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MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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JUNE 2016

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SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Wyndham (Roche) Ltd. Print contract managed by Williams Lea.

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Where the headaches are

If there is one thing that the last month has taught me personally it is not to underestimate the stress of a house move. Whether it be small teething problems or massive maintenance issues, all accommodation headaches take their toll and, eventually, distract us from the day job.

At least when things go wrong for civilians we can take matters into our own hands and sack the contractors.

But occupiers of Service housing don't have that option and thousands have signed an online petition asking the MoD to strip CarillionAmey of its deal.

Turn to our news section (page 7), where we put your questions directly to the firm.

In the meantime, we hope you can find at least ten minutes of distraction inside the latest issue of *Soldier*, jam-packed with the usual assortment of news, features and sport.

This month we celebrate the many successes of the remarkable Invictus Games (pages 47-48), meet the troops preparing for chemical warfare (pages 43-46) and toast the 300-year anniversary of our Engineers and Artillery by stirring up some friendly cap-badge rivalry (pages 22-24).

Enjoy the issue. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe ● Editor

Where to find *Soldier* magazine...

Printed copies

ARE distributed to every Army site at the start of each month.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

ALONG with news and glimpses behind the scenes at *Soldier*, we publish a link to the magazine at www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine and [@soldier_magazine](https://www.twitter.com/soldier_magazine) on Twitter.

Online

DIGITAL versions of current and past editions are available on the Army website at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk. Just click on "read it now".

Purchase

IF you're not in the Army you can buy *Soldier* from your high street magazine retailer or directly from us at subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).



