

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

‘WE FIGHT FOR THE MEN NEXT TO US
— THAT HASN’T CHANGED IN
100 YEARS’

**Personnel look back to heroic
acts of the First World War**



AUGUST 2014

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1914

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still here for them now



2014

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ARMY

Times change, values don't

WHEN we asked troops to tell us about their First World War heroes for this month's cover feature (pages 60-63) they didn't need much prompting.

As part of a generation that is generally criticised for its failure to acknowledge history, perhaps the *Soldier* team shouldn't have been surprised that our readers would buck that trend.

For so many military personnel, defending Great Britain is something that is in the blood – metaphorically through regimental ties if not literally through family history.

But the astounding thing about the world's first truly global conflict – which began 100 years ago this month – is that, without exception, every one of us has some sort of connection to it.

In addition to the stories that can be traced via family trees, a great deal of the functions we find in today's British Army – from intelligence gathering through to air defence – came into being between 1914 and 1918.

While technology and politics have moved on, shows of solidarity and strength from the individuals who underpin our (thankfully) more peaceful society have not.

At 1100 on November 11, 1919 the British Empire came to a halt to remember the lives lost in the Great War – our first two-minute silence.

No doubt similar marks of respect will be paid during many of the commemoration ceremonies this month (page 67).

As events unfold, we would love to hear more from you all about any remarkable links to the past that you discover. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

'Good luck, everyone'



Our television screens have shaped a lot of what we know about the First World War today, but how much of it can we really believe? Read pages 44-47 for an expert's view...

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Women seal triple crown



WIN
...AN IPAD AIR
TABLET
SEE PAGE 15





33

It shows the strength in depth we now have and everyone can do a job for the team; it was a great effort



48

“The officer cadets are very impressive; they have a thirst to learn”

Afghan academy makes promising start p26

“He was a fighter ace and his story influenced me joining the Armed Forces”

Soldiers champion past heroes p60

“If we have a good winter we can beat the RAF next year”

Women's coach plots athletic excellence p94



94



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Queen Victoria School



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Admissions Deadline
Thu 15 Jan 2015

Queen Victoria School in Dunblane is a co-educational boarding school for the children of UK Armed Forces personnel who are Scottish, or who have served in Scotland or who have been members of a Scottish regiment.

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Picture: Graeme Main

Service looks long-term

Full contracts on offer to increasing number of troops

MORE soldiers are set to benefit from increased job security and better pension opportunities following widespread changes to the versatile engagement policy.

Since 2008, most non-commissioned Regular personnel have been enlisted on "short" career contracts with the Army lasting 12 years. But this can now be extended to the full term of 24 years at the discretion of the chain of command, who will take manning needs into account.

Upon reaching the rank of lance corporal, corporal or sergeant, most soldiers will automatically be offered the switch to full engagement.

Conditional offers may also be given to lower ranked troops with niche skills and trades.

Switching to the 24-year deal will give personnel the potential to reach their early departure payment point. By comparison, those who leave after the shorter contract have to wait until 65 to claim any pension earned.

Individuals may still claim a resettlement grant on completion of 12 years service, though.

And according to Brig Nick Cavanagh (pictured right), Director of Army Manning, full

contracts will also improve promotion prospects due to longer commitment.

"We are looking to the future," he told *Soldier*. "There is now an imperative to retain the quality people we need.

"There are many factors behind this but from a manning perspective it's about setting the right conditions so our people can look to the future and enjoy some certainty about their personal circumstances and career."

Servicemen and women who have signed up since January 2008 and already been promoted into eligible ranks will be offered a 24-year engagement this year.

Those who joined before January 2008 on 22-year open engagement deals have been offered full contracts, extending their employment by two years.

Some may even be offered careers of up to 30 years.

However, a number of troops have yet to take up the deal and the senior officer is keen to point out there is no "catch".

"Nothing has changed in the small print, this can only be better for personnel in the long run," he explained.

"I can't see why any soldier wouldn't take up this offer."

The future's bright:
Personnel will benefit
from increased job
security, the Army says



“I can't see why any soldier wouldn't take up this offer”

99

IN NUMBERS: VERSATILE ENGAGEMENT

3 Minimum number of years you must serve to be eligible for a full contract offer



40

Earliest age a soldier can reach the immediate pension or early departure payment point (under Armed Forces pension scheme 15)

55 The oldest you can be employed on short or full versatile engagement deals

MORE INFO:

For more details on the policy changes read 2014DIN01-134

SECRETARY SHIFT

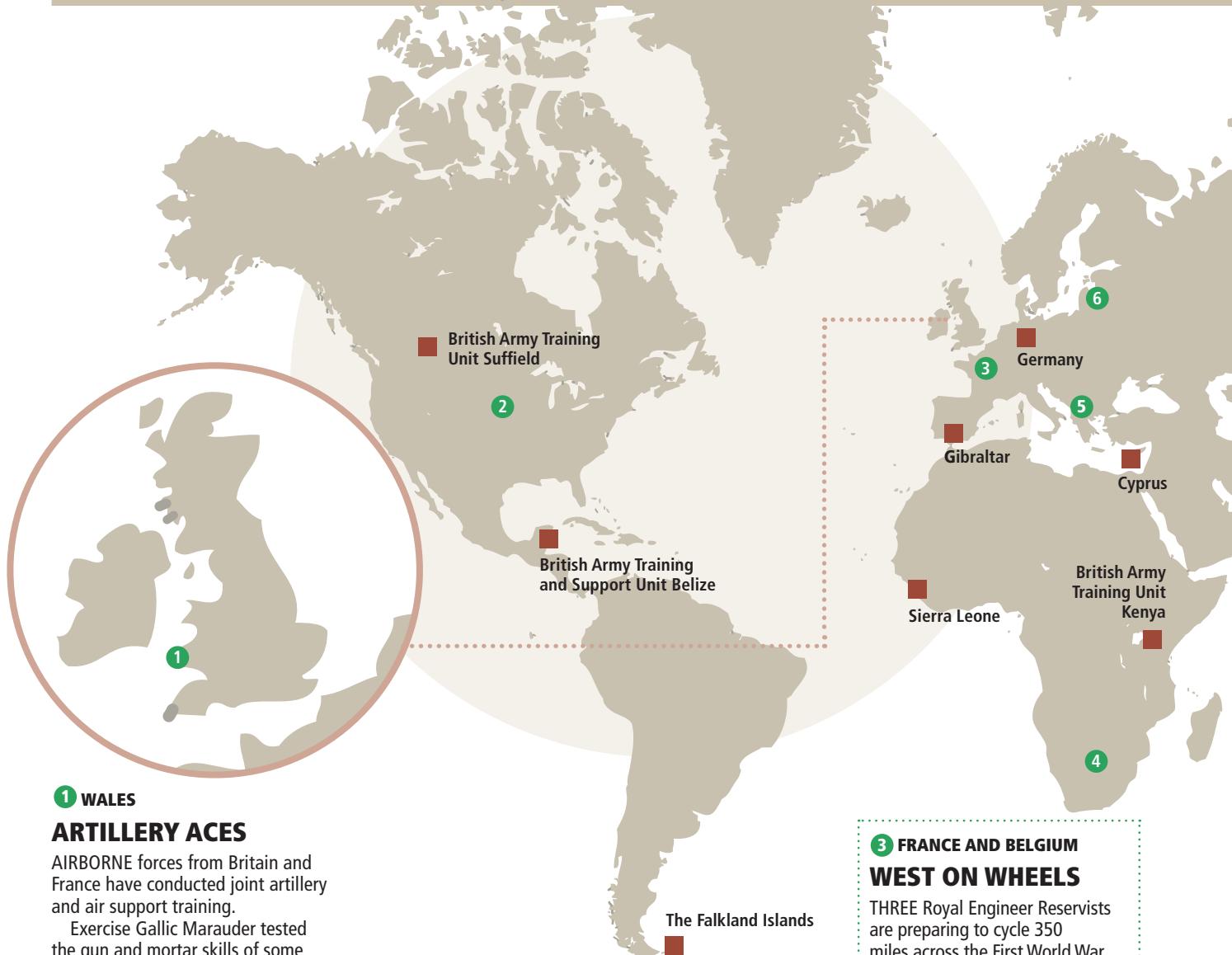
■ A NEW defence secretary has been appointed by the prime minister as part of a major cabinet reshuffle.

Michael Fallon (pictured) has previously held the positions of minister of state for business and enterprise, minister of state for energy and minister for Portsmouth.

The MP for Sevenoaks replaces Philip Hammond, who has been made the foreign secretary.

Andrew Murrison has departed as parliamentary under-secretary of state, with Julian Brazier replacing him in the new title of minister for Reserves.





1 WALES

ARTILLERY ACES

AIRBORNE forces from Britain and France have conducted joint artillery and air support training.

Exercise Gallic Marauder tested the gun and mortar skills of some 260 soldiers from 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery and the Toulouse-based 8th Parachute Marine Infantry and 35th Parachute Artillery Regiment.

The two-week package in Castlemartin also saw troops calling in fast jets flying from the French aircraft carrier, *Charles De Gaulle*.



Picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC

2 USA

ENGINEERS ON THE RIGHT ROAD

ROYAL Engineers took part in the largest annual serial of the US National Guard in South Dakota.

Exercise Golden Coyote involved a total of 4,000 troops – including 81 UK Regulars and Reservists from 71 and 39 Engineer Regiments.

As well as practising their combat engineering skills and live-firing alongside Danish, Canadian and American personnel, the sappers worked on community projects such as building footbridges and roads for the forestry service and helping to construct a new office block for a local charity.



3 FRANCE AND BELGIUM

WEST ON WHEELS

THREE Royal Engineer Reservists are preparing to cycle 350 miles across the First World War battlefields of the Western Front.

Sgt Daniel Waterfield, LCpl Joshua Carlisle and LCpl Damien Richmond, all of 350 Field Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), will make the commemorative trip alongside 200 other riders on August 4 to raise cash for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

To sponsor the team search for them on www.justgiving.com

- Turn to page 21 for more of this month's fundraising feats





AFGHAN ACADEMY

Efforts of UK troops pay dividends in Kabul – pages 26-30

4 BOTSWANA

KEEPING THE PEACE

ARMY personnel from the Pretoria-based British Peace Support Team oversaw a multinational planning exercise in Botswana.

The intensive five-day package tested members of the armed forces, police and civil authorities of six African Commonwealth nations during a theoretical peacekeeping mission.

UK troops from the Media Operations Group also taught the participants about working in the media spotlight.

“
**It opened
our
eyes to
different
nations**
”

FOND FAREWELLS

British soldiers depart Germany in latest round of base moves – page 12



Number of times climber Cpl Rob Smith has tackled Mount Everest in the last two years – page 23

6 LATVIA

TIGERS' SHOW OF FORCE

TROOPS from 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have packed a punch in the Baltic during a Nato training package.

Exercise Sabre Strike 14 saw the Tigers work on tactics, techniques and procedures for conventional warfare.

The mission formed part of a series of activities providing reassurance to the region and saw members of B Company operate the Javelin anti-tank missile system.

"It opened our eyes to different nations' tactics and the similarities and differences between our allies," Lt Chris Griffith, platoon commander of B Coy, explained.

"We had limited creature comforts, carrying all that we needed on our backs through boggy terrain – up to chest height at times."



5 KOSOVO

FOOTBALL FEVER

FOOTBALL is thriving among the ranks of the Kosovo Security Force thanks to the hard work and dedication of a British officer.

Lt Col David Jones (RE), an adviser to the formation's commander, started the team in a bid to introduce more personnel to the sport.

The players enjoyed early success by beating a Nato side 2-0 and recently drew 0-0 with the Albanian Armed Forces. Matches against the militaries of Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia are now in the pipeline.



7 BRUNEI

TRACKING TAKE-UP

TRAINING Team Brunei hosted 24 British and international soldiers for the latest operational tracking instructors' course.

The final exercise in the package, which teaches participants how to tackle various environments, saw troops abseil onto a beach from helicopters before taking on jungle, rural and urban terrain.

For details on future courses contact the Infantry Battle School on military 94351 2670 or infbs-hq-g7cestb@mod.uk



“IT WAS A GOOD FOUNDATION TO GO ON AND WIN BOTH GAMES”
- INTER-SERVICES SUCCESS, PAGES 96-97

Write a letter to an 'ancestor'

THE creators of an online war memorial are inviting Service personnel to submit letters to an unknown soldier of the First World War.

Inspired by the statue of a lone Serviceman reading a letter at Paddington Station in London, the project encourages the public to think about what they would say if they could write to him now.

All entries received by August 4 will be published online alongside contributions from well-known figures such as poet laureate Andrew Motion and actors Stephen Fry, Joanna Lumley and Sheila Hancock.

The entire collection will later be



Remembering: Joanna Lumley wrote a letter along with Gurkha recruits

archived online at The British Library.

For details on the project log on to www.1418now.org.uk/letter

Turn to page 39 for *Soldier's* First World War centenary features.

Study to quiz troops on women in combat roles

MORE details have emerged on the MoD review of the ban on women serving in front-line combat roles.

The study, which is due to be completed by the end of this year, will look at whether females could join the Royal Marines, Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps, Household Cavalry and RAF Regiment.

It includes a survey of Armed Forces attitudes towards mixed-gender teams, which can be viewed on the DII home page.

As well as identifying the pros and cons of changing the rules officials will assess any impact on combat effectiveness by reviewing women's roles in recent operations and

consulting scientific literature on gender-related physiological issues.

Under European Union law the policy has to be re-evaluated at least every eight years but in May the former Defence Secretary Philip Hammond announced the review had been brought forward.

In that month's *Soldier* personnel expressed support for change providing fitness standards are not dropped as a result.

“If they're capable then why not have them in the role?” said LCpl Liam Gammack (R Signals).

However, some strongly oppose the idea.

Judith Webb, a former major who retired in 1986, told the BBC: “We have to accept we're different physiologically.”



THIS MONTH IN REVIEWS



GAMES: “By far one of the best sporting combat titles”
★★★★★

IN NUMBERS:

10,000

The number of candidates for the first intake at Kabul's Afghan National Army Officer Academy – pages 26-30



Picture: SAC Tim Laurence, RAF



Cup-holders, cohabiting and cuts to tax:
Troops imagine becoming Army chief for a day
– page 106

MILITARY PRIDE

■ **SERVICEMEN** and women have paraded through London for the UK's biggest gay pride event.

Around 40 soldiers from the Army's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Forum, including heterosexual “allies”, took to the streets as part of the MoD contingent.

“I wish we didn't have to do events like this but we still need to get the message out that the Army is inclusive,” said forum member WO2 Dougie Graham (Scots) afterwards.

“We also want our own troops to be made aware that there are LGBT personnel within their units and to show support for them as they rise through the ranks.”

This year was the seventh time that tri-Service personnel have been involved in the Pride in London event.

Various cap badges were represented on the march, from Infantry units to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the Royal Military Police.

“

I wish we didn't need to do events like this

”

MOVIES
“After the first two films I thought it couldn't get any bigger but it did,” Terry Crews, star of *The Expendables 3*, tells *Soldier*. Get the inside story on the much anticipated movie



PAGES 83-91

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ARMY 2020 UPDATE

Picture: SSgt Mark Nesbit, RLC



Troops mark end of era

Division HQ departs Herford base after half a century

MORE than 1,000 personnel, including the Chief of General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall, have taken part in a huge parade in Germany to mark the renaming of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division to 1st (United Kingdom) Division.

The event included a display of vehicles reflecting the formation's capabilities through the ages, with music from the Royal Armoured Corps Band and a parachute display.

It signified the start of the division's departure from its Herford base after more than 50 years in the country.

Under Army 2020 changes, the headquarters – known to its troops as Team Rhino – will

move to York in 2015 and be responsible for the eight brigades that form the Service's Adaptable Force.

Maj Gen James Chiswell, general officer commanding the division, said the change of name was more than just cosmetic and the new role would prove to be "substantially different".

As well as providing Regular and Reserve personnel to work alongside the Reaction Force, the change will see troops undertake overseas engagement and conflict prevention activities.

The relocation of soldiers at Herford is part of a staggered move to bring some 16,000 Army personnel back to the UK from Germany by 2020.



“
It's a very
sad time
for us
”

GOOD
DRILLS

MORE EYES IN SKY

SOLDIERS serving on the last Op Herrick are benefitting from a better surveillance capability after the deployment of five additional Reaper aircraft. The Royal Air Force's newest unmanned air systems have taken to the skies above Afghanistan to gather intelligence and real-time video feeds for Isaf and Afghan forces on the ground, doubling the total number of platforms operating within the country.



COMMUNITY-spirited Army chefs from Colchester have helped clear rubbish from the bottom of the River Colne. Working alongside council staff, the ten soldiers from 16 Air Assault Brigade removed many large items from the mud, including a bike and sink.



Picture: Andrew Reed

CLEAR AS MUD

CHANGES RUN ON...

■ BASE and unit changes have continued at pace as the British Army moves into its new structure.

Having returned from a nine-month tour of Afghanistan, members of 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment had mixed feelings as they prepared for disbandment and to move across to their sister 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Maj Neil Kelly (pictured) said it had been a challenging time.

"The backing from the public has been appreciated," he added. "It's very sad for us to be losing our unit but it isn't a case of us going so much as the regiment changing into two new battalions."

Elsewhere, troops from 2nd Battalion, The Rifles have moved from Ballykinler to Lisburn.

And members of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) relocated from Berkshire to Cambridgeshire in an unusual way.

They ran the 120-mile distance between their old and new base, carrying their regimental and squadron flags to mark the occasion (pictured below).

Reservists are on the move as well. Troops from 73 Engineer Regiment held a final formal parade at Chilwell.

The unit has disbanded and its combat engineers have taken on a search role under the command of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

Northern Ireland's only squadron of light cavalry has also become part of a new Reserve unit, The Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry.

● Bittersweet experience – pages 33-37



Picture: Cpl Andy Reddy, RLC

“IT'S MORE OF WHAT I CLASS AS REAL SOLDIERING”

- FUSILIER FRAY, PAGES 33-37



Views in on new terms

Top brass address scepticism over accommodation

THE MoD has revealed the findings of its consultation on new terms and conditions of service for the Armed Forces.

The nine-month process saw 30,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen give their opinions on proposed changes to accommodation, pay, allowances, training and education – known collectively as the new employment model.

Among the feedback was concern over the proposal to replace the existing four-tier house grading system with a nine-level one from next year.

The new model would make charging fairer by scoring houses on scale, location and condition.

Some troops expressed worry this would mean an end to subsidies. However, Col Neil Wilson, Assistant Director Personnel Capability, said this will not be the case.

“Subsidies will absolutely remain – there will be no change there,” he told *Soldier*.

“The current charging method is outdated so we need to put it back into reality.”

The consultation also found that 53 per cent of military personnel consider the condition of Service families accommodation to be more important than its size or access to amenities.

And around 66 per cent of respondents cited affordability

Picture: Shutterstock



Housing headache: Affordability is the biggest barrier to joining the happy world of homeownership

as the biggest barrier to home ownership while 61 per cent said they were keen to undertake an overseas posting in the next three years.

Of those who expressed an opinion on pay, some commented on the unfairness of certain trades being allocated to high and low bands.

“The proposal is to have greater differentiation in pay in future,” added the officer.

All the feedback from the survey – which can be read along with proposed solutions in 2014DIB/46 – will be used by the new employment model team to further develop the policy.

“The aim of the changes is to keep the overall offer by the Armed Services as attractive as possible,” Col Wilson said.

● Reader ruminations – page 70

CARELESS TWEETER

AS most of the country turned out in support of Service personnel on Armed Forces Day, Green councillor Ben Duncan took to Twitter to say that the event had “certainly brought the hired killers onto the streets of Brighton”. Following an angry backlash on the social network and calls for him to resign, the politician said sorry for his remark. Last month Stan Collymore hit the wall of shame after angering Falklands veterans with a comment about the conflict on Twitter.

A MEMBER of the Alaska Army National Guard was attacked by a brown bear while training in woods near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage. Sgt Lucas Wendeborn suffered non-life-threatening injuries in the incident, which took place during a navigation exercise. Local media said it was the second such attack on a soldier from the base in just two months.



BEASTLY BEAR ATTACKS

TOP SOLDIER DEPARTS

■ GEN Sir Peter Wall is preparing to hand over the Army's top job to the current commander Land Forces.

Lt Gen Sir Nicholas Carter will become chief of the general staff from next month. Look out for our interview with the incoming officer later in the summer.

● Final word – page 106

END OF REHAB CENTRE

■ HEADLEY Court in Surrey is to be replaced by a £300 million complex in the Midlands, the MoD has announced.

The state-of-the-art Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, near Loughborough, will open by the end of 2017.

Until then the existing facility (pictured below) will continue to provide rehabilitation to injured members of the Armed Forces.

The new complex, expected to become a centre of excellence, is four times bigger and will include better outdoor facilities, including a new 400m running track.



BAD DRILLS

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"WE PULLED IT OUT OF THE BAG IN THE FIELD AND SPRINT EVENTS"
- ATHLETIC AMBITION, PAGES 94-95



LYNX CREW 'TOP CATS'

■ THE Army Air Corps' Lynx display team beat off stiff opposition from the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows and the Italian Air Force's Frecce Tricolori to win the top flying display award at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford.

Flown by WO1 Mick Kildea with Capt Neill Posthumus acting as co-pilot, they are the first Army outfit to lift the King Hussein Memorial Sword, presented in memory of the late king of Jordan.

With a semi-rigid rotor head and high performance blades, the Lynx can back flip from a hover position – a move which cannot be achieved by any other helicopter in the world.

The display team is scheduled to appear at a host of other air shows this summer, including Bournemouth on August 28, Middle Wallop on August 30 and Weston-super-Mare on September 6.

WINDOW TO PAST

■ THOUSANDS of historical military records held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have been revealed to the public for the first time.

Over the past five years the organisation has scanned 300,000 documents relating to the First World War and has made them available online to help people find out more about their relatives who fought and died in the conflict.

Visit www.cwgc.org for further information on the records.

● Now and then – pages 39-67

“It must be achievable”

WIN



...an iPad Air tablet

THE clues to last month's spine lines competition may have been guessed by those who read our interview with former PoW David Arkush. (Horace) Greasley, (Jock) Hamilton-Baillie, (George) Lascelles and *James Bond* actor (Desmond) Llewelyn were all captured during the Second World War.

This month we have teamed up with UK electrical retailer www.ebuyer.com, which sells everything from televisions to home appliances, to offer one lucky reader a 16GB iPad Air worth £399.

To be in with a chance of winning tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue.

Send your answers to the usual postal address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by August 29.

IN NUMBERS

450

Rounds per minute that the Vickers machine gun could fire on the battlefields of the First World War
 – pages 48-49



All aboard for rail discount

■ RESERVISTS have welcomed a rule change which means they can enjoy the same rail discount as their Regular counterparts.

The Forces' railcard has been extended to make part-time personnel and their dependents eligible for a 34 per cent discount on off-duty train journeys.

WO2 Neil Hesleton (REME), a Regular-turned-Reservist, wrote to *Soldier* last April to complain that he and his colleagues had been excluded from the privilege.

"This is excellent news as the saving is substantial," he commented. "My wife and I are really looking forward to receiving the discount."

Further details on the card, which costs £15 annually, can be found in DIN2014DIN01-133.





"WE WANTED TO CREATE A GRIPPING STORY ABOUT UNSUNG HEROES"

- FIRST WORLD WAR REACHES CONSOLES, PAGES 86-87

Picture: Steve Dolk



FEELING STRESSED?

■ A PROGRAMME to help troops deal with worry and anxiety has been developed by the MoD.

From this month the "start taking control" initiative will see one-day foundation courses run at the Defence Academy's newly created Joint Stress and Resilience Centre (JSARC) to give soldiers, sailors and airmen a basic understanding of stress and useful coping methods.

The package was designed in collaboration with academics from the University of East London and the NHS, and will aim to improve what experts call the "psychological fitness" of troops.

"The Armed Forces already does a lot to combat stress but that is after something has happened – this is the first time the MoD is focusing on primary prevention," explained Sqn Ldr Pete Vaughan (RAF), officer commanding the JSARC.

The course is open to personnel of every rank and to book a place call the centre on military 96161 5081.



A GOOD NIGHT'S KIP

■ SOLDIERS can expect to sleep more soundly when exercising at Stanford Training Area after a £60,000 revamp to the Norfolk site's "stone tents".

Rather than sleeping under canvas or inside derelict shelters, Service personnel will now be accommodated in refurbished and weatherproofed buildings.

"Troops will benefit from a robust multi-functional structure that they can use as a more realistic training environment or as a unit base," said Tony Powell, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's executive officer for the East region.

HOME TRUTHS



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



Skills in cityslicking

As well as interacting with senior military personnel, the Army Families Federation has various contacts in parliament, business and the charity sector.

The Armed Forces Covenant has opened doors for us across government, making conversations with the departments of health, education and work and pensions useful in raising awareness of the issues that face military families, including access to services.

The recent change to flexible working rights is just one example of a policy that doesn't apply to soldiers, and we will be asking how good the MoD's flexible working schemes are.

We will cite the covenant and its pledge to remove disadvantage in our mission to ensure that the inflexibility of military life is understood when determining pay.

Among the organisations I have spoken to recently is Deloitte – a global financial services company.

Their "military insight" days allow Army leavers to gain an understanding of the different types of management consultancy roles and the opportunities available across the firm.

A series of short, informative presentations from ex-Forces personnel working for Deloitte demystified their world and

highlighted the skills that can be transferred from the military into the financial sector.

The scheme is a brilliant example of how industry can aid transition from the Forces while benefiting from a high calibre of new employee.

Barclays is another company with big ideas on how to help Armed Forces leavers and HSBC recently invited us to their Canary Wharf HQ to discuss how to improve banking services for families.

For budding entrepreneurs I am continually impressed by X-Forces, a dynamic organisation which has worked hard to ensure that departing troops and their dependants can find business advice and start-up loans.

Away from the bright lights of the city, I met with the adjutant general to discuss the challenges of rebasing, the provision of welfare and the needs of Reserve families.

The requirement for good support is understood and while facilities on short contingency operations may lack Starbucks and other luxuries, the need for web connectivity and gyms was noted.

A review into welfare for the home front will report later this month but is expected to improve things rather than scale them back.

www.aff.org.uk

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"THIS IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO OUR LOSSES OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS"

- OFFICER ACADEMY ADVANCES, PAGES 26-30



Bright ideas boost Army fleet

Gems winners urge other troops to have a go

SOLDIERS have seen their brainwaves become a reality after telling the Army how it could improve its vehicles.

