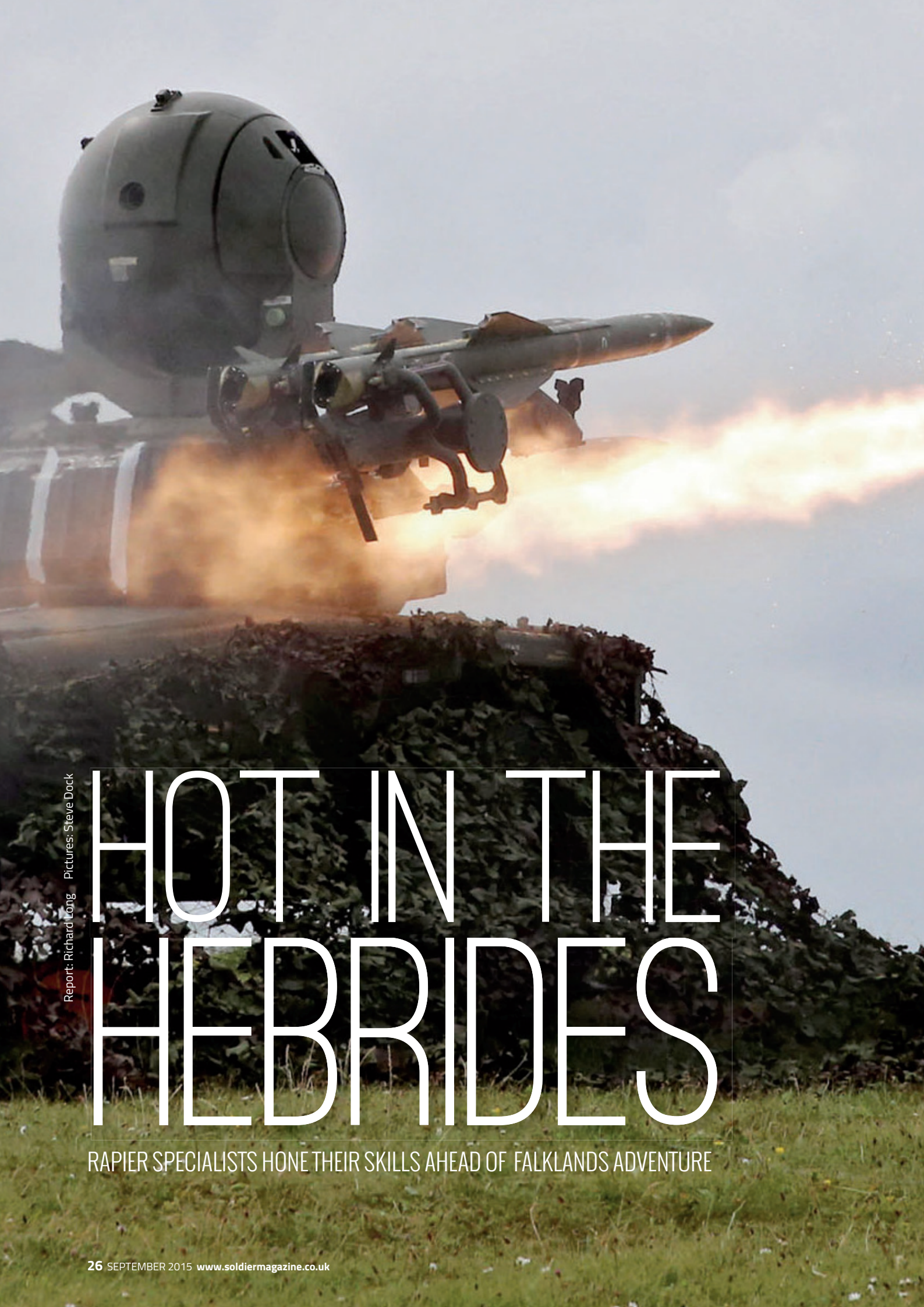
His advice to Servicemen on the cusp of exiting the Army is simple.

"If you're leaving get a recognised qualification behind you to fall back on, be it HGV driving, building, security management, photography, personal training, whatever," he says.

"And remember that civilians will seem like a strange breed at first – learning how to work and think like a civvy was perhaps the most challenging hurdle I encountered.

"The sense of humour is particularly different and that clash of cultures has the potential to lead to some unexpected confrontations. "The biggest lesson for me, though, was realising that you are never too old to stop learning – and to change." ■





Report: Richard Long Pictures: Steve Dock

HOT IN THE HEBRIDES

RAPIER SPECIALISTS HONE THEIR SKILLS AHEAD OF FALKLANDS ADVENTURE

“IF THE
CAPABILITY
IS REQUIRED
WE WILL BE
READY”

WITH the Herrick campaign now confined to the history books thoughts of impending operational tours are a thing of the past for most soldiers. A focus on contingency or preparing for a new role under Army 2020 has become the norm but for the troops of 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery it is very much business as usual.

As the Service's Rapier specialists the unit has a permanent presence on the Falkland Islands, where its missile capability is tasked with defending the territory and its key asset – Mount Pleasant Airfield.

While the threat level appears relatively low the gunners leave no stone unturned when it comes to preparing for such a role and undergo a 12-month training cycle that culminates with a final test exercise in the Hebrides – where the unforgiving terrain and the typically unpredictable Scottish weather provides the perfect taster for what lies in wait.

The latest personnel to face this challenge were those in 14 Battery.

The multiple is due to deploy in late October and *Soldier* was on hand to witness the latter stages of their preparations on the wind-swept northern outpost.

Exercise Invicta Shot saw troops operating in a similar scenario to the one they'll face in the South Atlantic and ensuring accuracy with their surface-to-air weapon system is their main focus.

Housed in beachside bunkers the gunners use radar systems to monitor the coastline for would-be attackers – in this instance the Banshee drones that simulate enemy fighter jets.

As soon as the aircraft come into range the targeting system is initiated and the clinical firing commences.

The drills ensure operators reach the required standard ahead of the deployment and with 100 missiles available to launch opportunities were plentiful.

"The live firing has been very successful," explained battery commander Maj Charles May. "Everyone has busted a gut to get through this and we have now put that tick in the box."

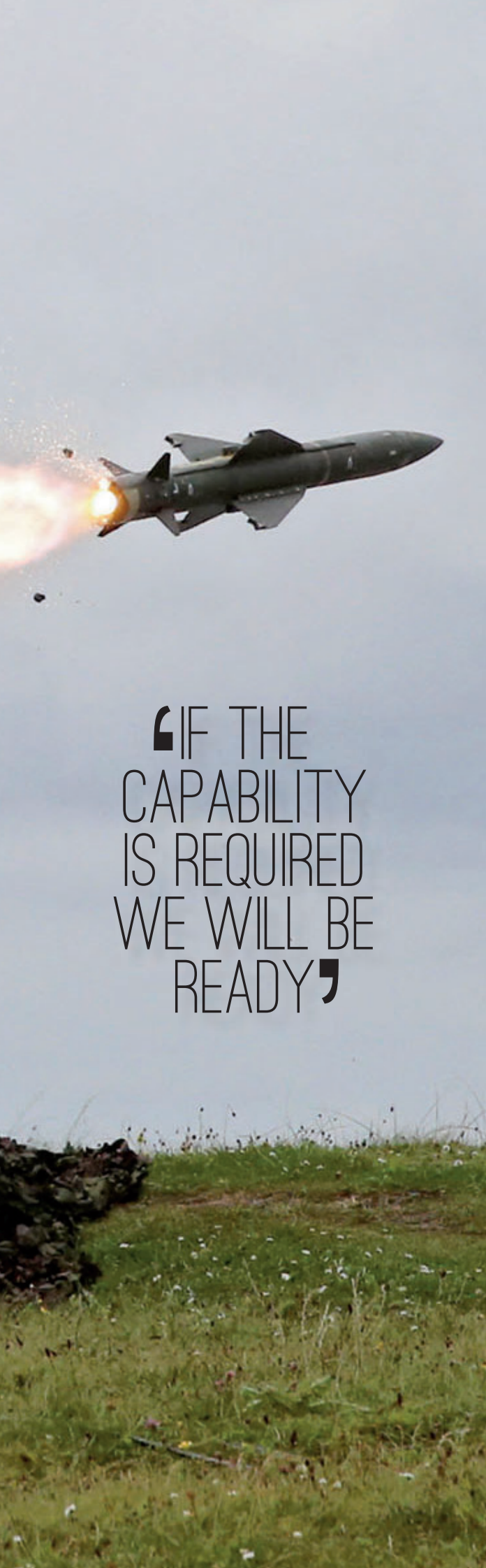
"Coming here allows the guys to get inside the bunkers and deploy on a green field. It is the closest thing we can get to what happens in the Falkland Islands."

"Out there we will not have the luxury of concrete standing with instructors looking over what we do. We will be under cover doing this for real."

With other operational theatres now closed the opportunity to deploy on a regular basis is seen as an enticing prospect for the unit's personnel, who find themselves housed in one of the Service's busiest regiments.

"This is an enduring commitment," the officer added. "It is unlikely that we will have to fire but it is important that we are ready at a moment's notice."

"Our sergeants and bombardiers make sure people are on the ball and there is a live firing exercise halfway through the deployment to maintain that focus. →



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→ "If the capability is required we will be ready."

Maj Neil Mellor, part of the exercise's organising team, returned from the Falklands in April and believes training in the Hebrides offers the perfect preparation for what is to come.

"The ground has similar qualities," he explained.

"There are no trees and the weather conditions are not that different. It sets things in the right context before the guys head down there."

Once on the ground the gunners have to forge a close relationship with the Royal Air Force and the Typhoon jets that play a prominent role in defending the islands.

The joint capability creates an effective deterrent and the fellow battery commander described how the two work side by side.

"The defence of Mount Pleasant Airfield is based around the RAF and the Typhoons are critical to that," he said.

"If there is a low-level threat Rapier steps in. There are times when Typhoon cannot fly and we are a backstop to that defence.

"The enemy aircraft we could potentially face there would have to come in very close to deliver their ordnance.

"If they do that they are straying into Rapier's range and it

is still performing very well."

With the Hebrides providing the final chapter in the training cycle thoughts will soon turn to the upcoming deployment.

As a veteran of previous trips Rapier operator LBdr Karl Harris knows what lies ahead and after firing at an enemy Banshee he told *Soldier* about the value of the battery's final exercise.

"The tactical phase sees us sleeping in the field and dealing with serials such as road traffic accidents and lost communications, which is what we could face in the South Atlantic," he explained.

"It makes things more realistic. It is all well and good just firing missiles but these scenarios test your knowledge.

"The conditions are similar to the Falklands. Firing in the heat is easy but out here you have the wind and rain to deal with, it means you are ready to go."

The prospect of regular six-month tours to one of the Army's most remote outposts may sound like a grim prospect but there are no such thoughts within the regiment's ranks.

"It is good for the lads, especially the new guys," LBdr Harris continued.

"When you are out there you have to live together, it makes you grow up a bit. You have to



In Numbers

100

Missiles available to fire on Exercise Invicta Shot

8.2

The range in kilometres of the Rapier's missiles

4

Batteries within 16 Regiment that rotate through the Falklands

8

The maximum number of warheads that can be loaded on the system at one time



order your own rations and cook for yourself.

"Now we have lost Afghanistan there is less to look forward to. The Falklands is a break from camp life and you are doing something different; especially with all the exercises that are involved. It is good to get out."

For any Army unit about to deploy preparation is key and that certainly applies to the gunners of 14 Battery.

In all likelihood their Falklands stint will pass without incident but should that not be the case they will be more than a match for any potential attackers. ■





Report: Becky Clark. Pictures: Graeme Main

A

S Army chiefs debate how to promote greater diversity within the ranks, one group of Newham-based Reservists is well ahead of the game.

With a recruiting footprint that covers East London and surrounding areas, G Company, 7th Battalion, The Rifles have long welcomed personnel from a range of different ethnicities, religions and professions into the fold.

Of the formation's 60 active members, around one third of them are from a non-white background, including five Muslims of Asian or African heritage, as well as one Sikh and one Hindu.

Soldier spoke to the riflemen during a Tuesday night training session to get their take on multiculturalism in the military.

"The Army has evolved since I joined up," said CSjt Jayesh Gajjar, reflecting on his 19 years of Reserve service.

"Even back in the day I was supported and made to feel welcome but it was a bit more difficult with rations then.

"As a Hindu I don't eat beef and sometimes there wasn't anything for me to eat, but I remember people putting their hands in their pockets and buying me something from the shops to make sure I didn't go hungry.

"There really hasn't been any conflict between my religion and being a member of the Reserves.

"If it's Diwali and it falls on a weekend when we're going to be working I just have to weigh it up and ask myself how important it is for me to go away.

"Sometimes there are things that take precedence and you have to make sacrifices for the greater good."

For Cpl Alagie Ceesay, who hails from Gambia and is a practising Muslim, praying five times a day is non-negotiable.

But throughout his 17-year career as a part-time soldier, the building site logistics manager has always found a way of reconciling the demands of his religion and the Service, even during exercises in the field.

"It depends on the situation you're in," explained the 39-year-old.

"Praying involves standing and moving, while in the Army you might have to hide and not be seen.

"But I always find a time and a place. It may not be the exact time, but when I do get a moment I'll go and find somewhere and because I need to face Mecca, if I don't have a compass someone will always point out where southeast is."

For Muslims, the month of Ramadan poses

obvious challenges.

Describing how he copes with the physical job of soldiering while observing the fast, the junior NCO continued: "If you feel dizzy and weak you stop for your own safety.

"Especially when the weather is warm as you can easily dehydrate.

"But the senior ranks tell you to let them know if you're getting exhausted and will keep an eye on you.

"If you start behaving in a strange manner they'll intervene.

"Sometimes you wonder whether you should rest but no one wants to take time out and let the team down.

"Breaking the fast would be the last option but you would if it was for your own welfare."

Among his civilian friends, Cpl Ceesay said his life in the Army Reserve is the subject of much curiosity.

"I'm the only one who does military work – they all want to know what I'm up to," he said.

"People rely on the media to form their opinions, so I explain to them it's not all bad and tell them about the good things the Service does that doesn't make the news.

"Some Muslims and members of other ethnic groups tend to think the focus is on fighting but it's about lots of different things."

And he was pragmatic on the potentially thorny topic of what would happen if he were asked to deploy on combat operations in a Muslim nation.

"It wouldn't be an issue because I chose to do this job and want to fulfil my duty," the soldier commented.

"If I was sent to an Islamic country it would be for a reason and the Army's mission is to change things and better people's lives.

"That may involve helping my fellow Muslims around the world.

"You won't have everyone on your side – the ones who are, we will help them; the ones who are not, we will try and convince them."

As a Sikh, Rfn Harvinder Kalsi is proud to be continuing his religion's historic links to armed service, but outside of his immediate family and friends he is more cautious regarding who he tells about his life as a Reservist.

"The issue in this area is that there might be a few people from an Islamic background who are against the Army," said the 21-year-old.

"Some of the individuals I went to school with would have a problem with it, so I only tell close friends.

"But I don't think that's any different to what soldiers do in general today for safety purposes, which is a shame really because you shouldn't have to be scared, you should be proud of your service."





'G' COMPANY



“
**WE ARE ALL
ONE TEAM**
”

Reservist riflemen reveal
how comradeship comes
before colour or creed



While not an orthodox Sikh, the law graduate observes many of the traditions of his faith and finds himself fielding questions from his comrades.