CONTENTS

JUNE 2016 VOLUME 72/06



Cover: Graeme Main

FEATURES

22 Battle of the birthdays
Sappers and Gunners celebrate 300 years

26 Trailblazers
Royal Artillery target enemy drones

33 Judgement day
Troops deliver verdict on Virtus

36 Street fighters
Mastering the art of urban ops

40 CSI Jordan
Up close with the Army's forensics experts

43 Dirty war
Fuchs leads the fight against chemical weapons

47 Games masters
Veterans shine on Invictus stage

50 Commander-in-chief
Marking the Queen's 90th

REGULARS

7 The Informer
Top stories from across the Service

53 Talkback
Ruminations from the ranks

58 Bullet Points
Troops' intelligence assets

67 Reviews
Films, top gear, books, and music to fill your downtime

90 Final Word
Tercentenary cap badge banter

SOLDIERSPORT

76 Rugby union
Reds squander Inter-Services lead

80 Cricket
Army maintain grip on Twenty20 crown

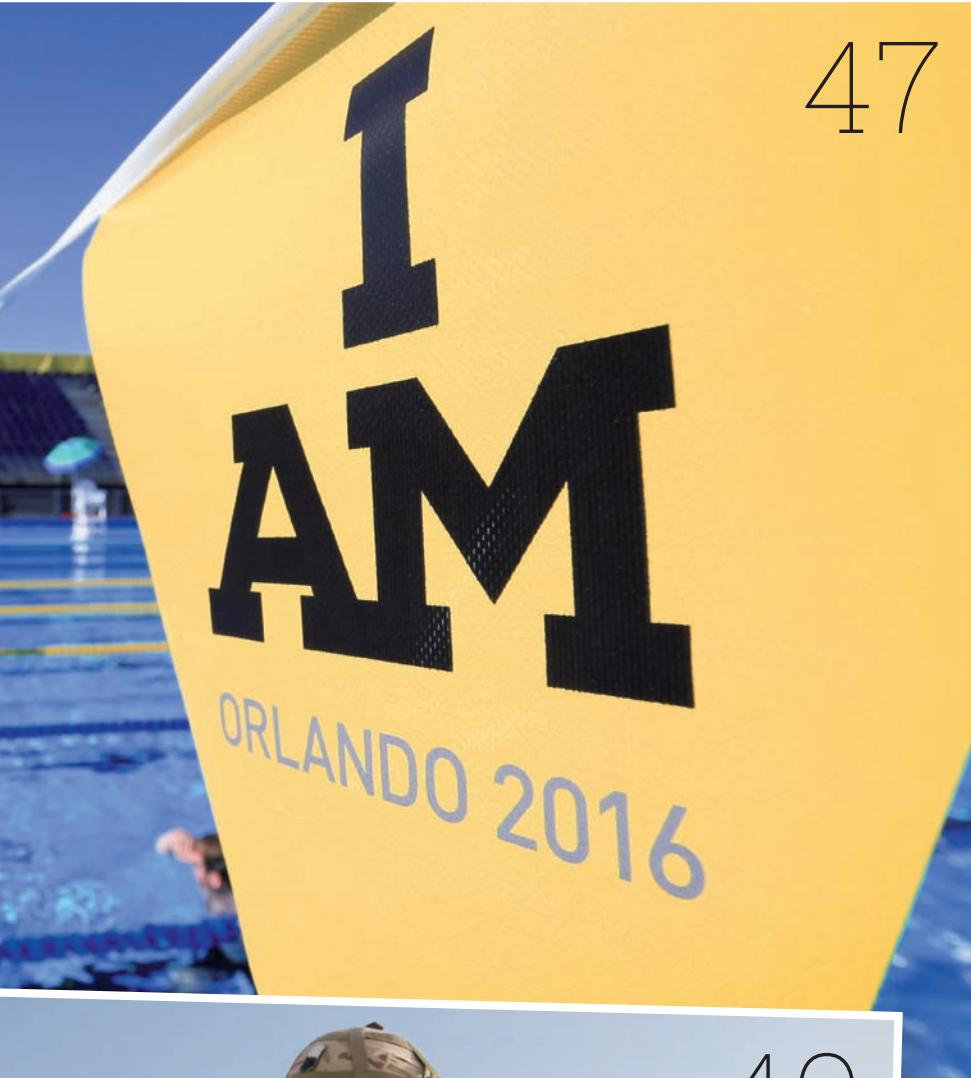
84 Boxing
Servicewoman bags national title

86 Football
Medics down loggies in cup nailbiter



“
EVERYBODY'S IN IT TOGETHER
”





47



40



76



"If people have sent in photographic evidence you can't argue with that"

CarillionAmey taken to task over housing failures

p12

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5 SEATS

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7 SEATS

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'We got things wrong and let families down'

CarillionAmey has had a controversial 18 months since being awarded the contract to manage maintenance and repair of Service family accommodation. Daniel Easthope, managing director of the company, tells *Soldier* what it is doing to up its game...

► **The MoD recently stated that you need to improve your performance so what measures have you introduced?**

A whole load of things, some of which came out of the improvement plan we agreed with the secretary of state. We've employed an additional 100 people, including more engineers and accommodation officers on the ground and agents on the help desks.

► **How do you account for some of the headlines you've attracted recently?**

I wouldn't agree with the facts presented in some of those stories but I accept that our performance isn't where it needs to be, although it's in a better place than it was. We get that and we're not shying away from the reality.

► **How do you monitor the quality of your service?**

We have independent third party audits as well as joint ones with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). We record complaint numbers and carry out customer surveys on five per cent of all the jobs we do.

► **How many complaints are you receiving?**

On average, about 1,100 per month, which is three per cent of the tasks we do. We have got things wrong and let families down and we shouldn't have. But the complaints are reducing in number week by week.

► **Do you have a target to reach?**

We have a contract measure that gives us that. We are not close to moving towards it yet but we need to get there.

► **What is the figure exactly?**

It's a complaint rate of 1.75 per cent.

► **Can you tell us the time frame for hitting your target?**

We're 18 months into a five-year contract and we need to get the complaints down to the contracted target level by the summer.

► **What else are you doing to improve?**

One of our big challenges is heating. I'm sure Liberty Gas will be a company that's familiar to many of your readers. They look after our gas and heating supply in a number of regions and we're working much more closely with them now.