Maj Tony Maw, WO2 Martin Scott (both REME) and WO1 Jason Baillie (Scots DG, pictured) are the latest troops to be awarded in the MoD's Gems scheme.

The initiative, which attracts more than 2,000 entries a year from Forces and civilian personnel, is designed to let those at the sharp end suggest improvements to military life and can result in financial rewards for the best ideas.

Maj Maw, of HQ British Forces Germany (BFG), was singled out for suggesting a new repair process for extensively damaged MAN support vehicles (shown above) which would previously have been scrapped.

Thanks to his idea, BFG platforms are now sent to a contractor for structural straightening.

"It's a hybrid process which challenged the existing in-house procedures," explained the officer.

"Using our workforce and the German contractors, we can repair the vehicles to be used again."

Meanwhile, WO2 Scott, a full-time Reservist with the Land Training Fleet in Warminster, investigated a way to reduce the cost of ordering new batteries.

"I was given a contact who loaned us a special charger for a period," he said.

"The results were amazing,



with a recovery rate of between 70 and 80 per cent."

The chargers have since been formally implemented, saving the MoD more than half a million pounds in around two years.

WO1 Baillie also won a Gems award for his idea to make water tanks inside the Challenger II main battle tank more efficient.

"It used to annoy me when filling the drinking container that a vacuum would cause an overspill," he said.

The senior NCO worked out that by simply swapping the breather hole from the back to the front of the unit, this could be avoided.

"If anyone has ideas to make things better we need to drive them forward," WO1 Baillie commented.

"No matter how small a concept is, go for it – it may make a massive difference later."

Nominations for this year's awards close on August 29.

For further details visit the Gems page on the defence intranet.



CALL TO HELP THE 'LONELY' GENERATION

MILITARY personnel are being asked to play their part in helping to end the problem of loneliness among elderly veterans and civilians.

WO1 Debbie Trownson (AGC (SPS)) is appealing to troops to give up one afternoon per year to host a tea party for senior citizens.

The Army welfare worker is a volunteer for Contact the Elderly, a charity that arranges social gatherings for those living in isolation, and she believes men and women of the Armed Forces have a lot to offer the initiative.

"I hosted a tea party in Wellington Barracks in March and it was such a rewarding thing to do just to see the joy and companionship that it provides," WO1 Trownson told *Soldier*.

"I would love for the military community to get behind this charity – especially as a lot of elderly people who need the support could be veterans themselves."

To become a volunteer visit www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

COVENANT CONTINUES

■ ALL 97 local authorities across the East Midlands and East Anglia have signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Blaby District Council was the final one in the region to pledge its support, days ahead of a parade by the 9th/12th Royal Lancers in Leicester to mark the unit's return from Afghanistan.

PINT-SIZED PARTY

■ ARMY musicians entertained more than 1,000 schoolchildren with Disney songs and pop tunes during a special morning concert.

Among those to perform for the pint-sized partygoers at Kneller Hall was the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps, which last year shifted its focus to more contemporary music.

For information about upcoming shows by the Corps of Army Music visit www.army.mod.uk/concerts



CURRY 'HOT FAVOURITE'

■ BRITISH soldiers' top dish is curry, while policemen opt for fish and chips and nurses prefer salad, according to a poll by www.uniformdating.com



Picture: Shutterstock



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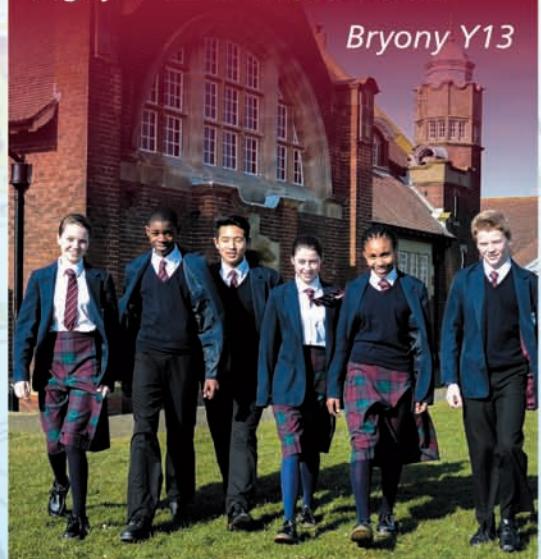
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Bryony Y13



**"WE HAD A GOOD START TO THE
SEASON AND WERE CONFIDENT"**
- VOLLEYBALL VICTORIES, PAGE 98



FEARLESS FUNDRAISING

Picture: Steve Dock



**Money raised: £5,000
For: TB Alert**



SIGNALLER'S ASSAULT ON CANCER

THE loss of her mother to cancer has inspired a 27-year-old soldier to put herself through 1,000 miles of gruelling assault courses for charity.

Sig Sarah Newey of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) took up the challenge at the end of 2013 in aid of Cancer Research.

Since then the Servicewoman has signed up to as many races as she can squeeze into each weekend, from Tough Mudder to Nottingham's Outlaw Triathlon, to try and raise £5,000.

"This was my way of keeping busy and not brooding over things," she told *Soldier*.

"I even managed the Bastion ten-kilometre run while I was deployed at the start of this year.

"Every bit of money I raise will help to make sure that someone doesn't go through what my family has suffered – all the upset."

Sig Newey already has 500 miles under her belt and hopes to complete the full distance by the end of the year.

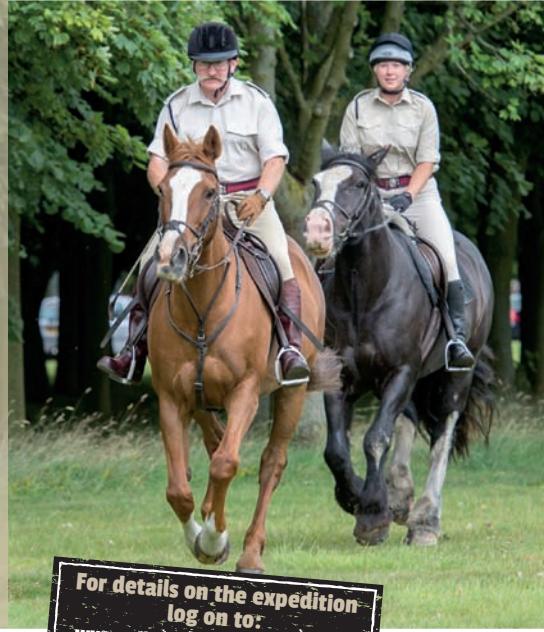
AN EQUINE 'HONOUR'

SOLDIERS are preparing to saddle up their horses and gallop 100 miles across France.

A 35-strong team, including veterans and civilians, will undertake the sponsored five-day expedition at the end of the month in aid of The Not Forgotten Association.

The trip will commemorate the key role that the British Cavalry Division played in the early months of the First World War, with all participants sporting 1914 service dress.

"It's going to be a memorable few days; to ride through the battlefields of our ancestors and reflect on their sacrifices is an honour," said Cpl Lyndsey Dove (RE, pictured far right).



WHAT ILLNESS?

A SERVICEMAN who passed the combat infantryman's course just months after recovering from a drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis has set out to cycle the length of the country in the name of charity.

Pte Simon Richardson (PWRR) was marked out as the fittest recruit during the training package in Catterick last year.

The 31-year-old was due to complete the 874-mile feat as this issue went to press with the aim of raising £1,000 for TB Alert – a charity that works to tackle the illness.

However, the challenge isn't his first for the charity.

While still in treatment, Pte Richardson rowed the equivalent length of the English Channel to raise more than £4,000 – taking his total fundraising effort to date to almost £5,000.

"We are constantly impressed by Simon's get-up-and-go," the organisation's chief executive Mike Mandelbaum commented.

GOT AN EVENT?

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Picture: Gordon Elias

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"I WOULD GIVE TROOPS THE OPTION OF SELLING LEAVE BACK"

- ARMY CHIEF FOR A DAY, PAGE 106



Double whammy for Everest man

CLIMBING the world's highest peak once would be a one-off for most people but a Reservist medic has recently scaled Mount Everest for the second year in a row.

Cpl Rob Smith (pictured below), of 16 Medical Regiment, completed the mission weeks after an avalanche claimed the lives of some of the guides he ascended with in 2013.

Sixteen Sherpas were killed in the tragedy on April 18, the deadliest incident in the mountain's history.

"Accidents are inevitable in a sport like mountaineering but when it happens on that scale and to people you know it really brings home the dangers," said the soldier.

"This year was very difficult because high winds hindered getting camps set up and resupply so when we did get good weather it was a one-shot deal."

A mountain instructor in his civilian role, the 43-year-old credits his airborne training with helping him through.

"You know you have the ability to push yourself and go that extra mile," he explained.

The NCO has been asked to share his expertise with a team of Gurkhas who are hoping to climb Everest next May.



Picture: Cpl Jamie Peters, RLC

What a blast: The Apache attack helicopter was the talk of the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford. Members of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps used pyrotechnic explosions to simulate combat operations. Read page 15 to find out what award the AAC won at the show.

Fighting 'hidden' enemy

PM sets aside big bucks to tackle the cyber threat

“It's not massed tanks we need”

THE prime minister has announced an investment package of £1.1 billion to help the Armed Forces defend against hidden threats.

Speaking at the Farnborough Air Show, David Cameron said the money would be spent on intelligence and surveillance equipment in addition to high-tech aircraft.

"The enemy may be seen or unseen," he explained. "So as the Strategic Defence and Security Review in 2010 made clear, it is not massed tanks on

the European mainland we need, but the latest in cyber warfare, unmanned aircraft technology and Special Forces capability.

"In the 21st century you cannot defend the realm from the white cliffs of Dover."

Most of the money, some £800 million, will be spent on intelligence and surveillance, including cyber technology.

A further £300 million will be used to fund existing programmes such as unmanned aircraft and radars for the Royal Air Force's Typhoon.

Bloodhound team press on with record

THE world's first supersonic car has moved closer to reality thanks to British soldiers.

Working alongside aerospace and motorsport experts, members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have constructed the cockpit for Bloodhound, a vehicle they hope will set a new world land speed record in 2015.

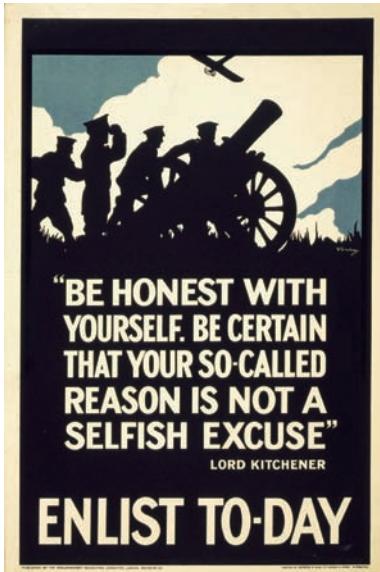
The module weighs 200kg and will carry ballistic armour to protect pilot, Wg Cdr Andy Green, if debris is thrown up at high velocity.

Among those lending their skills to the project is SSgt Matt Chapman (REME), whose work on the pedals was one of the most complicated elements.

"The job was extremely complex and required its own custom set of tools," said the senior NCO. "Last year I was in Afghanistan machining parts for vehicles that would save people's lives and now I'm using the same skills to make everything from the steering column brackets to the fasteners that hold on the carbon fibre hatch."



Picture: Stefan Majoram



THE BIG PICTURE

> GREAT BRITAIN, 1914-18

POSTER POWER

AT the outbreak of the First World War the Regular Army was only 80,000-strong and while today's recruiters have television, radio and social media at their disposal, in 1914 they relied on posters to get their message across. This selection of wartime placards reveal how themes of patriotism, pride and duty were used to urge men – and women – to "do their bit" for king and country. For more iconic adverts and artwork from the era read *British Posters of the First World War* by John Christopher.



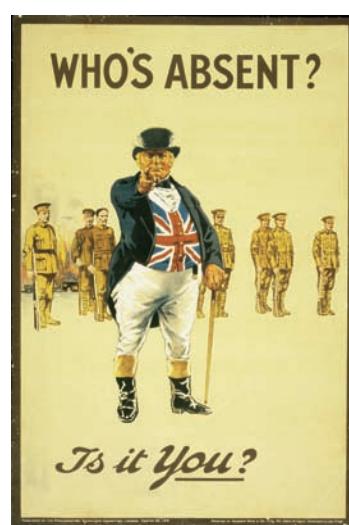
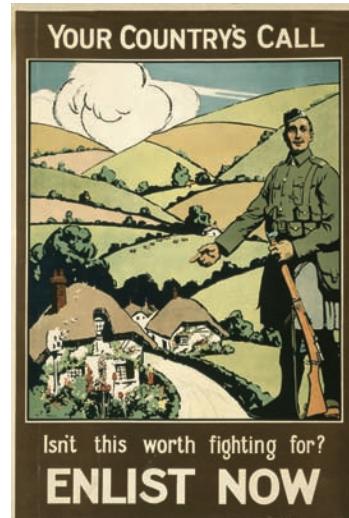


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IT REQUIRES A
HUGE AMOUNT OF
PATIENCE AND A
SENSE OF HUMOUR,

ACADEMY ADVANCE

Afghan training facility makes giant strides under British Army's watchful eye



Report: Richard Long
Pictures: Graeme Main

THE Afghan National Army Officer Academy will celebrate a major milestone in its short history next month as cadets from the very first kandak prepare to graduate.

Modelled on the world-famous Sandhurst institution, the facility is seen as a significant success story for a country that will take sole responsibility for its security once British combat operations end later this year.

Ensuring a steady flow of top-class leaders feed into the home-grown forces is one of the UK's enduring commitments post 2014 and Service personnel are set to maintain their presence on site for the foreseeable future.

Having helped train the Afghan platoon commanders and sergeants who serve as instructors the troops have reverted to a mentoring role as the new teachers take control in the classroom.

"We had hoped to have experienced colour sergeants like we do at Sandhurst, those who can talk the talk and walk the walk," Brig Bruce Russell (pictured right), the academy's chief mentor, told *Soldier*.

Focused: Afghan officers are now taking the load in the delivery of training thanks to the British Army's mentoring efforts

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get hold of them as they are committed to the fight, so we have to use younger personnel instead. But what they lack in experience they make up for in enthusiasm.

"The majority have been trained in India and they are the people who are now delivering the drills. We have to put them through lessons first and a lot of the material will be completely new to them.

"We are here to mentor these guys. It requires a huge amount of patience, a sense of humour and the ability to temper one's expectations.

"It takes a certain person to be able to do that and we are lucky to have those people."

The academy, which sits on the outskirts of Kabul, welcomed its third intake of cadets in June and there has been no shortage of candidates wanting to join.

More than 10,000 applications were received for the first kandak but earning a place on the roll call does not come easy.

"They go through a selection board similar to Westbury where they face interviews, have to write essays, perform command tasks and do PT," Brig Russell added.

"On command tasks they are better than the average British soldier and are very good at problem solving.

"While there were thousands of candidates for the initial intake only 943 went through.

"We have to balance the officers we select by region and ethnicity. We have to take a cut from across the whole country. There is an art to getting that right but it gives the academy a lot of credibility."

To ensure instructors reach the highest standards British troops are on hand to mentor them in everything from skill at arms to signals work but the supporting effort is a truly international affair.

Australia, New Zealand, Denmark and Norway have all committed soldiers to the cause and, like their UK counterparts, they are striving to see Afghans take the lead in the delivery of training.

"We make sure they are fully prepared for the lessons," said Lt Col Sean Benporath, of the Australian Army and commanding officer of the second kandak mentoring team.

"We will run through what they are doing beforehand to ensure their knowledge is up to speed but we rarely step in once they are in the classroom. →



→ "For us it is about picking up on the finer points as the attention to detail can get missed but this posting has exceeded my expectations."

"The officer cadets are very impressive; they have a thirst to learn and want to be here."

Soldier witnessed Afghan instructors taking charge of lessons on how to conduct urban operations and move in built-up environments.

When focusing on the art of clearing a room the teacher briefed cadets on different search techniques, how to handle evidence and ways of detaining suspects before testing their skills in a serial.

"He will talk about the items that may be found in the building and he is very good on the cultural side of things," said mentor Sgt John McEvoy (WG).

"This guy was an infantry instructor for four years and served in the special forces as well. We have different levels of mentoring but for this lesson I just gave a template to work from. I then checked to make sure everything was okay during the rehearsal but he is in charge."

Such experience is not witnessed across the board and other teachers find themselves thrown in at the deep end, but they quickly adapt.

"One of our lads had only just finished basic infantry training when he came to us," said Capt Chay Hook (R Signals), OC of the signals training wing mentors.

"That would never happen in the UK and we had to build his technical experience. It was a process of structural development.

"But we have a bright bunch. Not only have they got to grips with the radios but they have learnt the tactics, techniques and procedures that go with them as well.

"Some are better than others and there can be gaps in knowledge. If they make a mistake in a lesson we will go back and reiterate certain things – they are very receptive to that and it works well."

From talking to UK personnel it is hard to ignore the sense of pride that comes with being involved in an academy that will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the country.

And with British Forces showing a long-term commitment to the cause such feelings will only intensify as the number of graduation ceremonies grows.

"This is an extremely exciting project and is a fitting tribute to our losses over the past 12 years," Brig Russell concluded.

"If we can create an institution that improves the quality of ANA officers, saves the lives of Afghans and boosts security then it will be a terrific mission for all of us here." ■





JEWEL IN THE CROWN

ACADEMY commandant Brig Gen Muhammad Sharif Sharifi (pictured below) believes the Sandhurst model is the perfect fit for his country.

"Over the last 12 to 13 years we have increased the numbers in the Afghan National Army and we are now looking at the quality of our officers," he explained to *Soldier*.

"Sandhurst is one of the most historic and best academies in the world. It trains officers in a relatively short space of time so we know we will be getting good commanders within a year.

"The experience we have has really helped us to increase the discipline and quality of training and education. This has now become a famous institution in Afghanistan.

"We are concentrating on the leadership and military skills that will be vital to the future platoon commanders of the ANA.

"We have to thank the British government, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Denmark, for their help."

And with graduation day fast approaching he believes future success is sure to follow.

"I am looking forward to it," he added. "Not only will it be a proud day for the academy, it will also be a proud day for the ANA and Afghan people.

"This will really help to boost our reputation."



MULTINATIONAL EFFORT

Soldier spoke to personnel from the other coalition forces based at the academy to get their insight into the mentoring role and what it is like to work with the British Army



Lt Col Sean Benporath
(Australian Army)

● "We are both very similar, there are a few differences between the two armies but nothing that particularly stands out.

"I work with five different nations and we come together to teach an Afghan doctrine so that creates a level playing field.

"This is not my first tour of Afghanistan but the move to training and mentoring is one of the only missions that will survive post-2015.

"It is one of our enduring commitments and to be part of that is quite humbling."



Capt Oyvind Nilssen
(Norwegian Army)

● "I am a platoon commander mentor with the second kandak and we have learnt a lot of lessons from the first intake; there will always be teething problems with a project like this.

"Some of the Afghan staff have little experience – they may have only spent 18 months training in India – so we have to teach the instructors before they can teach the cadets.

"It is much better when we can show them the practical side of things. In areas such as map reading they struggle as they've probably never seen a map before but all they need is practice."

Maj Aidan Shattock
(New Zealand Army)

● "A lot of the material is quite complex but the Afghans just do not have that level of knowledge so we are working hard to develop their skills.

"The majority have not seen combat so they need to progress quickly but they pick things up well.

"New Zealand has been here since the beginning of the war and we now want to set these guys up for the future.

"I have worked with the British before. They do things a little differently but our army is based on theirs. We have a pretty tight team, we were put through the wringer slightly with the first kandak and the second will have changed things.

"But by the third and fourth we will have a strong system in place."



Capt Simon Hansen-Nord
(Danish Army)

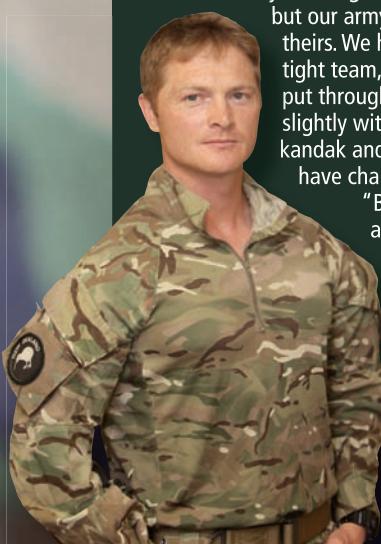
● "We are quite similar to the British in the way we have approached things. It is all about applying common sense, humour and cultural awareness to our roles.

"The Afghans who have previously trained in India are very receptive and have evolved significantly. They understand why we are here and what we are doing.

"I like working with them and it is nice to see some development."



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AS the British Army adjusts to its post-Afghanistan role and a smaller structure, personnel have faced difficult cuts to both units and colleagues.

Few will be more painfully aware of this fact than members of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who found themselves training for future operations while preparing to see their unit consigned to history.

Despite a high-profile campaign to save the formation from disbandment, it will disappear from the Army's order of battle this month when it merges with the regiment's 1st Battalion.

With the final bugle about to sound, *Soldier* travelled to Carpegna in Italy to join members of A Company on their very last exercise together...

'A BITTERSWEET EXPERIENCE'

Fusiliers bow out on Italian job



Report: Becky Clark
Pictures: Steve Dock

**This is
more
of what
I class
as real
soldiering**

Ttakes a lot of blood, sweat and tears," said LCpl Danny Shilling, standing next to the concealed shelter he and his section had spent three hours hacking out of an Italian hillside.

"We dug down below ground level and used earth to build up the sides, camouflaged it with turf and put a poncho over the top. This soil contains a lot of clay and moulds quite well but it is hard work."

It may have been a back-breaking task but building a shell scrape was just one of the vital skills required in the conventional warfare scenarios that Exercise Roman Express was geared towards.

The four-week package saw the fusiliers and their Italian counterparts from the 3rd Alpini Regiment rehearsing how they would operate together if called upon to form a joint fighting force.

For the Cyprus-based British personnel, who recently completed a stint as the Theatre Reserve Battalion, the serial was a far cry from the Afghanistan-specific training they have become accustomed to.

"Unlike Op Herrick, where you have lots of resources and nice ops rooms in which to plan missions, we have been going back to basics with hasty orders issued in the dark during tactical situations," said Lt Rhodri Edwards.

"We've also been adapting our kit and equipment for each scenario – so, for instance, when we were trying to find the enemy we were cutting around in the dark without helmets and body armour because our best defence in that situation is not being seen or heard.

"Without clumsy equipment that's a lot easier to do. But when we moved into the attack, that was when the kit came back on."

Fieldcraft

The final phase of the serial took place in the Apennine Mountains, the range that runs down the spine of Italy.

Deceptively picturesque, the landscape features steep ascents, exposed ridges and wooded areas, as well as weather conditions every bit as changeable as those on Brecon or Salisbury Plain.

Hiding in the hills as part of the exercise scenario was a fictional paramilitary force, which the joint British and Italian battlegroup was tasked with neutralising.

In-between missions to locate or attack the enemy, troops had to reacquaint themselves with operating

out of harbour areas – something Maj James Bird, officer commanding A Coy, said was vital.

"It's been a long time since we've lived in the field," he commented.

"We've got used to being in forward operating bases with the comforts they provide and it's about time we switched focus and remembered how to conduct ourselves in arduous conditions to ensure we're fit to fight in any environment."

'Real' soldiering

Among those pleased to be putting conventional skills and drills into practice again was Cpl Chris Schmitt.

"It's a relief, really" said the 28-year-old.

"In a scenario like this there is less of an IED threat so it's more of what I class as real soldiering rather than just following the man in front and hoping you don't tread on anything."

With one British platoon embedded in the Italian formation and vice versa, both sides had to work closely to meet their objectives.

A basic Italian language course run for the UK personnel in Cyprus prior to deployment went some way to enabling the troops to interact and a familiarisation package at the start of the serial introduced them to each other's tactics and methods.

"Communications haven't been too bad – you get by," added Cpl Schmitt.

"The Italians have similar operating procedures and the hand signals we use are fairly generic.

"The basic signs are Nato standard – like enemy, thumb down and friendly forces, thumb up."

However, Maj Bird conceded that the partner nation had an advantage.

"I've been absolutely taken aback by the Italians' language skills – especially their military vocabulary," he said.

"If the shoe was on the other foot we would not do so well."

"They are alpine troops so even though they carry more equipment than we tend to, they can get around the battlefield quite quickly."

With personnel from nine different Italian units involved – including infantry, engineer and aviation support – the serial was one of the most complex and challenging in the country's training calendar.

Money matters

Just as the UK has had to contend with defence cutbacks, so too has the Italian military.

Exercise director, Lt Col Paolo Sandri, explained that with many Nato partners in a similar predicament, training events like Roman Express would become



IN NUMBERS
450
– the number of British and Italian troops involved in Exercise Roman Express



f
**It's been
a long
time
since
we were
in the
field**



evermore important.

"We can't think of the future without joint working and being prepared to intervene around the world as part of multinational formations," said the 43-year-old.

"So in this exercise we are sharing our best features and getting to know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"There are a lot of stereotypes but what I see is guys of the same age struggling together.

"Whichever language you speak, a rucksack's a rucksack, a rifle is a rifle and the enemy is the enemy.

"The bond they're creating is extraordinary and that's the most important outcome because if they have to fight together in future they know they can trust each other."

Future focus

With the disbandment of Second Fusiliers imminent, the purpose of Exercise Roman Express was not just to prepare for the prospect of international taskings.

The serial was also their last chance to ready themselves for their future professional lives.

Similarly, soldiers from B Company had taken part in an American-led exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Lt Col Jim Taylor, the battalion's final commanding officer, described why he was so determined for his troops to go out on a high.

"Two challenges struck me when we faced our merger," he remarked.

"One was that we had to send the soldiers to their new homes as well trained and well equipped as possible so that they can launch themselves into a fresh start on the front foot.

"The second thing was to maintain their commitment and drive throughout the drawdown period, which started last summer.

"I had to be sure that I was giving the soldiers and commanders the right experiences to keep them motivated until the very end and part of that was to provide them with a really good training challenge such as this one."

Reflecting on the demise of the formation, he added: "It is a terrible loss for the battalion to be removed from the order of battle but we have our instructions and we're implementing them.