"People are curious about the turban and why we grow our hair and I'm happy to explain," he remarked.

"I did get some looks during training but not really through racism or anything – it's just because I appear different.

"Sometimes I get asked whether I'm a Muslim, which annoys me a bit but it's quite a common misconception – a lot of people don't know the difference."

G Company may be on the front foot compared to less mixed formations when it comes to cultural awareness but the man in charge of the battalion, Lt Col James Bryant, was clear this is not a result of following any specific diversity policies or targets.

Instead, the officer believes the secret of its success lies simply in its ability to tap into the local demographic.

"Because people train on a Tuesday night, Reserve Centres need to be accessible and therefore a Reserve unit is a good reflection of the community from where they recruit," he explained.

"There is a rich diversity of riflemen in G Company, not just in terms of ethnicity, but also of backgrounds and employment.

"When they're in uniform they are all working to a common purpose – ethnic origin plays no part.

"It's about the broad experience they bring, which we aim to harness."

And from make-up artist to social worker, vet to journalist there is certainly no shortage of different professions represented in the ranks.

With the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, reinforcing his mantra of "maximising talent" (*Soldier*, August), it seems G Company are in a strong position on this front too.

Lt Col Bryant said the most important thing was for Servicemen and women to stand an equal chance of realising their full potential, irrespective of their background or where they come from.

"The Army champions an environment in which each soldier can do as well as they possibly can," he continued.

"Reservists have all chosen to do something extra with their lives. They are individuals with capacity.

"So it's about us utilising their skills, as well as giving them skills as riflemen.

"I'm hugely proud of them. They're extraordinary people and it makes for a very capable organisation."

The troops of G Company do not claim to have the magic formula but their appeal clearly transcends many racial and professional boundaries.

Across the battalion the number of new Reservists enlisting in 2014 was up 182 per cent on 2013, and this year, an average of 12 new members have joined every month.

Whether units outside of London's cultural melting pot can emulate their success in attracting ethnic minorities into the ranks is, as yet, uncertain.

But even if the Army has some way to go before such levels of integration become the new normal, the example set by this group of Reservists is proof that it is more than possible. ■



“

It's about the broad experience they bring, which we aim to harness

”

Lt Col James Bryant



DEBATING DIVERSITY

G Company personnel ponder merits of multiculturalism

“

I think white riflemen are almost a minority here, which is quite a cool thing. We've got Indians and Pakistanis, lots of Africans, a Filipino guy, I'm Scottish – we even have a Scouser! There are no cliques. It's a cliché but it's one big happy family. I think it makes us a stronger unit. Learning about other people's backgrounds is interesting to me. ”

LCPL MICHAEL LYNCH



“

I received the support I needed when I joined and now that I'm on the other side, training our recruits, I'm trying to establish that same principle. If people come in and are maybe a bit nervous I want to make them feel at ease. More than anything we volunteer to do this so if you can't come here and enjoy yourself something's missing. It doesn't make sense to make people feel like they don't belong. ”

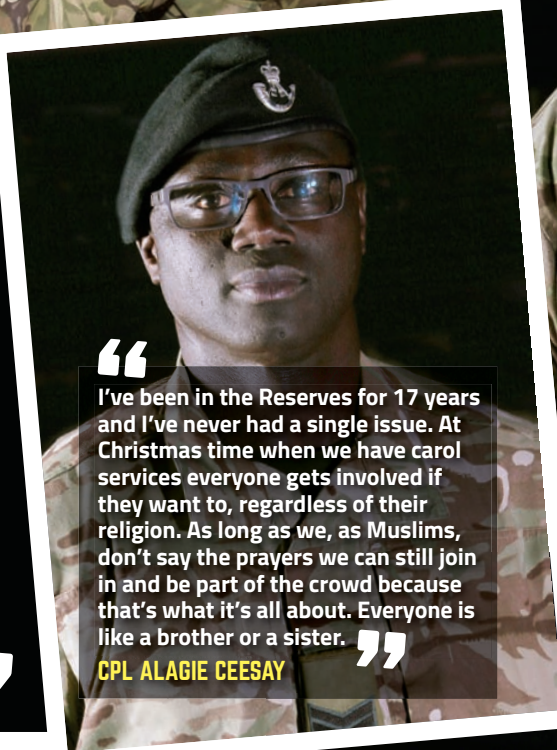
CSJT JAYESH GAJJAR



“

I've been in the Reserves for 17 years and I've never had a single issue. At Christmas time when we have carol services everyone gets involved if they want to, regardless of their religion. As long as we, as Muslims, don't say the prayers we can still join in and be part of the crowd because that's what it's all about. Everyone is like a brother or a sister. ”

CPL ALAGIE CEESAY



“

G Company represents the local community of Newham. It's a success because at the end of the day you all go through the same hardship and rely on each other. You have to make it work and gel together. People bring different life experiences and skills. Each of us is here for the same reason. We're all one team and we respect everyone's specific needs. ”

RFN JOHN VINCENT



“

I'm a practising Catholic, but we have lots of different religions and we all get along. During training there was always an officer who would chat to us about any issues regarding diversity so that everybody knew where to go if they had a problem. If anyone is considering joining the Army and is worried about that kind of thing I would say they should cast aside any reservations regarding what they may have heard and just enquire. There's no discrimination, everyone's accepted. ”

RFN KWADWO OPPONG



“

Religion intertwines with the Army for me as Sikhism has historic links to the military. Because of that I believe we should all be trained as soldiers. But not that many Sikhs join the Armed Forces. I think perhaps more of them would if a Sikh regiment was established. ”

RFN HARVINDER KALSI



Heroes of the cross

Introduced 75 years ago this month by King George VI, the George Cross is second only to the Victoria Cross in the order of wear. Acts of "the greatest heroism or extreme valour not in the face of the enemy" have resulted in 407 holders so far. Here's our pick of ten of the most dramatic stories behind the medal being awarded...

Words: Greg Copp



Capt Mateen Ahmed Ansari
Indian Army
Posthumously awarded:
April 1946

✚ After the fall of Hong Kong in December 1941 Capt Ansari was imprisoned by the Japanese. But his captors discovered he was related to an Indian state ruler. They demanded he renounce allegiance to the British but he refused and was thrown into prison, where he was tortured and starved for five months. Realising he would not break, the Japanese returned him to the main camp where he organised escape parties. Consequently, he was beheaded in October 1943 and is buried in Hong Kong.

Bdr Henry Herbert Reed

Royal Artillery

Posthumously awarded: September 1941

✚ Bdr Reed was manning an anti-aircraft gun on-board convoy ship *SS Cormount* when it came under attack from German aircraft and torpedo boats. During the battle he suffered a serious stomach wound but still managed to rescue an officer from the burning bridge, carrying him down two sets of ladders to safety. He also moved an injured seaman out of harm's way before dying minutes later from his wounds.



Picture: IWM



Maj Peter Norton

Royal Logistic Corps

Awarded: March 2006

✚ Maj Norton was based in Baghdad in 2005 when he went to the aid of an American patrol that had been hit by an IED. He was checking for further devices when another explosion blew off his left leg, part of his left arm and seriously injured his other leg and back. Despite this he continued to give out warnings to others about IEDs in the vicinity. He only allowed himself to be evacuated when he was sure all other personnel were safe.

Sgt Michael Willets

3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

Posthumously awarded: June 1971

✚ Sgt Willets was on duty at an RUC station in Belfast when a member of the Provisional IRA entered carrying a primitive 30lb explosive device inside a suitcase with a smoking fuse protruding. The NCO was in the reception hall where four civilians, including two children, were being ushered outside. Realising the bomb was seconds away from detonating he stood in the doorway to shield them and moments later the device exploded with terrible force. Sgt Willets died on the operating table.

SSgt Olaf Schmid

Royal Logistic Corps

Posthumously awarded:
March 2010

✚ SSgt Schmid was killed on October 31, 2009 as he dealt with an IED in the Sangin region of Helmand province. He died instantly when the device he was defusing detonated. He had previously disarmed 64 roadside bombs in five months. Lt Col Robert Thomson, the commanding officer of 2 Rifles Battlegroup, paid an exceptional tribute to his comrade. "He was simply the bravest and most courageous man I have ever met," he said.





WO1 Barry Johnson

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Awarded: November 1990

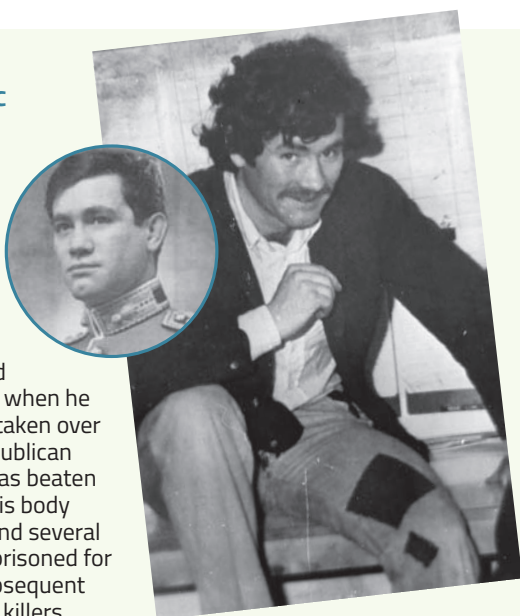
✦ WO1 Johnson was sent to check on a suspect vehicle in a housing estate in Derry, Northern Ireland in October 1989 and discovered it contained mortars to be used against a nearby police station. Due to housing and a hospital nearby, he decided to disarm the weapons there and then. But the last one exploded, causing serious injury to his face, eyes and legs. Blinded and in great pain he insisted on briefing his assistant so the job could be completed safely before being evacuated.

Capt Robert Laurence Nairac

2nd Battalion, The Grenadier Guards

Posthumously awarded:
February 1979

✦ Serving a fourth tour of Northern Ireland in 1977, Capt Nairac was involved in undercover work when he was abducted and taken over the border into Republican Ireland where he was beaten and shot. Though his body has never been found several men have been imprisoned for his murder. The subsequent interrogation of his killers revealed that Nairac gave nothing away regarding his contacts or activities.



Undercover: Capt Nairac in 1977

Cpl Mark William Wright

3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

Posthumously awarded:
December 2006

✦ In September 2006 Cpl Wright was on patrol in Helmand province when one of his team stepped on a mine. A helicopter evacuation attempt caused further detonations resulting in serious injury to the junior NCO and seven others. Despite this he continued to maintain the morale of the wounded and crawled to the aid of his comrades to administer morphine. After five hours two helicopters finally extracted them but Cpl Wright died during the flight to Bastion.



Tpr Christopher Finney

Blues and Royals

Awarded: October 2003

✦ In March 2003, near the Shatt al-Arab waterway north of Basra, American aircraft mistakenly attacked and hit 18-year-old Tpr Finney's Scimitar armoured vehicle. He escaped but returned to rescue a gunner trapped in the turret. The Serviceman entered the burning wreckage a second time to transmit an evacuation request. The planes attacked again and wounded him in the back and legs but he still attempted to rescue the driver of another vehicle.

Noor Inayat Khan

Special Operations Executive

Posthumously awarded: April 1949

✦ Noor Inayat Khan, a Muslim of Indian and American origin who spoke French, was a member of the Special Operations

Executive and in June 1943 became the first female agent to penetrate occupied France. When a number of fellow operatives were arrested she stayed behind to transmit crucial intelligence back to the UK. Khan soon became the most wanted person in Paris and was eventually betrayed by a French double agent. Interrogated by the SS, she managed to escape twice but was then sent to Dachau where she was executed.



Picture: IWM



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WE HAVE

LIFT OFF



Service's front-line Wildcat pilots take to the sky

T

HE Army's Wildcat crews have a deadline to meet.

In January 2017 they will take on a high-readiness role, becoming the Service's number one reconnaissance asset on potential missions around the world.

So with the clock ticking, personnel from 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps are already hard at work learning to fly and fight the complex new platform.

Since the aircraft was unveiled as the replacement for Lynx in 2012, the formation's 652 (Wildcat Fielding) Squadron have been overseeing its incorporation into the aviation fleet.

Now, their colleagues from 661 Squadron are set to become the first front-line troops in the corps to operate the impressive airframe.

At their base at RNAS Yeovilton, 15 pilots are currently undergoing conversion-to-type training, the first phase in a year-long programme that will eventually see them giving air support to ground troops.

Soldier dropped in as they mastered the basics of daytime flying to find out more...

"THERE'S a big jump from old to new," said Capt David Floyd, one of the former Lynx pilots on the course.

"Lynx and Wildcat look similar and fly in a similar way; the controls and the rotor head and gearbox are alike, but they have very different roles.

"This aircraft is completely digital, instead of analogue and that takes time to learn.

"The Lynx was used in a light utility role, picking up small groups of soldiers and putting them into the battlefield, whereas Wildcat is a reconnaissance aircraft, using the systems and the camera to go and find targets and working closely with the artillery and other airframes such as fast jets and Apache to bring directional joint fires to bear.

"There's a lot going on in the cockpit. Because there's such a large amount of information to deal with they're slowly feeding it in on the course.

"So far we've been doing what we call 'right-hand seat' stuff – flying the aircraft but as we progress they'll start bringing in the left-hand seat, which is setting up all the secure radios, using the camera and so on."

The lengthy package started in April with initial instruction on the asset's technical specifications and some 30 hours of flight simulations before the students got airborne.

After learning how to fly the aircraft during the day and at night, they will begin to get to grips with its impressive surveillance capabilities.

Finally, the conversion-to-role course will teach them how to fight Wildcat, including electronic warfare and live firing serials.

Along with those with prior experience on the Lynx, four newly qualified pilots are taking part in the package, among them Sgt James Cheesman.

The former infantryman from 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment completed his training earlier this year and said he was looking forward to assisting his former comrades on the ground.

"The course is very challenging but I'm really excited because Wildcat is going to be an ISTAR asset for armoured battlegroups, which 1 Yorks is, so I could potentially be working alongside them quite a lot," remarked the senior NCO.

"When the troops are out on patrol they can't see as much as we can so we will be able to give them vital information.





"I can get involved and identify or confirm things so I'm much more part of the crew."

Commenting on what it was like to be working on Wildcat ahead of many of her colleagues, she added: "I volunteered to come first. I wanted to be the first to see it because I didn't want the information second-hand."

"I thoroughly enjoyed being on the Lynx but Wildcat is a better airframe by far. You can tell there's been millions ploughed into it."

"I know the OC is keen to show off what we can do around the world and I genuinely can't wait to be part of that."

If all goes to plan, Army aircrews could be flying over the plains of Batus in a year's time.

And although aviators from 847 Naval Air Squadron were the very first operational troops to qualify on the maritime variant of Wildcat, officer commanding 661 Squadron, Maj Gabriel Burchell, said his men were excited to prove the platform's capabilities in the land environment.

"We want to get out and demonstrate its value to the Service," he said.

"I see this aircraft operating alongside the lead armoured task force doing worldwide intervention."

"It's a fantastic role. Wildcat will be absolutely integral to a ground commander, particularly in the contingent environment."

"We've got the sights and sensors and can pick up the information and transmit rapidly to him and his troops to ensure his situational awareness is as good as it possibly can be."

"It builds a picture for the individual that unmanned aerial surveillance can't provide because we can offer that first level of analysis and talk to the man on the ground about what we can see and the atmospheric."

"We will also be able to conduct reces for the brigade commander while he's starting his estimate."