We have relocated their scheduling team to our help desk area in Liverpool to improve



► **How do you ensure your employees take all this on-board?**

As I said, it's down to communications. With our engineers we now organise regular regional get-togethers so we can find out what their main challenges are and how we can support them better. We are also helping them understand what is important to the customer by inviting the family federations along, too.

► **We've had letters about your reps overcharging for reasonable wear and tear during the move-out. Is that correct?**

Our schedule of rates for damage is set by the DIO, not us. And if there is a charge we do not receive that money, it goes back to the MoD so we have no vested interest in charging outgoing occupants unfairly.

At the beginning of the contract our people were probably guilty of being overzealous in applying the charges but we have reined that in and have also worked with the DIO on a new scale of charges.

► **Would you like to say anything to those personnel who are your customers?**

I absolutely understand our performance hasn't been what it should have been and we do know the angst this causes you all and we need to get better.

Rest assured, we are driving on with our improvements.

There will always be some challenges associated with the huge job we have and there will always be people who get let down but with high volumes of maintenance work being reported, and a contract which typically looks for 95 per cent success, there are unfortunate instances when customers are let down. We need to minimise that.

At the end of the day, we know we have to improve our performance and deliver. ■

“
The practice
of putting
a note
through the
door hours
after an
appointment
has to end
”

► **Speaking of which, the most common complaint we hear about is your engineers not turning up on time**

We are tackling this in a number of ways.

One is through technology; all our engineers now have handheld devices so we know the progress of their jobs.

We are also making sure they tell customers about any delay or, if they are pulled off a scheduled job to attend an emergency, then it might fall to the scheduling manager to make the call.

Whatever the circumstances are, the practice of putting a note through the door hours after a scheduled appointment saying that an engineer turned up but no one was in has got to end.

THE VERDICT

Turn to page 12 to find out what one of the soldiers in dispute with CarillionAmey makes of this response.

“
We are
devastated by
the damage
”



1 CANADA

WELCOME RELIEF

SOLDIERS based at Batus have been supporting Canadian residents in the aftermath of the Alberta wildfires.

Tens of thousands of civilians were forced to flee their homes around Fort McMurray, some 800km from the training area, but the troops and their families rallied round to raise funds to boost the relief effort.

“The people in the province make the British very welcome here, and we are devastated by the damage that has been caused,” said Capt Ann Nevin, an officer based at HQ Batus.

- 1 British Army Training Unit Suffield
- British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

The Falkland Islands

IN NUMBERS

14

Nations represented at this year's Invictus Games in Florida – pages 47-48



3 GERMANY

WEB HELP IMPROVED

A WEBSITE for troops serving in Germany is up and running following a major redevelopment.

The www.bfgnet.de page provides key information for personnel living, working or training in the country.

As well as details of events and news, it contains guidance on areas such as accommodation, tax-free shopping and the European matrix test for drivers.

2 FRANCE

JOURNEYING BACK

SERVICEMEN and women are preparing to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of one of the



most brutal encounters ever fought by the British Army.

Spanning 141 days, the Battle of the Somme saw soldiers from 60 nations involved in fighting along a 25-kilometre front.

An official international service of remembrance will be held at the Thiepval Monument in France on July 1 when more than 300 UK troops will attend, including representatives of the formations with antecedent units involved in the battle.

Personnel will also attend events on home soil, including services of commemoration at Westminster Abbey on June 30 and Manchester Cathedral on July 1.

4 CYPRUS

TIGERS ON TARGET

TEAMS from 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment dominated the podium at this year's Cyprus Operational Shooting Competition for the second year running.

The Dhekelia-based infantrymen took first and second place in the nine-team contest, which included categories such as pistol marksmanship, attack and reorganisation and a “fleeting encounter” shoot.

Third place went to 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

Participants were vying for the chance to represent British Forces Cyprus at the Army Operational Shooting Competition.