"It's not something that you relish but you have to do it properly and that's why we planned all this activity right up to the last minute.

"This has certainly been a bittersweet experience." ■

ALL CHANGE

What now for members of 2nd Battalion?

THE loss of regimental identity is a bitter blow to any soldier but commanders have taken measures to make the process as painless as possible for those affected.

Among the options available to troops was transferring to the armoured Infantry as part of the their sister battalion, moving to another Queen's Division unit or the wider Infantry, or retraining in an entirely different trade.

Lt Col Taylor said that it had been crucial to prioritise troops' career progression.

"We have tried to make it an opportunity for them to make choices that suit individuals and their families," he explained.

"Whether they wanted to join the armoured Infantry or stay in a light role, try their hand at something new in the Army or serve in a particular location, we've engaged the fusiliers from start to finish so that as many as possible got their preferred option."

Following some difficult decisions, members of A Coy explained to *Soldier* what their next step would be...



Fus Nathan Power

"I'm going to 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment based in Paderborn.

"I've served in Germany before and my family and I enjoyed it over there so we want to go back before the move to the UK in 2017.

"It's a case of mixed feelings; I'm gutted to leave all my friends and start over again but living abroad has benefits too such as better pay so as a family man it works out well for me.

"My grandad was in 2 RRF and that's why I joined the battalion but I'm also glad in a way to be known as one of the last soldiers."



Fus Simon Candy

"I've been in the Army five years now but I'm leaving next year.

"I have recently had a daughter who lives in the UK and being in Cyprus I feel like I'm missing everything.

"In some respects the merger has helped me to make that decision because I'd rather have stayed in a light role.

"I'm still quite young and I like working outdoors and with my hands so I want to join the Forestry Commission."



Fus Kayne Hedderick

"I'm moving to join 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment because I wanted to go to another unit with a good reputation.

"We had prior warning around two years ago so we've all prepared ourselves for this but some of the lads have lost morale a bit.

"The battalion means a great deal to every bloke in it and I'm not sure everyone can see that the grass could be greener on the other side."



Final farewell: Members of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers march together for the last time through Warwick

Picture: Sgt Russ Nolan, RLC



CO's tribute to troops

"I am always struck by the resilience, not just of the men but of their families as well. I thank them for their fortitude in the face of uncertainty, their commitment in rising to the challenge of the exercises we've given them and the good humour that has seen them through routine duties back in Cyprus over the past months."

Lt Col Jim Taylor



I'm going to 1st Battalion, which was my top choice.

I'll know more people there so I won't be starting again. I am looking forward to going.

It's something new and they have Warrior vehicles so hopefully I'll learn new skills.

LCpl Danny Shilling



LCpl Daniel Read

"I'll be retraining as a medic. I've done a couple of med courses in the past and it tickled my fancy.

"I want to start helping people rather than doing the infantry side of things.

"Everyone has their regimental pride and I'm proud to be in the Second Fusiliers but with the amalgamation happening I'd rather just do something completely different."



Fus Kyle Huetson

"I wanted to stay as a fusilier so I'm going over to 1st Battalion.

"I know quite a few lads there and it's one of the only northern regiments left in the Queen's Division.

"It's a shame because I don't think we deserve to be disbanded. We're a good regiment."

Sgt Wayne McNamara

"I'm going to the 1st Battalion. My old man was a fusilier, my uncles were too and I was born in a fusilier hospital so I wanted to keep the hackle.

"It's not great but I'll go wherever the Army sends me and crack on with what I have to do."



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OUT OF THE SHADOWS

One century after the First World War broke out, *Soldier* sheds light on the battlefield experiences of its troops

41-43 BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT

How it all started in 1914

44-47 MOVE OVER BLACKADDER

The biggest myths surrounding the First World War

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Weaponry and clothing of the conflict

53-56 IN COLOUR

Old photos brought to life with colour technology

58-59 A MAN'S WORLD?

Women who battled their way to the front

60-63 'MY HERO'

Serving troops reveal their inspiration

64-65 TOMMY TALK

Military slang of the early twentieth century battlefield

67 DIARY DATES

The month's centenary events listed





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SIX ROUNDS TO WORLD WAR

Illustrations: David Banks

THE reason why the First World War started is still a hot topic for debate so here we outline the undisputable steps that brought the global powers to blows 100 years ago this month...



TIMELINE OF EVENTS 1914

JUNE 28
SERBIAN NATIONALIST
GAVRILO PRINCIP IN SARAJEVO
ASSASSINATES ARCHDUKE
FRANZ FERDINAND, HEIR TO
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S THRONE,
AND HIS WIFE, SOPHIE.



JULY 28
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY DECLARES WAR
ON SERBIA, SPARKING A NUMBER OF
OTHER WAR DECLARATIONS THAT BRING
GERMANY, BRITAIN, FRANCE, TURKEY
AND RUSSIA INTO THE CONFLICT.



ROUND 1

EUROPE'S READY TO FIGHT

IMAGINE a boxing ring containing Mike Tyson, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Rocky Marciano all at the same time.

It would only be a matter of time before a major brawl broke out.

Similarly, Europe in 1914 is dominated by a handful of mighty empires with ambitions to rule the world.

The heavyweights rubbing shoulders are Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary, with the Turkish Ottoman Empire and Italy looking on opportunistically.

Britain, France and Russia have signed the Triple Entente. These empires are all wary of each other but united in their suspicion of Germany's ambitions to

dominate Europe.

Germany is vying with Britain for naval superiority and has imperial ambitions in the resource-rich regions of Africa and the Far East.

Russia and Austria-Hungary are tussling for control of the highly volatile Balkan region.

Russia's ally, Serbia, feels threatened by the Austro-Hungarian empire which has swallowed up neighbours Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

In turn, Austria-Hungary is determined to stop Serbia's efforts to unite the Slavs of southeastern Europe and destabilise that part of its empire.

Now, all this volatile situation needs is someone to throw the first punch.

8 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY DECLINES AN INVITATION TO THE FRENCH-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL.

13 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY INVADES BELGIUM.

14 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES LUXEMBOURG.

15 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES BRUSSELS.

16 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES ANTWERP.

17 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES MECHELEN.

18 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES TURNHOUT.

19 AUGUST 1914

GERMANY CAPTURES KORTENBERG.

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ROUND 4

THE BRAWL SPREADS



RUSSIA, aggrieved by the Austria-Hungary declaration of war on its ally Serbia, mobilises its troops, which causes the Germans, who have an alliance with the Austro-Hungarian empire, to declare war on both Russia and its major ally France.

In 1914, the Germans invade neutral Belgium on their way to attack France.

Relations between Britain and Germany, already strained, reach breaking point when German troops cross into Belgium and breach the Treaty

of London, which Britain had signed in 1839 guaranteeing Belgian neutrality. As a result, the British government declares war on Germany on August 4, 1914.

ROUND 5

EYES ON THE PRIZE(S)

IN November 1914 the Ottoman Empire, with its base of power in Turkey, comes into the war because of its strong military ties with Germany and potential opportunities to regain territory lost to the British, such as Cyprus, and to the Russians in the Caucasus.

Italy, a former ally of Germany and Austria-Hungary, joins the war on the side of Britain after being promised some of Austria-Hungary's territory around the Adriatic once the conflict is won.

Bulgaria, meanwhile, with its eye on territorial claims against a number of Balkan states, enters the war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary.



ROUND 6

THE WAR GOES GLOBAL

IN 1915 the British passenger ship *Lusitania* is sunk by a German submarine. Of the 1,195 people on-board who are killed, 128 are Americans.

Pacifist US President Woodrow Wilson holds off an outraged public until 1917 when two major developments undermine his efforts.

First, the Germans announce that their U-boats will sink any ship that approaches Britain, even ones belonging to the neutral United States.

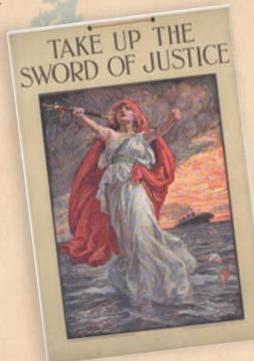
Then Britain intercepts the Zimmermann telegram, sent to the

German ambassador in Mexico, instructing that he request the country join Germany and her allies if and when America enters the war on the side of Britain.

The dangling carrot? Mexico is promised territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona lost in the Mexican-American war back in 1848.

After the telegram's contents are made public, US Congress votes to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

As a result, the first truly global conflict has been created.



Above: The recruiting poster produced shortly after the sinking of the *Lusitania*
Picture: Imperial War Museum

DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY'S ROLE

■ WANT to find out more about the actions of your ancestors during the First World War?

Soldier has teamed up with military genealogy website Forces War Records (www.forces-war-records.co.uk) to offer five readers an annual subscription to the portal, which contains a wealth of documents from various conflicts including newspapers, personal diaries, books and periodicals.

To be in with a chance of winning this prize, worth more than £70, send your details to the usual address or comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by August 29.



AUGUST 21

PTE JOHN PARR, 17, OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT IS FIRST BRITISH SOLDIER TO DIE ON THE WESTERN FRONT. NEAR OBOURG IN BELGIUM. HE LIED ABOUT HIS AGE TO ENLIST WHEN HE WAS 14.



AUGUST 22

THE FIRST CRITICAL AIR RECONNAISSANCE OF THE WAR. ARMY PILOTS SPOT GERMANS SURROUNDING THE BEF WHO THEN WITHDRAW.



AUGUST 23

AFTER OCCUPYING BELGIUM, GERMANY NOW INVADES FRANCE.



AUGUST 25

ROYAL FLYING CORPS CLAIMS FIRST KILL AS 2ND SQUADRON DOWN A GERMAN RECONNAISSANCE PLANE.

THE BLACKADDER EFFECT

...and other First World War misunderstandings



WHOSE FAULT?

» IN general, people are much more comfortable with placing Britain on the "right" side in the Second World War than the First, where the issues seem a bit fuzzier.

In the Second World War the Nazis were so obviously appalling, draped in swastikas, racial hatred and an overt plan for European domination, that plucky Britain had no choice but to oppose them.

Historians have long debated the reasons for the First World War but, broadly speaking, academic opinion has come to agree with a German historian called Fritz Fischer, who in the 1960s wrote that his country had to take the greatest blame.

On August 4, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium in a bid to defeat France quickly and turn east to knock out its ally Russia – a strategy known as the Schlieffen plan.

If Britain had failed to act it would have lost credibility as a world power and a triumphant Germany, dominating the European mainland, would have seen our country as the next adversary.

Britain had to respond.

» T may have shaped Britain in a way that no other conflict has but much of our knowledge of the First World War is myth.

Portrayals of this period in the popular media – including hit TV series *Blackadder Goes Forth* and the works of a few war poets – have become hugely influential but are not necessarily representative of the wider picture.

In reality, the story of the British Army in 1914-18 is a far more complex and ultimately successful tale than is often depicted.

Here, David Willey, curator at The Tank Museum in Bovington, gives his view on some common misconceptions...

'BUTCHER' HAIG

» BRITISH commander Fd Marshal Douglas Haig (shown below) is a prime example of how attitudes to the First World War have changed over the years.

In the 1990s the *Daily Express* started a campaign to have Haig's statue in Whitehall removed because he was a "butcher".

Yet in the immediate post-conflict era, the American commander John Pershing called Haig "the man who won the war".

At his funeral in 1928 more people attended to show their respects than at the ceremony of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Haig has been criticised as a dull, callous, incompetent, snobbish cavalry officer who failed to grasp the realities of modern fighting.

Yet, though dour and not a great verbal communicator, he was a consummate professional and embraced new technology to ensure his Army won.

His apparent indifference at casualties during the Battle of the Somme hides a more complex picture.

Haig purposely disguised his concern for the dead and

wounded as he considered a stoic, commanding attitude was needed.

Mistakes were made but most, even those who disliked him, agreed he was the only man who could have done the job.

Winston Churchill wrote in 1926: "Subsequent study of the war has led me to think a good deal better of Haig than I did at the time.

"It is absolutely certain there was no one who could have taken his place."

After the war, Haig concerned himself with veterans' affairs and was a founding force behind The Royal British Legion – arguing against separate charities for officers and enlisted men.



SEPTEMBER 5
THE ICONIC "YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU" RECRUITMENT POSTER IS PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE COVER OF *LONDON OPINION* MAGAZINE.

1914 CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER 6
TRENCH WARFARE STARTS AS SOLDIERS ON BOTH SIDES DIG IN AT MARNE IN FRANCE.



SEPTEMBER 8
PTE THOMAS HIGHGATE OF 1ST BATTALION, ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT BECAME THE FIRST OF 266 BRITISH SOLDIERS SHOT FOR DESERTION DURING THE WAR.





LIONS LED BY DONKEYS

» THE view of elderly generals sending the Infantry into another senseless attack while they headed off for a good meal in their chateau, safe behind the lines, is commonplace.

The "lions led by donkeys" phrase used to describe indifferent Army leadership was attributed to the German general Max Hoffman by politician Alan Clark in his 1961 book arguing how incompetent British

commanders were.

However, Clark later admitted the phrase was made up.

No military has a monopoly on bad generals – so why do we think the UK's military leaders were particularly poor?

Of course, mistakes were made: the British Army had to learn to fight a major European war on the job, expanding at an amazing rate with the need for more senior officers.

Some 97 generals were killed and a further 146 were wounded or taken prisoner.

A chateau was an obvious place for a headquarters as warfare could no longer be controlled by just one man on the battlefield.

Staff had to be accommodated and communications were still basic so the commander needed to be in an identifiable place where he

could exercise control.

As the war progressed the Army moved out "dead wood" and incompetent or exhausted leaders and promoted on ability.

Roland Boys Bradford won a Victoria Cross as a lieutenant colonel in 1916 before being killed at Cambrai the following year as a brigadier general.

He was 25. Yes – that is not a typo – 25. This was an Army that promoted on merit.

TRENCH LIFE

» MUD and trenches have become an iconic image of the Great War – yet these conditions had been a soldier's lot for centuries.

Digging in to find shelter from enemy fire was not a new idea but the Western Front led to a scale of trench digging never seen before.

Although images of lice-infested men and poor food prevail, trench life was strictly organised. Hygiene was firmly enforced, with latrines dug and regularly filled.

Lice were all too present

but clothes were regularly fumigated when personnel came out of the line.

Like today, food was considered essential for sustenance and morale.

The British soldier received 4,193 calories per day, slightly more than their German counterparts but less than the French troops.

However, both German and French supply systems failed more regularly and the quality of their food was mixed.

Monotony was the British

soldier's main complaint, not lack of food.

And for some personnel the cuisine was better than their usual civilian diet.

The British Army also took great pains to rotate troops regularly through the different trenches.

On average, a Serviceman could expect to spend about ten days a month there and only about five of these days in the firing line.

The rest of his time was spent in

reserve or recuperating and training.

This rotation was crucial in keeping morale high.

Personnel had hope: to last the week would mean a return from the front line, perhaps a shower and a rest.

Britain was the only major force to avoid a collapse in morale as the French Army experienced in 1917 and the German Army in 1918.



OCTOBER 5
FRENCH PILOT LOUIS QUENAULT OPENS FIRE ON GERMAN AIRCRAFT WITH A MACHINE GUN – PROPER AIR COMBAT HAS BEGUN.



OCTOBER 29
TURKEY ENTERS THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF GERMANY.



BLACKLEDGE M.
BOLGER W.
BOND H.
BOND J.
BOOTH F. T.
BOYD J.
BRADLEY J. 241
BRADLEY J. 235
BRADY J.

LOST GENERATION

» BRITAIN'S First World War casualty statistics are staggering.

Compare the sense of loss we feel for one soldier on current operations and then translate that to around 700,000 deaths.

A further 730,000 or so individuals were awarded sums of money or pensions due to illness or injury caused by their service.

There is no sense in trying to diminish this sacrifice but perhaps there is good reason to put it into wider perspective.

We know about the casualties suffered on the first day of the Battle of the Somme – about 60,000, of whom 19,240 were killed – but we hear less of comparable figures from other armies.

France lost 40,000 in three days of the Battle of the Frontiers in August 1914 and Germany 20,000 men on the first day of the Messines confrontation – and even more per day in their March 1918 attacks.

The British recruitment of Pals battalions – made up of friends, work colleagues, sports teams or professions – meant some areas suffered significantly higher losses than the national average.

On July 1, 1916 some of the Pals units had just over 50 per cent of their men killed – a figure that had a devastating impact on specific streets or areas at home.

Some places lost no men at all and were christened "thankful villages" but most suffered some casualties.

On average, one in eight other ranks and one in seven officers were victims of the conflict. Terrible figures, undoubtedly, but not the "lost generation" of popular myth.

TECHNOPHOBES

» THE supposed reluctance of the high command to understand or employ new technology is a staple of First World War plays and films and therefore a popular myth.

Yet the changes in the nature of warfare during this time and the response of the British Army is often overlooked.

There are many examples that show the rapid development of the Service's use of technology in the war – from the massive increase in the deployment of artillery to a rise from 272 aircraft in 1914 to 22,000 by October 1918 (the Royal Air Force was only formed in April 1918).

The use of tunneling, flame throwers, automatic weapons systems and tanks were also major advancements.

Little Willie, the prototype tank, was running in September 1915 and the design, manufacture, training and employment of this whole new system happened very quickly – especially when compared to today.

By the war's end, the first armoured personnel carrier, the first engineer tank, a lighter, faster combat vehicle and even an amphibious platform had all been built.

It has been said the Service of 1914 had methods that Wellington's Army would have easily recognised.

Only four years later, Britain was fighting an all-arms battle with a level of sophistication, speed and adaptability that the troops of 2014 would understand.

GAS, GAS, GAS!

» ARTIST John Singer Sargent's iconic painting of a line of blindfolded gas casualties (shown below) is one of the enduring images of the First World War.

Chlorine gas was introduced by the German Army in April 1915 and it had an initial shock effect on the French troops who faced it.

Reports on casualties from this first attack ranged up to 20,000, but later reports estimate around 1,500



SHOT AT DAWN

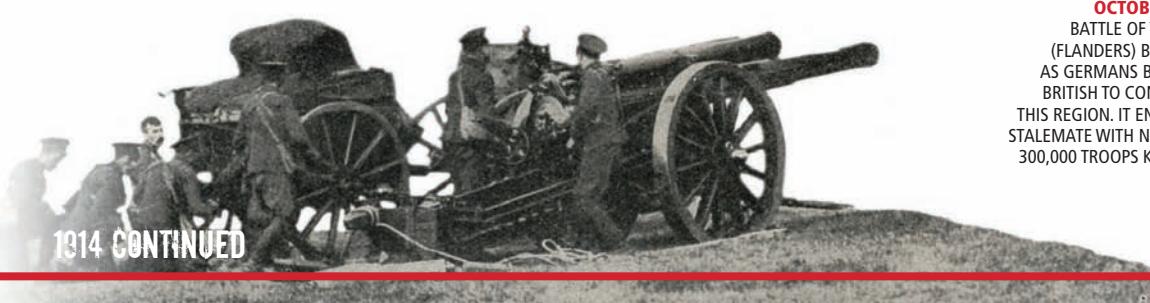
» ON a recent tour of The Tank Museum, when asked how many men the British Army executed for cowardice or desertion, a serving officer suggested more than 100,000.

But the truth is that in all theatres of war, after what has been judged as a generally fair and rigorous system, 3,080 troops were sentenced to death.

Of these, the majority were pardoned and 346 were executed – including 266 for desertion, 37 for murder and 18 for cowardice.

After studying the cases in detail, Cathryn Cornc, the co-author of *Blindfold and Alone*, wrote "the number of rogues outnumbered those with mitigating circumstances by about six to one".

While any execution is obviously a tragedy, the numbers actually involved seem to have taken on a disproportionate place in our picture of the First World War.



OCTOBER 31
BATTLE OF YPRES
(FLANDERS) BEGINS
AS GERMANS BATTLE
BRITISH TO CONTROL
THIS REGION. IT ENDS IN
STALEMATE WITH NEARLY
300,000 TROOPS KILLED.



IN VAIN

» THE concentration on certain critical aspects of the First World War may lead us to miss the main point – we won.

Sacrifices – enormous as they were in life, limb and other resources – were not in vain.

One only has to look at the conditions imposed by Germany on Russia in March 1918 to see what would have awaited Britain if she had tried to leave the war before victory.

And the sorry story of occupied Belgium, with 60,000 civilian deaths, 1.5 million refugees and 120,000 put into forced labour, indicates what may have been our fate.

In the aftermath of the conflict, families of those killed or maimed would have given short shrift to some of the platitudes we now associate with this period.

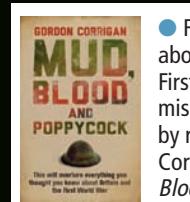
The vast majority of the nation believed it had fought in a just and noble cause.

To remember the immense sacrifice, the biggest art project this country has ever undertaken was initiated.

On most days soldiers will walk past at least one memorial resulting from that.

Some are modest, ignored on busy station platforms, lost in churchyards or picked out once a year in parks and town centres.

The names on those memorials may be fading but our acknowledgement of their many achievements should not.



Find out more about common First World War misunderstandings by reading Gordon Corrigan's title *Mud, Blood and Poppycock*

DISCOVER THE TRUTH

To mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, The Tank Museum is holding various exhibitions and events – including a centenary commemoration on August 4.

For details visit www.tankmuseum.org

victims, of which 200 may have died.

The western Allies reacted in horror to this illegal weapon – and then quickly sought defensive measures and a response in kind.

Early masks were simply pads soaked in alkaline substances to counter the acidic gas – urine on a hanky was a start.

In July a smoke or "hypo" helmet was issued, followed by a series of increasingly effective masks (pages 50-51).

Britain used gas for the first time at the Battle of Loos in 1915, not to great effect.

Phosgene followed from the Germans and shells were developed to deliver gas rather than releasing fumes from cylinders to float on wind.

Mustard gas arrived – again from the Germans – in July 1917. Small amounts of this substance could be fatal; it caused blisters on exposed skin and temporary blindness.

Wearing masks was cumbersome and inconvenient, but gas itself only really caused temporary local advantages on the battlefield.

Of the nearly half million deaths the British Army suffered, 5,899 were attributed to this.



266
were for desertion

37
for murder

18
for cowardice

346
killed

EXECUTIONS – IN NUMBERS

NOVEMBER 3
BRITAIN ANNOUNCES
NORTH SEA MILITARY
BLOCKADE OF GOODS
INTO GERMANY.

NOVEMBER 22
TRENCHES ARE
ESTABLISHED
ALONG THE
ENTIRE WESTERN
FRONT BY THE
ALLIES AND
GERMANY.

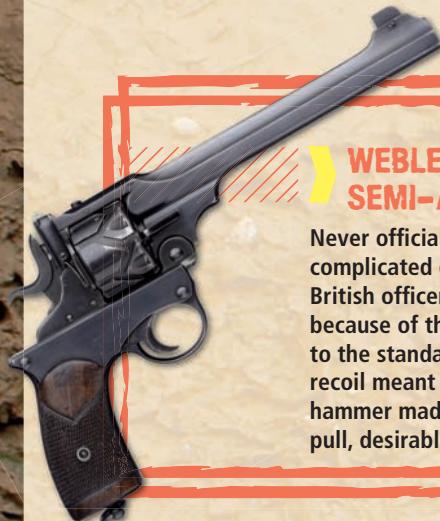


DECEMBER 24
THE UNOFFICIAL
CHRISTMAS
TRUCE IS
DECLARED.



BLAST FROM

AS the British Army adapted to the new demands of trench warfare, soldiers' weapons were improved to meet the requirements of short-range combat. Here is the inside story.



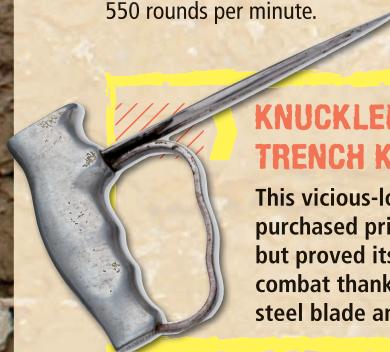
WEBLEY-FOSBERY SEMI-AUTOMATIC REVOLVER

Never officially adopted because of its over-complicated design, these were used by many British officers who purchased them privately because of their superior performance compared to the standard issue revolvers. The Fosbery's low recoil meant it was accurate and its self-cocking hammer made the trigger very easy and quick to pull, desirable features in close-quarter exchanges.



LEWIS MK 1 LIGHT MACHINE GUN

As the war ground to a halt, both sides looked for ways to bring machine guns closer to the enemy. The Allies chose this purpose-designed American gun. Its air-cooled (rather than water-cooled) barrel helped to save weight and keep it portable. Also, it used the same calibre ammunition as the Vickers heavy machine gun and could fire off an impressive 550 rounds per minute.



KNUCKLEDUSTER TRENCH KNIFE

This vicious-looking weapon was purchased privately by many troops but proved its worth in hand-to-hand combat thanks to a 23.5-centimetre steel blade and 325-gram weight.

WINCHESTER TRENCH SHOTGUN

The entry of the USA into the War in 1917 saw many of these being issued. Capable of "slam-firing", a technique where the trigger is held as the gun is pumped, it gave a rapid spray of 12-gauge buckshot. With its bayonet attachment this gun was designed for close-quarter combat. It had a range of 50 metres and held six shots. As well as fighting close-up it is said this weapon was used to deflect enemy grenades by shooting at them clay pigeon-style.



STOKES MORTAR

At the start of the war the Germans were ahead in mortar technology but the British caught up thanks to Wilfred Stokes, who designed a weapon in early 1915 that was so good its design is still the basis of the mortars in use today. The Stokes model consisted chiefly of a smooth metal tube fixed to a base plate (to absorb recoil) with a light bi-pod mount. Reliable and effective, it could fire eight cast-iron mortar bombs per minute up to 730 metres away.



JANUARY 19

THE FIRST AIR RAID ON BRITAIN TAKES PLACE WHEN TWO GERMAN ZEPPELINS DROP BOMBS ON GREAT YARMOUTH AND KING'S LYNN, KILLING FIVE CIVILIANS.

1915



FEBRUARY 18

GERMANY INTRODUCES A SUBMARINE BLOCKADE AROUND GREAT BRITAIN.



APRIL 22

GERMANS USE POISON GAS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER AT YPRES.



SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

‘WE FIGHT FOR THE MEN NEXT TO US
— THAT HASN’T CHANGED IN
100 YEARS’

**Personnel look back to heroic
acts of the First World War**



0.8 >

SOLDIER

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THE PAST



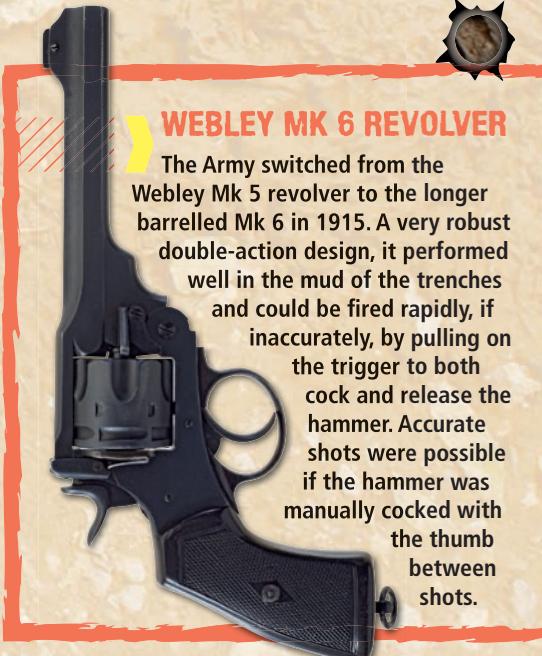
SHORT MAGAZINE LEE ENFIELD MK 3

Lighter and easier to handle than its long-barrelled forefather, its design reflected how opportunistic close-range combat had replaced rigid lines of soldiers engaged in coordinated firing across open ground. The rifle's front and rear sights were moved nearer together, allowing the shooter to quickly align them for a "snap" shot. This weapon was vital in helping British troops halt the German advance in 1914.



VICKERS MK 1 MACHINE GUN

The water-cooled Vickers machine gun was a new weapon at the outbreak of war but it proved itself to be hugely effective as the British Army's tactics evolved. It became the standard armament of the newly formed Machine Gun Corps in 1915, and proved decisive in several major clashes including the Battle of Messines in 1917. Machine gunners became part of creeping barrages with fire falling ahead of the artillery rounds to catch enemy troops moving to the rear. It could fire 450 rounds per minute with a range of up to 2,200 metres.



WEBLEY MK 6 REVOLVER

The Army switched from the Webley Mk 5 revolver to the longer barreled Mk 6 in 1915. A very robust double-action design, it performed well in the mud of the trenches and could be fired rapidly, if inaccurately, by pulling on the trigger to both cock and release the hammer. Accurate shots were possible if the hammer was manually cocked with the thumb between shots.

MILLS GRENADE

Introduced in 1915, its segmented pineapple shape provided a firm grip in trench conditions. To ignite the charge the safety pin had to be removed and the lever released. Originally made with a seven second delay, this was shortened to four seconds so the enemy could not take cover. A good bomber had to throw a grenade around 30 metres to protect himself from the blast. The Army deemed that decent cricket bowlers made the most effective throwers.



With thanks to the Royal Armouries

APRIL 25
BATTLE OF
GALLIPOLI
BEGINS.



MAY 7
GERMAN U-BOAT, U-20,
SINKS THE BRITISH OCEAN
LINER RMS LUSITANIA
AND CAUSES A STORM
OF PROTEST IN THE US
AS 128 AMERICANS ARE
AMONG THE DEAD.



MAY 23
ITALY DECLARES WAR
ON AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.



MAY 25
THE LACK OF ORDNANCE, OR
THE "SHELL CRISIS" AS IT IS
KNOWN, EXPOSES THE FAILINGS
OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
IN SUPPORTING FRONT-LINE
TROOPS. DISCONTENT GROWS
OVER RISING CASUALTIES.

TOOLED-UP FOR THE TRENCHES

1914

MODERN-DAY troops have become accustomed to having their kit updated mid-conflict to make them more effective and better protected on an ever-changing battlefield.

But even during the First World War such urgent operational requirements were fed back to the kit masters to adapt clothing and equipment to the nature of the fight.

Soldier asked the experts at the National Army Museum to talk us through the changes made to Service personnel's military gear from 1914 to 1918...

METAL WATER BOTTLE

With felt cover to prevent rusting.

PUTTEES

Made from wool, adapted by the British Army from Indian Army to stop debris falling into boots and add a layer of waterproofing and leg support.

BOOTS

Leather with steel rivets underneath to prevent the leather soles from wearing out. Remained unchanged through the conflict.

STIFF CAP

Made from wool serge, with leather chinstrap and black cloth lining. It offered little or no protection from head wounds caused by bullets, exploding shells and fragmentation.

WEBBING

The British were the first European army to replace belts and pouches with webbing, a strong material made from woven cotton, which had been pioneered in the United States.

JACKET AND TROUSERS

Made from wool. The British had the only army at the outset of the war who wore any form of camouflage uniform; the value of drab colour clothing had been quickly recognised during colonial warfare in the mid-19th century.



- 1 Entrenching tool that was also used as a weapon in the close confines of a trench because rifles and fixed bayonets were often too long for effective use.
- 2 Small pack carrying personal effects such as wash kit.
- 3 Large pack for carrying overcoat.
- 4 Mess tin.

MAY 31
FIRST ZEPPELIN RAID ON LONDON KILLS SEVEN AND INJURES 35. BRITISH MORALE IS SHAKEN.



1915 CONTINUED

JUNE 21
BRITISH TROOPS REOCUPY THE STRATEGICALLY VITAL PORT OF ADEN IN YEMEN.

JUNE 30
GERMAN TROOPS USE FLAMETHROWERS FOR THE FIRST TIME AGAINST THE BRITISH AT YPRES.



SEPTEMBER 25
AT LOOS IN FRANCE THE BRITISH DEPLOY POISON GAS IN RETALIATION FOR THE GERMANS USING IT. THE WIND BLOWS IT THE WRONG WAY, KILLING SEVEN AND INJURING 2,632 OF THEIR OWN TROOPS.



1918

Visit www.nam.ac.uk/first-world-war for more information

POISON GAS KIT

Poison gas was used for the first time on the Western Front in 1915 by the Germans at Ypres. Initially, troops received cotton mouth pads for protection. Then they introduced the gas cape during the Battle of the Somme in August 1916. A canvas-covered rubber hose attached the rubberised canvas mask to the canister.

WIRE CUTTERS

Used to cut through barbed wire that was increasingly used on the Western Front as a defensive measure.

WEBBING

By the latter stages of the war it was being made in leather to keep up with demand, as both Britain and the USA had large leather working industries with excess capacity.

LEG SAND BAGS

Made from hessian, these wrapped round the legs with string to provide an extra layer of waterproofing and warmth. They shed layers of mud much quicker than the wool puttees and could also be used as pads to lean on and even as pillows by Servicemen inside the trenches.



STEEL HELMET

Originally developed by John Leopold Brodie in 1915 for the British War Office to counter the increase in head injuries to soldiers in trenches. The shape was designed to protect the top of the head but was criticised initially on the grounds that it was too shallow, too reflective, the rim too sharp and lining too slippery. These drawbacks were addressed in 1916 when a separate folded rim, a two-part liner and khaki paint finished with sand or sawdust were introduced.

SHOVEL

The former entrenching tool had been dropped and replaced with a shovel for more efficient digging of trenches and foxholes.



- 1 Haversack for carrying rations, paybook, toothbrush, wash kit, fork and spoon and darning gear.
- 2 Mess tin.
- 3 White bag – to carry hard tack biscuits.
- 4 Spare respirator – also serves as a handy extra pouch.

OCTOBER 12
BRITISH NURSE EDITH CAVELL IS EXECUTED BY GERMAN FIRING SQUAD FOR HELPING POWS ESCAPE FROM BELGIUM TO HOLLAND. SHE BECOMES A POPULAR MARTYR AND HEROINE.



OCTOBER 31
FOLLOWING FRANCE'S LEAD, STEEL HELMETS ARE ISSUED TO BRITISH COMBAT TROOPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, REPLACING CLOTH CAPS IN BATTLE.



DECEMBER 19
THE ALLIES START THE EVACUATION OF 84,000 TROOPS AT GALLIPOLI AFTER SUFFERING 252,000 CASUALTIES.

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Report: Becky Clark

ONE hundred years after the start of the First World War, our visual impression of the conflict is largely shaped by the stark black and white photography of the era.

Monochrome scenes of mud, trenches and barbed wire have become so symbolic that it is hard to imagine the battlefields in anything other than grey.

But the images on these pages show the war in a new and vibrant light.

While colour photography did exist in 1914, the technology was not very developed and such pictures were rare.

If colour was later added, it was usually done painstakingly by hand.

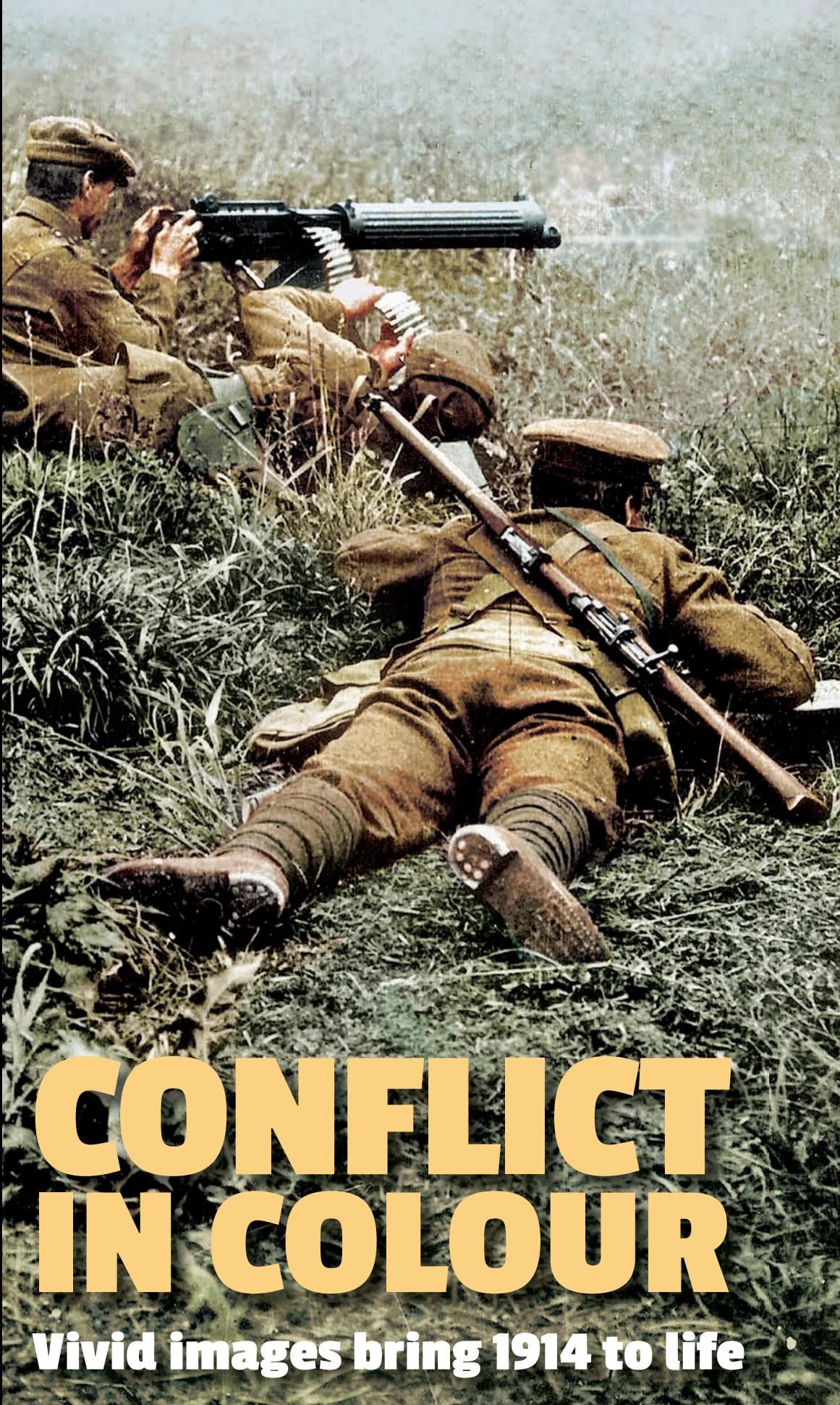
Jon Wilkinson, who tinted most of the images shown here, explained how computers have made the process of bringing the past to life much easier.

"We use Photoshop and depending on the image it can be done in just half an hour," said the graphic designer.

"We do a lot of research into uniforms and weapons to match the colours as best we can.

"Lots of people will have seen these photos in black and white before but I decided to breathe new life into them and try and make it look like you were there – almost as if you've been transported back in time."

From lush summer meadows to vibrant uniforms, a new vision of 1914 emerges that shows life on the front line in amazing detail. ▶



CONFlict IN COLOUR

Vivid images bring 1914 to life

1916

Above, Bright battlefield: A Vickers machine-gun crew go about their work

1 JANUARY
THE FIRST BLOOD TRANSFUSION USING STORED AND COOLED BLOOD IS UNDERTAKEN BY SURGEON GEOFFREY KEYNES, YOUNGER BROTHER OF ECONOMIST JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES.



JANUARY 24
THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT IS PASSED TO INTRODUCE CONSCRIPTION IN BRITAIN. IT BECOMES LAW ON MAY 25.



FEBRUARY 21
THE BATTLE OF VERDUN BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND GERMAN ARMIES BEGINS.

TROOP SURGE

WHEN war became a certainty, armies began to surge across Europe in vast numbers. The Germans put their infamous Schlieffen plan into action, a strategy with which they hoped to defeat France within six weeks and then take on Russia. In reality, their progress through France and Belgium met with unexpectedly stiff resistance. These images show German troops advancing through the Ardennes (below) and British cavalry moving through a Belgian village (right) during August 1914.



UNIFORM

DESPITE numerous technological advances, certain military elements were the same in 1914 as they had been 100 years earlier.

↓ Some troops began fighting dressed as if they were on ceremonial parade, their bright uniforms making them easy targets. This image shows French infantrymen sporting the red kepi and "pantalon rouges". While other armies adopted less conspicuous colours at the turn of the century, French politicians had refused to replace the traditional red, white and blue. The trousers disappeared by 1915 but not before contributing to many casualties – 260,000 in the first month of the war alone.

→ France's style of uniform, including breastplates, dated from the Napoleonic era and was impractical for twentieth century warfare.

▼ In 1914 soldiers fought in soft headgear, here on British and Belgian troops. Helmets were not introduced until the following year as a result of the high rate of head wounds from shrapnel. The Germans then swiftly replaced their famous "pickelhaube" with an improved design.



APRIL 29

A BESIEGED BRITISH GARRISON AT KUT IN WHAT IS NOW IRAQ SURRENDERS AFTER 143 DAYS. TURKISH FORCES CAPTURE AROUND 3,000 BRITISH AND 6,000 INDIAN TROOPS.



MAY 31

THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND, THE MAJOR NAVAL BATTLE OF THE WAR, BEGINS AS PART OF GERMANY'S PLAN TO CRUSH THE ROYAL NAVY'S MIGHT BUT ENDS IN FAILURE WITH THE GERMAN SURFACE FLEET IRREPARABLY DAMAGED.



JUNE 4

THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE BEGINS AND SERIOUSLY DEPLETES AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S ARMED FORCES.





TRENCH WARFARE

IN 1914 many believed the war would be short and decisive, and that the troops would be home by Christmas. At the time this view seemed reasonable but it would prove to be tragically optimistic. The conflict stagnated and by September the first trenches appeared. In a matter of weeks they stretched 400 miles from the North Sea to Switzerland – a system that would become the Western Front. Thanks to an injection of colour, the image below brings conditions in the trenches to life.



JUNE 5
LORD KITCHENER
SAILS FOR RUSSIA
ON-BOARD HMS
HAMPSHIRE WHICH
STRIKES A MINE OFF
ORKNEY AND HE IS
LOST ALONG WITH 643
OTHER PERSONNEL.



JULY 1
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
BEGINS BUT BY THE END OF
THE DAY NEARLY 60,000 ARE DEAD,
WOUNDED OR MISSING – THE
WORST SINGLE DAY'S FIGHTING IN
BRITISH MILITARY HISTORY.

60,000



AUGUST 28
ITALY
DECLARES
WAR ON
GERMANY.

SEPTEMBER 2
THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS
USES A NEW COMBINATION OF
EXPLOSIVE AND INCENDIARY
BULLETS TO SHOOT DOWN A
ZEPPELIN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

CALL TO ARMS

THE British Expeditionary Force (BEF) that crossed the Channel in the first weeks of the war was just 150,000-strong. The need to build a bigger Army was obvious and on August 6 the cabinet agreed to recruit an additional half a million troops. In all, some two million men answered Kitchener's famous call. This image shows new recruits taking the oath of allegiance.



WEAPONS

THE practice of placing artillery on the front line was abandoned after Le Cateau in August 1914, shown below, when the BEF's II Corps lost 38 guns and suffered heavy losses while halting the German advance. Gunners would

fire indirectly from positions behind the line for the rest of the war. The impact of such weapons was huge, both in terms of the physical and psychological damage they caused. Almost 60 per cent of the BEF's

fatalities during the conflict were due to German artillery fire and the constant threat of shelling reduced strong men to nervous wrecks. Artillery led to trench warfare and became the defining weapon of the conflict.



The Great War Illustrated 1914 by William Langford is available to buy now, priced £25

SEPTEMBER 15

THE NEW MARK I TANK IS USED IN BATTLE FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE BATTLE OF FLERS-COURCELLE, PART OF THE SOMME OFFENSIVE.



DECEMBER 7

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE IS ELECTED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.



DECEMBER 12

GERMANY DELIVERS A "PEACE NOTE" TO THE ALLIES SUGGESTING A COMPROMISE THAT ALLOWS IT TO KEEP CONQUERED TERRITORY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT IS REJECTED.



DECEMBER 20

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN ENDS WITH 300,000 SOLDIERS ON EACH SIDE KILLED. IT IS THE LONGEST AND COSTLIEST BATTLE ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

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FEMALE FIGHTERS

The women who defied convention to take up arms in the First World War

Report: Becky Clark

WITH the Armed Forces currently reviewing the ban on females serving in combat units, 2014 may go down in history as a watershed

year for British Servicewomen.

But while the concept of the fairer sex fighting on the front line remains a hotly debated topic today, 100 years ago such a notion was completely unthinkable.

Despite thousands of women working throughout the First World War in dangerous support roles such as nurses, ambulance drivers and cooks, warfare itself was exclusively a man's business.

That is, with a couple of notable exceptions.

Dorothy Lawrence and Flora Sandes may not be household names, but they are believed to be the only British females to serve as soldiers in the conflict.

Their self-penned accounts published after the war are as different as they are fascinating.

An aspiring journalist, Lawrence set out to prove that she could get a scoop worthy of her male peers.

Her memoir reveals how she made her way to Northern France in 1915, disguised herself as a Tommy and spent ten days tunnelling under the battlefields alongside members of the Royal Engineers.

Fearing that her accomplices would get into trouble, she eventually revealed her true identity to commanders who arrested her and held her in a convent before sending her back to Britain.

The tale is an intriguing one, but as Louise McFarlane of the Imperial War Museum explained, separating fact from fiction is not so simple.

"We don't know for certain that her story is correct," said the curator.

"What we do know is that she wanted to be a reporter and that she went to Paris as a tourist.

"She describes persuading soldiers to assist her in acquiring some khaki and helping her take her

“To make that leap to becoming a combatant was beyond the imagination of Britain at the time”

1917

JANUARY 19
BRITISH INTERCEPT ZIMMERMAN TELEGRAM FROM GERMANY TRYING TO ENTICE MEXICO TO JOIN THE WAR. THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS OUTRAGED.



FEBRUARY 24
THE TURKISH ARMY, UNDER ATTACK FROM THE BRITISH, ABANDONS KUT AND RETREATS TO BAGHDAD.

FEBRUARY 25
THE GERMAN WITHDRAWAL ON THE WESTERN FRONT BEGINS AND ITS ARMY FALLS BACK 25 MILES TO THE HINDENBURG LINE.



MARCH 11
THE BRITISH ARMY OCCUPIES BAGHDAD AFTER THREE DAYS OF FIGHTING.





place just behind the front line.

"Research is still going on to find out whether her claims are true.

"There is some speculation that the story might have been put down by the War Office because it was an embarrassment to them that a woman had possibly passed herself off as a soldier, but even that theory is not corroborated."

One part of Lawrence's tale that potentially undermines her credibility is the fact that she vividly describes how she made her way to the front and how she adopted her alias, "Pte Denis", but spends little time elaborating on the conditions that she witnessed.

While the trenches of the First World War are well known for having been hellish places to live and work, the so-called sappers had to endure an even more miserable environment.

Mrs McFarlane agreed it seems odd that a would-be war correspondent would omit such details.

"The conditions really beggar belief," she commented.

"As the campaign entered deadlock, both sides had to try and find new ways of breaking through and one way they did this was to take the war underground.

"There are numerous stories of both sides digging into enemy tunnels and having hand-to-hand fights beneath the surface.

"It is perhaps more feasible that Lawrence, if she made it to the front, was involved somewhere further up the line clearing rubble and debris – even there, conditions would have been very difficult."

While "Sapper Dorothy", as Lawrence dubbed herself in her memoir, remains an enigma, more is known about the truly remarkable Flora Sandes.

Aged 38 at the outbreak of war,

she initially travelled to Serbia to assist in the humanitarian crisis but in the confusion of the army's retreat into Albania she was formally enrolled into the country's infantry.

She would go on to serve with distinction and climb the ranks from private to captain.

"There's a lot more evidence to support Sandes' story, it's not in any doubt" explained Mrs McFarlane.

"She is described as having been a very boisterous, tomboy-type character who liked to take risks and ride in cars.

"For a woman that was quite rare at the time, so this idea of a lady who is approaching middle age, has no children and wants to be part of the front-line action is quite fascinating."

With Serbian and Russian forces allowing females to join the fighting, Sandes will not have been the only woman to take up arms but post-Edwardian Britain was much less tolerant of individuals who broke the societal norms.

"Even the idea of going to France or any theatre as part of a voluntary aid detachment was pretty outlandish," added Mrs McFarlane.

"But to make that leap to becoming a combatant was beyond the imagination of Britain at the time."

Individually, Lawrence and Sandes may not have gone down in history as feminist trailblazers like the Pankhurst sisters, but the war as a whole opened up new possibilities for women.

One hundred years later, the female soldiers marching in their footsteps could well be the first to see true equality on the battlefield. ■



ARMED with ambition

● **RIGHT** from the start of the war, women pushed to be allowed to create their own uniformed service.

Among the organisations that sprang up as the conflict went on were the Women's Volunteer

Reserve and Lady Londonderry's Women's Legion, which provided catering support for Army camps.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps) was established in December 1916 to free up for front-line duties some 12,000 soldiers who were performing non-combatant roles.

Eventually, 9,000 women served with the unit in France and more than 57,000 passed through its ranks before it was disbanded in 1921.

The Women's Royal Naval Service – the Wrens – was formed in November 1917, and the Women's Royal Air Force in April 1918.

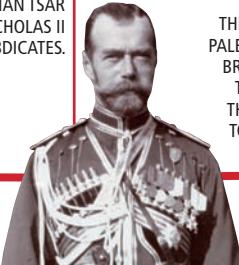
By end of the conflict, nearly 200,000 females had seen some form of active Service with British Forces.



Main image, Risk-taker: Flora Sandes of the Serbian Army in 1917
Above, Hazy history: Dorothy Lawrence in her military uniform and the WAAC at the British Army bakery at Dieppe, France in 1918

Pictures: Imperial War Museum; North News and Pictures, Newcastle

MARCH 15
RUSSIAN TSAR NICHOLAS II ABDICATES.



MARCH 26
THE FIRST BATTLE OF GAZA IN PALESTINE TAKES PLACE AS THE BRITISH ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF THE TURKISH FORCES FROM THEIR HOMELAND. THEY FAIL TO TAKE THE TOWN AND ARE FORCED TO WITHDRAW.



APRIL 6
THE UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY.



APRIL 9
THE BATTLE OF ARRAS, A MAJOR BRITISH OFFENSIVE, BEGINS AND THE NEW TACTIC OF A CREEPING BARRAGE IS EMPLOYED.



FIRST WORLD WAR Heroes

Interviews: Sarah Goldthorpe
Pictures: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

THERE may be almost 100 years between the battles of Op Herrick and the First World War but British troops have more in common with their military forefathers than some history books suggest. *Soldier* asked Service personnel which figure inspires them the most from the bloodiest of world wars...

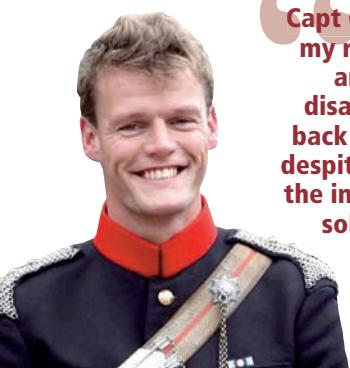
Capt Francis Grenfell

This was the first man to be recommended for the Victoria Cross during the First World War, having led the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers during the Battle of Mons against the advancing German Army. During the retreat, the cavalry charged massed enemy infantry with disastrous results. In the aftermath British guns became trapped but despite being injured the officer heaved the weapons out under intense fire. Having received his decoration from the king and recovered from his wounds, Capt Grenfell (pictured near right with his twin brother) returned to duty. Throughout the winter he led his squadron in the trenches but was wounded again. On returning to action the following year in 1915 his regiment came under gas attack and he was killed.



Capt Grenfell is the quintessential hero for my regiment. He was utterly courageous and summed up the Army ethos. In disastrous circumstances he led a group back into the battle to save his comrades, despite being wounded. Going back to save the injured and dying is something modern soldiers have had to do in Afghanistan. That resonates with troops today.

Lt Felix Dieppe, 9/12L



MAY 1
WALTER TULL, A FORMER PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER FOR SPURS, RECEIVES HIS COMMISSION TO BECOME THE FIRST BLACK OFFICER IN THE BRITISH ARMY.



1917 CONTINUED

MAY 3
FOLLOWING HEAVY LOSSES THE FRENCH ARMY'S 2ND DIVISION REFUSE TO FOLLOW ORDERS TO ATTACK. THE MUTINY SOON SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE FORCE. AND AROUND 27,000 DESERT THEIR POSITIONS.