"That integration into the planning cycle is going to be an important part of what we do."

"When we start showing the wider Army what we're about I think we'll be very busy indeed."

Read on to find out how Wildcat's impressive technical toolbox will change the game... ■



Report: Becky Clark Pictures: Graeme Main, Cpl Steve Blake (RLC)

"I think it has the potential to change how the Army works on the ground and maybe put fewer people in harm's way."

As well as conducting daily sorties of two hours, the students spend hours planning flights using a brand new digital tool.

Whereas previously routes were mapped manually, the Wildcat Mission Support System creates computerised templates that can be uploaded straight to the cockpit.

Every sortie is followed by a detailed debrief, making for demanding days for trainees and instructors alike.

"The hours are long but it's going smoothly," said WO2 Andy Crisp, who as part of the Wildcat fielding team helped design the course.

"It's the most technically advanced aircraft we've got in the Air Corps, if not the whole of the military at the moment."

"When everything's working it gives you a lot more capacity but it's operating those systems effectively that takes time to teach."

"There's more for the pilots and the commanders to do now – more buttons, a lot more screens – so their crew resource management, the way they work together as a team, needs to be improved massively."

"It's a completely new mindset."

Just as the pilots have to master Wildcat's suite of gadgets, air and ground crews have also seen their roles evolve.

Crewman LCpl Sam Farrell said that while the fundamentals of her job in the back of the aircraft remain unchanged, she now has a much more in-depth knowledge of its capabilities.

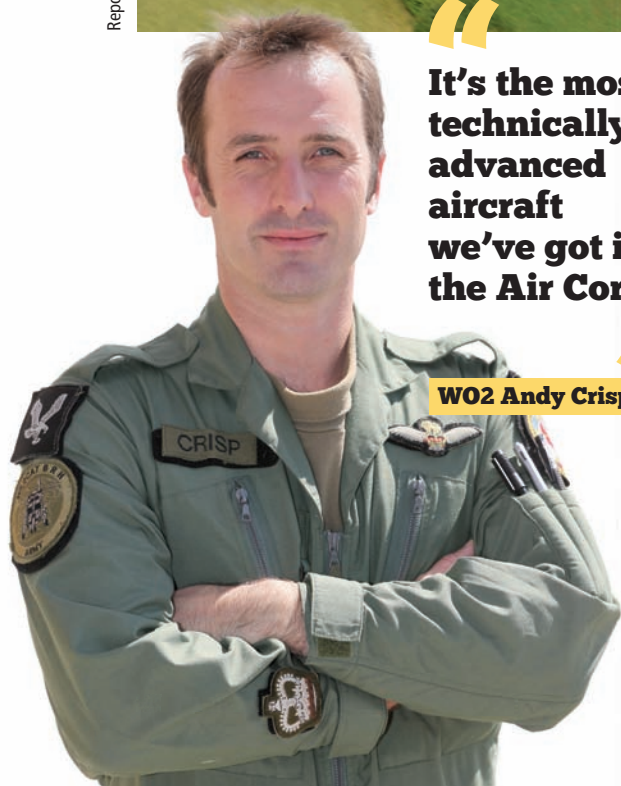
"We're still responsible for clearances and gunnery, same as before, but the difference is we now go through the same technical package as the pilots have," explained the 27-year-old.

"It's a three-week course that teaches you all about the engines, the mechanics, the communications and so on and at the end everyone sits the same exams."

"Before, if there was some kind of emergency, I'd just have to strap in and hope for the best but now I have a knowledge of the aircraft so I know what's gone wrong and where, which gives me better situational awareness and makes me feel better in myself."

It's the most technically advanced aircraft we've got in the Air Corps

WO2 Andy Crisp



THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO FLY WILDCAT?

➤ Army Air Corps pilot selection is open to Regulars under the age of 30, who hold the minimum rank of lance corporal selected for promotion to corporal.

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SHOWING ITS CLAWS

It may look like a Lynx but underneath its skin the new **Wildcat** is a very different creature

DEVELOPED from the Super Lynx, the AW159 Wildcat AH1 looks well set to serve the British Army into the middle of the 21st century.

Cynics may argue this is a new tune played on an old fiddle, but the helicopter shares only its transmission, main rotor blades and fuelling system with its predecessor.

For years the Lynx has been a jack-of-all-trades with only a degree of ISTAR capability.

The Wildcat on the other hand, though a versatile utility aircraft, has been specifically designed to provide these vital battlefield capabilities.

It can relay detailed real-time information and also be deployed while the commander on the ground is starting his combat estimate.

A lot of impressive technology is packed into the airframe, all of which can be monitored by any of the four individual display units in the cockpit.

The controls are digital and all systems are interfaced through a network, the heart of which is a tactical processor – a large and powerful computer.

Connecting to this is the “brick”, a removable hard drive storing all imagery, video footage, digital mapping as well as the overall operating system.

Before deployment any mission-specific information and mapping

can be uploaded into it. For security purposes, or in the event of the aircraft having to be denied to the enemy, the brick is easily removed.

The four large display units in the cockpit are impressive.

Each one is configured at the press of a button to view, among other things, images or video that’s been collected or primary flight information required to manoeuvre the aircraft.

When viewing the ground through the nose-mounted instruments crews can combine optical and thermal images on the cockpit display, enabling accurate identification of concealed troops or vehicles.

Crucially, a data modem also allows tactical and target data to be sent to commanders on the ground and even Apache pilots.

A first line of defence comes in the form of both a missile and a radar warning system, with chaff and flares providing secondary protection against close inflight weapons.

Wildcat is also equipped with a door-mounted 7.62mm or .50-calibre machine gun and a flotation system consisting of four buoyancy bags in case it is forced to ditch.

Armed with these ultra-sharp eyes, ears and teeth, there’s little doubt that this asset will be more than capable of handling whatever is thrown at it, making it an ideal platform for a contingency-focused British Army. ■

1 A wire strike protection system

prevents the aircraft, in particular the undercarriage and the rotor assembly, from getting tangled in overhead cables

2 The eye of the helicopter is an all-seeing rotating nose-mounted turret. This **infrared electro-optical device** incorporates thermal imaging (night and day mode), daylight optics, a laser range finder and a laser target designator

UP CLOSE...



Wildcat has sets of eyes in its nose...



6 A **flat-sided tail section** reduces the airframe's radar signature while venting the exhaust upwards into the rotor blades reduces its thermal signature

3 The **dual hydraulic system** enables the crew to switch from one circuit to another in the event of a hydraulic failure, a crucial safety feature that, strangely, not all helicopters have

4 The fuel capacity has been increased to **220 gallons** from the 200 gallons of the Lynx Mk7, increasing range from 460km to 500km at a cruising speed of 138mph

5 Power comes from twin LHTEC 1,360hp turbo shaft engines developed by Rolls Royce and Honeywell giving Wildcat a **top speed of 180mph**. This is a big improvement over the 1,000hp engines used in the Lynx Mk7, which were designed in the 1970s. They are also ten per cent lighter, more fuel-efficient and have already proven themselves in the Lynx Mk9A. To put this into perspective, the Wildcat can **climb at a rate of 4,000ft/min**, some 1,000ft/min faster than the Lynx Mk7

7 The **composite tail boom** is a concept taken from the G Lynx, an experimental variant that holds the helicopter speed record at 249mph. The boom not only enhances lift but, combined with the Wildcat's wide tail fin, increases directional stability. This is particularly important in the case of a tail rotor failure as it makes it easier for the pilot to counter the subsequent spin effect

8 The **tail rotor** is more substantial than the Lynx's and is driven by a new gearbox



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'After centuries of working with the military we understand exactly what it is that Service personnel need'

FANCY DRESS

Behind the scenes at the Army's ceremonial suppliers

AN immaculate military tunic adorned with sparkling accoutrements is something the British Army is strongly associated with the world over.

The country's troops are famed as much for their unrivalled appearance on the drill square as for their exploits on the battlefield.

And it is the craftsmen and women of Firmin and Sons that, since 1655, have provided the buttons, badges and accessories that set the benchmark for ceremonial dress.

The experts at Firmin work alongside sister company Kashket and Partners, the distinguished uniform tailors, to create the decorative items by hand to their client's bespoke requirements.

"If you want to do pomp and circumstance, the British do it best and you come to us," explained Tony Kelly, Firmin's sales manager.

"We supplied the uniform that Nelson wore at the Battle of Trafalgar and also made the buttons that were worn by both sides at the Battle of Waterloo and at the Battle of Gettysburg."

In recent years the establishment has provided Bill Clinton with a gift using surviving dyes from the American Civil War and created Prince William's uniform for his wedding.

Firmin has retained its Royal Warrant since King George II first put his name to their work in 1796 and the company strives tirelessly to keep this seal of approval.

"It means a lot when it is renewed every five years," added Kelly. "In this business it is always about development and innovation and if firms like ours don't provide it then we are sure to die out."

"After centuries of working with the military we understand exactly what it is that Service personnel need."

Soldier took a look behind the scenes to see the process behind the pomp...



Report: Joe Clapson Pictures: Steve Dock



▲ During the First World War more than 200 million metal buttons were made every year by thousands of pairs of hands.

These days a single operator carries out around 50,000 button press operations each week. Home-grown skills that have been passed down through the generations mean the companies' workforces can produce gleaming finished products from basic raw materials...



A button starts off as a design sketch and then it is converted into pattern, which can be turned into a piece of cut steel.

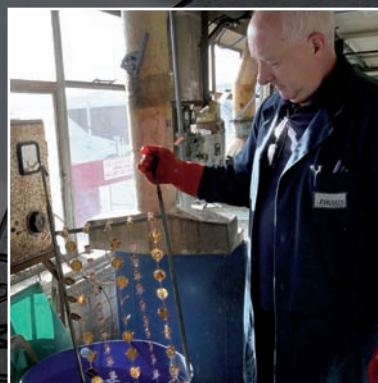
Molten lead is then poured on to the face of the design and sent to the customer for approval.

"Every single blank is pressed individually, which is much quicker than using an automatic machine," commented Kelly.

The factory still uses what's called a rope drop stamp to punch its buttons – the same method used for uniforms worn at Rorke's Drift in 1879 – because, as Kelly explains: "gravity rather than a machine provides the force and its single sharp blow makes a beautiful button."



All buttons are measured in a "line", to within 1/40th of an inch, to ensure formality on clothing.



To ensure a glistening end result huge effort is taken to clean the surface of each metal item. They are passed through caustic soda and a vat of nickel to give them their brilliant shine.



The group employs 150 highly skilled workers and this silversmiths' task epitomises the dedication that is often required. It can take a whole day to carve one Union Locket belt buckle (pictured left, the finished product is above) out of brass and nickel silver.

▲ While Firmin and Sons produce all the accessories Kashket and Partners, and its team of tailors and artisans, create beautiful uniforms for the Army's ceremonial soldiers.



A dedicated team of specialists travel to Army units to measure, fit and deliver their iconic uniforms ready to be worn at world-famous events such as Trooping The Colour, Remembrance Day and the State Opening of Parliament.

Skilled armourers fashion items such as the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment helmets and cuirasses by hand, using methods that have remained unchanged for around 300 years.



The workforce of more than 200 includes die-sinkers, toolmakers, tailors, hatters, engineers, armourers and designers – who all serve to create remarkable uniforms for the British military.



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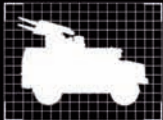


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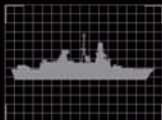
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“I FEEL YOUNG IN MYSELF AND I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD GET UP AND GET INVOLVED – YOU CAN SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING OR PUSH YOURSELF.”

PIECE OF CAKE

● MICHAEL Allen found himself hurtling 100mph down a zip-line through Snowdonia National Park after suggesting to a friend that it looked easy.

When challenged to take on Zip World Velocity at Penrhyn Quarry in Bethesda, the former soldier was unable to refuse.

“When I first saw the contraption on a visit I joked that it looked like a piece of cake and said I’d do it, so there was no backing out when I was called out on my claims,” he said.

“It’s the scariest thing I’ve ever done.

“You go up 500 feet on a single line and get hooked up then you go above the quarry lake, take in the views and come down to ground-zero at about 100mph.

“However, I don’t see why age has to come into anything as long as you’re reasonably fit.”

Mr Allen now plans to celebrate his 75th birthday by throwing himself into another pulse-raising pursuit.

The ex-soldier, who joined as an Army apprentice in 1957 and served with the Royal Engineers and Royal Military Police, had intended to do a 300-foot bungee jump but he has been advised against it.

“My doctor isn’t that happy about a bungee because of the effects on your joints and such like, so I’ll have to find something else to mark the occasion,” he explained.

www.justgiving.com/IPMichaelAllen

REMARKABLE and daring acts in the name of charity have become the norm among the Forces community, so much so that a plain ultra-marathon doesn’t receive the praise it once did.

Strap a fridge to your back and you might get some credit.

However, the bar has certainly been raised by a trio of young-at-heart Chelsea pensioners who have taken it upon themselves to generate cash for military causes.

Charmaine “Bimbo” Coleman, 82, performed a wing-walk; Steve “Tankie” Allen, 72, abseiled down the highest rollercoaster in Europe; and Michael Allen, 73, rode on the fastest zip-line in the world.

Soldier managed to catch up with the thrill-seeking Army veterans to discuss their decision not to put their feet up...



Michael Allen

SKY WALKER

● CHARMAINE Coleman, who served with the Royal Military Police for 23 years, strapped herself to a vintage biplane for a jaw-dropping ten-minute wing walk at Chiltern Aerodrome.

The blase former staff sergeant, who has been fitted with two titanium knees, thought nothing of the nerve-jangling feat.

"I had done static-line and tandem skydiving, bungee jumping and abseiling and I thought 'I haven't done a wing walk' so that was that," she explained matter-of-factly.

"The most difficult bit was climbing to the top of the plane, which I had to do without any help.

"It was absolutely brilliant to be up in the air with the wind rushing against you and the countryside zooming by.

"It was like being in an open-top car, just going a bit faster – we were flying at about 100mph."

The self-confessed adrenalin junkie took to the skies to raise money for the Royal Hospital and the Royal British Legion and hopes to inspire others to take on challenges.

"I feel young in myself and I think people should get up and get involved – you can sit back and do nothing or push yourself," she added.

"Now I'd like to have a go at that zip-wire in Wales!"

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/ChelseaPensionerWingWalk2015



Charmaine Coleman

DAREDEVIL'S DESCENT

● STEVE Allen donned his famous Chelsea Pensioner uniform to climb 235 feet to the top of Blackpool's The Big One before abseiling down it.

The former corporal with 14th/20th King's Hussars and the Royal Corps of Transport, was inspired by a wounded Serviceman to take on the challenge in aid of the Royal Hospital and ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

"A friend of mine, Dave Watson, was injured in Afghanistan and he did it without legs, so I thought if he could manage it so could I," the veteran said. "There was no practice though – I just went up.

"There were 424 steps to climb and although I was in a safety harness I was dressed in my full scarlets, of course."

In true military fashion, the ex-soldier, who served for 22 years, overcame any fears in order to raise cash for his beloved charities.

"I never used to like heights but this seems to have cured that phobia," he said.

"I like to raise money for the hospital because it benefits everyone – not just me.