Picture: SAC Laura Wing, RAF



Picture: Sgt Jamie Peters, RLC

● THE Army has made its final flight from Dishforth – signalling the end of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps. Lynx pilots marked the disbandment of their unit by swooping over York Minster and the White Horse at Kilburn. The troops will now merge with Yeovilton-based 1 Regiment, AAC.

Remote undertaking: Personnel conduct health checks on the local residents



6 KENYA

MEDICS ON A MISSION

ARMY medics are working with the Kenyan government to provide healthcare to villagers in some of the country's most remote and inaccessible regions.

Some 150 Reserve and Regular personnel from 2 Medical Regiment are setting up outreach clinics across the counties of Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu as part of Exercise Askari Serpent.

Each clinic lasts two to four days and by the end of the six-week package around 5,000 people will have been treated.

As well as dealing with common ailments, one patient has visited the clinic with a bite from a highly venomous puff adder.

He was treated with painkillers and sent on to hospital.

Picture: Shutterstock



GLOBAL JOURNEY



The Royal Artillery's tercentenary baton has completed its year-long circumnavigation of the globe.

Specially commissioned to mark the formation's 300th anniversary, it was passed between 22 regiments and 30 countries in a reflection of the Gunners' motto "everywhere".

The baton was due to be presented to the Queen at the end of the final leg as this issue went to press.

● **Battle of the Birthdays**
– page 22

7 IRAQ

CLAIMS DISMISSED

THE Supreme Court has dismissed claims by more than 600 Iraqi civilians that British soldiers mistreated them during Operation Telic between 2003 and 2009.

Judges ruled unanimously that the claims, most of which were submitted in 2013, had been brought too late.

Law firm Leigh Day had argued that its clients' cases should not be subject to a three-year time limit imposed under Iraqi law, but the panel disagreed.

Their decision upheld the earlier finding by the Court of Appeal after the High Court originally allowed the cases to proceed.

The MoD has so far paid out almost £20 million in compensation in 324 cases, but the new ruling puts the remaining actions in serious doubt.



"This is the only time we can fire these projectiles live"

– Artillery opportunity, pages 26-31

Sappers stir up a storm

SOLDIERS from 35 Engineer Regiment have been putting the finishing touches to their preparations for Exercise Prairie Storm in Canada later this summer.

Exercise Noddy's Run saw the Sappers test their armoured engineering and infantry skills on Sennelager training area in Germany alongside colleagues from The Queen's Royal Hussars and 5th Battalion, The Rifles.

Using the Titan bridge layer they spanned a gap for Challenger 2 tanks, Scimitars and Warriors to cross, before calling on Trojan crews to clear obstacles.



Picture: Jamie Dudding

TWICKERS RUGBY FEVER

■ A SELL-OUT crowd of 82,000 attended the annual Army Navy rugby union game at Twickenham this year.

We asked readers to send us their selfies from the match, which ended in a 29-29 draw, and here are a few of our favourites.

Turn to page 76 for full coverage of the game.



■ AN upgraded respirator testing facility (shown) has become the first building to be handed over to the Army in a £250 million development at Worthy Down.

The programme, known as Project Wellesley, is due to complete in 2019.

It will see a new Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration (DCLPA) created from the Defence Maritime Logistics School and the RAF Supply and Movements Training Wing, and will also feature the regimental headquarters of the Royal Logistics Corps and Adjutant Generals' Corps, a junior ranks mess and a combined officers' mess.

"The new world-class DCPLA will create a total living, working and learning environment," said Chris Liddle, lead designer for the project.

The Hampshire base will remain operational throughout its redevelopment.



A farewell to arms

Highs and lows across the UK defence estate...

THE Firepower Royal Artillery Museum at Royal Arsenal, Woolwich will close its doors on July 8.

The museum, which opened in 2001, is due to move to a new site in Wiltshire after failing to reach its target of 200,000 visitors per year.

A planning application is being prepared to establish a new purpose-built facility at Larkhill, close to Stonehenge, and some collections have already been put into storage.