LCpl Alhaji Grunshi

After the declaration of war, German Togoland (now Ghana) found itself isolated from the rest of the German Empire and with no defences other than a 660-strong police force. Troops from the neighbouring British Gold Coast colony – including this Serviceman – advanced and the police opened fire. LCpl Grunshi returned a shot, marking a significant moment. Resistance soon collapsed and Togoland surrendered to the British and French on August 26, 1914. The soldier survived the war, having fought in three African campaigns, and was awarded a Mention in Dispatches and a Military Medal.

Iwould choose LCpl Grunshi because of his reaction to attack. He would have kept the enemy at bay and, most importantly, saved some of his comrades. This Serviceman created a legacy which Commonwealth soldiers can emulate today. With more than 800 Ghanaians in the Service now, I think men like LCpl Grunshi laid a good foundation for us to follow.

Cpl Derrick Cobbinah, RLC



JUNE 7
IN BELGIUM BRITISH ENGINEERS PLANT 600 TONNES OF MINES IN TUNNELS UNDER GERMAN LINES. THE EXPLOSION KILLS 10,000 AND CAN BE HEARD IN LONDON.



JUNE 13
GERMANS LAUNCH THE FIRST HEAVY BOMBER AIR RAID OVER LONDON WITH 18 GOTHA GV AIRCRAFT KILLING 162 PEOPLE AND INJURING 432.



Sir Winston Churchill

Churchill attended the Royal Military College Sandhurst – as it was known then – before embarking on an Army career and then a new role as a Conservative MP. After becoming disaffected he joined the Liberal Party and after his side won the 1905 election he held various posts. During the early months of the First World War he was the first lord of the admiralty but after being blamed for the disastrous Gallipoli campaign he resigned. Churchill rejoined the Army, serving for a time on the Western Front, before going back to politics in 1917. He finally took Neville Chamberlain's place as prime minister in May 1940.



Churchill is widely acknowledged for his efforts in the Second World War but he also made a large impact on the First World War. People assume that after Gallipoli his role was over but he actually went on to command 6th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers in the trenches. That is one of our antecedent formations so I've always been proud that such an illustrious leader commanded us.

WO1 Jason Dickson, Scots



Siegfried Sassoon

An English war poet, Sassoon was commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in May 1915. He impressed with his bravery on the front line in France and was honoured twice. After becoming disillusioned with the war, he wrote a letter to *The Times* in 1917 claiming the conflict was being deliberately prolonged by the government. As a decorated hero and published poet, this caused public outrage. The authorities became convinced that he was suffering from shell-shock and sent him to Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh, where he met fellow war poet Wilfred Owen. Both men later returned to the battle.

“ His story influenced me joining the Armed Forces ”

“ The bravery this man showed off the battlefield is what makes him stand out for me. I recently saw a play about his life called *Not About Heroes* and its portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder really moved me. I have been diagnosed with the same condition. Sassoon did his duty but still made the distinction in his own mind that it was wrong. You can't write him off as a coward because he fought. Despite knowing what the consequences would be he spoke out. ”

Cpl Daniel Campbell, RE



JUNE 25
THE FIRST
US TROOPS
ARRIVE IN
FRANCE.



JULY 31
THE BATTLE OF
PASSCHENDAELE BEGINS IN
QUAGMIRE CONDITIONS. THE
BRITISH ADVANCE HALF A
MILE AT A COST OF 310,000
CASUALTIES, WITH 260,000
GERMAN TROOPS ALSO KILLED.

NOVEMBER 7
THE BOLSHEVIKS
SUCCESSFULLY
OVERTHROW THE
RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT
AND THE COUNTRY IS
OUT OF THE WAR.



DECEMBER 11
THE BRITISH
ADVANCE INTO
JERUSALEM,
ENDING 673
YEARS OF
TURKISH RULE.

DECEMBER 17
THE ARMISTICE
AGREED BETWEEN
THE NEW RUSSIAN
GOVERNMENT AND
GERMANY AND ITS
ALLIES COMES INTO
EFFECT.

Lt William Mawle

Born Norman William Reginald Mawle, this Serviceman was originally commissioned as a lieutenant in 20th Battalion, The London Regiment, and began flying training with the Royal Flying Corps in September 1917. He joined 84 Squadron, Royal Air Force as a pilot the following year, flying the SE5a platform. During this time he shot down several German aircraft – including four kite balloons – and was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Lt Mawle was wounded during his final victory – hit in the stomach and arm by ground fire. After returning to the UK to recover, he continued to fly in home units until relinquishing his commission due to ill health in December 1919.



This is my great-grandad, who started out in the trenches and then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He was a fighter ace and his story certainly influenced me joining the Armed Forces. He shot down three planes on the same day. When I was growing up my parents would talk to me about him and my dad still has his medals. His service is an inspiring link to the past.

LBdr Tom Mawle, RA



Rev Theodore Hardy

A chaplain in the British Army, Rev Hardy was awarded the Victoria Cross, Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order, making him one of the most decorated non-combatants of the First World War. When the conflict first began the 51-year-old priest immediately volunteered but was turned down for being too old. Eventually, he was accepted as a temporary chaplain to the Forces and in September 1918 was appointed to the honorary position of chaplain to the king. However, a month later he was fatally wounded in France while trying to help the injured.

JANUARY 16
RIOTS BREAK OUT IN VIENNA AND BUDAPEST AS THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIANS EXPRESS MOUNTING DISSATISFACTION WITH THE WAR.

MARCH 21
GERMANY LAUNCHES THE SPRING OFFENSIVE ON THE WESTERN FRONT BOLSTERED BY 500,000 TROOPS WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING THE RUSSIANS.

500,000

APRIL 9
BATTLE OF LYS BEGINS AND THE GAINS THE GERMAN ARMY ACHIEVE ARE ITS FINAL ADVANCES OF THE WAR.

1918

2nd Lt Donald Bell

This man became the first English professional footballer to enlist into the British Army, joining the Service in 1915. He had played for Crystal Palace, Bishop Auckland, Newcastle United and Bradford Park Avenue, and was rapidly promoted to lance corporal and commissioned into 9th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own) the same year. In 1916 Bell was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Horseshoe Trench at the Somme, where, under heavy fire, he led a bombing party, rushing across open ground to disable an enemy machine-gun trench. Five days later the officer died performing a similar act of bravery.

The story of 2nd Lt Bell is remarkable. He chose to leave football to fight in the war, which is a massive deal. I don't think you would see many professional footballers doing that these days. With the world as it is in 2014, you can see how today's soldiers would struggle to relate to a global conflict. But to know that individuals made sacrifices like this in 1914, and then get the highest military decoration of the Victoria Cross on top of that, is amazing.

Pte Aidan Kirby, Yorks



APRIL 21
GERMAN FLYING ACE,
BARON MANFRED VON
RICHTHOFEN (MORE
COMMONLY KNOWN
AS THE RED BARON), IS
SHOT DOWN.



1
JULY 15
THE SPRING
OFFENSIVE ENDS
AT MARNE AFTER
THE GERMANS
HAVE LOST ONE
MILLION MEN.

AUGUST 8
AT AMIENS GERMAN
RESISTANCE CRUMBLIES
AND THOUSANDS
SURRENDER. FIGHTING
IS NOW DEFINED BY
MOBILITY AS THE LINES
OF TRENCHES ARE
BREACHED.



Col Sir George McCrae

In November 1914, before the introduction of conscription, George McCrae volunteered to be a soldier and raised 16th Battalion, The Royal Scots before commanding it on the Western Front. The unit – one of the famous Pals battalions – became known as McCrae's Own. Among the first of its recruits were 13 members of the Heart of Midlothian football club. McCrae ended the war in the rank of colonel and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

I'm from Edinburgh and Hearts is my football team. I remember going to matches as a child and being told about the story of McCrae's battalion by my dad. It is not only inspiring that this man fought in the war as a volunteer, but as part of his recruitment effort he marched a band of men onto the pitch at half time. I remember the stories, and that was one of the reasons for me deciding to join the local regiment. I have been in 20 years now. McCrae's leadership is what singles him out.

He understood what bound men together and that's why he came up with the Pals. Regardless of political agenda, each soldier will fight for the guy next to him. That hasn't changed in 100 years.

WO2 Stephen Dawson, Scots



1. "BLIGHTY"

A TERM still familiar today that means Britain, in the sense of home. The phrase was derived from Hindustani and Persian words meaning foreign country and dated from the pre-war Army's service in parts of the British Empire, particularly India. It was a widespread term during the First World War and was often used as an adjective to mean ideal or good. It was also used to describe a wound that was serious enough to send a soldier home without threatening their life.

2. "BATTLE BOWLER"

OFFICERS' slang for the British steel helmet, due to its similarity in shape to a bowler hat. To the other ranks it was the tin hat. Soldiers often adopted a similar tone of understatement and ridicule to describe other items of kit, such as a "toothpick" for a bayonet and "piggy-stick" for an entrenching tool handle.

3. "SWINGING THE LEAD"

A PHRASE used to describe a malingeringer or someone otherwise evading duty. A lead-swinger who let his fellow soldiers down was disliked by all. The term is thought to have come from the sea, when a sailor instructed to take the depth from a ship's bows instead swung the lead and called out fictitious measurements.

Battlefield Banter

10 military slang terms from the First World War

FORGET being "ally" or "chin-strapped", British soldiers serving between 1914 and 1918 had their own unique vocabulary. Incorporating the language of the military with that of civilian conscripts, the following phrases reveal a familiar sense of humour when compared with today's slang and reflect everything from the dull routines of Service life to the trauma of front-line action...



SEPTEMBER 27

BRITISH AND AMERICAN TROOPS PIERCE THE GERMANS' DEFENSIVE NETWORK, THE HINDENBURG LINE, AND IN WEEKS ADVANCE 20 MILES.



1918 CONTINUED

OCTOBER 29
GERMAN SAILORS REFUSE TO ENGAGE THE BRITISH FLEET AND MUTINY.

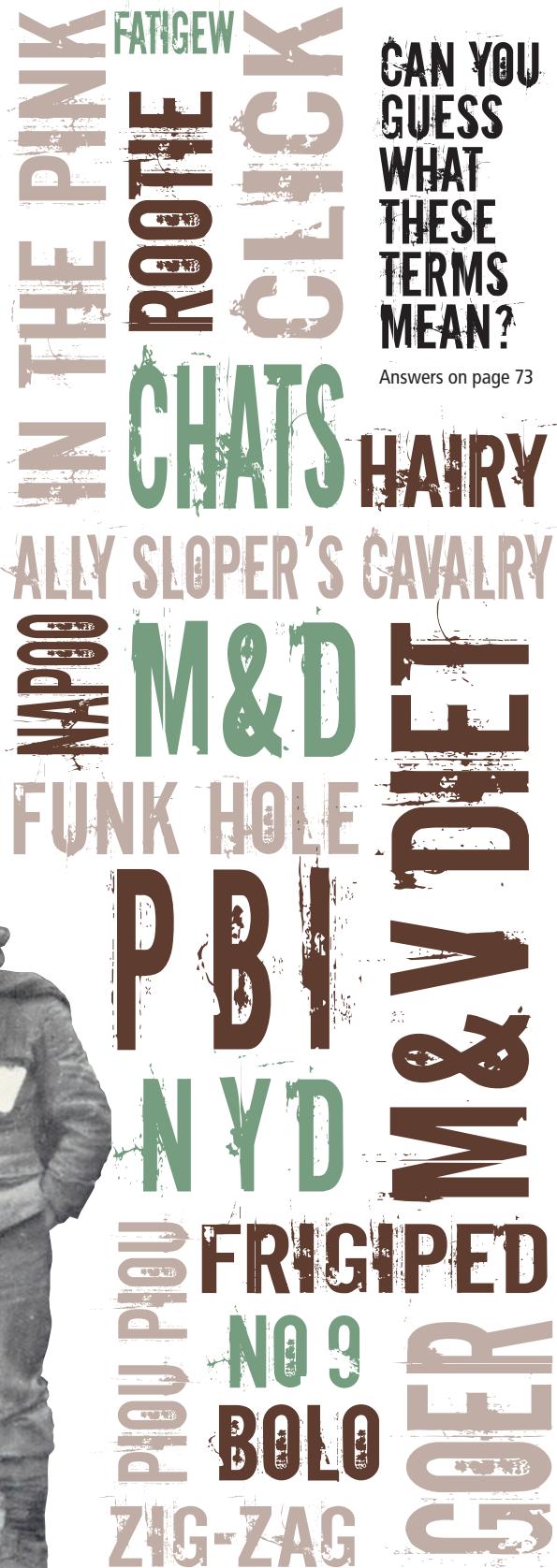


OCTOBER 30
THE TURKISH ARMY SURRENDERS TO THE BRITISH AND SIGNS A PEACE DEAL WITH THE ALLIES.



NOVEMBER 3
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY SIGNS AN ARMISTICE WITH THE ALLIES.

GOOSBERRIES



NOVEMBER 9
GERMAN KAISER
WILHELM II FLEES
TO HOLLAND
AS COUNTRY
IS DECLARED A
REPUBLIC.



4. "PUKKA"

A PRE-WAR Army term for real, genuine, correct, smart and soldierly, derived from the Hindustani word pakkha. It became commonplace during the war years and is still familiar today.

5. "WHIZZ BANG"

A LIGHT shell fired from one of the smaller calibre field guns, referring to the sound as the round came to explode. A range of slang terms were used for different types of artillery shell, including "woolly bear" for the burst and smoke of any big German high explosive munition.

6. "WIND-UP"

A WIDELY used term for fear that appears to have been a wartime creation. For a soldier to "have the wind-up" was no disgrace and was often mentioned casually in conversation, usually to describe a past near miss. It may have derived from the days when convicted felons were transported by ship, the wind-up meaning the end of their last hope as the vessel would sail. It may also have come from some of the physical symptoms of fear.

7. "TOMMY"

SHORT for Thomas Atkins, a name widely used by journalists to denote a private soldier. It seems to have originated from a Thomas Atkins who mythically distinguished himself at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

8. "FUNKY VILLAS"

THE humorous anglicised name for the French village of Foncquevillers. The men of the British Expeditionary Force serving on the Western Front invented several such names for settlements that they found difficult to pronounce. Others included "Wipers" (Ypres), "Eat Apples" (Etaples) and "Ocean Villas" (Auchonvillers).

9. "DUG-OUT"

A PROTECTIVE underground shelter constructed under the trenches, particularly on the Western Front. They were more common in German trenches and could even involve multiple rooms, beds and electric lights, all deep underground. It was also a facetious name for an old officer returning to active service from retirement who displayed little efficiency.

10. "ROB ALL MY COMRADES"

AN alternative name for the Royal Army Medical Corps, due to the regular occurrence of an unconscious or sleeping wounded man losing all his belongings on the way to hospital. Nicknames for other units, regiments, corps and formations were also commonplace, as they are in today's Service.

● List compiled by
Imperial War Museum
historian Matt Brosnan.
For details of the centre's
First World War centenary
exhibitions log on to
www.1914.org

NOVEMBER 11
GERMANY SIGNS THE ARMISTICE
AND FIGHTING ENDS ON THE
11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY OF
THE 11TH MONTH. MORE THAN

9M
TROOPS IN ALL HAVE DIED.



1918

JUNE 28

THE TREATY OF
VERSAILLES
OFFICIALLY ENDS THE
FIRST WORLD WAR.



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Recent financial restructuring has seen the College restore and realign itself, strengthening its position in the independent sector and preparing it for an exciting future.

September sees Llandovery College once again leading the way when Year 6 pupils will stay an extra two years in Llandovery's Preparatory School, rather than moving up to senior school for Years 7 and 8. This phased move will be fully in place by September 2015, with a new imaginative timetable allowing pupils greater focus on literacy and numeracy skills at this crucial stage in their development. The

College's Nursery is also an exciting development which launches this Summer and a Development Foundation has been established to drive fundraising and ensure long-term growth.

Llandovery College presents an unrivalled level of opportunity for its 320 pupils. Dedicated to small class sizes and specialist teaching, such as Classics and Mandarin taught in the Confucius Centre, and boasts a thriving and active Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which is compulsory in Years 9 and 10. The College produces Oxbridge students as

well as the international rugby talent for which it is famed.

College Warden, Guy Ayling, has been leading the College for two years and is proud of the loyalty of parents and pupils as well as the dedication of his staff.

He said: "It's a real vote of confidence in the school that pupil numbers are increasing so dramatically and this is down to a solid curriculum rooted in Literacy and Numeracy, quality co-curricular opportunities, non-negotiable absolute core values and the inspirational leadership and commitment of staff."



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Great War diary dates

Events this month commemorating soldiers killed in the 1914-18 conflict

AUGUST 4

NATIONAL CEREMONIES

Glasgow, London, Cardiff, Belfast

In the morning a wreath-laying event and special service will take place at Glasgow Cathedral. Later a vigil and evening of prayer and reflection at Westminster Abbey, which will include gradual extinguishing of candles, finishing at 2300 - the moment war was declared. There will also be services at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast and Llandaff Cathedral, Wales.

AUGUST 4

St Symphorien Military Cemetery Mons, Belgium

A commemorative event for regiments with soldiers interred in the cemetery, which contains the graves of the first and last Commonwealth casualties of the war.

Step Short Parade Folkestone, Kent

Soldiers from **The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Grenadier Guards** are expected to commemorate the millions of troops who walked through the town and down to the harbour to the order of "step short" because of the steep gradient.

AUGUST 10



British Expeditionary Force Wreaths to France

London, Dover, France

First World War-vintage wagons will carry 85 poppy wreaths representing all the British Army units that deployed to France in August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). A ceremony in Dover will be followed by a trip to France by ferry for a service of remembrance at Faubourg d'Amiens cemetery in Arras.

Drumhead Service Edinburgh Castle

Replicating the front-line services of 100 years ago, when neatly piled drums were used in place of an altar. The ceremony will be followed by a march down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Park. Some 3,000 military personnel and veterans are expected to attend.

AUGUST 12

Intelligence Corps Commemoration Bois-Guillaume, France

A parade will mark 100 years since the formation was established. Some 60 veterans will attend alongside serving Reservists and Regulars to remember the "original 55" members of the corps.

AUGUST 22



British Artillery Fire

Bray, Belgium

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery will be at the ceremony to mark the firing of the first British artillery rounds of the war.

First British Bullet Fired Casteau, Belgium

The Royal Dragoon Guards will take part in this ceremony to mark the first engagement undertaken by British soldiers on continental Europe since the Battle of Waterloo, 99 years earlier.

AUGUST 23

Battle of Mons Mons, Belgium

The Royal Dragoon Guards and **The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** will be at this event when a tree will be planted in the Place du Parc in memory of those killed in the war. It will combine poems, music, memories and contemplation.

AUGUST 24

Mons Pilgrimage Audregnies, Belgium

Members of **1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment** and the Cheshire Regiment Association will commemorate the heroic last stand by Cheshire Regiment troops as the BEF withdrew from Mons.

AUGUST 25



The War Horse Ride

Le Cateau, France to Nery, Belgium

See page 21 for details.

AUGUST 26

Battle of Le Cateau Le Cateau, France

Personnel from **93 (Le Cateau) Battery, Royal Artillery and The Royal Dragoon Guards** are

expected to mark this battle, when the BEF fought to protect the retreating Allies, losing 7,800 men and earning three Victoria Crosses in the process.



AUGUST 28

Moy Memorial

Moy-de-l'Aisne, France

Marking the anniversary of the charge of the 12th Lancers against Prussian forces – the last use of lances in action. A new memorial to the British fallen is set to be unveiled. Participants will include the **9th/12th Royal Lancers** plus French Army representatives and the Band of the Royal Artillery.

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 1 ACTION AT NERY Nery, France

Royal Artillery personnel will be commemorating the famous rearguard action of L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, when a single gun kept a full German battery at bay for two and a half hours. Three gunners won Victoria Crosses.

Blind Veterans UK

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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.

“

I'VE BEEN TOLD MY USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA MAY BE DANGEROUS

”

Online security scare

I HAVE been informed by my chain of command that my use of social media may be dangerous to me.

However, I have tried to make sure my profile is as secure as possible and I'd like to know how it can be deemed unsafe when it contains a lot less information about myself than official releases from the Army (and even this magazine) reveal about soldiers.

My profile contains an unclear facial picture, and that's it.

The audience is a carefully selected group of friends and colleagues.

The Service, meanwhile, releases names, faces, job roles and home towns on their own official social media pages to anyone who wishes to view it.

In addition, it urges soldiers within London District to go out and about and from their residence to their place of work in their uniform.

Reserve forces don military clothing during Armed Forces week too.

My guess is that this kind of risk, if there is one, has been deemed worthwhile to help recruit Reserves. – **Name and address supplied.**

**Joe Buchanunn,
Head of Digital,
Army Media and
Communication,
responds:**

When material is gathered for the British Army Facebook page and other channels, the participants consent to the publicity, which is conducted in line with MoD policy on contact with the media and communicating in public ([2011DIN03-025](#)).

The photos we use do not allow further interrogation of the participants' connections, habits and trends, whereas this is the case with photos on personal social media accounts.

Personal and organisational use of social media in the military is subject to the *Online engagement guidelines* and *Using social media – a guide for military personnel* documents, both of which are available at www.gov.uk/think-before-you-share



Attractive targets: Snipers are among those who could be picked out online

There are additional security concerns that need to be considered when planning publicity and social media use for so-called special employment group personnel.

These troops are defined in JSP 440 as "a Service person who, regardless of rank, is employed in a certain trade group or appointment that intelligence has indicated may be an attractive target to terrorists, extremists or affiliated individuals".

The list is subject to continual review but currently includes snipers, and its members are subject to an enhanced personal security culture.

Not game for Commonwealth work

HOW we can justify the use of Army personnel at the Commonwealth Games?

It's my understanding we should be employed to help with relief efforts in emergencies such as the foot-and-mouth disaster, the recent floods and the many firefighters' strikes.

The Olympics were an exception

because the contracted security firm, G4S, failed to provide the manpower it promised and so without the Army's help the staging of the Games may not have been possible.

However, with the Commonwealth Games we have simply been volunteered as a matter of course.

Manpower to provide security and crowd control measures should have been sourced from the private sector.

Why are soldiers being messed around yet again?

Is this not creating a dangerous precedent, one that says the Army is here to provide stewards at general sporting events to save costs? – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Timothy Robinson, Chief of Staff to the Standing Joint Commander (UK), replies: The Army has always provided support to the civilian authorities.

It is ready to assist in whatever contingencies may arise and is proud to be able to support the Glasgow Commonwealth Games

as part of a task that reflects the flexibility, capability and adaptability of the Armed Forces.

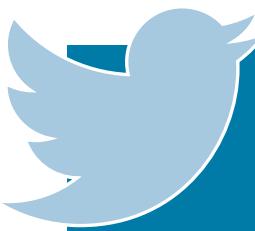
Most of the soldiers who take part in UK operations do not feel "messed around" and are happy to apply their skills at home.

The Commonwealth Games allows the MoD the very important opportunity to keep the Service in the public eye, enhance our reputation, demonstrate capability and, above all, showcase the Army's capacity to act in a professional manner in support of the government and in the interests of the nation.

The Army will also provide specialist niche capabilities such as explosive ordnance disposal, just as we did during the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The support is being provided at the request of Police Scotland and has been approved by the Home Office through the established process of Military Aid to the Civil Power principles.





DIGITAL DOSSIER

This month's elite tweets

#FIRST WORLD WAR

@rschweiss79

To our friends in the fields.
British, Canadian, German,
French, American, all of them.
We honour you. We will never
forget #WW1

@NotEvenANerd

After an evening of reading
plays @network theatre about
#WW1 I'm grateful for freedom,
the sacrifices made and the
British sense of humour

#AFGHANISTAN

@UKinAfghanistan

Over 200 cadets arrive at the
#Afghan National Army Officer
Academy. 1st step to becoming
an #ANA officer? A haircut

#COMMONWTH GAMES

@Manirio16

Proud to have served and be
part of Army and Team Bath! Be
the best – Emmanuel Nartey

@ashleyjohnw

Proud to represent Royal Welsh
at the Commonwealth Games
#britisharmy #CWG2014
#fightinfit

#ARMY LIFE

@RickyLintott

Final stage to starting my new
career. Nerves, excitement,
anticipation & all that good stuff.
Let's do this #PCompany

@Dandelion8

Really intrigued to hear today
that MP Michael Fallon had been
appointed the "nude offence
secretary". Then I saw a picture
of some soldiers...

@unionjackclub

Heads up peeps. The UJC is open
to you all 24/7. Come and say
hello sometime soon

“
WE ISSUE
SPORTS KIT
AND OTHER
ESSENTIAL
WEAR SO
WHY NOT
BRAS?
”

“

IT'S NOT FOR
ME...IT'S FOR
HIS MOOBS!

SPORTS
DEPT.



‘More support for our chests please’

WHY are women in the three Services not issued with sports bras?

They are a vital piece of kit which ensure comfort and protection for the vigorous physical activities expected of serving soldiers, sailors and air-women.

Regardless of the size of your breasts, the tissue in this area of the body can be irreversibly damaged by high and low impact activities undertaken in the line of duty and during military recreational activities.

I take a 30JJ size bra and for 20 years I've had to go out and purchase decent support myself.

I've heard all the excuses about the wide range of products available to us but there are few companies who make sports bras of the quality that are suitable for an active Servicewoman.

Surely a contract with one of these firms or, even better, the return of the hosiery allowance (which was around £45 per year) would solve this.

I love my breasts and don't wish to go under the knife to repair them and then begrudge the money I've spent to ensure I can do my job.

We issue recruits with sports kit and other essential wear so why not

decent sports bras? – Name and address supplied.

Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, replies: The Army is pursuing the provision of adequate support for Servicewomen.

A statement of user requirement is being drafted and could lead to a procurement solution.

I say "could" because any such requirement would need funding and this is not guaranteed.

I will keep *Soldier* updated on its progress.

SLICE OF SERVICE LIFE

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



Plea to end age restrictions



“
I SHOULD
NOT BE
THROWN
ON THE
SCRAPHEAP
”

AM employed on a full-time Reserve service (FTRS) contract working at an Army careers centre.

My current term ends in April 2015, when I will be 54 years of age.

My posting will not be renewed because next August I will turn 55, which is too old to continue in this role.