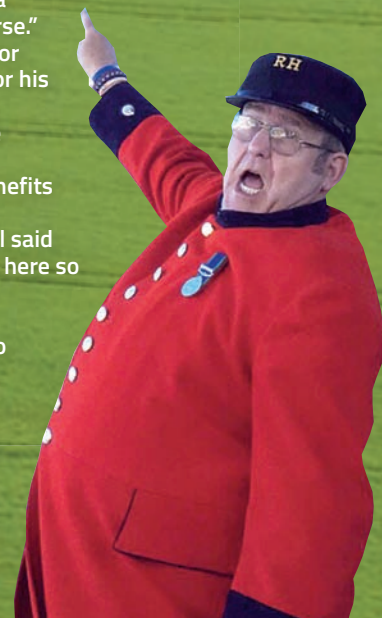
"The camaraderie of this place is brilliant and they all said well done for doing the abseil, but it's just like the Army here so nobody gets above their station!"

As far as undertaking tough tests, the larger-than-life character added: "You can sit and vegetate but you can also do anything if you set your mind to it."

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/abseilingchallenge



Steve Allen



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FIGHTING WITH FOXHOUND

Bavaria serves as
a testing track for
The Royal Irish Regiment



After becoming the Army's first light mechanised infantry (LMI) battalion The Royal Irish Regiment was handed a "blank piece of paper" in order to draw up a battle-winning way of operating.

After 15 years of being dropped into action by helicopters as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade the unit's soldiers now find themselves transported on four wheels in the shape of Foxhound.

And to bring the troops up to speed with the 7.5-tonne beast the uncompromising Hohenfels training area in Bavaria was seen as the ideal proving ground.

Soldier followed 1 R Irish on Exercise Wessex Storm as they took on an opposition force made up of US troops from 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment. >>

» "This exercise, along with the interaction of the field training unit and foreign forces, has enabled us to experiment with the Foxhound platform to see how we can best employ it," explained commanding officer Lt Col Graham Shannon.

"We've been looking at how far it can fight forward and how it can be exploited and as a result the soldiers have become highly confident in the vehicles."

The exercise, staged in scorching heat, saw 3,500 troops from the UK, US, Canada and Georgia working under the command of the Czech Republic army as part of the wider Nato exercise, Allied Spirit II.

The British contingent included 650 personnel from 1 R Irish and 124 attached troops from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment – all of whom were focused on developing their skills as infantry soldiers mounted on wheels.

Every aspect of the training was simulated with electronic systems to replicate gunfire as well as villages populated with tradesmen, families and all elements of a normal settlement.

"This is the first time the Army has done this – taking Wessex Storm overseas – so we are pleased to be in the lead role," said Capt Steve Maguire (1 R Irish).

"Foxhound is a pretty punchy beast and we are working on how best to use it.

"Training out here in the heat and on tough terrain is probably the most realistic scenario we can get and the challenge has had a significant impact."

There is no doubt that a lot of eyes are watching 1 R Irish, not only from the British Army's perspective but also from international forces, keen to see how effective the switch from air assault to light mechanised infantry can be.

Clearly the transition has entailed a steep learning curve but it seems the soldiers have embraced the pressure of being the lead formation driving the tactics, techniques and procedures of how the LMI should operate.

While not acting off the cuff it was clear that the troops training in Bavaria had been granted a licence to voice their opinions and suggest improvements to behaviours and tactics.

WO1 Stuart Potter, regimental sergeant major of 1 R Irish, said: "Being given a blank sheet of paper has meant that the lads are coming up with ideas on how to run things.

"We are looking to create a team of thinking soldiers, not robots".

After a briefing on how to set up a Claymore outside his vehicle Rgr Ashley Bennett (1 R Irish) gave his thoughts on that point.

"It's been really good to see how our suggestions on what could be best practice for the vehicles have been listened to by the bosses," he explained.

"We've mentioned things about how to pack our kit and the quickest way to get into the fight.

"The manner in which we train means we can fight anywhere and we are building cohesion at company and battlegroup level."

Foxhound was not designed to be used as an offensive vehicle but proved itself as an effective tool to take troops to the front line in quiet and quick fashion.

On European soil personnel have been astonished at how easily it can move from rolling along a road to being completely hidden in bushes.

"The versatility of the light mechanised capability is tremendous," said Lt Col Shannon.

"On an offensive operation the ability to engage aggressively with the enemy is superb, then we are able to transition into defence and stabilisation."

While concealed in the undergrowth, LCpl Kevin Moore (1 R Irish) added: "When we first took on this



Fast forward:
The adoption of Foxhound has given 1 R Irish agility on the battlefield





role it seemed to be a completely different job but this is going to be a really good platform for us once we get to grips with it.

"The only significant difference is that in terms of insertion to the battlefield we come in via Foxhound instead of helicopter."

Rgr Adam Smyth (1 R Irish), a Foxhound driver, was also quick to highlight another key aspect of their work that has changed.

"Before, we were always on the ground but now we have to think about protecting the vehicle and when in convoy we can't always fire out the front," he said.

"To start with the change was annoying but now we can see what the trucks are capable of we've changed our minds.

"We can get into the fight quicker and we're better protected so we're happy."

As far as those tasked with firing mortars on the enemy were concerned though, they have simply received a much-welcome upgrade.

Sgt Christopher McSeveney (1 R Irish), a mortar section commander said: "We've always been in vehicles, but now we've gone from Pinzgauer to Foxhound, which is brilliant.

"The speed the battle moves at is quicker now so we just need to be faster with what we do.

"From the moment we park up we can be ready to fire within two minutes at a range of six kilometres and we'll just hit the targets when required to do so."

From creating a circle of wagons in the form of a leaguer to reversing into dense woodland as a defensive strategy, the British troops were trialling all aspects of their new kit.

These soldiers are relishing the chance to forge a successful path for Foxhound and the LMI.

As much as anything though, they remain focused and proud of their role as dismounted infantry soldiers. ■

“
FOXHOUND
IS A PRETTY
PUNCHY BEAST
”

● Final word – page 90



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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.



Picture: Richard Watt

Female flyers: Brig Susan Ridge (right), who has just become the Army's first female major general, with the only woman to head up an operational brigade, Brig Sharon Nesmith

LAUNDRY CASH STILL MISSING

● IT has been well over 18 months since we were told we could claim laundry bills back so why are we still waiting for these funds?

The other Services have received them but not the Army.

Is it because units were given allowances to pay troops for laundry but the powers that be used the money for other things? – **Name and address supplied**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A) responds: I believe that the issue you are referring to is laundry tax relief and you will be pleased to hear that you have already received this alongside your monthly salary payments through adjustments to your tax code.

The most recent DIN published on this matter was **2014DIN01-049** "Tax Relief for Laundry Expenses".

It explains that eligible soldiers will receive the tax relief due for 2013/14 and, where applicable, going back to 2008/09 by changes to their taxation. For the majority of our Servicemen and women this move was implemented in March 2014.

Tax relief from April 2014 onwards will be automatically paid by alterations to gross taxable earnings.

You are entitled to this because you incur costs for the laundering of uniforms.

HMRC agreed that Regular Army soldiers should have an entitlement to tax relief on £100 of laundry expenses.

For a basic rate payer, this is a saving of £20 per annum.

It's a balancing act

IN the August edition of *Soldier* you rightly drew attention to Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter's "maximising talent" approach.

You will be aware that part of the Army's effort to be a more diverse and inclusive employer is recognising the female talent we have and providing greater opportunities for them.

Having successful women role models helps, of course, and we have just seen the appointment of our first female major general, Brig Susan Ridge of Army Legal Services, who takes up her post as Director General Army Legal Services this month.

How unfortunate it is then that this news was buried among numerous unrelated items in a two-inch snippet on page 16. I cannot help feeling that an opportunity was lost there.

I have commented before on the under-representation of women in *Soldier* magazine and received a rather dismissive reply for my trouble.

I hope you will be a little more considered in your response this time.

– **WO1 Carl Wicks, AGC (SPS).**

The managing editor replies: The editorial team has to evaluate potential articles based on the needs of our readers, in addition to those of the Service.

Our first decision is whether a particular item should be included in the edition and, if so, how much space should we devote to it?

We have to balance our content to contain informative, entertaining and educational items to keep readers engaged.

Some articles, especially those that have ramifications for career opportunities, living conditions,

pay and all the other things soldiers care passionately about may receive more prominent positioning. Another aspect we have to consider is how much information we can obtain before our print deadline.

In the case of Brig Susan Ridge's appointment we went with a short news item with the intention (which we still have) of writing about our Servicewomen more in-depth in a future edition.

Brig Ridge's promotion to major general was recorded by the magazine because she is the first female to be promoted into such a senior position.

The question of whether we should have given the story more prominence is debatable.

In this particular case gender does not affect the fulfilment of the role and the bald facts of the story communicate the message that women have the opportunity to reach the most senior ranks.

The whole process is subjective by nature however, and because of this we know we will never please all of the people all of the time.

In general, we exercise no bias in our coverage, which is male-dominated only because it reflects the make-up of the Service.

If the subject of gender becomes the heart of the issue then that situation will probably change.

For example, if females are ever sanctioned to take up close combat Infantry roles you might see more women than men featured – but only because we decided that was the best way to produce insightful and meaningful editorial.

“THIS NEWS WAS BURIED IN AMONG NUMEROUS UNRELATED ITEMS IN A TWO-INCH SNIPPET”





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Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and with respect. If you feel that you are not being dealt with fairly, are being bullied or harassed or if you notice unfair treatment of others speak to your chain of command or your Equality and Diversity Adviser.

**If you are not content with how you are being treated
or need advice on how to respond to or deal with a complaint
speak to the Army's Bullying Harassment and Discrimination Team on**

0306 7704656* (civ) or **96770 4656** (mil)

or email Army-SpeakOut@mod.uk

Your call will be dealt with in confidence

DIGITAL DOSSIER

Your views from the web...



@soldiermagazine

#VJ DAY

@PoppyLegion

When Tom Boardman became a POW he hid his wedding ring for 3.5 years in a bar of soap. It's with him today #VJDay

#SPORT

@rocco3225

@EnglandRugby Massive congrats to all the boys who are going to continue the journey towards World Cup. Wishing u all the best.



www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine

FAREWELL TO LYNX

Gary Leitch

Remember doing some aerobatics over Fermanagh in a Lynx when the IRA tried to bring us down with a Dhuska on a flatbed truck. Fantastic chopper, fantastic aircrew and still here to tell the tale

Keith Allen

Never served in the Armed Forces, but living only 15 miles north of Wallop saw them practising daily. Gonna miss that sight and sound! Amazing things

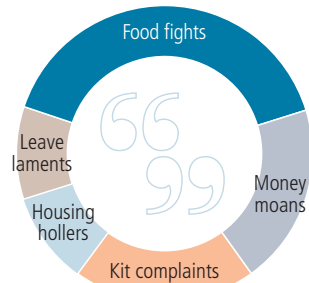
VJ DAY

Abbe Cliff

We will remember them. My Grandad was out in Burma but died when I was only little. I would have loved to say thank you to him

SLICE OF SERVICE LIFE

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



GOT A GRIPE?

✉ mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

🐦 @soldiermagazine



Mealtime money moans

ONE of the original concerns with the introduction of pay-as-you-dine was that there would be an increase in the cost of eating.

We had assurances that the core meal charge would remain the same as the daily food charge, as quoted in JSP 456. However, the former's price has risen each year and is now ten pence more for all three meals.

This leaves a discrepancy when claiming for duty meals on JPA because only the daily food charge can be reclaimed. I have raised this with my unit catering department but have not been given an answer. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), responds: I am surprised that your unit catering department was unable to provide an explanation because it is simply the cost of VAT, which must be charged on the price of the core meal as it is a provided service.

Only the cost of the daily food charge can be repaid via JPA, so in order to avoid shelling out this additional money when you purchase a duty meal you should check with the unit catering department to see if there is a duty sheet available for you to sign prior to collecting your food.

“ I’VE BEEN FORCED TO PAY TOWARDS FUNCTIONS WHETHER I HAVE ATTENDED THEM OR NOT ”

Functions mess up my finances

● I WOULD like to ask why it is mandatory for sergeants to be part of a mess?

It is old-fashioned and outdated.

I have been posted to many units where I have been forced to pay towards numerous functions, whether I attend them or not.

I have asked to be excused on financial grounds but this has always fallen on deaf ears, pushing me into debt on numerous occasions.

Why can't we move with the times and make mess involvement optional, especially during these austere times? – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies: You should be aware that the ethos and tradition of the Army is based on the three-mess system and unless you are a sergeant of local rank you are required to be a member of a your respective mess in accordance

with Queen's Regulations (Army).

You can be excused from attending mess functions and you should not be charged for any that you do not attend.

Formal events are meant to be cohesive affairs which bring members of a unit together to engender operational effectiveness. Other mess entertainment can only be staged if the majority of members agree to it and it is sanctioned by the commanding officer.



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All information is correct at time of print and is subject to change without notice. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers end 30th September 2015. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Military customers only and proof of employment will be required. All other sales categories are excluded. Test drive subject to applicant status and availability. For full details on this offer, please visit Evans Halshaw Ford St Albans. Retail customers only. Some far reaching exclusions may apply. Stripstar Limited, Loxley House, 2 Oakwood Court, Little Oak Drive, Annesley, Nottingham, NG15 0DR. Company number 3786959. Stripstar Ltd is a credit broker/intermediary that can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to provide funding for your vehicle. They may incentivise us for introducing you to them.

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BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW



CAREERS

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

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

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

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

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

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



COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: Dylan Curry, Cawston, Rugby; Byron Gee, Thame, Oxfordshire; Nick Nichols, Carterton, Oxfordshire; Elaine Frampton, Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham; Sharon Jackson, Army Reserve Centre, Bedford; Adrian Wood, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney; Lt Robin McColl, Bearsden, Glasgow; Wayne Hulme, Irlam, Manchester; Spr Lee McAuley, Brompton Barracks, Chatham; David Cooper, Campion Lines, Bulford.

The Gunman DVD: Gordon Crandles, Edinburgh; Adam Blackburn, Shefford, Bedfordshire; Sgt Sara Duncan, BFPO 47; Mike Booth, Arnold, Nottingham; David Wilson, Hohne, BFPO 30.



DIARY

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

October 3-4: Military and Vintage Revival, Old Buckenham Airfield, Abbey Road, Old Buckenham NR17 1PU. Living history displays, battle re-enactments, vintage fair, fashion shows and food village. Tickets £5; children under 12 can attend for free. For more information visit www.militaryrevival.com

October 15-April 24, 2016: Lee Miller: A Woman's War exhibition at the Imperial War Museum London. 150 photographs depicting women's experience of the Second World War by acclaimed photographer Lee Miller. For further information visit www.iwm.org.uk

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



DIRECTORY

ABF The Soldiers' Charity:
0845 241 4820

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

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

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

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

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

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

Army Libraries: 01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society:
www.armybirding.org.uk

Army Welfare Service:
01980 615975;

www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support

Big White Wall:
www.bigwhitewall.com

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

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

Career Transition Partnership:
020 7469 6661

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

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

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

Family Escort Service:
020 7463 9249

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

Forces Pension Society:
020 7820 9988

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

Heroes Welcome:
www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office:
94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

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

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

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

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

Remount:
01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion:

0808 802 8080;
www.britishlegion.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 108/15: REME avionics technicians retention incentive

ABN 107/15: FAMCAS 2015

ABN 106/15: Armed Forces covenant fund

ABN 105/15: Army Rifle Association annual general meeting 2015

ABN 104/15: Unauthorised disclosures and leaks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 59

Boarding School - Girls & Boys - 5 to 19 years

Queen Ethelburga's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Regional Performance Coaching Centre: England Hockey, England Netball and England Basketball
- Regional Centre for the Developing Player Programme for England Rugby

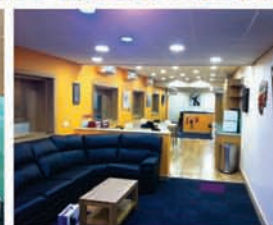
Who comes where in the independent schools league tables?