More will be transferred from London over the coming months where they will remain until the new site is ready.

Maj Gen Nick Eeles, chairman of Royal Artillery Museums, said:



"The innovative plans for a superb new Salisbury Plain heritage centre are genuinely inspiring, and I very much look forward to working with stakeholders to deliver this project over the next six years."

A permanent exhibition in the Greenwich Heritage Centre will be created later this year covering the Royal Artillery's 300-year history.

■ WORK has begun on new accommodation for personnel based at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

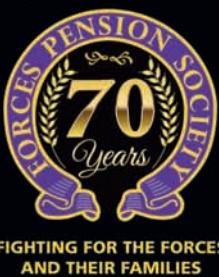
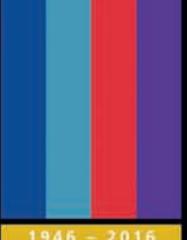
Planners approved the Longbridge scheme last year and the first occupants are due to move in 2017.

It will feature 180 en-suite bedrooms and is located in a large development with shops and eateries.



"Once again, many, many thanks, you have been more than helpful and I feel I can move on with confidence in the new chapter of my life."

Chris Adams, FPS Member



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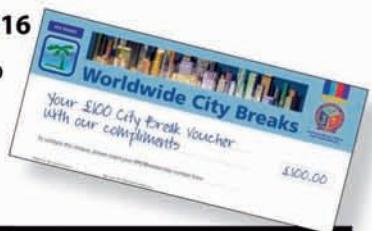
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"What would you rather do, launch a supersonic missile or build a bridge?"

– Battle of the cap badges, page 90

Pictures: Steve Dock



'I'd like Mr Easthope to see my house'

■ continued from page 7

SOLDIER visited Cpl Adam Copeman (RLC), one of many personnel currently in dispute with CarillionAmey, at his three-bedroom house in Bulford to gauge his opinion on Daniel Easthope's comments.

The Serviceman's own complaints have centred on a bill increase in April under the new rent assessment scheme for what he considers to be a substandard and noisy property.

He has suffered numerous unreturned calls and engineers leaving warning notes under his door after they had failed to turn up at a pre-agreed time.

Faults still not repaired – despite repeated requests during the last six months – include a cracked and leaking toilet that has been present since he moved in four years ago, carpets with dried animal faeces stains left by the former owners, black mould on ceilings and window surrounds and blown plaster on damp walls.

"I'd love to know if Mr Easthope is aware of how his employees treat people," Cpl Copeman commented.

"I understand he's the head guy and very busy but he needs to get a grip of the business and tell his personnel further down the chain that the customers matter.

"Those on the help desk should sound like they actually care, and be empathetic, rather than tell me my problem is not important.

"When my toilet stopped flushing they said I'd have to wait four days for a plumber because it was the Friday before a bank holiday weekend – is

that acceptable in 2016?

"When I complained about the delay the adviser's only comment was to ask if I was friendly with my neighbours and could I use their loo!

"I served in Iraq and Afghanistan and always had basic toilet facilities, why couldn't I get that in Bulford?

"Perhaps he needs to go on that TV show *Undercover Boss* and see for himself what's actually going on, or at least go out and talk to some of his customers face-to-face.

"That might stop some of the critical newspaper stories, which he says here are factually inaccurate, but if people have sent in photographic evidence you can't argue with that.

"I'd like to invite Mr Easthope to see my house and tell me I'm being unreasonable about its condition.

"I'd ask him whether he'd be willing to live here. The honest answer would be obvious.

"I abide by the values and standards of the British Army every day, which essentially means treating people with respect, and this company has the audacity to publish its values on its website, which are: we deliver, we take ownership, we improve, we achieve together.

"In my experience, and those of many other Army personnel I know, they have yet to stand by any of them."



Those on the help desk should sound like they care

Accommodation anger: Cpl Adam Copeman (RLC) and, above, some of the maintenance problems in his home

SERVICE TRAGEDIES

■ THE Service community is mourning the loss of two committed soldiers. Pte Matthew Boyd (RG) died after being found unconscious in Brecon while on a training camp hosted by the Infantry Battle School.