Yet I work in a tri-Service environment where both Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel are also employed on FTRS contracts doing the same job but are over the age of 55.

Surely, in this era of age, gender and sexual equality I should not be thrown onto the scrapheap because the

Army's rules are slightly different.

In order to take up my current position I took a demotion to staff sergeant and I have also dedicated a large portion of my long career to Army recruitment.

I have accrued an enormous wealth of knowledge, valuable contacts and understanding of my local area yet this will count for nothing when I celebrate my next birthday.

I would like to know why the age limits are different for the Army and why I will be deemed unsuitable to continue working in a role that an officer is eligible to continue doing until he or she is 60?

I have spoken to the Army Personnel Centre (APC) in Glasgow but was told that "them's the rules, guv" and there is nothing that can be done about it.

Being witness to the difficulty in filling FTRS slots (there has been an empty position for 18 months in one of the other careers centres) I find it crazy that the Service is willing to turn down someone who wants to continue but cannot due to ridiculous age restrictions. — **SSgt Frank Eastman, REME**

Maj Emma Ainsworth, SO1 Reserves Terms of Service, Directorate of Manning (Army), replies: The response you received from the APC would have been based on the current policy as laid down in TA Regulations, 1978.

As you will be aware, you would have agreed to the current regulations when you took up your appointment.

However, that aside, you deserve an explanation as to why there are differences and what is being done

in respect of the normal retirement age for FTRS personnel.

With regard to the Navy and RAF having differing terms of service, the opportunity for them to establish FTRS posts was given in the Reserves Forces Act 1996.

The Act allows for each Service to create policy, such as retirement age, that meets their own needs.

As a result, there is scope for subtle variations in terms of service.

Currently, it is the Army's stance that the normal retirement age for a short-term commitment is 55 years and this extends to 60 years for long-term contracts.

This is under review by the Directorate of Manning (Army) but at this stage it would be inappropriate to speculate on its eventual outcome.

With regard to empty FTRS slots, recruitment is high overall and the number of applications is increasing, although there are challenges in specific areas.

Where recruitment has proved challenging, DM(A) may grant certain policy waivers on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the APC to enable these posts to be filled.



what I saw there.

Is there a dress policy in place for them? Although military kit was being issued there were mixed orders of uniform, incorrect attire and poorly worn outfits.

Are these people not meant to represent the Service?

If so, they aren't doing a very good job — in this respect, at least. — **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Matthew Lowe, D Pers Ops, responds: Army cadets are issued with the personal combat clothing system and there is a full set of dress regulations for them.

They are also supervised by dedicated adult volunteers who oversee them in uniform, including the state of their dress, so there's no excuse for any inconsistencies.



LETTING THE SIDE DOWN

I RECENTLY attended a course at Pirbright where Army cadets were training and was disappointed with

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Ranking of all Independent Schools offering day and boarding from the 2013 Daily Telegraph chart, for % A*/A level and equivalent qualifications. (NR = Not ranked, • Means last year's results as this year's not available.)

1	94%	Cardiff 6th Form Coll	75	45%	Truro School
2	86%	Wycombe Abbey	76	45%	Kent College
3	81%	St Swithun's School	77	45%	St Leonards
4	80%	QE College	78	45%	Harrogate Ladies' School
NR	45%	Flying Hall School	79	44%	ACS Cobham School
5	79%	Concord College	80	44%	Christ College
6	74%	Brighton College	81	44%	Mill Hill School
7	72%	St Mary's Ascot	82	43%	St Bees School
8	71%	Badminton School	83	43%	Ampleforth College
9	71%	Benenden School	84	43%	Windermere School
10	71%	St Catherine's	85	43%	The Leys School
11	71%	Wellington College	86	42%	St Mary's Shftbury
12	68%	Faculty of QE	87	42%	Stonyhurst College
13	68%	St Mary's Calne	88	41%	King William's Coll
14	68%	Canford School	89	41%	New Hall School
15	67%	Hurtwood House	90	41%	Wellington School
16	67%	Oundle School	91	41%	Burgess Hill Girls
17	66%	Dulwich College	92	41%	King's School
18	65%	St Clare's	93	41%	Royal Dungannon
19	64%	Headington School	94	41%	Wells Cathedral S
20	64%	Malvern St James	95	40%	Queen's College
21	63%	Godolphin School	96	40%	Glenalmond College
22	62%	Caterham School	97	40%	St Margaret's Bushey
23	62%	Moreton Hall	98	39%	St Edmund's College
24	61%	Bromsgrove School	99	38%	Purcell School of Music
25	61%	Royal High Sch Bath	100	38%	Bruton School for Girls
26	60%	Ruthin School	101	38%	Stamford School
27	60%	St Michael's School	102	38%	Wrekin College
28	59%	King's School	103	38%	Victoria College
29	58%	Marlborough College	104	38%	Leighton Park School
30	58%	d'Overbroeck's Coll	105	37%	Welbeck College
31	57%	St Leonards-Mayfield	106	37%	Tring Park School
32	57%	City of Ldn Freemens	107	37%	St James Senior Boys'
33	56%	Talbot Heath School	108	35%	Ratcliffe College
34	56%	Haileybury	109	35%	Rossall School
35	56%	Queenswood	110	35%	Kirkham Grammar
36	56%	St Peter's School	111	35%	Lord Wandsworth Coll
37	55%	Warwick School	112	35%	Ashville College
38	55%	Woldingham School	113	34%	Plymouth College
39	55%	Queen Margaret's	114	34%	St Edmund's Canterbury
40	54%	Rugby School	115	34%	St Joseph's College
41	54%	Roedean School	116	34%	Pocklington School
42	54%	Bedford School	117	34%	Stamford High School
43	54%	Uppingham School	118	33%	The King's School Ely
44	54%	Bishop's Stortford	119	33%	Bede's Senior School
45	53%	Lancing College	120	33%	Sutton Valence School
46	53%	Haberdasher Girls	121	33%	Langley School
47	53%	Oakham School	122	32%	Battle Abbey School
48	53%	Gresham's School	123	31%	Felsted School
49	53%	St Francis' College	124	31%	Kelly College
50	52%	St Teresa's, Eff	125	31%	Ackworth School
51	52%	Brentwood School	126	30%	Millfield School
52	52%	Surbiton High School	127	30%	The Oratory School
53	51%	St Mary's Cambridge	128	30%	Sedbergh School
54	51%	Loughborough Gram	129	29%	Farringtons School
55	51%	Merchiston Castle	130	28%	Shebbear College
56	50%	Bootham School	131	28%	Clayesmore School
57	50%	Dauntsey's School	132	28%	Box Hill School
58	50%	Reed's School	NR	28%	Giggleswick
59	50%	Marymount School	NR	28%	Polam
60	50%	Kingswood School	133	26%	Tettenhall College
61	49%	Ipswich School	134	25%	St John's College
62	49%	Merchant Taylors B	135	25%	Woodhouse Grove
63	49%	Prior Park College	136	24%	Sibford School
64	48%	Tudor Hall School	137	24%	Culford School
65	48%	Downside School	138	24%	Friends' School
66	48%	St John's School	139	24%	Lincoln Minster School
67	47%	Mount School (York)	140	24%	Hampshire Collegiate
68	46%	Chigwell School	141	23%	LVS Ascot
69	46%	Chetham's Music	142	22%	Seaford College
70	46%	Sidcot School	NR•	21%	Barnard Castle
71	46%	Kimbolton School	143	20%	Trinity School
72	46%	Bradfield College	144	18%	The Royal Ballet School
73	46%	Cheltenham College	145	18%	Fulneck School
74	46%	Bury Grammar Girls	NR•	16%	Read School Drax



Mad Dog Casting has teamed up with the Blind Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association to offer paid-for TV and movie roles as extras. Wounded personnel who are interested should email blesma@maddogcasting.com for details. Daily rates range from £100 to £160 and there is a special discounted commission and registration fee for Blesma members.

Barclays has created 200 new work placements as part of its Armed Forces transition employment and resettlement programme, designed to help wounded Servicemen and women. By providing access to the right skills and experience, the aim is to better equip them for new career opportunities. Further details are available at www.yourbank.barclays.co.uk

Cross Deck, a specialist military recruitment company, uses a digital job centre to find opportunities in the private and public sectors. Supporting the Career Transition Partnership, their database has more than 12,000 positions available. For more information visit www.cross-deck.co.uk

Jobs4Reservists is a website developed by the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association to match veterans and Reservists who are seeking employment with vacancies. For more information visit www.jobs4reservists.org.uk

Living and Working in London Transition Fair on September 18 from 1000 to 1300 at Barking Learning Centre, IG11 7LU. This event is open to all Service personnel, veterans and their families. For further information contact londist-so2transition@mod.uk

The Armed for IT Careers programme provides a one-stop shop for ex-military personnel looking to launch a career in IT, helping them find training, resettlement funding and qualifications. For more information visit www.armedforitcareers.org

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

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



Spine line winners: Ted Roberts, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Crimson Field DVD: Maria Fisher, Winchester, Hampshire; Mrs J Matthews, Dallas, Morayshire; Natalie Walker, PRB, BFPO 47; Maxine Hamilton-Wright, Reading, Berkshire; LCpl J Kibbler, 1 RMP, BFPO 30.

D-Day book set: Iain Fraser-Barker, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

D-Day – The Last of the Liberators: Guy Bealey, Salford, Greater Manchester.

Battlefield banter answers (pages 64-65):
Gooseberries; an entanglement of barbed wire.
No 9; a laxative handed out by medical officers.
Click; to strike up a chance acquaintance.
Fatigew; the Army pronunciation of fatigue.
In the pink; in very good health – letters from soldiers frequently ended “hoping this finds you as it leaves me at present, in the pink”.
Rootie; bread, from the Urdu word “roti”.
Ally Sloper's Cavalry; Army Service Corps.
Bolo; a spy, after Bolo Pasha – a notorious German agent.
Funk hole; a dugout. A funk wallah was an officer who, when in the line, seldom left his dugout.
Zig-zag; intoxicated.
Chats; lice.
Hairy; a horse or mule.
M&V diet; tinned rations containing meat and vegetables.
Napoo; from the French phrase “il n'y en a plus” meaning there is no more.
Goer; a shell passing overhead.
PBI; poor bloody Infantry.
M&D; medicine and duty, as in “a dose of No 9 and back to work”.
Piou piou; a French soldier.
NYD; not yet diagnosed. In other words, keep this man working (colloquial: not yet dead).
Frigiped; cold feet.

children's entertainment and fundraising activities in aid of Combat Stress. For details visit www.wincantonracecourse.co.uk



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.armedforcesthumanists.org.uk

Armed Forces Muslim Association: Chaplain 0207 414 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/welfare-support.aspx

Blind Veterans UK: (formerly St Dunstan's) www.blindveterans.org.uk; 0207 7235021

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association: 0208 590 1124; www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 4696 661

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

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

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

Family Escort Service: 0207 463 9249

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

Forces Pension Society: 0207 820 9988

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

Heroes Welcome: www.heroeswelcome.co.uk; 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

Continued on page 74

BULLET POINTS



August: See page 67 for details of various **First World War** commemorative events.

August 16-17: Combined Ops Military and Air Show at Headcorn Aerodrome, Shenley Road, Headcorn TN27 9HX from 1000 to 1800. For details visit www.combinedops.co.uk

September 7: Dogs on Parade at the Essex Dog Training Centre, Brentwod CM15 9NN. Celebrating military dogs from the First World War to Op Herrick, in aid of The Afghanistan Trust. For details visit www.glenart.co.uk

Until September 27: The Artists Rifles: From Pre-Raphaelites to Passchendaele at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke. The exhibition spans 80 years, looking at artists, the works they produced and the regiment. For details visit www.hants.gov.uk

October 26: Families and Armed Forces Race Day at Wincanton Racecourse, including

Remount: 01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion:
www.britishlegion.org.uk; 0808 802 8080

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

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

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

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

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

Stoll: (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation) 0207 385 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

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

INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 92/14: Introduction of versatile engagement for other ranks

ABN 91/14: Chain of command guides to NRPB and FTRS personnel affected by restructuring

ABN 90/14: *Career management handbook – Reserves*

ABN 89/14: Army elite sports programme

ABN 88/14: Equality and diversity adviser central database

ABN 87/14: Language training for spouses

ABN 86/14: Changes to overseas loan service allowances

ABN 85/14: Chief of the general staff's fraud policy statement

ABN 84/14: HM Armed Forces railcard for Reservists

ABN 83/14: Guidance for land environment experimentation

ABN 82/14: Army readiness order 2014

ABN 81/14: Trademark infringement avoidance

ABN 80/14: AGA 177 hearing conservation policy

ABN 79/14: Civilian performance management grievances

ABN 78/14: Briefs for F&C and Gurkhas regularising immigration status for T4 redundancies

ABN 77/14: Uniform to Work Day lunch at Admiralty House

ABN 76/14: Closure of regulations of Army allowances and charges

ABN 75/14: Reserves continuous attitude survey 2014

ABN 74/14: Tranche 4 redundancies

ABN 73/14: Civilian performance appraisal

process 2014/15

DIN 2014DIN01-140: Universal infant free school meals

DIN 2014DIN01-139: Service family accommodation – four-tier grading boards of officers

DIN 2014DIN01-138: Scottish independence referendum – amendment to previously published deadline to register to vote

DIN 2014DIN01-137: *BR3* – issue of June 2014 edition

DIN 2014DIN01-136: Chain of command guide regarding full-time Reserve service personnel affected by restructuring

DIN 2014DIN01-135: Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – changes to drug classification

DIN 2014DIN01-134: Versatile engagement conversion for Army other ranks

DIN 2014DIN01-133: HM Forces railcards – administrative instructions

DIN 2014DIN01-132: Review of recruitment and retention payment (explosive ordnance disposal)

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DIN 2014DIN01-130: Entry into the Maritime Reserves for all tri-Service serving personnel

DIN 2014DIN01-129: The Army Dependents' Trust – annual trustees report and accounts

DIN 2014DIN01-128: Ramadan and Eidul Fitr 2014

DIN 2014DIN01-127: Overseas marriage for Armed Forces personnel and use of chapels for same-sex marriage

DIN 2014DIN02-011: Transmission of STRAP TK clearances for overseas visits

DIN 2014DIN03-021: Procedures for visits to the USA under the auspices of the Polaris sales agreement

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DIN 2014DIN03-019: Transition of Defence EW Centre from Air Command to Joint Forces Command and renaming to Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Centre

DIN 2014DIN03-018: White fleet and administrative vehicles

DIN 2014DIN04-122: Planned disposal of various obsolete aircraft components

DIN 2014DIN04-121: BATCIS supported AESP withdrawal: notice of obsolete, cancellation and disposal

DIN 2014DIN04-120: Equipment tables, scales and schedules

DIN 2014DIN04-119: Declaration of obsolete general purpose test and measurement equipment

DIN 2014DIN04-118: Physical training equipment service repair and maintenance 2014

DIN 2014DIN04-117: Limited extension to confirmed out-of-service date for pistol 9mm, L9A1, Browning and pistol 7.65mm, L47A1, Walther

DIN 2014DIN04-116: Lifejackets – replacement of lifejacket light

DIN 2014DIN04-115: Gifting assessment policy

DIN 2014DIN04-114: Introduction of AED training three aids

DIN 2014DIN04-113: Publication of *Land Equipment User Maintenance Standards* edition three to replace edition two

DIN 2014DIN04-112: Obsolete aircraft power cartridges

DIN 2014DIN04-111: Disposal of the Tristar C2, C2A, KC1 and K1 equipment

DIN 2014DIN04-110: On-site calibration and repair of weighing equipment

DIN 2014DIN04-108: Logistic information systems – cessation of obsolete/obsolescent capabilities: DARTS network

DIN 2014DIN04-107: Removal from service of the following munitions: 1. Cartridge blank 3PR MkN8; 2. Charge propelling 155mm M4A2

DIN 2014DIN04-106: Declaration of obsolete general-purpose test and measurement equipment

DIN 2014DIN04-105: Equipment tables, scales and schedules

DIN 2014DIN04-104: Declaration of obsolete – LIPS 5 battery

DIN 2014DIN04-103: Instigation of level one (user) mandatory equipment inspections for the pistol 9mm, Glock, L131A1, DMC RIOTG, NSN 1005-41-002-1109

DIN 2014DIN04-102: Declaration of obsolescence – aircraft component technical publications

DIN 2014DIN04-101: Provision of an unscheduled courier transportation service for the collection and delivery of freight within the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland and EU member states

DIN 2014DIN04-100: Declaration of cryptographic equipment AN/CYZ 10 as having reached a state of obsolescence, by Crypto Services for Defence

DIN 2014DIN04-099: Amendments to operational medical modules contents (May-June 2014)

DIN 2014DIN05-021: Medical Information Systems helpdesk – phase two

DIN 2014DIN05-020: Visits to permanent joint operating bases on temporary duty by Service or civil service personnel and Service agencies or civilians sponsored by Service organisations

DIN 2014DIN06-010: Action required on the coroner's conclusion following Service inquest into the Camp Bastion fatalities February 14, 2011

DIN 2014DIN06-009: Land Accident Prevention and Investigation Team new contact telephone numbers and postal address

DIN 2014DIN06-008: Publication of JSP 800, volume three – *Movement of materiel*

DIN 2014DIN07-115: Army Reserve and UOTC Orienteering Championships 2014

DIN 2014DIN07-114: Exercise Spartan Hike 2015

DIN 2014DIN07-113: 47 Aerosystems course applications

DIN 2014DIN07-112: BSc (Hons) degree in defence healthcare

DIN 2014DIN07-111: Changes to the procurement of external training

DIN 2014DIN07-110: Information systems courses at the Communications and Information Systems Training Unit

DIN 2014DIN07-109: Support to staff studying for a finance qualification

DIN 2014DIN07-108: Joint operational planning refresher

DIN 2014DIN07-107: Revised unit fitness training officers' course

DIN 2014DIN07-106: Joining instructions for personnel attending the Sky Siren operator/network course HMS *Collingwood*

DIN 2014DIN07-104: Defence Medical Services ethics symposium

DIN 2014DIN07-103: Army resettlement information staff training

DIN 2014DIN07-102: Move of the British Defence Film Library

DIN 2014DIN07-101: Maritime Warfare Centre courses spring term 2015 – spring term 2016

DIN 2014DIN07-100: UKMCC (Bahrain) Core Planning Group pre-deployment training

DIN 2014DIN07-099: Defence Diving School courses for training year 2014/15

DIN 2014DIN07-098: Commando Helicopter Force basic military acquaintance course (Air 338)

DIN 2014DIN07-097: Nuclear Department course dates, March 2015 to March 2016

DIN 2014DIN07-096: Military Aviation Authority Centre of Air Safety Training courses FY 2014/15

DIN 2014DIN07-095: ME418A AD Stevedore training course

DIN 2014DIN07-094: Guidance and information for the planning of JSAT parachute expeditions

DIN 2014DIN08-007: FI 2014 08-007 accounting arrangements for financial year 2014/15

DIN 2014DIN09-012: The Alan Hirst Memorial Prize

DIN 2014DIN09-011: The George Beeching Prize for Compassion

DIN 2014DIN09-010: The Oliver Sword 2014

DIN 2014DIN10-043: Army Telemark Ski Association Championships – Exercise Telemark Titan 2015

DIN 2014DIN10-041: British Army Motorsports event – Bramley Express 2014

DIB41/14: A defence and national rehabilitation centre: next steps

DIB40/14: Your Say corporate action plan update

DIB39/14: Reserves in the Future Force 2020: valuable and valued – one year on

DIB38/14: HM Forces railcard – expanding eligibility for the volunteer Reserves

DIB36/14: Publication of the first tri-Service Reserves continuous attitude survey results

DIB35/14: Armed Forces redundancy programme – notification of personnel selected for tranche four redundancy

DIB34/14: The capabilities plan 2014 in defence

REUNION

The Somme Platoon recruits 1978 will be holding a reunion in the Sergeants' Mess, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall on August 30 from 1930. For more information contact Philip Elwell on 01904 668233.

The Royal Pioneer Corps annual reunion will take place at St David's Barracks, Bicester on September 26-28. For further details contact Norman Brown on 01869 360694 or email royalpioneerkorps@gmail.com

Royal Hampshire territorial (and successor units of 1 and 2 Wessex) battalions annual reunion at Newburgh House, Winchester on September 27, 1200 for lunch at 1300. To reserve a seat contact Ian Taylor on 023 8069 4771 or email ian.p.b.taylor@btinternet.com

BMATT Namibia reunion on September 27 at the Premier Inn, Telford at 1930. Open to all ex-members. For more information contact

Philip Elwell on 01904 668233.

A Coldstream Guards drummers reunion will be held in Windsor on October 4. For further details contact Peter Nightingale on 0188 337 0974 or email nigel.hoadley@graysinn.org.uk

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire Regimental Association will be holding their annual reunion on October 4 at York Racecourse. For details contact Capt Brian Atkinson on 01904 461014.

The annual airborne gunner reunion dinner will take place at the Royal Artillery Mess, Larkhill on October 10. Open to all serving and retired officers who have served in a gunner airborne regiment or battery. For further details on the event contact Capt Joshua Head on 01206 815954 or email joshua.head959@mod.uk

SEARCHLINE

The Iraq Historic Allegations Team is trying to find any Operation Telic veterans who could help to identify an American unit lodging at 1st Battalion, Queen's Lancashire Regiment at The Old Ba'ath Party HQ in Basra in September 2003. It is believed there was an American civil affairs unit at this location. Anyone with information is asked to contact Paul Mackie on military 94344 8020 or paul.mackie100@mod.uk

Volunteers are required to take part in, or help with fundraising for, a **sponsored bike ride on September 3-9 on behalf of the Combined Services Disabled Ski Team**. Ride of Thrones will see participants travel 400 miles from Edinburgh to London. Contact Maj Mel Bowler via projects@csdst.co.uk

NO. 873

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

TEN details have been changed in this picture of Joanna Lumley posing for "selfies" with a platoon of Gurkha recruits at London Paddington train station.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 873, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,**

Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU by August 29, 2014.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The

results will be announced in the October issue. Usual rules apply.

June's winner: First correct entry drawn at random was Bruce Moreton-Cox, MoD Abbey Wood, Bristol. **Runners up:** M Sullivan, York, North Yorkshire and Pte Saurara, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester.



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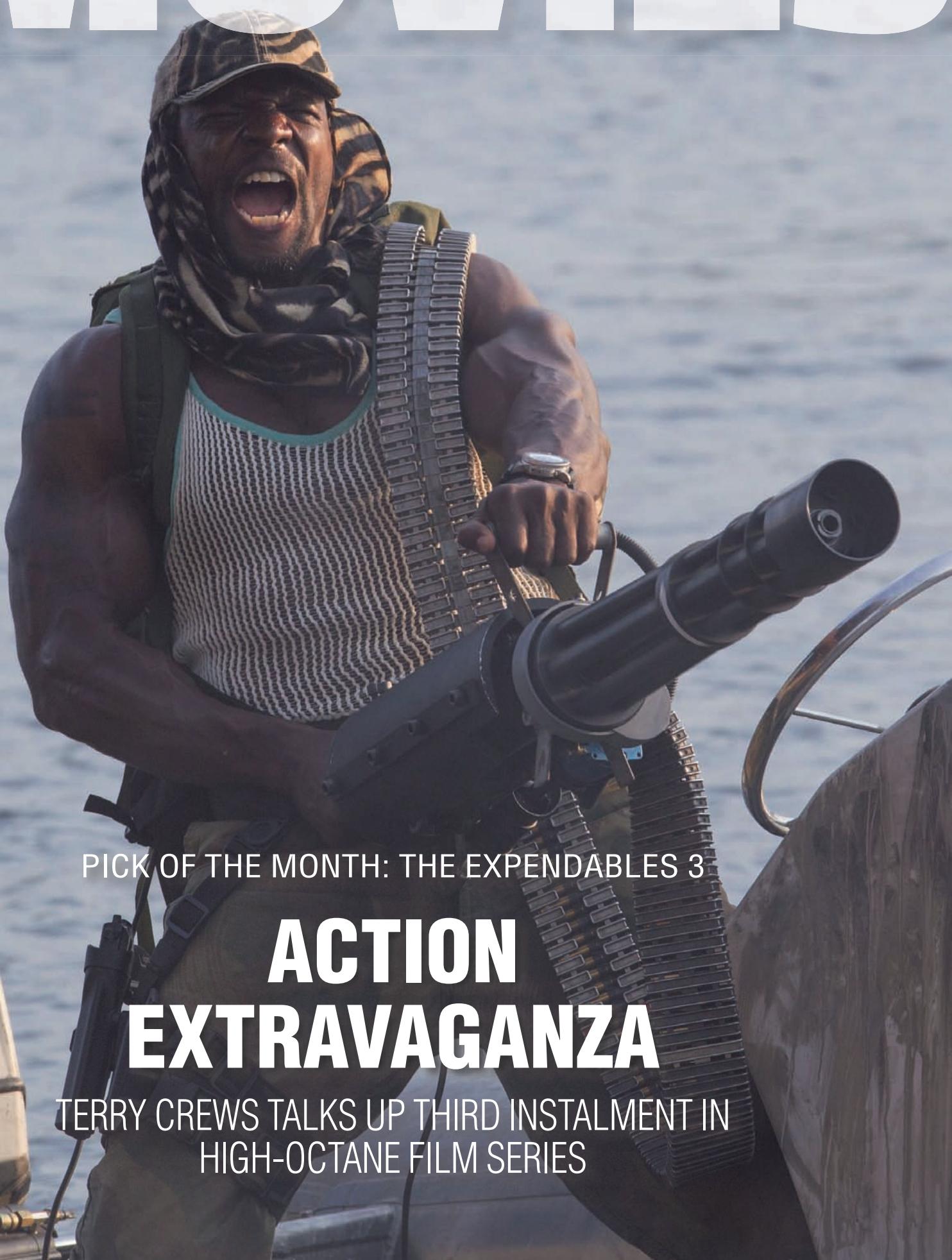
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MOVIES



PICK OF THE MONTH: THE EXPENDABLES 3

ACTION EXTRAVAGANZA

TERRY CREWS TALKS UP THIRD INSTALMENT IN
HIGH-OCTANE FILM SERIES

Interview: Joe Clapson

THE latest gargantuan instalment of *The Expendables* juggernaut will crash onto cinema screens on August 14 with even more action royalty added to its glittering roster.