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

We are 7th and 9th.

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

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



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

Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School	Position	A* / A	Name of School
21st	66%	Abingdon School	77th	49%	Dean Close School	60th	53%	Merchiston Castle Sch	172nd	31%	St Felix School
155th	34%	Ackworth School	138th	38%	Denstone College	100th	45%	Mill Hill School	107th	44%	St Francis, Letchworth
120th	41%	Adcote School Girls	182nd	29%	Dover College	192nd	25%	Millfield School	161st	33%	St George's, Ascot
94th	47%	Ampleforth College	16th	70%	D'Overbroeck's College	109th	44%	Monmouth School	178th	29%	St James Senior Boys
90th	47%	Ardingly College	15th	73%	Downe House	95th	47%	Moreton Hall	72nd	50%	St John's, Leatherhead
70th	52%	Ashford School	112th	43%	Downside School	108th	44%	Mount Kelly	167th	32%	St John's, Southsea
137th	38%	Ashville College	27th	63%	Dulwich College	58th	53%	Mount School, York	92nd	47%	St Leonards School
23rd	66%	Badminton School	140th	37%	Durham School	88th	47%	New Hall School	31st	61%	St Leonards-Mayfield
171st	31%	Barnard Castle School	76th	49%	Eastbourne College	127th	40%	Oakham School	128th	40%	St Margaret's, Bushey
143rd	36%	Battle Abbey School	36th	58%	Epsom College	49th	55%	Ockbrook School	97th	46%	St Mary's, Cambridge
87th	48%	Bedales School	4th	85%	Eton College	144th	36%	Oratory School, Reading	13th	75%	St Mary's, Ascot
154th	34%	Bede's Senior School	9th	78%	Faculty Queen Ethelburga's	179th	29%	Oswestry School	83rd	48%	St Mary's Shaftesbury
93rd	47%	Bedford School	190th	26%	Farlington School	34th	59%	Oundle school	3rd	86%	St Paul's Sch, London
159th	33%	Bedstone College	163rd	33%	Felstead School	191st	26%	Padworth College	51st	54%	St Peter's, York
82nd	48%	Bellerbys Coll Brighton	55th	53%	Fettes College	146th	36%	Plymouth College	14th	75%	St Swithun's School
98th	46%	Bellerbys Coll Cambridge	193rd	24%	Framlington College	168th	32%	Pocklington School	91st	47%	St Teresa's, Effingham
44th	56%	Bellerbys Coll London	NR	20%	Giggleswick School	177th	29%	Princess Helena College	123rd	41%	Stamford High Sch
28th	62%	Benenden School	149th	36%	Glenalmond College	63rd	52%	Prior Park College	135th	39%	Stamford School
71st	50%	Berkhamsted School	89th	47%	Godolphin School	162nd	33%	Queen Anne's, Cavsham	174th	30%	Stonyhurst College
187th	27%	Bethany School	121st	41%	Gresham's School	7th	82%	Queen Ethelburga's College	116th	42%	Strathallan
37th	58%	Bishop's Stortford Coll	53rd	54%	Haberdashers' Mon Girls	20th	66%	Queen Margaret's, York	150th	35%	Sutton Valance Sch
85th	48%	Blundell's School	118th	42%	Haileybury	110th	43%	Queen's College, Taunton	111th	43%	Talbot Heath School
69th	52%	Bootham School	158th	34%	Hampshire Collegiate	46th	56%	Queenswood	157th	34%	Taunton School
156th	34%	Box Hill School	119th	41%	Harrogate Ladies College	26th	64%	Radley College	194th	24%	Tettenhall College
132nd	40%	Bradfield College	25th	65%	Headington School	147th	36%	Ratcliffe College	74th	50%	The Leys School
103rd	45%	Brentwood School	183rd	28%	Heathfield, Ascot	99th	45%	Reed's School	170th	31%	The Purcell School
10th	76%	Brighton College	114th	42%	Ipswich School	195th	24%	Rendcomb College	11th	76%	Tonbridge School
52nd	54%	Bromsgrove School	80th	48%	Kent College, Canterbury	42nd	56%	Repton School	141st	37%	Trent College
96th	46%	Bruton School Girls	32nd	60%	Kent College, Pembury	79th	49%	Roedean School	180th	29%	Tring Park Perf Arts
78th	49%	Bryanston School	125th	41%	Kimbolton School	48th	55%	Royal High Sch, Bath	115th	42%	Truro High School Girls
73rd	50%	Burgess Hill Sch Girls	105th	44%	King William's, Castletown	26th	48%	Royal Masonic Sch Girls	81st	48%	Truro School
38th	57%	Canford School	189th	26%	King's Bruton	147th	41%	Royal Russell School	133rd	40%	Tudor Hall
22nd	66%	Caterham School	164th	33%	King's College, Taunton	99th	57%	Royal School, Haslemere	47th	56%	Uppingham School
181st	29%	CATS College London	113th	43%	King's Ely	195th	54%	Rugby School	169th	31%	Warminster School
185th	27%	CCSS Centre 6th Form	35th	59%	King's School, Canterbury	42nd	69%	Ruthin School	33rd	60%	Warwick School
176th	30%	Chase Grammar School	129th	40%	King's St Michael's Coll	142nd	37%	Rydal Penrhos Senior	19th	67%	Wellington College
86th	48%	Cheltenham College	184th	28%	King's, Rochester	67th	53%	Rydal School U Chine	134th	40%	Wellington School
12th	76%	Cheltenham Ladies' Coll	43rd	56%	Kingswood School, Bath	188th	26%	Rye St Antony School	75th	49%	Wells Cathedral School
117th	42%	Chetham's School Music	126th	41%	Kirkham Grammar School	186th	27%	Sedbergh School	101st	45%	West Buckland School
50th	55%	Chigwell School	61st	52%	Lancing College	6th	82%	Sevenoaks School	5th	85%	Westminster School
66th	53%	Christ College	148th	36%	Langley School	59th	53%	Sherborne Girls	29th	62%	Whitgift School
56th	53%	Christ's Hospital	166th	32%	Leighton Park School	104th	45%	Sherborne School	2nd	89%	Winchester College
18th	67%	City London Freeman's	68th	52%	Leweston School	39th	57%	Shrewsbury School	106th	44%	Windermere School
65th	53%	Clifton College	131st	40%	Lincoln Minster School	124th	41%	Sidcot	45th	56%	Woldingham School
130th	40%	Cobham Hall	102nd	45%	Lord Wandsworth College	173rd	30%	St Bees School	151st	35%	Woodbridge School
8th	81%	Concord College	136th	39%	Loretto School	24th	65%	St Catherine's Sch, Bramley	160th	33%	Woodhouse Grove
57th	53%	Cranleigh School	40th	57%	Loughborough Grammar	165th	32%	St Edmund's College	152nd	35%	Workshop College
175th	30%	Culford School	139th	37%	Lough House School	145th	36%	St Edmund's Canterbury	153rd	35%	Wrekin College
64th	53%	Dauntsey's School	30th	62%	Marlborough College	62nd	52%	St Edward's Sch, Oxford	1st	91%	Wycombe Abbey Sch

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

DIRECTORY CONTINUED

ABN 103/15: Germany LOA rates – updated

ABN 102/15: Bonfire nights and civil engagement events

ABN 101/15: Army leadership events 2015 – Op Order

ABN 100/15: International Defence Rugby Competition

DIN 2015DIN01-160: Changes to the selection process for recruitment to the air engineering UY and SUY schemes

DIN 2015DIN01-159: Healthcare provision in British Forces South Atlantic Islands – local health services and medical screening advice

DIN 2015DIN01-158: Permanent transfer overseas – schooling allowances

DIN 2015DIN01-157: Joining the Army Reserve: a process guide for individuals with previous military service (including details of incentives available)

DIN 2015DIN03-019: UK joint personnel recovery policy

2015DIN03-018: JSP 567 – amendment to part II: *Contractors on Deployed Operations: Introduction of revised policy*. Annex B: Deployed contractor support

DIN 015DIN03-017: Policy on the distribution of statistical management information on subjects published as official statistics

DIN 2015DIN03-016: Update of UK procedures for the control of non-

operational jamming

DIN 2015DIN04-172: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within DMC X1

DIN 2015DIN04-171: Update to the SA80 A2 system weapon handling

DIN 2015DIN04-170: Refrigerant and controlled gases ordering/return process

DIN 2015DIN04-169: Gas cylinder replacement – tracking barcoded cylinders. Annex A: Cylinder rental transfer form

DIN 2015DIN04-168: Amendments to operational medical modules contents (July 15)

DIN 2015DIN04-167: User units, authorised competent and qualified staff and defence munitions depot staff

DIN 2015DIN04-166: Current DMC X4 cyalume NSN data

DIN 2015DIN04-165: Declaration of obsolete: Mk 6 general service combat helmet, lightweight parachutist's helmet and Mk 1 sniper helmet, withdrawal from service and disposal instructions

DIN 2015DIN04-164: Introduction to the conversion of defence medical modules 584 and 587

DIN 2015DIN04-163: Introduction of team medic packs (583) into core

DIN 2015DIN04-162: Smart Xtract II stretcher

DIN 2015DIN04-161: Team eight stretcher

DIN 2015DIN04-160: DFRMO firefighter clothing contract DC2B/2542

DIN 2015DIN04-159:

Accommodation booking requirements and charges for exercising troops and sports groups staying in BF Gibraltar. Annex A: BF Gibraltar staff clearance and accommodation booking form. Annex B: BF Gibraltar visiting unit feeding plan

DIN 2015DIN04-158: Recording the BUF on ETIS

DIN2015DIN04-157: Declaration of obsolete within DHWK3

DIN 2015DIN04-156: Declaration of obsolete and deletion of misc NSNs within DMC B4, C1, C3, GRENL, L115, L129, L74, M82, MOR60, MOR81, MSGL, NUM8, R9GSP, RIOTG, SIGP, UGL

DIN 2015DIN04-155: Notification of update to outsize measure forms and email address

DIN 2015DIN05-024: Lynx project team to become Lynx-Wildcat project team

DIN 2015DIN06-020: JSP 426, volume 3, leaflet 2: *MoD Regulations for Aerodrome Rescue and Firefighting Services*

DIN 2015DIN06-019: Joint Service munitions control register

DIN 2015DIN07-130: Defence Medical Services Reserve nurse speciality, advanced clinical practice and healthcare assistant course application. Annex B: application form

DIN 2015DIN07-129: Joining instructions for personnel attending Maritime Warfare School courses at Phoenix Training Group

DIN 2015DIN07-128: Maritime

Warfare School – Aviation Warfare – 2016 course dates

DIN 2015DIN07-127: Army alpine and nordic exercises 2016

DIN 2015DIN07-126: Military annual training tests and workplace induction programmes policy update

DIN 2015DIN07-125: Freedom of information practitioners courses for September 2015 to December 2016 at the Defence Academy – Shrivenham

DIN 2015DIN07-124: Biathlon rifle security, administration and training

DIN 2015DIN08-11: The financial skills certificate mandated policy

DIB21/15: 2015 pay offer for MoD civilian staff below SCS

DIB20/15: Future Reserves 2020 external scrutiny team report 2015



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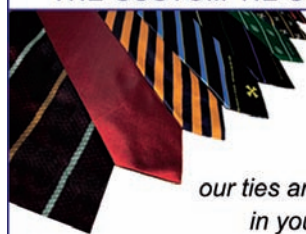
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5 Regt RA Wksp REME, Catterick; Pte S Hamilton, 18 Bty, 32 Regt RA, Salisbury; Lt Col A Woodley, CF Info Comd Sp, Andover.

11 July 2015

1st Prize (£10,000): Cpl M Brand, 321 EOD Sqn RLC, BFPO 808. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Name withheld, c/o JPA, Gosport. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl L Reddish, 2 Rifles, BFPO 801. 4th Prize (£2,000): Cpl P Fletcher, ARTD RG RR(N), Preston. 5th Prize (£1,000): Maj D Youngman, AG DG Pers, Andover. 15 Consolation Prizes (£200 Each): WO2 J Howard, Andover Sp Unit, Andover; LCpl G Jones, 19 Tk Tpnr Sqn, 27 Regt RLC, Bulford Camp; Sgt W Young, 6 HQ Sqn, 22 Engr Regt, Tidworth; Sgt A Wills, 28/143 Bty, 19 Regt RA, Tidworth; Sgt C Williams, 33 Sqn, 4 Log Sp Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt B Harwood, A Coy, 1 R Irish, Market Drayton; Name withheld, HQ Hereford Garrison, Hereford; Pte L Wakefield, Residential-NI, BFPO 808; LCpl T Younas, 1 Coldm Gds, Windsor; LCpl E Makolo, 61Sqn, 33 Engr Regt (AS), Woodbridge; LCpl S Bradley, LAD REME, 5 Rifles, BFPO 22; Name withheld, APC, Kentigern House, Glasgow; 2Lt B Griffiths, RMAS, Camberley; Sgt D Maxwell,

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18 July 2015

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25 July 2015

1st Prize (£10,000): LCpl R Lanigan, 7 Air Assault Bn, REME, Ipswich. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Cpl D Martin, 2 Coy, 5 Bn REME, BFPO 39. 3rd Prize (£4,000): Cpl T Hewitt, 30 Bty, 16 Regt RA, Oakham. 4th Prize (£2,000): Pte S Bradley, 33 Sqn, 4 Regt RLC, Abingdon. 5th Prize (£1,000): Pte J Barclay, 66 Sqn LAD REME, 9 TLR RLC, Chippenhams. 15 Consolation Prizes (£200 Each): WO2 G Wall, RTR, Tidworth; SSgt N Cabo, 32 Sqn, 3 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt A Percival, 1 Mercian, Bulford Camp; Cpl R Qalatakivuna, A Coy, 1 R Irish, Market Drayton; Cpl A Mahoney, LAD REME, 2 R Welsh, Tidworth; Name withheld, HQ Hereford Garrison, Hereford; Sgt I Thomas, 2 MI (Exp) Bn, Pewsey; Cpl C Hoyle, 411 MI (CS) Sect, Salisbury; Lt K McCool, HQ Sch of Inf, Catterick Garrison; Rfn D Richardson, 2 LTb, Catterick Garrison; Pte A Powell, 4 Sqn, 4 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Pte N Bull, 1 IG, Hounslow; Cfn J Hall, 10 Trg Bn REME, Bordon; Gnr K Pownall, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Sgt L Walton 21, Engr Regt, Ripon.

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MOVIES

PICK OF THE MONTH:
SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD

TOUGH TRANSITION

CULT TV SHOW MISSES THE
MARK ON THE BIG SCREEN

Review: Mauricio Gris, ex-HCR

If you are a die-hard *Spooks* fan this movie spin-off will be a real treat for you.

But newcomers may be left underwhelmed.

A slick and expensively shot opening has a terrorist fleeing custody in London and this kickstarts a desperate country-hopping scramble to stop an attack on the capital.