Police have charged one civilian with murder and one with affray.

An MoD spokesman described the 20-year-old as "engaging, outgoing and highly respected".

Meanwhile, tributes have been paid to Capt David Seath (RA, pictured below) who died while competing in the London Marathon.

The Serviceman, a fire support team commander in 29 Commando, was raising money for Help for Heroes when he collapsed just three miles from the finish line near Southwark Bridge.

Lt Col Jon Cresswell, CO of 29 Commando, said the Serviceman's colleagues had been left devastated.

"Dave was an outstanding commando officer, a natural leader and a true gentleman," he added.

Last month Capt Seath's family and colleagues finished the last part of the marathon on his behalf.

Some £200,000 has been raised in his memory. The Serviceman's original target had been £250.



LARIUM SET TO GO

■ PRESCRIPTIONS of the anti-malarial drug Lariam look set to be a thing of the past for British soldiers.

A report by the House of Commons defence select committee, due to be published as this issue went to press, was expected to recommend the tablets should no longer be issued to Service personnel except in very restricted cases.

Campaigners have long argued for withdrawal of mefloquine (brand name Lariam) on the grounds it causes side effects such as hallucinations, insomnia, anxiety and depression.



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Image: Ben Rishdon & family, Andy Garthwaite and Les Pryatt, Soldiers' Charity beneficiaries

"We've won back-to-back titles and that is fantastic"

– Loggies do the double, page 87



WIN

...First Tactical gear

LAST month's spine line clues would have been recognised by regular readers of *Soldier*.

Inspired by our article on 100 years of Army images, (Cpl Tom) Evans, (Cpl Paul) Shaw, (Sgt Rupert) Frere, and (Cpl Obi) Igbo were all winners of last year's Army Photographic Competition.

This month, courtesy of First Tactical (www.firsttactical.co.uk), we are giving away this sturdy daypack, compatible with Molle, along with a handy torch and medium sized performance socks worth a total of almost £200.

To be in with a chance of winning, tell us what links the words on the spine of this month's issue. Answers to the usual address or email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk by June 30.



Droning on



UAV troops deploy to South Atlantic

GUNNERS have deployed to Ascension Island to hone their skills on the Watchkeeper UAS.

Members of 47th Regiment, Royal Artillery – the unit charged with bringing the state-of-the-art asset into service – are conducting the live flying phase of their training before starting to instruct their colleagues later this year.

They are creating a formation focused solely on the air system following the success of similar platforms in Afghanistan.

"The assured weather, availability of airspace and uncongested runway of Wideawake Airfield make this an excellent environment to conduct pilot training," said battery commander Maj Andy Carter.

Meanwhile, a new generation of all-weather drone that can patrol the skies for twice as long as Reaper has been announced.

The Protector will replace the existing Royal Air Force-operated platform, capable of running for up to 40 hours.

“It's an excellent environment to conduct pilot training”

”

A taste of triathlon...



AROUND 40 troops of 16 Air Assault Brigade had a stab at their first ever triathlon.

The event, run at the Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium in Colchester by 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, saw personnel get to grips with the event in a non-competitive environment.

"Hopefully they will find it enjoyable and go on to take it up more seriously," said organiser Capt Phil Dorsett (RLC).

● *Soldiersport* – pages 75-89

REHAB FACILITY WELCOMES VETS

HEADLEY Court is now open to veterans as well as serving personnel.

Those with amputation-related medical issues from recent operations can access its facilities and six ex-soldiers have already been seen at the Veterans Complex Prosthetic Assessment Clinic after NHS referrals.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said the move was about ensuring "the best possible treatment".

FESTIVAL FUN

ARMY bands and a Spitfire flypast will be among the attractions at this month's Imjin Music Festival.

The event will be held on June 9 at the HQ of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and celebrates the Queen's 90th birthday.