The all-guns-blazing movie, written by Creighton Rothenberger, Katrin Benedikt and the ageless Sylvester Stallone, picks up straight where part two left off. A team of screen heroes battle against more Hollywood icons with impressive and explosive showdowns.

Boss Barney (Stallone) and his muscle-bound colleagues take on Conrad Stonebanks (Mel Gibson), a co-founder of the outfit that Barney thought he had killed.

Speaking to *Soldier*, Terry Crews – who plays the Expendables' long-barrel weapons specialist Hale Caesar – gave his unreserved opinion on the much-anticipated release.

"After the first two movies I thought it couldn't get any bigger but it did," he said.

"This is the largest action movie of all time – we're talking about a mix of major franchises."

The feature is especially significant as it sees the return of Wesley Snipes – the actor originally scheduled to play Crews' role – after spending nearly three years in prison for tax evasion.

"When I saw Wesley on my first day of filming I told him I'd been keeping his seat warm and we hugged – it was an amazing moment," said Crews. "He is one of the greatest action stars ever."

And in lining up alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger, Antonio Banderas, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture and Harrison Ford he is in good company.

Although the latest movie has been pegged as the best yet – a bold claim considering the combined \$600 million success of its two predecessors – it is not a CGI-fest and saw its actors taking on high-octane scenes themselves instead of using hired hands.

"Special effects are minimal and it's actually quite old-school action," explained the larger-than-life ex-NFL star.

"A lot of stunt guys got banged around and so did I. I had to learn how to commandeer a speedboat and when I got out there it was crazy."

"I pushed it and it almost wiped out but you've got to go for it."

The *White Chicks* actor added: "There aren't a lot of stuntmen who can double me and, personally, I don't want someone whose arms don't look as good as mine!"

Despite displaying an impressive set of oiled guns, the fact that this band of brothers is now at the upper end of the age spectrum is not lost on Crews and his colleagues.

"Us being old men is the whole point," he continued. "I'm no spring chicken at 45 and that's part of the Expendables' law – it's part of history."

"This title is like a museum where you can go to look at what these people have done and the rule is that there's no giving up."

With this actor, any suggestion that *The Expendables 3* might be overkill is immediately shot down in flames.

"Sly is the sequel master and this is the movie for guys; it's their *Frozen*," he said.

No doubt the box office will prove him right. ■

VERDICT: The powerhouse A-list return for more action of the highest, if tongue-in-cheek, order ★★★★★



A LONG WAY DOWN out now

PIERCE Brosnan's comically abortive attempt to take his own life in the opening scene sets the tone of this belting black comedy. A disgraced former celebrity, a single parent, a politician's daughter and a failed rock guitarist meet atop an infamous suicide venue on New Year's Eve. The quartet undertakes not to attempt suicide again until at least Valentine's Day, setting forth on a journey of love and loss.

Maj Neil Johnson, AAC

VERDICT: Don't miss this challenging tragi-comedy ★★★★★



HAUNTER out now

LISA and her family are stuck on a time loop, constantly repeating the day before her 16th birthday. They have the same conversations and hear the same noises from the attic every day. Lisa is fed up and determined to discover why. It's an easy film to follow and it doesn't make you jump or hide behind cushions. However, it does have you on the edge of your seat as the hunt for the haunter is played out.

Msn Rachel Sadler, CAMUS

VERDICT: Not a classic horror film but worth a watch ★★★★★



DEVIL'S DUE out now

A VERY enticing film with a lot of suspense but no real end result, which leaves the door open for a sequel. The plot revolves around an unplanned pregnancy with signs pointing towards the unborn child being the Antichrist. Much of the movie is shot from personal cameras, giving a similar feel to *Paranormal Activity* and *The Blair Witch Project*. I couldn't turn it off but would not watch it again.

Msn Victoria Sadler, CAMUS

VERDICT: CCTV horror – The *Paranormal Activity* of pregnancy ★★★★★



THE PRETTY ONE out now

AT the end of this miserable movie I felt like I had wasted time I will never get back. In brief, Laurel and Audrey are identical twins, Audrey passes away in a tragic accident and Laurel steps into the shoes of her idolised sister. She must decide whether to live the lie or reveal that she is a fraudster. It is a very poor film that doesn't pick up. There is nothing to attract male attention and the whole thing is tasteless and bleak.

Cpl Nick Reader, Rifles

VERDICT: A film best suited to a female audience – or nobody ★★★★★



ABSENTIA out now

HORRORS aren't really my cup of tea but there must be some disturbingly warped imaginations out there to come up with a title like this. A small production team has created a game-changer and it's great to see tiny studios producing films that can entertain, thrill and revolt, without the Hollywood faces or price tag. The Blu Ray format enhances the scare factor but not enough to cause screams.

Musn Chris Harman, CAMUS

VERDICT: Might persuade you to avoid suburban underpasses ★★★★★



WIN... A HARD DAY'S NIGHT

THE seminal "Beatlemania" movie, which portrays 1964 Britain with the Fab Four as the carefree heroes, has been digitally restored to mark its 50th anniversary. The film is widely considered to be one of the most influential musical features of all time and *Soldier* has teamed up with Second Sight Films to offer copies of the DVD to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning tell us who directed the movie. Send your answers to the usual postal address or alternatively by email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: August 29

GAMES

PICK OF THE MONTH:
VALIANT HEARTS

COMIC BOOK CONFLICT

UBISOFT DELIVER ALTERNATIVE VIEW
OF THE GREAT WAR



Review: Richard Long

WITH combat titles famed for their realism and obsessive attention to detail it is surprising to see a comic book style applied to a game that charts the pain and emotion of the First World War.

This approach may be considered as somewhat left-field but publishers Ubisoft have hit the mark with *Valiant Hearts*, an offering that delivers a compelling look at the realities of a brutal conflict and captures the human costs suffered on both sides.

The story revolves around four central characters – an elderly French farmer called to arms, his German neighbour who is enlisted by the enemy, an American soldier far from home and a student-turned-nurse – who offer varying standpoints in the portrayal of events from 1914 to 1918.

Such breadth was a key requirement for the brains behind the release, with game designer Simon Chocquet-Bottani telling *Soldier* it was the only way they could create a rounded picture.

"When we started to read about the war we looked at books from people of different nationalities," he explained.

"If we had introduced just one character we would only have one take on the conflict. But during our research we found a range of accounts on life in the trenches.

"By switching from one to another we can see things from the perspective of a nurse, a prisoner of war and some of the smaller figures on the battlefield.

"It is not about political opinion but is an opportunity to show the wide range of people and cultures involved in the war."

While diversity within the gameplay was a major consideration the need to be historically accurate was equally important.

"This has the style of a cartoon or graphic novel, but it really works," said community developer Kevin Erwin. "It is definitely a different take on the representation of war.

"It made sense to add the historical realism. We wanted to create a gripping story about unsung heroes that was based around anecdotes and interesting facts that very few people know about.

"It is not shoved down your throat like a textbook but we wanted to add those experiences. We had consultants who checked everything from the sites of famous battles to the different equipment used.

"It was important we did that. It is a sensitive subject and we did not want to mess up on those details."

Such efforts have paid off and *Valiant Hearts* strikes a perfect balance between hands-on gameplay and the delivery of important background information.

The puzzle-based approach may not offer the greatest challenge to hardened console campaigners but there is enough here to hold one's attention.

The inspired artwork also dazzles, making this worthy of consideration when seeking an alternate look at the First World War. ■

VERDICT: A novel approach that delivers a notable battlefield victory ★★★★★

SNIPER ELITE III

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC

THE *Sniper Elite* series is among the best stealth-based shooters on the market. This new addition is set in the African campaigns of the Second World War and boasts the familiar X-ray kill shots alongside a few improvements. The maps are bigger and less linear but that's about it. Unfortunately, previous let-downs remain as soldiers still have goldfish memories and constantly switch between being deaf and blind. However, it is a decent sniping game – even with its minor pitfalls.



SSgt Lee Gibbs, REME

VERDICT: Slow-motion kills that are so wrong they're right ★★★★★

MOTOGP 14

for Xbox/PS3 and 4

I WOULD love to own a bike but feel I wouldn't respect it and would probably end up seriously injuring myself. Therefore this is a good alternative and without doubt



one of the best racers I have played. It looks pretty basic but the team has concentrated its efforts on where it really matters – the game itself. You can compete as a single player, start your career in the MotoGP 3 league or play pre-defined races from last season. The gameplay is exceptional and the graphics are amazing.

Sgt Craig Backhouse, Coldrm Gds

VERDICT: A title that fully captures the realism of riding ★★★★★

TOUR DE FRANCE 2014

for Xbox/PS3 and 4/PC

IF you're not a fan of cycling this is probably not the game for you. Players can tackle every leg of the gruelling race in the Tour de France mode, while the pro team option allows you to create your own set-up and forge the best reputation. Completing the peloton is the multiplayer format, which offers split-screen action that is ideal for when you have friends round. All in all, this is a good game with great graphics but it is lacking any real excitement.



Ashley Swarbrick, ex-RLC

VERDICT: Decent, but won't challenge for the yellow jersey ★★★★★

GRID AUTOSPORT

for Xbox 360/PS3/PC

I GREW to like this game incredibly quickly. There's no far-fetched storyline, there are no gimmicks and when you crash your car you can't drive on.



I especially like the fact that it is challenging and with no racing lines or braking markers success depends upon your skill behind the wheel. The soundtrack could do with a bit of work, but it's nothing you can't fix with an MP3 player. While this is decent enough I can't imagine myself picking it over *Burnout*, *Forza* or *Gran Turismo*.

Cpl Adam Jackson, 3 Para

VERDICT: Good, but it's never going to reach pole position ★★★★★

RISE OF THE DARK SPARK

for Xbox/PS/PC/Wii U

THE new *Transformers* offering is not to be confused with the latest big screen release, although it does look like a typical movie tie-in. As a shooter, the gameplay is fun and intuitive but it quickly becomes rather repetitive. The multiplayer option is slightly better as the characters you build can be used in a co-op mode against increasing waves of enemies. Unfortunately, the competitive element in this format has been removed and that could have been the game's saving grace.



Sgt Mike O'Neill, RLC

VERDICT: One that will appeal to the younger gamers ★★★★★

UFC

for Xbox One/PS4

THE graphics on *UFC* are amazing and make full use of the advanced processing speeds of the PS4. On top of that it's a truly gripping fighting experience. At first it is difficult to master and a lot of time is needed to perfect the various combos. However, once you get into the flow it is excellent. Opponents soon pick up on your style and fight back and the different modes offer a real challenge. This is one of the best sporting combat titles I have ever played.



SSgt Lee Gibbs, REME

VERDICT: A near-photorealistic orgy of sporting combat ★★★★★

MUSIC



PICK OF THE MONTH:
FOREVER

HAUNTING SOUND

DESCENDANTS AND STARS JOIN
FORCES ON COMMEMORATION ALBUM

Report: Richard Long

WITH First World War commemorations gathering pace this month The Royal British Legion and Victoria Cross Trust have released a poignant new album to mark the most haunting moments of the conflict.

Featuring poetry, spoken word and music from the era, *Forever* boasts a star-studded line-up that includes offerings from Danny Dyer, Sean Bean and Stephen Fry.

But the most significant contribution comes from the direct descendants of the wartime heroes who were decorated for their immense valour in battle.

Following months of research by the project's lead charities the relatives of Victoria Cross recipients were tracked down and invited to record a special version of John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*.

Among those taking part was Victor Harbige, from Ashford in Kent, who is the great-grandson of LCpl Arthur Henry Cross.

"It means so much to me and my family to be part of this," the 57-year-old explained.

"It is brilliant that The Royal British Legion have given us this opportunity to tell our families' stories.

"We are so proud of my great-grandfather but we have to remember that he was just one hero, there were millions more who took part in that awful war and they are heroes too."

LCpl Cross received his decoration on March 25, 1918, after he volunteered to reconnoitre two machine guns that had been captured by the enemy.

Heading out into no-man's-land he discovered the trench and armed only with a revolver he forced seven opposing soldiers to surrender before marching them back to British lines while carrying the captured guns, tripods and ammunition.

He then rounded up a team to man the weapons, which were immediately brought into action as they repelled a counter-attack.

"I don't remember an awful lot about my great-grandfather," said Mr Harbige. "But I do recall him telling me how he won his medal.

"He said: 'Look, they nicked my guns and I wanted them back. Simple'."

While the descendants take a starring role on *In Flanders Fields* there is a raft of other performances that capture the emotion of war.

Dyer reads *In Memoriam* by Ewart Alan Mackintosh while the works of famed poet Wilfred Owen are brought to life via *Cold Feet* star John Thompson, historian Dan Snow and Bean, who deliver renditions of *Dulce et Decorum Est*, *Futility* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth* respectively.

The readings are set to music, such as versions of *Abide With Me*, *The Day Thou Gavest and I Vow to Thee, My Country*.

"The poetry borne of the struggles of the First World War captured so hauntingly the trauma experienced by a generation of young men," said Charles Byrne, of the RBL.

"Poets such as John McCrae and Wilfred Owen express this tragedy in a manner that only those that have seen it first-hand can describe. This record will help keep these moments alive for future generations." ■

● *Forever* is out now on Decca Records

Speak a Little Louder by Diane Birch

THIS combines all the best bits of 70s/80s soft rock and pop. Think Stevie Nicks and Carly Simon and you're just about there. The vocals are unquestionably good on *All the Love You Got* and *Tell Me Tomorrow* and you almost feel as if you're listening to a Fleetwood Mac Rumours-esque album. Birch even goes a little darker with *Unkind* to show she's not all happiness and fairytales. The record isn't overdone by layering ridiculous drums, guitar or pianos but is a true pop offering that makes you feel all fuzzy inside.



LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: One that definitely requires some appreciation

Live Life Living by Example

AFTER a 2012 album reflecting on the dark times of a hard-partying pop star, Example has come out the other side and returns to us a happy man. *Live Life Living* harks back to 90s dance culture and provides fist-pumping music for the festival-going Snapchat generation. There are some moderately catchy club anthems, such as *One More Day (Stay With Me)*, and the record is well produced but there's nothing colossal to get your teeth into and the overly repetitive choruses lack the necessary punch.



Musn Tom Greenhalf, CAMUS

VERDICT: Unfortunately, this is a case of all filler and no killer

Rise of the Damnation Army II

THE new offering from Skid Row – *Rise of the Damnation Army* – is further evidence of the hard-working ethos of a band



that has spanned 25 years in music. In a bizarre move, they have decided to release this album in instalments, which I can't help but think was their way of bringing some novelty to a rather tired format. While resisting the urge to tap or sing along was not that difficult, the five original tracks were not sonically offensive and were well played and produced.

Maj Fraser Dowling, AGC (ETS)

VERDICT: Hard rock that throws a strong punch – and misses

Keep Moving by Hyde & Beast

IT is amazing what passes as music these days. Hyde & Beast are new to me and I certainly don't feel like I have missed out by not



having them in my life. The only positive is that this album should not offend anyone – apart from those who dislike bland, soulless and lifeless guitar twanging, topped with a bit of semi-rhythmic moaning from a duo who seem to wish they were the new Beach Boys mixed with Smokey Robinson. Melancholic is apparently the mood they aimed for. They achieved depression.

Maj Euan Mathieson, Yorks

VERDICT: A miserable offering that barely constitutes music

Dismantle and Rebuild

BRISTOL-based five-piece The Ramona Flowers have produced an impressive debut album that spans many genres and meshes together electronica and indie-pop in a way reminiscent of Foals and The XX. This record has a sublime edge to it, dark at times on tracks such as *Modern World*, then uplifting at others – as with the aptly named *Brighter*. The way they have approached things belies their status as newcomers and the band are destined to be live favourites for years to come.



Capt Damian Hern, AGC (SPS)

VERDICT: Fans of the indie and electronica genres should buy this

Wanted on Voyage by George Ezra

SINGER-songwriter George Ezra has a truly unique voice and uses a sound that boasts a huge acoustic influence. *Wanted on Voyage*

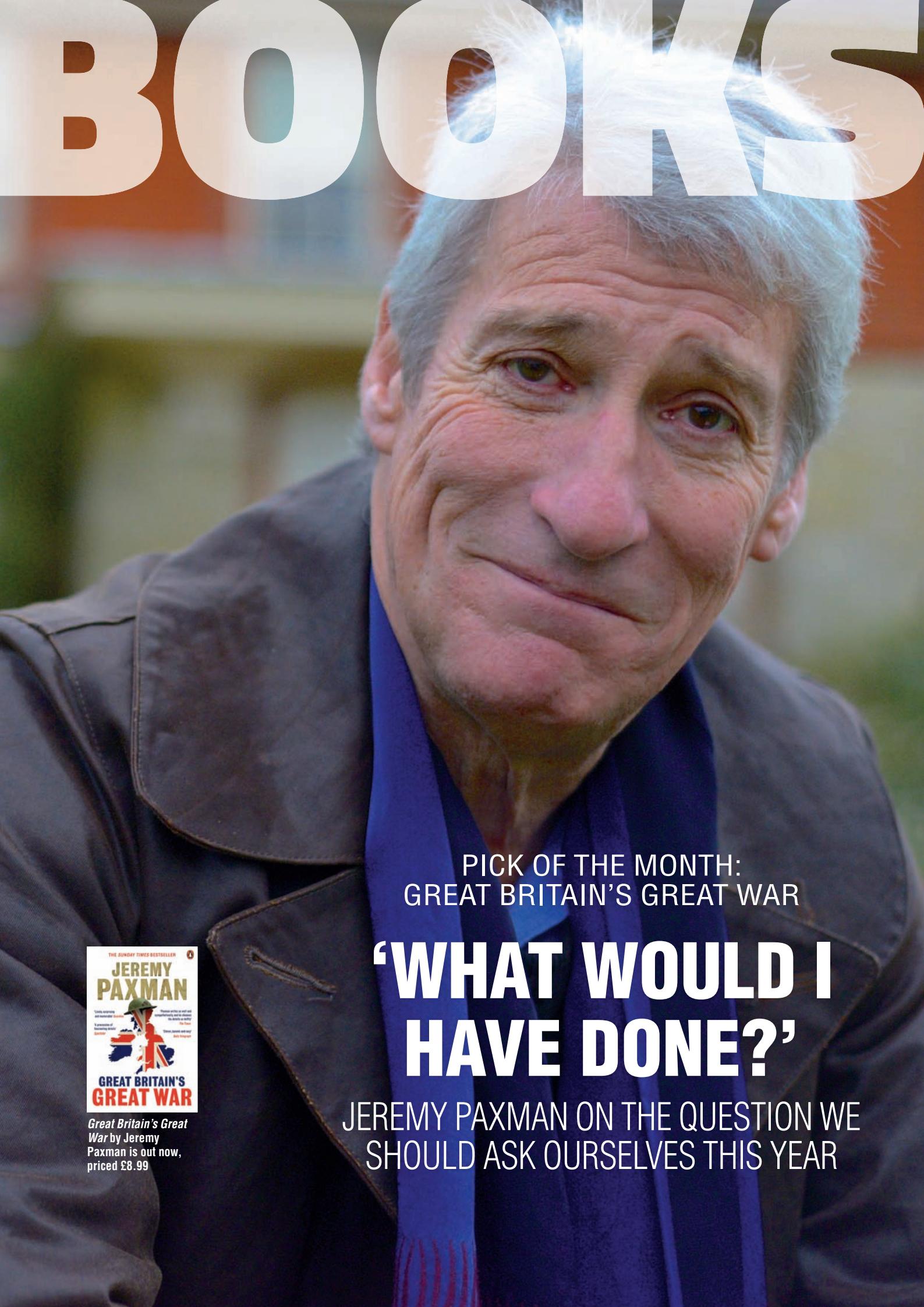


proves to be a good album to have playing in the background while entertaining or enjoying a quiet night in. Tracks such as *Budapest* and *Drawing Board* help make this an upbeat, chilled out offering that is very pleasant and great to relax to. It is also very diverse so should appeal to fans of many genres. This is a promising debut that points to an exciting future.

Musn Victoria Carter, CAMUS

VERDICT: The perfect mix of country music and indie

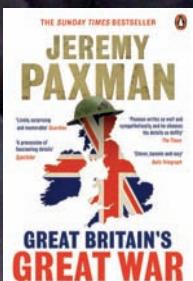
BOOKS



PICK OF THE MONTH:
GREAT BRITAIN'S GREAT WAR

'WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE?'

JEREMY PAXMAN ON THE QUESTION WE
SHOULD ASK OURSELVES THIS YEAR



Great Britain's Great
War by Jeremy
Paxman is out now,
priced £8.99

Interview: Becky Clark

ACENTURY ago this month as the country found itself at war, young British men began flocking to recruitment offices in their hundreds of thousands.

By late 1915, 2.5 million had answered Kitchener's call to arms, but if today's generation faced a conflict of a similar scale, how keen would most people be to join up?

Not very, thinks Jeremy Paxman, whose contribution to this year's barrage of First World War-related titles, *Great Britain's Great War*, is out now in paperback.

"Most of us spend our lives pleasing ourselves," the broadcaster told *Soldier*.

"And very few people understand military life – more's the pity, I suppose.

"I just find it hard to imagine that an appeal for mass volunteers would do very well now.

"I hope it would: there are several things I should certainly fight for."

Paxman's book – and the BBC documentary that accompanied it – explores what it was like to live and fight through the war and how Britain was fundamentally altered by it.

Commenting on how the conflict's centenary might change perceptions, he said: "I'm afraid I'm sick of the *Oh What A Lovely War*, *Blackadder* caricature. It's just stupid.

"I tried [with the book] to do what we all ought to do; ask 'what would I have done?'

"I think I should have fought, but I quite admire those who decided they wouldn't – that required courage too."

Like many, Paxman's interest in the era stems partly from a family connection. His great uncle Charlie was a medic who fought and died at Gallipoli.

The 100th anniversary of events that would lead to unprecedented numbers of dead has, predictably, reignited the debate over whether the war was worth fighting.

When *Soldier* quizzed the notoriously brusque presenter about the usefulness of such a discussion, he remarked: "That's a stupid question.

"Nothing much is worth 750,000 lives.

"It was a crying bloody tragedy, but that shouldn't obscure the often-overlooked fact that, by and large, the British people kept faith with the war effort.

"And in the end, the Allies won. To read some of the accounts you'd think we lost."

Among the other popular misconceptions that the former *Newnight* host is keen to debunk is the "lions led by donkeys" image of incompetent commanders sending their soldiers off to die without a second thought.

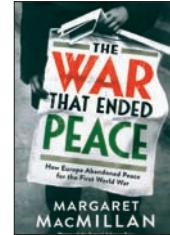
"Generals may be remote or boneheaded, but I have yet to meet one who sets out to throw away the lives of his men," he said.

"Like everyone else, they simply didn't understand how warfare had changed and it took them a long while to learn."

The centenary may not provide easy answers on the justness of the Great War or enable us to grasp the magnitude of the disaster any better, but Paxman's hope is that by imagining what we might do in the same circumstances we can at least come a step closer to understanding. Love him or hate him, it's hard to argue with that. ■

The War That Ended Peace by

Margaret MacMillan



OUT now in paperback, this is not simply another book about the First World War; it is arguably essential reading for anyone studying the era. It explains how an affluent Europe could have avoided descending into conflict. But rather than solely laying the blame at the door of Germany and the Central Powers, the author offers a number of lines of argument. This title rightly deserves the many plaudits it has received for its impeccable style and attention detail.

Maj Matt Sheldrick, Scots

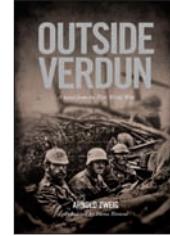
VERDICT: This book exceeded the hype.

Highly recommended



Outside Verdun

by Arnold Zweig



FIRST published in German in 1935, this novel has now been translated into English for the first time. Written by a soldier who was at Verdun, the plot is one of revenge after the protagonist's brother is killed for trying to expose the conditions at the front. It is an anti-war story in the mould of *All Quiet On The Western Front* but is also a satire on the German army and society. It becomes more enjoyable when one picks up on the irony and humour.

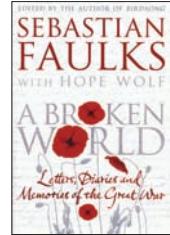
Andy Kay, ex-RS

VERDICT: A good snapshot of the German side of the story



A Broken World by Sebastian Faulks

and Hope Wolf



ANTHOLOGIES of First World War diaries and letters have become numerous, with no survivors left to recount their stories. Despite the familiar format, these excerpts from well-known figures and ordinary people alike, many of which have never been published, have lost none of their power to shock or move. They should be compulsory reading, even if you just dip in and out. Sebastian Faulks' involvement will no doubt shift more copies but the words speak for themselves.

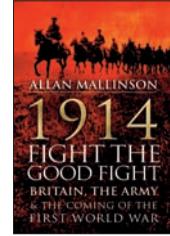
SSgt Mike Owens, RE

VERDICT: A hard-to-read but important window to the past



Fight the Good Fight

by Allan Mallinson



THE first half of this book deals with the factors that lead to the various adversaries' declarations of war in 1914, making clear that Armageddon could well have been averted. In the second half, the author uses his considerable military experience to vividly describe both the mobilisation process and the early battles. The text is comprehensive and readily understandable. My only minor criticism is the author's use of very lengthy footnotes.

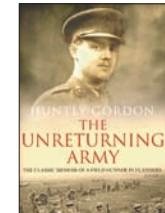
George Robey, ex-Green Howards

VERDICT: A masterly summation of the war's origins



The Unreturning Army

by Hulme Gordon



THE author takes us from his pre-1914 public school life to the outbreak of hostilities, enlistment in the Artillery and finally through his part in the battle for Passchendaele and the German spring offensive of 1918. His heartfelt fondness for his men and especially his horses is truly touching, while the constant fear of counter-shelling, gas attacks and serious wounding are clear throughout. For anyone wanting to read about the First World War, this is a great starting point.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles

VERDICT: The best first-hand account of the war I've ever read



Win... A set of First World War special edition titles

AS the world marks 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War, *Soldier* has teamed up with Andre Deutsch to give away two stunning books produced in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum – Richard Holmes' *The First World War in Photographs* and Gary Sheffield's *The First World War Remembered*. To be in with a chance of winning one of three sets of these glossy volumes tell us on what date Britain declared war on Germany. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or via email to comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: August 29

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SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Cool runnings:

Sprinter Cpl Ramone Smith (RLC) was one of the Army's star performers at the Inter-Services Athletics Championships. Read more about the Reds' efforts on page 94...