To add to the intrigue, the team must unravel the mysterious forces behind the escape and their motives before they can do more damage.

Followers of the original television series will be glad to see Peter Firth reprising his role as MI5 spy master Harry Pearce.

The fate of his character might be less pleasing though as enemies attempt to frame him and destroy the organisation he holds dear.

Kit Harrington (*Game of Thrones*) provides homegrown star power as Will Holloway, a failed agent with a sad past, who is tasked to unravel the mystery and fight his way across Russia, Germany and the UK to stop a devastating attack.

While on UK soil the film keeps the same London focus as the cult series, and while it is nice to see the capital shot so beautifully, exploring other parts of the country would have been welcome.

The ambiguous moral choices faced by the lead characters continue from the small screen but more could have been made of these given the full feature length of a movie.

On this front, one of the early scenes is shocking and the ending is brutal in a quiet British way.

Overall it is clear that this release has had a chunk of money thrown at it, however in sticking with the cast which made the television show a success, all we have here is simply an extended episode.

Bharat Nalluri, who directed the final instalment of the series and now the film, along with veteran writers Jonathan Brackley and Sam Vincent, has created a safe offering that never gets out of fourth gear.

The story rushes from set piece to set piece, making the most of a large budget, which means the human drama that attracted hordes of fans to the original format has been almost ignored.

Speaking during pre-production, Nalluri said: "We closed the show in 2011 thinking we'd mined everything, but then it kick-started again.

"You've got Julian Assange hanging out in the Ecuadorian embassy, guys grinding computer discs in *The Guardian's* basement, home-grown Jihadists, email hacking,... it's an unbelievable stew."

Unfortunately, it seems the seasoned director has not really drawn on much of his early research and some good content remains untapped.

The interesting US-UK relationship is the only topical subject the film touches on and instead he has opted for a more Jack Bauer-style fight against run-of-the-mill Middle Eastern terrorist Qasim (Elyes Gabel) and some evil bureaucrats.

Despite the bigger-than-TV budget the movie still is not in the same funding league as the likes of the Bourne or Bond franchises, so it does not hit the top spots for high-octane adventure.

The so-called "action-thriller" is released on Blu-Ray and DVD on September 28 and will no doubt please a lot of viewers but it certainly does not break any new or exciting ground.

The story and the fast pace make for a fun offering, but nothing more than that. ■

VERDICT: Solid action but nothing more than a long TV episode ★★★★★



INSURGENT out now

THE prequel to this film, *Divergent*, kept me mildly entertained during a long-haul flight. The new instalment provides more of the same, with implausibly named baddy, Jeanine (**Kate Winslet**), stepping up her campaign to root out renegades threatening her strict dystopian society. Decent action scenes and sets make this passable, but only just.

Becky Clark, *Soldier*

VERDICT: Reminds me of a poor man's *Hunger Games* ★★★★★



FAST AND FURIOUS 7 out Sep 7

THE seemingly unstoppable franchise about fast cars returns with arguably its most watchable offering yet. The entire cast to date reunite for more high-speed chases as they try to retrieve some cutting-edge technology. There are no real surprises but the movie serves as a fitting farewell for **Paul Walker**, who sadly died midway through filming.

Joe Clapson, *Soldier*

VERDICT: A "does what it says on the tin"-style action-fest ★★★★★



LAST WORDS out September 7

ARNHEM has been well covered by historians but this poignant new documentary directed by **Roger Chapman** is superb in that it highlights the personal testimonies of British veterans and Dutch civilians who were there. The film shows that despite being defeated people's spirit and courage grew. The footage is humbling to watch.

David Holmes, *civvy*

VERDICT: A well-known story enhanced by inspirational interviews ★★★★★



OP BARBAROSSA out now

NARRATED by **Douglas Rein** – Hal in *2001: A Space Odyssey* – *Operation Barbarossa: The Russian German War* is a jaw-dropping account of the Second World War battle. Much of the footage has never been seen before, which makes it a rare treat in terms of military documentaries. The script is powerful and the musical score is intense.

Tom Glavina, *civvy*

VERDICT: A unique glimpse at a Second World War horror story ★★★★★



THE GOOD LIE out now

REECE Witherspoon's presence as a determined charity worker is the main draw to this movie but the central focus is the long journey taken by 3,000 refugees of war-torn Sudan. Young villagers overcome poverty and trauma as they travel to the relative haven of Kenya before being taken to the US. Funny moments make it easy viewing.

Sophia Lorenti, *civvy*

VERDICT: A warm-hearted movie about a horrible event in history ★★★★★



WIN... WAR PIGS

THIS Second World War thriller – out for home entertainment on September 14 – sees **Dolph Lundgren** and **Mickey Rourke** go behind enemy lines as part of a unit dubbed the War Pigs to secure a Nazi weapon. *Soldier* has teamed up with Signature Entertainment to give away five copies on DVD. For a chance to win one tell us how old Rourke is. Answers to the usual postal address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: September 30

MUSIC

PICK OF THE MONTH:
UPCOMING ANTHEMS

RETURN TO BUSINESS

RELEASE SCHEDULE PICKS UP AS
FESTIVAL FUN DIES DOWN

Preview: Richard Long

WITH another summer festival season drawing to a close thoughts in the music industry will return to impending album releases and the quest for sales.

The likes of Kanye West, Blur, Kasabian and Foo Fighters were among the many acts to enjoy varying fortunes on Europe's main stages and with the set lists now complete a swathe of new material is ready to fill the void.

Leading the charge will be the latest offering from multi-platinum icon Prince – *Hit N Run*.

In a sign of the technology-driven era in which we now live, the tracks will be exclusively available on the Tidal streaming platform from September 7.

Fans were given hints of what was to come via series of guerrilla gigs under the same name in 2014 and the artist's backing band – 3rdeyegirl – have been quick to talk up the record.

"There is a lot of experimentation involved," the musicians explained. "It's just hit after hit and definitely caters to those who just love to hear what Prince has to say, rather than always wanting to hear that classic Purple Rain sound."

While there may be a degree of unpredictability surrounding this release, fans of the Stereophonics will have a clear idea of what to expect from the group's new album *Keep The Village Alive*, released on September 11.

The heady days of *Word Gets Around* and *Performance and Cocktails* may be long gone but the Welsh outfit remain firm favourites and their steady sound still delivers impressive results.

Latest single *I Wanna Get Lost With You* was given its first play on Radio Two's *Ken Bruce Show* and this perhaps highlights the audience they now attract.

But the transition to middle-aged rockers should not be frowned upon and don't be surprised to see positive reviews and favourable sales coming their way.

Legendary metal act Iron Maiden will serve up a treat for those who like their guitars at the heavier end of the spectrum when they debut *The Book of Souls* on September 4.

In a career spanning 30 years and 80 million record sales they are rightly heralded as one of the champions of the genre and bassist Steve Harris is delighted to continue the legacy.

"We approached this album in a different way to how we've recorded previously," he said.

"A lot of the songs were written while we were in the studio and we rehearsed and recorded them straight away while they were still fresh.

"I think that immediacy really shows in the tracks and they have almost a live feel."

The Radio One generation will be delighted to hear news of the imminent return of dance star Example.

New single *Whisky Story* was released recently and the artist has hinted at more of the same in the album that follows later this year.

He said: "I wrote this track just after my son was born and was really craving a night out.

"It's a tale of nights out in my younger single days and a nod to my first record – and thinking how much my life has changed since then. I want to put the fun and humour back into my music."

Further dance anthems will be found on *20*, as Faithless celebrate two decades at the top, while St Germain release *Real Blues* on October 9.

And one-time indie favourites The Libertines – fresh from the aforementioned festival treadmill – make a long awaited return on September 4 with *Anthems for Doomed Youth*.

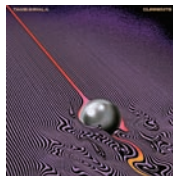
This, and the offerings previewed here, should attract huge attention as the clamour for new music returns. ■

Currents

by Tame Impala

THIS album is unlike anything in music at the moment – a mix of a vaguely psychedelic disco, modern dance and 80s electro-pop.

With a heavy reliance on synthesizers and dance beats, *Let it Happen* is reminiscent of some of Daft Punk's recent offerings – but Tame Impala are unlikely to make the same waves. *Eventually* tries to be a harder, grittier song but soon dissolves into a confusing medley. Lacks the oomph and catchiness to stand out.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: Ideal background music for a summer barbecue ★★☆☆

Water for Your Soul

by Joss Stone

HAILED as a future soul star, Joss Stone's stock plummeted when she unveiled a faux American accent at the Brit Awards in 2007. Her musical career has struggled ever since and the release of *Water For Your Soul* will do little to reverse the trend. The singer has stated this is a "reggae-ish" affair but her attempt at something new fails to deliver. *This Ain't Love* hints at Stone's early promise but there is little to cheer here.



Richard Long, Soldier

VERDICT: A career once full of promise continues to stutter ★★☆☆

VII: Sturm und Drang

by Lamb of God

IT'S fair to say that when it comes to delivering, metal band Lamb of God are a safe – if prosaic – pair of hands. Although their chops are on fine form and the clean sections are as free as ever neither the single *Overlord* nor the outstanding prog medley *Embers* can salvage the prevailing weak melodies in this prototype playlist, and we're left to wonder if perhaps it's all just a fanbase retention exercise.



LCpl Lindsay Whyte, Int Corps

VERDICT: Lamb of God served cold – pass the wine ★★☆☆

Marks to Prove It

by The Maccabees

AS stalwarts of indie's second tier The Maccabees have simmered nicely outside the glare of the mainstream. A series of storming support slots to Kasabian on their 2014 tour underlined the band's talent and the release of fourth album *Marks to Prove It* continues the upward trajectory. The title track screams raw energy, *Ribbon Road* builds impressively and *Kamakura* revels in its explosive choruses. Worth checking out.



Joe Clapson, Soldier

VERDICT: A solid offering from a band on the rise ★★☆☆

Venom

by Bullet for My Valentine

WELSH quintet Bullet For My Valentine have achieved remarkable longevity given their rather underwhelming efforts in the metal genre. Previous offering *Temper Temper* received mixed reviews at best and this album will have limited appeal to purists due to its angst-ridden lyrics and almost pop-rock choruses. However, it does succeed in its heavier moments but these are few and far between.



Richard Long, Soldier

VERDICT: A limp effort from a band that should know better ★★☆☆

Aero Flynn

by Aero Flynn

UNDER the guise of Aero Flynn, this is Josh Scott's first album and it's a sheer masterclass as electronic psychedelia meets Pink Floyd. The tracks blend into one another so seamlessly that it's difficult to fathom where one ends and the other starts. In many cases debut offerings show elements of naivety but here there are no signs of uncertainty and from the first track I was hooked. Definitely one to lose yourself in.



Tony David, ex-RE

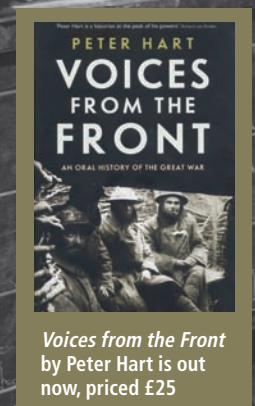
VERDICT: I can't wait for the next album to come out ★★☆☆

BOOKS

PICK OF THE MONTH:
VOICES FROM THE FRONT

ORAL HISTORIES

THE FIRST WORLD WAR AS TOLD BY
THE MEN WHO FOUGHT



Interview: Becky Clark

RAYNOR Taylor's mother watched three sons go off to fight in the First World War. Over the course of four years she received no less than ten telegrams informing her that he and his brothers, Albert and Jack, had been wounded.

Miraculously, and despite Albert reported as missing, presumed dead in 1918, all returned home.

But the prolonged stress had left Mrs Taylor frail. She died of cancer three months later – another victim of the conflict, Raynor used to say.

His recollections form part of a new book, *Voices from the Front*, by Imperial War Museum oral historian, Peter Hart.

Based on hundreds of hours of conversations with surviving veterans in the 1980s, the title lays bare the wartime experiences of soldiers, sailors and airmen of all ranks and across every front.

Looking back on the interview process, the author told *Soldier*: "I had been interested in the war since my teens, so it was a great honour to be able to meet these wonderful old men who had witnessed the cataclysmic events that I had only ever read about.

"I always wanted to produce a distillation of the very best interviews – a 'show and tell' if you like.

"The material is just so vivid that it deserves a wider audience and the time seemed right given the heightened interest in the Great War during the 100th anniversary commemorations."

Hart acknowledges that the vagaries of human memory make oral history an imperfect record of events but he believes it is vital to our understanding of the past because of its capacity to convey how complex strategic acts were experienced on an individual level.

"I also think that emotions heightened by war are fully revealed in interviews," he added.

"Given time to consider, men and women open up as to what they were really thinking, untrammelled by pressure to conform to a set perspective.

"Terrible tragedies are often exposed in heart-rending memories of much loved relatives or comrades that were killed, mangled or mentally shattered by war.

"Few had ever written anything down or preserved their contemporary letters, so without these interviews their memories would have been lost."

The ex-Servicemen Hart spoke to were a varied group, ranging from – in his words – "quiet bespectacled types to rough diamonds, stolid Bible-readers, intellectuals and eccentrics".

He recalled: "I met all sorts – brave men who could take all their enemies could throw at them and more; nervous types who had to dig deep.

"Many got through without a scratch, but others were dreadfully injured, their lives changed forever."

It took decades for some to speak of what they had seen during the war and now that none are left to tell their stories firsthand, Hart hopes the book will bring their words to the forefront once more.

"Whatever we think of the rights or wrongs of the Great War, they were generally proud of what they and their comrades had achieved," he continued.

"They were soldiers fighting as best they could in defence of their country in terrible circumstances.

"The things that happened to them, the horrors they endured, are beyond the imagination of people like myself that were lucky enough to have lived their lives without direct experience of war.

"I want their voices to be heard." ■

● To listen to the Imperial War Museum's First World War interviews in full visit www.iwm.org.uk

The Legacy

by Craig Lawrence

A STUDENT, an ex-Gurkha officer and an assortment of eclectic characters must solve the connection between an assassin, a social media mogul and an aspiring young artist. A series of seemingly unrelated scenarios unfolds in locations as diverse as Nepal, Dartmoor, London and Edinburgh. The result is a hard-to-put-down adventure that contained just the right mix of mystery, romance and intrigue.



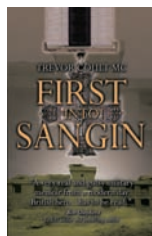
Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals

VERDICT: This absorbing yarn should appeal to all tastes ★★★★★

First into Sangin

by Trevor Coult

THE story of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Helmand in 2006 is well documented. In this book Trevor Coult sets out to show they weren't the only unit there. He was part of an attached platoon from The Royal Irish Regiment and his account is packed full of action and emotion, especially when describing the loss of a close friend. A few spelling mistakes and poor grammar should not detract from a great read.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: A lesser-known story of true heroism and brotherhood ★★★★★

Gallipoli Victoria Cross Hero

by John Hamilton

HUGO Throssell of the Australian Light Horse earned a Victoria Cross at Gallipoli. It is a story of one man's valour and his country's shame. He returned home a hero but suffering from what we now know as PTSD. In 1933 he shot himself after being offered ten shillings for his medal in a pawnshop. The author does an excellent job of capturing the wider conflict as well as the man at the heart of this tragedy.