To register for free tickets visit www.imjinmusicfestival.uk

FALKLANDS FEATURE

BRITISH and Argentinian veterans of the Falklands War are taking to the stage in a new production entitled Minefield.

Performed at the Royal Court Theatre in London, the show includes film, re-enactments and documentary to give an insight into what impact the conflict had.

It runs from June 2 to 11. For more visit www.royalcourttheatre.com



RESERVE FORCES TO BE RECKONED WITH

VOLUNTEERS from across the world have descended on Merseyside for the 11th UK Reserve Forces Association Competition.

This year's event at Altcar Training Camp saw 28 teams drawn from countries including Estonia, France and Poland.

Troops battled it out on tasks such as first aid and firefighting, with 158 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps taking the crown.

GOT A VIEW TO SHARE?

Tell *Talkback* what you think of a news item or issue by emailing mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

We are part of the MoD so you don't need permission to get in touch with us.



"It was a tough fight but I upped the revs and got to work"

– From injury to international stage, page 84



HIGH STANDARD FOR RENAMED UNIT

■ PERSONNEL Support Command has been retitled Home Command.

A flag-raising ceremony was held in Aldershot to mark the renaming, where The Parachute Regiment free-fall team, The Red Devils, dropped in to hand deliver the new standard to the formation's commander, Lt Gen James Bashall.

SWEETENER FOR SUGGESTIONS

■ SOLDIERS are being asked to submit their ideas for removing waste and earn themselves up to £10,000 in the process.

The "Be Frank" campaign runs until September 30 and is looking for inspiration from across the ranks in three specific areas – training, business processes and personnel management.

The initiative is being overseen by the defence ideas scheme, Gems, which has generated more than £37 million in savings for the MoD over the last two years.

For more information on how to submit an idea visit <https://gemsonline.mod.uk> and select the Be Frank tab.



GOOD DRILLS



Picture: Sgt Rupert Fere, RLC



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

What you might not know about Her Majesty's work with the British Army
...pages 50-51

No retreat for musicians

Troops poised to impress ahead of Queen's official birthday

■ MEMBERS of the Household Division have been busy rehearsing for this month's Beating Retreat spectacular in London.

The showcase of pomp, ceremony and fireworks will take place on June 8 and 9 ahead of the Queen's birthday parade.

This year's festivities mark Her Majesty's official 90th birthday as well as the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

They follow a celebration of her reign aired on ITV 1 last month.

Soldiers from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and The Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery were among the 1,599 performers to take part, along

with The Band of the Irish Guards and The Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra.

Meanwhile, as this issue went to press, The Bands and Bugles of The Rifles were set to sound the retreat for the first time in almost 25 years.

Nearly 300 members of the regiment were due to be joined by 200 international troops for a two-day musical extravaganza, also at Horse Guards Parade.

The Royal Gurkha Rifles Pipes and Drums, the Gurkha Kukri Dancers, Canada's Band of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and the Military Wives Choir were all lined up to feature, while raising money for Care For Casualties.

WHAT A CATCH!



AMERICAN airmen amazed onlookers when they managed to catch a baby from a fourth story building on fire in South Korea. The troops from Osan Air Base held out blankets so the child's mother could drop the seven-month-old along with her two toddlers, before jumping to escape the blaze herself. All four in the ordeal were unharmed.

ANYONE baffled about how the Armed Forces Covenant can assist them in reality can discover on a new website. The portal www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk details in plain English the practical guidance on offer to soldiers thanks to the agreement, including family support and healthcare.



PRACTICAL HELP

"It gets the adrenalin pumping and makes individuals more aware"

– Troops paint town red, pages 36-39



Blood loss breakthrough?

Device could cut the need for donor transfusions

A PORTABLE device that allows blood lost in battle to be directly returned to an injured soldier's body is one of the cutting-edge military inventions to have been revealed at an MoD technology summit in London.

The blood salvage device, one of 30 innovative projects featured at this year's Marketplace event, was developed by experts at the University of Strathclyde.