» Army men Inter-Services medal count: Gold – 9, Silver – 8, Bronze – 10 » Army women Inter-Services medal count: Gold – 6,



Differing days: While the Army men romped to victory in Portsmouth the women were left trailing in the wake of a determined Royal Air Force team

Reds progress on track

Inter-Services Athletics

Men's championship
Army 159
Royal Air Force 135
Royal Navy 94

Women's championship
Royal Air Force 134
Army 119.5
Royal Navy 72.5

THE Army's track and field stars suffered a day of mixed emotions at the Inter-Services Athletics Championships as the men's team retained their title in style but the women saw their hopes dashed by the Royal Air Force.

Sprint sensation Cpl Ramone Smith (RLC, pictured right) led the charge for the men as his double in the 100 and 200 metres helped the squad to a score of 159 – a winning margin of 24 points.

However, old foe Sgt Laura McGawn again proved to be

the thorn in the women's side as she claimed victories in the javelin, long jump and triple jump – as well as second place in the 200 metres and third in the shot putt and 100 metres – to steer the defending champions to a 134-point haul.

The new-look Army set-up fell agonisingly short but with a number of athletes making their debut on the big stage the future of the sport is looking bright.

Cpl Ben Jones (RE) gave the Servicemen the perfect start as he retained his hammer title with a throw of 48.85 metres before LCpl Osman Muskwe (3 LSR) added further points with a second-place finish in the pole vault.

A leap of 6.66 metres saw Cpl Vic Mahachi (RE) secure long jump gold and with teammate Gds Peter Moreno (Coldm Gds) taking bronze the points continued to build.

LCpl Jonny Lowdowski (R Signals) destroyed the field in the 400 metres hurdles and an Army one-two in the javelin



– courtesy of Sig Carl Quinlan (R Signals) and Muskwe – maintained the stranglehold.

Smith, who clocked a time of 10.35 seconds in the British Championships earlier in the season, then took centre stage in the 100 metres and Muskwe produced a throw of 13.56 metres to claim the shot putt crown.

Further points followed as all-rounder Moreno and Mahachi finished second and third in the high jump, before the former added silver in the 110 metres hurdles.

The 3,000 metres steeplechase was another happy hunting ground as Maj Ady Whitwam (RLC) dominated his rivals and Muskwe (pictured right) completed a hectic schedule with a silver in the discus.

Smith's winning run came to an end in the 4x100 metres relay as the Royal Navy took gold by just a hundredth of a second but the 4x400 metres team had no such dramas as they surged to the line to end the day in style.

While a McGawn-inspired

“We really pulled it out of the bag in the field and sprint events”

Silver – 6, Bronze – 7 ▶ Top scorer: LCpl Osman Muskwe – 21

INTER-SERVICES ATHLETICS



Coaches' corner

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Competition: Inter-Services Athletics

Venue: HMS Temeraire

“

We had a very young team – around 80 per cent were making their Inter-Services debuts so it was a great performance. Danielle Hodgkinson [pictured] and Gauna Tuilovoni were superb for us.

When I took over I wanted to bring on the development squad and prepare for next year. We thought we may have a chance this season but injuries took their toll.

In Laura McGaw we were up against a top athlete but we beat her in some of the events she was expected to win. If we go away and have a good winter we can push the RAF next year.



Cpl Scott Woodhouse
(REME) – women's coach

“

There were a few events, especially the middle-distance races, where we did not have our strongest guys but we really pulled it out of the bag in the field and sprint events.

We came here to win and we've done that for the third successive season – that is the expectation every year.

We had four or five guys who were brand new to the team and they all did very well. A few people were away or missing through injury so it was a great performance.

”

Capt John Crimpson
(R Signals) – men's coach

RAF took top honours in the women's competition the Army were able to celebrate a number of notable performances of their own.

Cpl Danielle Hodgkinson (RAMC) completed a double in the 1,500 and 5,000 metres, while sprinters Pte Gauna

Tuilovoni and Pte Diya Jatta (both AMS) secured gold and silver in the 100 metres.

In the field, skipper Capt Lucy Rann (AGC) scored welcome points in the shot putt and javelin and Cpl "Pinky" Smith (R Signals) took gold in the hammer thanks to a

throw of 27.40 metres.

Cpl Amy Clift (AMS) underlined her promise with second place in the triple jump and third in the 200 metres before Tuilovoni took silver in the 400 metres and then anchored the victorious 4x100 metres relay team. ■

SOLDIERSPORT SITREP

Points scored by **LCpl Osman Muskwe**, who won the **shot putt** and came second in the **pole vault, javelin and discus**

21



10.4

The winning **time, in seconds**, clocked by **Cpl Ramone Smith** in the **men's 100 metres**



53.75

Distance, in metres, thrown by javelin gold medallist **Sgt Carl Quinlan**

» Twenty 20: Army 146-9 (Morrison 18, Streete 17) Royal Air Force 104-6 (Norris 3-24, Potgieter 2-6); Royal Navy 125-2 (Norris

Game brief

Date: July 15 to 17, 2014

Competition: Inter-Services 40 overs

Venue: HMS Temeraire

British Army

Brown	Walker	Wall
Streete		
Fryer		Taylor-Koff
Morrison		
Gavillet		Potgieter
Cadec-Trimmer		
Norris		

Captain's comment

“

We have been very consistent with our bowling and our key strength is in the field.

Limiting the opposition to a score under 100 was a good foundation to go on and win both games.

As a captain it's not easy to do things alone but we are fortunate to have experienced players like Amanda Potgieter and Eddie Taylor-Koff in the team. They gave me some good advice and that helped a lot.

It could not have gone any better and being asked to skipper the side this season was a real privilege.

We have had a few girls coming back from tours and operations, as well as two or three new players, and we are now looking forward to our winter training.



Capt Caz Norris
(Int Corps)



Run machine: Sgt Amanda Potgieter (REME) punishes the Royal Navy bowling as the Army women take control

Reds' double take

Inter-Services 40-over cricket

Royal Navy 319-4
Royal Air Force 148

Royal Air Force 83-9
British Army 86-1

Royal Navy 90
British Army 91-2

the hands of the soldiers and their struggles with the bat saw them post a meagre 83-9 in their innings.

Cpl Eddie Taylor-Koff (RE) returned superb figures of 3-9 from her eight-over spell and with Sgt Amanda Potgieter (REME) and Sgt Emily Wall (R Signals) taking 2-9 and 2-18 respectively a commanding total was never in sight.

The run chase was boosted by a generous helping of 41 extras from a wayward light blues attack and Potgieter top-scored with an unbeaten 24 as the Army cruised to a nine-wicket victory.

However, the Senior Service looked as though they might offer sterner opposition and a 63-run opening stand between Lou Worsfold and Charlie Yemm gave them a promising start after they were asked to bat first.

But when the former was run out for 27 the Reds emphatically seized control. Lt Col Sarah Streete (R Signals) claimed 5-14 from seven overs as the middle order

was blown away and the Navy crumbled to a miserable 90 all out.

Capt Caz Norris (Int Corps) took 2-18, while stalwarts Taylor-Koff and Wall both claimed wickets in another strong bowling display.

Again, the run chase was a mere formality and Potgieter led the charge with an effortless unbeaten 37 that included six boundaries. LCpl Olivia Cadec-Trimmer (AGC) made a useful 19 and LCpl Katie Fryer (Int Corps) had the honour of hitting the winning runs to finish 12 not out.

While the bowlers did the damage in the game's longer variant it was a comprehensive run chase in the tournament finale that saw the Army retain their Twenty20 title.

Having regained the trophy last year the Reds mounted a successful defence thanks to a 42-run victory over the RAF that was followed by a nine-wicket demolition of the Navy.

After some early impetus from SSgt Lori Morrison (RLC) the champions made

Two ruthless displays in cricket's Twenty20 and 40-over competitions saw the Army women secure an Inter-Services double for the second successive season.

Having downed their rivals with relative ease in the shorter format the Reds continued their fine form at HMS Temeraire, where they twice restricted the opposition to scores of under 100 to record back-to-back wins.

The Royal Air Force were the first to suffer at



life extremely difficult for themselves as they batted first against the light blues.

However, a lower-order partnership between WO1 "V" Bartlett (REME) and Streete steadied the ship and when their opponents were punished for a slow over rate the soldiers were able to post a total of 146-9.

But the RAF failed to hit top gear in reply as tight bowling from Norris, who recorded figures of 3-24, and Potgieter (2-6) restricted them to 104-6 from their 20 overs.

The stranglehold was maintained against the Senior Service who could only manage 125-2 in their innings – despite a superb unbeaten knock of 73 from Hazelle Garton.

Openers Taylor-Koff and Norris gave the Army a dream start with a 65-run stand before the former departed for 20. Her dismissal brought Potgieter to the crease and the all-rounder ended the game in emphatic style with a rapid-fire 31.

"We gave a really good



performance, especially against the RAF," manager Maj Ros Brown (R Signals) told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"It shows the strength in depth we now have and everyone can do a job for the team; it was a great effort.

"We bowled really well against the Navy. Hazelle was trying to whack it round the ground so we were pleased to restrict them to 125.

"There were four new players involved this year and it was good to see them come in and perform well."

“It shows the strength in depth we now have and everyone can do a job for the team”

SOLDIERSPORT SITREP



Runs scored by **Sgt Amanda Potgieter** – the all-rounder finished **not out** in both matches and claimed **two wickets** against the **RAF**



2.075
The **below-par run rate** clocked by the **RAF** as they posted **83-9** from **40 overs**

138
Extras conceded by the **RAF** in **two games**, **97** against the **Navy** and **41** to the **Army**

5
Wickets taken by medium-pacer **Lt Col Sarah Streete** against the **Navy**, from **seven overs** at the expense of just **14 runs**



VOLLEYBALL

» **Diary date:** The Army will host the annual Crown Services tournament in Guildford on May 13-15, 2015



Reds boss court battle

Inter-Services Volleyball

Men's championship
Army 0 – Royal Air Force 3
Army 3 – Royal Navy 1

Women's championship
Army 3 – Royal Navy 0
Army 3 – Royal Air Force 0

THE Army women mounted an impressive defence of their Inter-Services volleyball crown by defeating their Forces rivals without dropping a set.

Back-to-back 3-0 victories saw them claim the title for a third successive year and underline their status as the military's top team – having only won the competition for the first time in 2012.

After securing the opening two sets of the final with relative ease the Reds were

pushed all the way by the Royal Air Force as the match neared its conclusion.

The defending champions found themselves trailing 19-15 but skipper Capt Karen Tait (AGC (RMP)) was the inspiration behind a stirring comeback that saw them run out 25-22 winners.

"We had so many injuries this week and only having one-and-a-half days of training to throw a team together was quite emotional," coach SSgt Nikki Mead (AGC (SPS)) told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"We finished runners-up in the Crown Services tournament so that was a good start to the season and we were confident ahead of these games."

While the women celebrated another title the men perished at the hands of the RAF.

The soldiers slipped to a 3-0 defeat against the airmen but found their form to win 3-1 against the Royal Navy.

Having one-and-a-half days of training to throw a team together was quite emotional



DESPITE A STRONG SHOWING FROM THE ARMY, THE RAF MEN WON A 26TH SUCCESSIVE TITLE

"We had a decent squad with healthy numbers but we are still at the development stage," said manager SSgt Chris Teoh (RLC).

"The RAF proved to be too strong but we have got some good young players – like Pte Moses Ssebide (RLC) – coming through."

Despite seeing his teams suffer mixed fortunes Maj Steve Black (RE), chairman of the Army Volleyball Association, believes the sport is moving in the right direction.

"With the end of Op Herrick we are expecting more people to get on-board," he explained.

"We hold week-long training camps three times a year and are looking at a tour to Australia in 2015." ■



For more information on how to get involved contact Maj Black on stephen.black744@mod.uk



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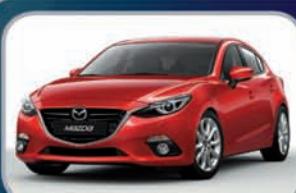
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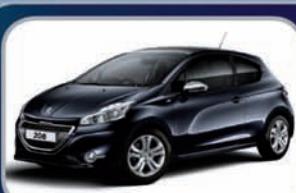
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MOUNTAIN BIKING

» Diary date: Army Cross-Country Championships – Wednesday, September 3, Minley

SPORT SHORTS



» TICKETS are on sale for the opening ceremony of this year's Invictus Games.

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 10 as the prelude to a four-day sporting extravaganza that will see more than 400 wounded personnel from 14 nations go head to head in nine different disciplines.

Held on the south lawn of London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the curtain-raiser will include a display from The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery and a fly-past from the Red Arrows. Tickets are available from www.invictusgames.org



» ARMY rugby union star LCpl Samesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG) has signed a one-year extension to his contract with Premiership giants Bath.

The winger enjoyed a superb 2013/14 season and represented the England Saxons before playing for an England XV against the Barbarians.

"I love it at Bath," said the soldier, who is now committed to the club until 2016. "The environment is superb and we're like a big family."



Country scene gathers pace

BRONDON had the honour of hosting the third leg of the Inter-Unit Cross-Country Mountain Bike Series.

Elite rider Capt Bruce Spilsbury (RLC) again proved to be the man to beat as he won the senior men's race in a time of 1hr 3min 7sec – an effort that saw him finish more than three minutes clear of his nearest rival.

Capt Angela Laycock (RE) took top honours in the women's race, while the Royal Logistic Corps claimed the corps crown and 3 Royal School of Military Engineering the unit title.

"Army mountain biking

has gone from strength to strength in recent years," race organiser WO2 Ian Smith (RLC) told *SoldierSport*.

"We had around 50 riders in the first series four or five years ago but we have 170 now and that is no mean feat.

"The sport has become more accessible and it now has greater recognition. Units are getting guys together to take part in this instead of traditional pursuits like football and rugby.

"And as they progress they can take part in the various summer camps organised by the Army Cycling Union."

With such opportunities available competitors can

make swift progress and there is no shortage of role models within the Service set-up.

"Novices may take around 50 minutes to complete a lap but top riders like Bruce Spilsbury can get round in 20 minutes," Smith added.

"However, he competes in the national series.

"That gives guys something to aspire to and we need to get new blood involved."



For more details on the mountain bike series and cycling in general visit the Army Cycling Union's Facebook page.

» OLYMPIC gold medallist Capt Heather Stanning (RA) made a spectacular return to action by winning two gold medals in the Rowing World Cup series. The officer, who was competing alongside London 2012 partner Helen Glover, took top spot in the women's pair during the French leg before repeating the achievement three weeks later in Switzerland. Stanning was overlooked for the European Championships earlier in the season but will be on the water at the World Championships in Amsterdam later this month.



Picture: Peter Spurrier



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» Army's record breakers: Lt Marcus Roberts – 100 metres backstroke, 1min 2.44sec; Pte Sarah Benjamin – 100 metres freestyle,

SPORT SHORTS



» **PARALYMPIAN** and wounded veteran Nick Beighton was part of a record-breaking team to complete the first straight-line journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The event saw the former Royal Engineers captain and three colleagues kayak, cycle and hike the 1,100-kilometre route in just under a month.

The feat included a 34-hour, 200-kilometre kayak voyage, the longest ever open sea kayak crossing in the UK.

To support the team's fundraising efforts for Blesma go to www.justgiving.com/beelinebritain



» **ARMY** surfers were given a taste of life in California as they travelled to the USA to compete in the Red Bull Rivals event.

The soldiers were tested by a Combined Services who capitalised on their home advantage to win the competition.

WO2 Dean Jones (RA) and Capt Clyde Bundy (RAMC) showed good form, while the duo of Capt Mick Peters and Sgt Al Sharman-Courtney outscored their rivals in bodyboarding.



Navy snatch men's triathlon title

ARMY athletes saw their stranglehold on the Inter-Services Triathlon Championships broken by the narrowest of margins during a tough day of competition in the Gloucestershire countryside.

The event has been a happy hunting ground for the soldiers in recent seasons but the men saw their team title snatched by the Royal Navy, who were inspired by Maj Charles Pennington.

But the Reds maintained their grip on the women's trophy thanks to strong showings from star duo Lt Elysia Ridley (RLC) and Cpl Becky Hoare (REME).

Having seen Cpl James Gibson (Int Corps) take an early lead in the swim,

Pennington set about reducing the deficit and clocked a time of 35min 58.7sec in the run to secure a fifth successive individual title.

The Senior Service claimed four further places in the top ten to pip the Army and win the team award with a slender eight-second advantage.

Royal Air Force star Lucy Nell stormed the field in the women's competition to finish eight minutes clear at the front but with Ridley and Hoare taking second and third respectively the Reds had plenty to cheer.

Pte Kimberley Preston (RAMC) and Maj Karen Peek (RA) secured top-ten finishes to score further points.

"It was disappointing to

see the men lose to the Navy," team spokesman Capt Chris Beechey (RA), told *SoldierSport*. "Two of our athletes got drafting penalties, which were the only ones handed out on the day, and that made the difference.

"But the women dominated. Although we didn't get top spot our strength in numbers proved decisive.

"Kimberley Preston did really well in what is her first year of racing for the Army.

"We had more than 200 people turn up for the Army Championships a few weeks later and it is phenomenal how many people are competing."

Gibson won the men's race at the Army finals, with Preston lifting the women's crown. ■





Tale of the lanes: While the Army women dominated proceedings in the pool their male counterparts struggled to keep pace with their Forces rivals

Swimmers make waves

Inter-Services Swimming

Men's championship
Royal Air Force 105
Royal Navy 95
Army 67

Women's championship
Army 113
Royal Air Force 77
Royal Navy 56

THE Army women maintained their excellence in the pool as they mounted an emphatic defence of their Inter-Services swimming title in Aldershot.

A strong showing across the board saw the team amass an unassailable total of 113 points as they secured a one-two finish in five of the ten individual events – before taking gold in both relay races.

Cpl Belinda Veasey (REME) took gold in the 200 metres individual medley and 100 metres butterfly to complete a superb personal double, while the duo of Sig Chloe Kitching

[R Signals] and Pte Sarah Benjamin (AMS) excelled in the freestyle disciplines.

As the women flourished the men were left trailing in the wake of their rivals but they showed a marked improvement on last year's performance levels.

Lt Marcus Roberts (4 Scots) won the 100 metres backstroke – setting a new Inter-Services record in the process – and Cpl James Gibson (Int Corps) took the 800 metres freestyle crown before returning to the water to claim a silver medal in the 400 metres.

However, the men fared better in the diving competition, where the experienced WO2 Dave Cox (RAPTC) inspired them to victory in the team event.

The veteran excelled on the springboard and platform and also took the prize for best dive of the day.

WO2 Amanda Prentice (RLC) was the standout performer in the women's competition but her efforts could not stop the Royal Air Force lifting the team crown.

The soldiers made a



AFTER BEATING THE NAVY 12-6 IN THEIR OPENING WATER POLO MATCH, THE ARMY WERE DOWNED 9-3 BY THE RAF IN THE FINAL

promising start in the water polo as they beat the Royal Navy 12-6 in their opening match but the defending champions came unstuck in the final as they were crushed 9-3 by the RAF.

"It was an improved performance from the men in the swimming," team manager Lt Col Rob Healey (R Signals) told *SoldierSport*.

"We had no victories last year but this time we got two gold medals and broke an Inter-Services record.

"Things are getting better and we're still on the lookout for more talent.

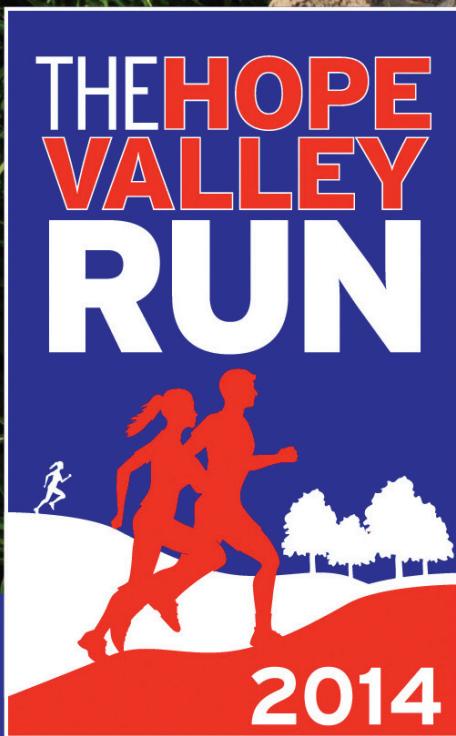
"But the women were exceptional. We have a lot of young swimmers coming through and the team has really grown.

"They train hard and always make themselves available for competitions; there is a real bond within the group.

"The diving was hugely successful and the water polo was really encouraging.

"A lot of new players have come into the squad and they will benefit from this experience. The sport is in a good place." ■

"We have a lot of young swimmers coming through and the team has really grown"



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» 2014 Forces Throwdown competition: Royal Navy men's champions, Army women's champions

SPORT SHORTS

» THE Scots Camanachd locked horns with Inveraray in the first Sutherland Cup match of the shinty season.

Representatives from all three Services took to the pitch for the game, which marked the 100-year anniversary of the nine players who starred in the 1914 cup final in Glasgow – their last match before being killed in the First World War.

Cfn Euan Graham (REME) scored the side's decisive second goal to secure victory.



» THE Army women's football team is looking for a new goalkeeping coach to join their set-up.

Candidates must be level two standard and anyone interested in the post should contact SSgt Mags McAteer (AAC) via odi-657-sqms@mod.co.uk or call military 95235 7854.

Taking the strain:
Army personnel test
their mettle during
the London District
Throwdown at Horse
Guards Parade



District's fitness test

SUPER-fit soldiers flexed their muscles on Horse Guards Parade during the second London District Throwdown.

The crossfit competition saw 16 three-man teams battle it out in a series of four workout stands that were comprised of cardiovascular and weight-based exercises.

Open to all personnel within London District, the event attracted entries from units including the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and Household Division Band.

But it was Northwood HQ

that took top honours in the male and female competitions.

"This is really growing across the Army and is getting bigger on civy street as well," organiser SSgt Andy Kewley (Coldrm Gds) told *SoldierSport*.

"It is like a competitive form of fitness and there is a crossover into soldiering in terms of the physical training.

"Last year we only had four teams at this event but now there are 16.

"We want to continue the growth and there are units away on leave at the moment so we could have had even more involved."

"We've already had the Forces Throwdown this year but I'd like to think we could get to the stage where each brigade runs its own tournament as a qualifier for the Army team."

Workout guide

WOD 1: Clean and press – 25/50kg

WOD 2: Power bag relay against the clock

WOD 3: Deadlift, box jumps, 200-metre row

WOD 4: Thrusters, toes to bar, chin ups



Medics downed by league legends

FOOTBALLERS from the Defence Medical Services did battle with a team of Premier League legends in a fundraising match for Help for Heroes.

Staged at Coventry's Ricoh Arena, the fixture saw former England internationals Dion Dublin, Rob Lee and Ugo Ehiogu taking to the pitch and they proved they have lost none of their top-flight pedigree

in front of a crowd of nearly 2,500 spectators.

Goals from Fitzroy Simpson, Ehiogu, David Phillips and Darren Huckerby saw the ex-professionals race into a 4-0 lead before the military men rallied to mount a fightback.

Sgt Aaron Wrigley (pictured) lofted the ball over onrushing keeper Maik Taylor to find the back of the net and POMA Deano

Keating gave the fans further cause to cheer when he converted from a tight angle via the post.

However, striker Matt Jansen and ex-Republic of Ireland midfielder Kevin Kilbane scored late on to give the legends a resounding 6-2 victory.

The day also saw the Army Medical Services women's team draw 2-2 with Coventry City ladies.

Final word

With the chief of the general staff preparing to hand over the reins, we asked troops what they would do if they were the head of the Army for a day.

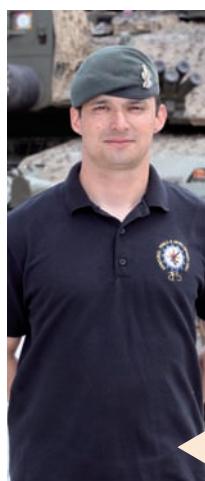


Cpl Tim Whitney (Rifles)

If I was in a position to do so I would scrap income tax for those serving on operations, like the Americans do. I think it would make a real difference to people and would probably encourage them to stay in the Army longer.

Sgt Ben Brewer (LD)

I would introduce the cycle to work scheme. At the moment soldiers don't qualify but I would like to see it brought in so that we have the option. For me it's not so much the environmental benefits that appeal as the health and fitness ones.



Cpl Alex Ahtom (QRH)

I'd introduce cup-holders across the entire Army fleet so that you've got somewhere to put your brew. We've got boiling vessels in our tanks but nowhere to actually place your mug of tea – you just have to stash it wherever you can when the order comes to move. Cup holders would boost morale.



SSgt Darren O'Brien (REME)

If I were the chief of the general staff I would look at extending the provision of married quarters to those who are in long-term relationships and can prove they have been cohabiting for a number of years. Currently, you're virtually forced into tying the knot, especially if you're posted abroad, which is what happened with my first marriage when I was sent to Germany. A lot of young soldiers find themselves having to make a decision much sooner than they would have chosen.



Scpl Mark Williams (HCR)

I'd like to see more fairness applied to accommodation rates. At the moment I pay £125 per month for a room, while one of my corporals pays £1 more for a three-bedroom house. It's right that young lads pay less for their single living accommodation but after 17 years in the Army I'm paying more now than when I had a married quarter with a garden and a sea view. That doesn't seem to make sense.



LCpl Howard Stocking (REME)

I think it would be good to give troops the option of selling leave back at the end of the year. Currently, you can carry over up to 15 days but anything more than that you lose. My unit is good at making sure people can take their holiday but it's not the case everywhere. Allowing us to cash in a certain number of days would be a nice bonus for the extra work we have done.



LCpl Ash Saunders (AAC)

I would make it a rule that when you join the Army you are allowed to gain one civilian qualification for free and it should be for the benefit of the person, not necessarily the Service. It could be anything at all – an astronaut course if you wanted to – as long as it develops you as an individual.



LCpl Michael Hurrell (Rifles)

If I was in charge I would make the JPA system a bit more user-friendly and introduce a button that would show what you're entitled to claim. At the moment it's quite hard to find the information and you worry you're going to get audited for fraud. I would also increase opportunities for soldiers to do more minority sports alongside the usual football, rugby and cricket.

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