Douglas Jackson, historical novelist

VERDICT: A sobering read with lessons still pertinent today ★★★★★

KL

by Nikolaus Wachsmann

MORE than just another perspective on the Nazis' "final solution", this book is a comprehensive exploration of the subject from the development of the concentration camps as a concept, through to the manner of their operation. Predictably, the gross excesses of the SS are laid bare but the author also covers less-familiar ground, such as their unsuccessful attempts to exploit the prisoners to boost the German war effort.



George Robey, ex-GH

VERDICT: Not an easy read but compelling nonetheless ★★★★★

After the Flood

by John Nichol

THIS absorbing text brings to life the story of what happened to the surviving "Dambuster" crews after their famous raids. Thanks to the author's intimate understanding of the dynamics of a bomber squadron, the reader is taken inside the history and allowed to view events from a human perspective. I finished the book feeling that the operation was really just the start of an extraordinary tale.



Mike Peters, ex-AAC

VERDICT: A gripping, in-the-cockpit perspective of events ★★★★★

The Queen's Birthday Parade

by Calder, Pigott and Bruce

CELEBRATING the pomp and ceremony that is Trooping the Colour, this lavishly illustrated tome is packed with history and behind-the-scenes details on what it takes to pull this complex event off to perfection. Perhaps predictably, senior officers feature heavily in the narrative and I felt it lacked the junior ranks' perspective but nonetheless, the book is a stunning encyclopaedia of all things ceremonial.



Becky Clark, *Soldier*

VERDICT: As glossy as a guardsman's buffed boots ★★★★★



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SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

King of the court:

OCdt Scott Sears attacks the net at the Inter-Services Tennis Championships. Read more about the event on pages 84-85...



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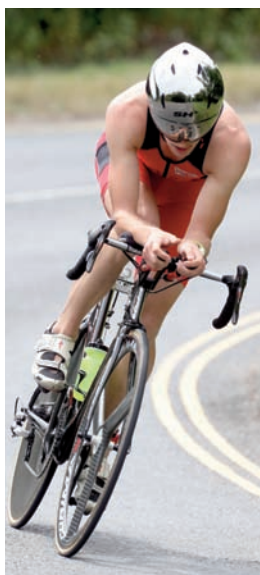
Inter-Services Triathlon

Men's championship

1. Army 40
2. Royal Air Force 82
3. Royal Navy 98

Women's championship

1. Royal Air Force 174
2. Army 213
3. Royal Navy 253



A STRONG top-ten presence ensured the Army men regained the Inter-Services triathlon title on a tough day of action in the Gloucestershire countryside.

Having surrendered the trophy to the Royal Navy last year the team travelled to South Cerney with revenge on the mind and a superb collective effort saw them achieve their goal.

Royal Air Force star Luke Pollard beat the Royal Navy's Charles Pennington to the individual honours but with the Army finishing third, fourth and fifth the total started to build.

Cpl James Gibson (Int Corps) led the Reds' charge and having completed the swim in 18min 42sec he reached the first transition as the early leader.

But his rivals closed the gap

and then surged ahead during the cycle and running stages to leave the soldier with a bronze medal.

Capt Ed Charlton-Weedy (RA) and Pte Chris Ashford (Para) followed their teammate home and with Capt James Beechey (RA) and Sgt Jeez Dupreez (RLC) finishing seventh and ninth respectively the points continued to flow.

The Army veterans collected another team prize as WO1 Al Thurston (REME), Lt Col Chris Stuart (RLC) and SSgt Phil Westoby (RE) filled all three podium places but the women relinquished their Inter-Services trophy.

Lucy Ran, of the RAF, dominated the field for a second successive season to win in a time of 2hr 8min 59sec – an effort that saw

her finish almost nine minutes clear of her nearest rival.

And despite the Reds' best efforts it was the light blues who were left to celebrate.

Speaking at the end of the competition Maj Lloyd Keenan (RAMC), secretary of the Army Triathlon Association, paid tribute to his athletes but said availability issues had hindered the squad in the build-up.

"This year we've had a lot of difficulties in getting people in the right place at the right time," he told *SoldierSport*.

"With Afghanistan now finished I thought it would be easier; it is something we did not expect but I guess it is a sign of the times.

"But there were good wins for the veterans and men and the women were not that far away – it was a great day for the Army." ■



MONTH in sport

September's key fixtures...



WHAT: Inter-Services Road Race Championships

WHEN: September 1

WHERE: RAF Cranwell

COMMENTS: With full-time athletes Capt Ryan Perry (REME) and Spr Alex Royle (RE) in their ranks the Army will be hoping for a strong showing at the Lincolnshire circuit



WHAT: Inter-Services Golf Championships

WHEN: September 6-11

WHERE: Frilford Heath Golf Club, Oxfordshire

COMMENTS: The Royal Air Force will be the team to beat after the light blues won both the men's and women's competitions in 2014



WHAT: Major Units Cricket Final

WHEN: Thursday, September 10

WHERE: Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot

COMMENTS: 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards beat 22 Engineer Regiment in last year's showcase. Who will reign supreme in 2015?



A GRUELLING two-week training camp in Cyprus formed the perfect preparation for a strong showing from the Army's swimmers at this season's Inter-Services competitions.

The men made history by claiming second spot in the pool – the first time since 1984 that they have placed anywhere other than third.

LCpl James Gibson (Int Corps) and SSgt Neil Ferguson (RAPTC) gave the side an early lead with a one-two in the 800 metres freestyle and they repeated their performance in the 400 metres.

LCpl Sam Moreton (Int Corps) and skipper Lt Marcus Roberts (Scots) took gold in the 100 metres butterfly and

200 metres backstroke as the success continued and the Reds went on to win more individual races than their two rivals combined.

But it was business as usual for the women as they took a 12th successive title.

Newcomer Pte Emily Allsopp (RAMC) grabbed the headlines by setting a new competition record as she triumphed in the 200 metres backstroke. The athlete later claimed gold in the individual medley.

A further record was set in the medley relay, with the Servicewomen shattering the previous best by 14 seconds.

In the water polo, the men suffered an agonising 8-7 defeat to the Royal Air Force in their opening match – a

result that proved pivotal in determining the champions.

And with both sides downing the Royal Navy it was the airmen who took the honours.

However, the ladies team gained revenge by beating a joint RAF/Navy side 9-3.

WO2 Dave Cox (RAPTC) gave a diving masterclass to finish more than 100 points clear of his nearest rival, while WO2 Amanda Prentice (RLC) retained her title in what was her first event for a year.

Gnr Katey Morrey (RA) then took bronze on her debut in the ladies springboard.

The open water swimming moved to a new home at Boscombe Pier and the Army claimed six of the first eight spots to claim the title. ■

NARTEY RETURNS TO GLOBAL STAGE

» JUDO sensation Tpr Emmanuel Nartey (RTR) is dreaming of a winning run at the World Championships as he looks to boost his qualifying bid for the Olympics.

The soldier is hoping for a top-eight finish at the tournament in Kazakhstan to almost guarantee his spot at the 2016 Games but having suffered an inconsistent season on the mat he needs a return to form.

"I have had a lot of ups and downs," he explained. "Sometimes I win, sometimes I lose."

"My main focus now is to get the points I need for Olympic qualification. It is really difficult being on the circuit as I'm competing every single week but that is something I have to get used to."

"I'm looking to get my ranking up. I'm in good shape and am working hard."

Nartey continues to benefit from full-time training at the University of Bath and believes the set-up offers the ideal preparation for his international endeavours.

The athlete was in action at the World Championships as this issue went to press.





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PRESSURE GAME



» Reds look to defend world crown on home turf

» Sanger faces "tough call" regarding selection

» Decision to be made on inclusion of star man



FOR elite sportsmen winning a major title is considered difficult, retaining it even more so.

But that is the challenge awaiting the Army's rugby union players next month as they take to the field for the second International Defence Rugby Competition.

A thumping 62-17 victory against hosts Australia saw the Reds lift the trophy four years ago and they will be the team to beat as the action switches to home soil.

Preparations are already at an advanced stage, with coach Capt Andy Sanger (RE) pushing his players in two intensive periods of conditioning work over a hectic summer period.

A run of warm-up fixtures are planned for the coming weeks and when the team lines up for its opening fixture on Thursday, October 8 the Servicemen should be at the peak of their powers.

"The boys are doing really well," Sanger told *SoldierSport*. "They've had various tests that followed on from last season and they look good."

"We've got a ten-day training camp at Pirbright coming up and we will be linking up with the Fijian World Cup squad in Aldershot."

"But all of this could not be

achieved without the support of the players' units.

"We have asked for a large chunk of time and they have been really supportive."

The coach's plans suffered an early blow following the withdrawal of LCpl Chris Mundy (REME) and Lt Luke Robinson (RA) through injury but with 42 players named in his initial squad he has plenty of options available.

However, the group must be cut to 30 for the start of the competition – meaning some difficult decisions lie in wait.

"There will be some tough calls to make," Sanger insisted. "We have strength in depth in many positions and a lot of analysis work has been carried out."

"We need to have competition for places. We had a really strong squad four years ago and that was one of the reasons we did so well."

"We will play three pool games in eight days and every one of those will be a physical encounter so we have to use the whole group."

"A lot of players from the last tournament are still around but there will be some new blood as well, which is great for the squad."

SSgt Darrell Ball (RE) – who lifted the trophy in 2011 – will lead the side once again and



» ONE of the big questions facing the Army ahead of the competition is the possible inclusion of star man LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG).

The winger was part of the England set-up that travelled to Colorado for a World Cup training camp but was cut from the squad ahead of the team's warm-up games last month.

But his Reds selection will be far from a formality. "I've got some wheeling and dealing to do with Bath (Rokoduguni's club side)," Sanger explained.

"Contractually, we do not have a pull on him so we need to negotiate to see if he can be released.

"Roko was hugely disappointed to miss out with England but there is a lot of rugby to be played between now and the start of the World Cup and he is still on standby."

FORCES FIXTURE LIST

Pool matches will be played at Aldershot's Army Rugby Stadium – admission is free

- Army v Australia – October 8 (1600)
- Army v Canada – October 12 (1600)
- Army v France – October 15 (1600)
- Quarter finals – October 19
- Semi finals – October 23 at The Stoop
- Final – October 29 at The Stoop

Tickets for the tournament semi-finals and final can be purchased online at www.quins.co.uk

with seasoned campaigners such as LCpl Gerhard Wessels (RE), Pte Jack Prasad (Scots) and Cpl Chris Budgen (R Welsh) in the mix the Army has no shortage of battle-hardened performers.

The coach added: "Experience is always good at any level and we have got that.

"The key now is not to be complacent and develop that hunger – we have to be chomping at the bit.

"It is my job to get the players in the right mindset but I'm really happy with the way things are going."

Another contributing factor to success in major tournaments is home advantage, but Sanger was

quick to refute such notions in this instance.

In fact, the officer suggested it is the tourists who could be in the stronger position.

"The southern hemisphere teams can bond and galvanise as a group as they will be together all the time," the officer explained.

"We have the pull of work, club commitments and families to contend with.

"I have to ensure those distractions do not impact on our performances.

"But if we make it through to the semi-finals and final – which will be played at The Stoop – and we get some big crowds then home advantage could be a factor." ■



OPPOSITION VIEW

» THE Army face tough pool games against the Australian and French defence forces, as well as an unknown quantity in Canada.

Three first-half tries helped the Reds to a 36-11 win against France in 2011, while Australia were defeated in the final, so recent form is on their side.

"It will be difficult and these are all combined services sides," Sanger said. "It will be tough to win the group but that is the aim as it will give us a favourable draw in the latter stages."

The coach pinpointed New Zealand and Fiji as contenders along with Inter-Services champions the Royal Air Force.

Tickets from £10.00 each

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SPORT SHORTS

Picture: Martin Bennett



Rugby's aid effort

» **WORLD** Cup winner Mike Tindall will be among a number of former international stars and celebrities taking to the pitch for the inaugural Rugby Aid match on September 4.

The game will see England take on a Rest of the World XV at Harlequins' Twickenham Stoop Stadium with proceeds going to Rugby for Heroes, a charity that helps military personnel transition to civilian life.

For more details on the match visit www.rugbyforheroes.org.uk



Kayak call

» **PARALYMPIAN** Nick Beighton is targeting a top-six finish when he competes at the Paracanoe World Championships in Italy.

The ex-soldier, who narrowly missed out on a medal at London 2012 as an adaptive rower, has switched disciplines and will be powering across the water in a kayak as he represents Great Britain.

Beighton was in action at the event as this issue went to press.



Downpours dent title bid

HEAVY rain washed away hopes of a clean sweep for the Adjutant General's Corps at the 2015 Worcester Police Cricket Carnival.

The team posted a seven-match winning run in the week-long Twenty20 festival but torrential downpours on the final day saw them embroiled in a tense bowl-out to decide the champions.

But Kent Police held their nerve to triumph 2-1 and send their military rivals home empty-handed.

The AGC made a storming start to the competition as they recorded an emphatic

nine-wicket victory over the New York Police Department.

Overcast conditions made life difficult for the tourists as they batted first and the play and miss was a common occurrence early on.

Tight bowling kept the scoring in check and the loss of wickets at key stages saw them close on 100-7.

The total proved far from challenging and a rapid-fire 50 from opener LCpl Stu Tognarelli saw them reach their target in eight overs.

Speaking afterwards, skipper Sgt Regan McClean said his side adapted well to the challenges posed by an

unknown opponent.

"We didn't really know a lot about the standard of their game so we just went out and played to our strengths," he told *SoldierSport*.

"Anything can happen in Twenty20 so it is important we stick to our plans.

"We have played a lot of cricket this season and are well prepared."

The Forces side followed the result with a six-run win over Kent in the group stages and went on to beat Herefordshire Fire Service, Worcester Police and Toronto Police before succumbing in the bowl-off. ■

SERVICES BATTLE AT SALFORD

» **THE** Army's rugby league stars head to Salford's AJ Bell Stadium this month for their Inter-Services opener.

Staged on Sunday, September 13 the action starts at 1100 when the academy side face the Royal Air Force.

The women's teams take to the turf at 1300 before the men's senior squads do battle at 1445.

Once the military showdown is complete fans can enjoy the Salford Red Devils' clash with the Sheffield Eagles from 1700. Admission for the day costs £5. To order your tickets call 0161 7861590.





Late loss scuppers title bid

Army women turn on the style but men suffer heartbreak at the death in Wimbledon showdown

Inter-Services Tennis

Men's championship

Royal Navy 8

Army 7

Royal Air Force 3

Women's championship

Army 11

Royal Navy 5

Royal Air Force 2

THE lush surroundings of Wimbledon offered mixed fortunes for the Army's tennis stars as they returned to court for the Inter-Services Championships.

A rejuvenated women's team claimed their first title in five years last season and they mounted an emphatic defence of their crown by winning 11 of the 12 rubbers played.

But the men failed to replicate such success as a last-match decider saw the Royal Navy claim the trophy they last won in 2010.

The Servicewomen

underlined their intent by naming the same all-conquering line-up from last year's singles and they produced a dominant display on the opening day.

Second seed Maj Fiona Welborn (RADC) made short work of the Navy's Musn Alice Hudson and then downed Royal Air Force rival Sqn Ldr Nikki Lofthouse 6-1 6-0.

"I'm playing really well," she told *SoldierSport* after completing her double. "It's nice to come from the Army Championships – where I lost in the final – and show that I can play a good game."

"We had a great team spirit coming into this competition but the pressure was on us to retain that title."

"The nerves hit you and it was good to get the first few games under my belt and then settle down."

"We are so lucky to have the chance to come and play at Wimbledon and to win is just the icing on the cake."

Third seed Sgt Abi Hanafin (Int Corps) recorded a 6-1 6-1 win over Sqn Ldr Liz Price of



“The nerves hit you and it was good to get the first few games under my belt and settle down”

Maj Fiona Welborn (RADC)

the RAF, a result that was followed with success against Lt Cdr Katharine Armstrong.

And Army number one Lt Preet Chandi (AMS, pictured above) continued the pattern with comfortable wins over her opponents.

With maximum points secured on an impressive first day the ladies came close to repeating the feat in the doubles as they claimed five of the six matches.

Speaking at the end of the victorious run Capt Katie Ward (REME), the women's team captain, praised her players' efforts and said they hope to complete a hat-trick of titles next year.

"We had a fantastic start and that took the pressure off us heading into the second day," she added.

"We won 11 ties and next season we want all 12. We have a brilliant secretary who is driving the sport forward and a committed group of players that are dedicated to their tennis."

"Our coach knows the game so well and he has



focused our training on winning this title.

"The team will be shuffled a bit next year as people leave but we have some good players waiting in the wings."

The men looked set for a strong campaign when third seed Cpl Laurence Tere (RAMC, pictured above right) won his opening match but the momentum was halted by a narrow defeat for Lt Ben Rogers (RA).

Having lost the opening set 6-4 in his clash with the Navy's LET Scott Nicholls the Army number two succumbed to a second-set tiebreak as an epic two-hour contest tipped in his rival's favour.



Top seed OCdt Scott Sears (pictured above left) – brother-in-law of former Wimbledon champion Andy Murray – appeared to be in top form against LCpl James Herbert but after taking a 3-0 lead in the opener he lost 7-5.

His opponent then claimed the second 6-2.

But he hit top gear in his clash with Sqn Ldr Chris Evans – winning 7-5, 6-4 – and went on to take both of his doubles matches the following day.

Tere downed the Navy's Lt Andy Rodgers to secure a second singles victory and then formed a potent doubles combination with Pt Reece Munnery (Para) to claim two

further rubbers.

Rogers was edged out in an epic three-set battle with Flt Lt Jon Bond but his partnership with Sears saw him reign supreme in the doubles.

Speaking at the end of the tournament, the team captain said: "The title was decided in the final match on the last day and the Navy just pipped it in three sets.

"They seemed to have more depth to their team and that caught us a little by surprise, so credit to them.

"We've done very well in recent times. I would never say winning is boring but this makes things more interesting for next year's event." ■

Court report

Date: August 3-4, 2015

Competition: Inter-Services Tennis

Venue: All England Club, Wimbledon

Singles results

Men

OCdt Scott Sears lost to LCpl James Herbert 5-7, 2-6

Lt Ben Rogers lost to LET Scott Nicholls 4-6, 6-7

LCpl Laurence Tere bt Fg Off Orion Medebe 6-1, 6-3

OCdt Scott Sears bt Sqn Ldr Chris Evans 7-5, 6-4

Lt Ben Rogers lost to Flt Lt Jon Bond 7-6, 4-6, 3-6

LCpl Laurence Tere bt Lt Andy Rodgers 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

Women

Lt Preet Chandi bt AB Lauren Parker 6-2, 6-3

Maj Fiona Welborn bt Musn Alice Hudson 6-0, 6-3

Sgt Abi Hanafin bt Sqn Ldr Liz Price 6-1, 6-1

Lt Preet Chandi bt Wg Cdr Delia Chadwick 6-0, 6-3

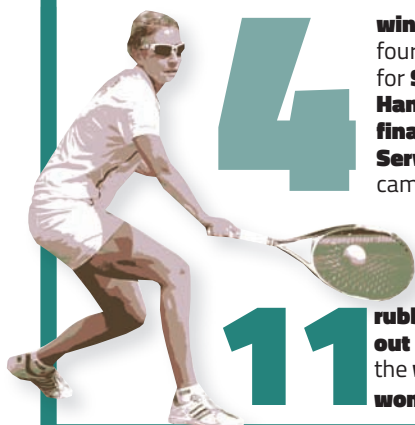
Maj Fiona Welborn bt Sqn Ldr Nikki Lofthouse 6-1, 6-0

Sgt Abi Hanafin bt Lt Cdr Katharine Armstrong 6-3, 6-1

“We’ve done very well in recent times. I would never say winning is boring but this makes things even more interesting for next year’s event”

Lt Ben Rogers (RA)

SOLDIERSPORT SITREP



4 wins from four matches for **Sgt Abi Hanafin** in her final Inter-Services campaign

11 rubbers won out of 12 by the victorious women's team

19

the age of rising star **Pte Reece Munnery**, who was victorious in his two doubles ties

55

total games played by **Lt Ben Rogers** in the singles draw – but he lost both matches





LIFTERS' POWER PLAY

THE sport of powerlifting continued its upward ascent with a record number of entries at the Army Championships in Arborfield.

More than 100 contenders lined up for the event and it was SSgt Ian Cox (AAC) who was named best overall male, while Sgt Haley Hamilton (R Signals) took the female title.

The pursuit's growth was underlined by the fact there were nine different weight categories for Servicemen to compete in, with a further seven for the women.

Prizes were also presented to the Army's up-and-coming stars, with LCpl Will Young and LCpl Catherine Quinn

(both RLC) named the best junior athletes on show.

"There were a lot of people taking part and it could easily have been more," organiser Capt Seb Madronal (REME) told *SoldierSport*.

"We publicised the event around various units and our Facebook group has really helped the cause.

"Strength sports, crossfit and health and fitness are booming at the moment. The majority of soldiers go down the gym and now they have a reason to go.

"Those at the top have pushed the standard over the past decade. Sgt Si Robb (REME) is now a national

champion and we have other guys at a similar level.

"It has really grown and the next competition will be huge."

Attention will now turn to the push and pull (bench press and deadlift) championships later this year followed by a bench press event in January.

"That should be popular," added Madronal.

"It is a great way to get guys into the sport." ■

f For more details on how to get involved join the Army Powerlifting group on Facebook or call Capt Madronal on military 94251 2562.

SPORT SHORTS



Henson's hopes

» WOUNDED ex-soldier Dave Henson continued his progress as an international athlete by claiming a silver medal at the Anniversary Games.

Competing in front of a buoyant home crowd at London's Olympic Stadium the former officer, who served in the Royal Engineers, posted a time of 26.53sec to finish second in the T42 200 metres.

"It's a massive confidence boost," he said afterwards.

Henson – one of the stars of the Invictus Games – is hoping to be selected for the World Championships in Doha and the 2016 Paralympic Games.



ARCHERS TARGET TOKYO PLACE

ARCHERY GB has teamed up with Help for Heroes to search for serving or veteran military personnel who have the potential to compete at the 2020 Paralympics.

The set-up staged a weekend training camp in Plymouth for the hopefuls and similar sessions have been held at the charity's recovery centres around the country.

Some have already competed in events such as the Invictus and Warrior Games while others are total novices.

"Not only is this a fantastic partnership, which will hopefully unearth talented archers with the potential to medal in Tokyo, but it will also give injured personnel an opportunity to use the sport in their recovery journey," said performance pathway manager Jayne Kavanagh.

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SPORT SHORTS



Loggies on top

Inter-Corps T20

REME 117-7
RLC 119-3

» OPENING batsman Pte Dan Tottle again proved he is a man for the big occasion as his unbeaten knock of 65 guided the Royal Logistic Corps to cricket's Inter-Corps Twenty20 title.

The right-hander smashed 68 in a losing cause in this year's 50-over final but his efforts helped the team to a seven-wicket win over the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the shorter format.

After winning the toss the REME elected to bat but when the top order failed to fire they finished on a below-par 117-7.

The loggies made the worst possible start in reply as opener Sgt Urie Hill was clean bowled off the first delivery.

But Tottle settled down to business and struck eight fours and a maximum to seal the win.



TOURISTS' ENGAGING EFFORT

THE Army's cricketers endured mixed fortunes against their rivals from Pakistan during the tourist's week-long defence engagement trip to the UK.

A Twenty20 fixture at Sandhurst resulted in a 33-run victory for the hosts before their rivals gained revenge in a 50-over match four days later.

Having won the toss in the opening game the visitors elected to field but Reds openers Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds) and LBdr Graham Wiseman (RA) put the bowling to the sword with a 50-run stand.

When the latter departed for 19 the scoring continued to flow courtesy of LCpl Brannon Varley (AMS), who cracked a rapid-fire 20.

But the dangerous LBdr Sherwin Govender (RA)

perished for just one and when Green was dismissed for 54 – an innings that included four fours and a six – the Army lost momentum.

A total of 123-5 looked average at best but a spectacular bowling spell from Rfn Alex Ollerenshaw (Rifles) tipped the contest in his side's favour.

His three-wicket burst limited Pakistan to 17-4 and with Meer Saeed posting the only score of note – a knock of 27 – they finished on a miserable 90 all out.

Pte "Spice" Narayan (RLC) claimed 3-14 from his three-over spell and Varley posted figures of 2-18.

The action switched to Aldershot for the game's longer format and the tourists enjoyed a successful run chase at the home of Service cricket.

Khadin Jan and Umair Khan combined to remove the Reds' openers cheaply and when Cpl Ian Redfern (RE) was trapped leg before the hosts were 44-3.

Varley was dismissed for a well-crafted 41, meaning hopes for a big total rested on Govender.

The left-hander raced to a run-a-ball 51 before he was bowled by Umair Khan and when the tail failed to wag the soldiers found themselves 161 all out.

Maj Alex Senneck (R Signals) gave his team the perfect start in reply as he claimed the wicket of Maaz Tamina in the first over.

But with time on their side the Pakistanis batted the overs and a dogged 77 not out from Shafiq ur Rehman formed the inspiration for a four-wicket win. ■



Game brief

Date: August 4-6, 2015

Competition: Inter-Services cricket

Venue: Army Cricket Ground

Army



Captain's comment

MAJ Storm Green (Coldm Gds) was deputising for regular skipper LCpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE) and he was delighted to add to the Reds' trophy haul.

"It is always difficult when anyone steps in but I did things my own way and enjoyed the challenge," he said after lifting the trophy.

"We have got some interesting personalities in the group.

"We do not always get on off the field but once we cross that rope we stick together and pull through."

Referring to the performance of Senneck, the captain added: "When you look at the history of Inter-Services cricket you'll find experienced guys who have stepped up. "Alex has done that in both the Twenty20 and 50-over competitions this year."



Reds deliver Services double

Inter-Services 50-over cricket

Royal Navy 105
British Army 106-6

Royal Air Force 163
British Army 168-3

A MASTERCLASS from the Army's seam bowlers provided the backbone for a commanding victory in cricket's Inter-Services 50-over competition.

Success in the longer form completed a Forces double for the Reds, who produced a similar display with the ball to win the Twenty20 title earlier in the season.

Maj Alex Senneck (R Signals) was the destroyer-in-chief and after claiming five wickets against the Royal Navy he launched a ruthless assault

on the Royal Air Force's top order as the soldiers surged to a comprehensive win.

The champions-elect signalled their intent in the tournament's opening fixture as Senneck's burst helped restrict the Senior Service to 52-6 in the 15th over.

Cpl Alvin Pollard offered some resistance with a knock of 62 but he was the only Navy batsman to reach double figures as his side crumbled to 105 all out.

However, the run chase was far from a formality and the loss of six Army wickets made life difficult for the hosts.

Skipper Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds) top scored with 38 but with the opposition falling short of a competitive total their pressure with the ball could not prevent an inevitable defeat.

The Army attack seized immediate control against the RAF as Senneck and Rfn Alex

Ollerenshaw (Rifles) removed SAC Ross Diver and Cpl Jake Wray in successive overs.

Ollerenshaw then dismissed Cpl Ash Watson with a superb caught and bowled effort and he struck again as the airmen slumped to 17-4.

Senneck uprooted Flt Lt Adam Fisher's off stump as the rout continued and he claimed a third victim to finish with 3-18 from ten overs.

Cpl Kieran Pearce steadied the ship with an unbeaten half century as his side posted 164 all out.

Again, the total seemed well below par and with Green anchoring the innings his fellow batsmen were allowed to play with freedom.

Gnr Craig Ross (RA) and LCpl Brannon Varley (AMS) both made decent starts before losing their wickets but LBdr Sherwin Govender (RA) blasted his side to victory with an unbeaten 73. ■

SERVICES



8 Tournament wickets for seam bowler Maj Alex Senneck

IN NUMBERS

11

The bowling average of Rfn Alex Ollerenshaw as he claimed five wickets



CRICKET

53

Balls faced by LBdr Sherwin Govender against the RAF



Final word

We asked light mechanised infantry troops for their thoughts on the Foxhound light protected patrol vehicle and how it impacts on their job.



Lt Rory Smee (R Irish)

In terms of coming from an airborne background the new job is going well. There are similarities in that the light role skills we now use are the same and we just have a different platform to move around the battlefield. As one of the vehicle commanders I need to have an understanding of the armoured asset that Foxhound provides.



Rgr Josh Bradley (R Irish)

Working with Foxhound you don't have to walk as far so you are into the battle quicker. It is a comfortable vehicle to ride in but once you've got all of your kit on there's not much extra room. I'm quite happy with it, especially in the heat, if the air conditioning is working.



LCpl Lee Cook (R Anglian)

Foxhound is a pretty good truck although it can get quite cramped, especially if you are going to be in one all day. The best part is the protection it provides for the lads out on the ground.



Pte Gordon Tshabalala (R Anglian)

I have worked alongside Foxhound and it's very flexible because you can travel almost anywhere over any terrain. It's also considerably quicker than other vehicles that do a similar role.



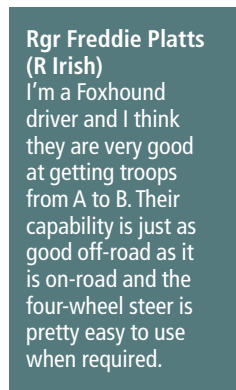
Rgr Alan Kane (R Irish)

The best bit about Foxhound is that it is very flexible and agile. But that means they are limited in their firepower and don't offer as much of a deterrent as other vehicles. Nevertheless, they pack a punch with the lads on-board and we are pleased to be using it.



Cpl Kyle Doughty (R Irish)

The main benefit of using Foxhound is the longer reach it gives us and how it reduces the strain on our blokes. We get out of the cab, do the job and then jump back in. We are still in the learning process and getting to grips with the platform. We just need to embrace it and then we'll be good to go.



Rgr Freddie Platts (R Irish)

I'm a Foxhound driver and I think they are very good at getting troops from A to B. Their capability is just as good off-road as it is on-road and the four-wheel steer is pretty easy to use when required.



Rgr Niall Hazelton (R Irish)

I think the vehicle gives us a very quick and effective way to get into battle. Because of its design and agility it can take us right up to the fight. There are pros and cons and I'd say it could be bigger given the amount of kit that we carry, but it does the job.

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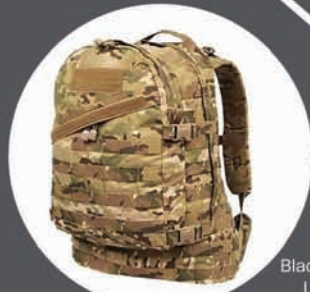
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