It is designed to be deployed in the field and can work without electricity.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE) is supporting the project. It helps businesses showcase their inventions to big corporations and government.

"The funding support we received from CDE enabled us to develop prototype devices, test

these and secure the interest of a commercial partner to take our lifesaving technology closer to clinical deployment," explained Prof Terry Gourlay of the institution's Department of Biomedical Engineering.

The device – named Hemosep – will now be developed for clinical trial.

And with uncontrolled haemorrhage still the leading cause of death on the battlefield, the potential for it to make a difference is significant.



Battlefield potential:
The device could save lives on missions

AIR FLOP

THREE US Army Humvees were destroyed when an airdrop went wrong on Germany's Hohenfels training area. The 173rd Airborne Brigade was conducting the insertion as part of Exercise Saber Junction when the trucks broke free from their parachutes and plummeted to the ground. A video of the incident was widely shared online and an investigation has been launched.



LOOSE CANNON

A NORWEGIAN fighter jet mistakenly fired on a control tower during a training exercise. The F-16 was conducting live firing on a remote island off Norway's west coast when it strafed the building with its M61 Vulcan cannon, *The Guardian* reported. Three officers who were inside escaped unhurt.

BAD DRILLS

GRIEVANCE PROCESS PICKS UP PACE

■ A NEW complaints system which came into force at the start of this year is making "tremendous progress", according to the Service complaints ombudsman.

In her annual report for 2015 Nicola Williams did not make any recommendations, saying the new procedures needed more time to operate before they could be assessed.

However, she praised the Army for closing more cases in a year than it received and for using mediation to resolve disputes.

However, the document noted concern at troops' continuing lack of confidence in the system and with the number of women who feel they must tolerate unacceptable behaviour without complaining



Picture: Spc Nikayla Shodeen, US Army

INFANTRY FIRST IN US

■ THE US Army has appointed its first female infantry officer.

Capt Kristen Griest (shown above), who was one of the first women to complete the famously tough Ranger training, took her place alongside male contemporaries after finishing the maneuver captain's career course.

The 27-year-old applied to transfer to the infantry from the military police following the Department of Defense's decision to lift gender restrictions on all roles in December 2015.

A further 22 requests to join the infantry and armour branches from servicewomen currently nearing the end of officer training have also been approved, officials confirmed.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday 21st June 2016

Tidworth Garrison

Conference Centre (Theatre)

0800 - 1730hrs

The ASN is a professional network, open to all ranks, both Regular and Reserve. It aims to ensure that our women across all ranks are supported and prepared to maximise opportunities for themselves and for the Army.



Army Servicewomen's Network

Further details are available on the ASN MOSS page and will be published through the Chain of Command in due course. Any queries should be directed to the ASN Mailbox on DII: Army-Servicewomen-0Mailbox@mod.uk

"We can give the scientists all the info they need"

– Fuchs fervour, pages 43-46



A PERSONAL VIEW FROM KATHERINE HOULSTON, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SPECIALIST AT THE ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION...



FOREIGN TROOPS PAY THE PRICE

DESPITE the restriction on recruitment of Commonwealth citizens which came into effect in 2013, the AFF is seeing an increase in enquiries in this area.

Queries come from serving and discharged troops, as well as spouses, the chain of command and charities.

On average we get more than 150 immigration questions a month.

As well as providing free advice and information, we use the issues raised with us to alter policy.

One recent success story was a change that came into effect last year requiring citizenship applications for children born during an overseas assignment to be paid for by the public purse.

It took four years but we got there in the end.

So what does the future hold for foreign and Commonwealth personnel and their loved ones?

Recruitment policy has recently been relaxed so as to allow up to 200 troops to be recruited yearly into specific cap badges.

65
SPARE A
THOUGHT
FOR YOUR
COLLEAGUES
99

This is likely to result in more personnel wishing to bring family members to the UK.

But that will only be possible if they meet the strict minimum income requirement of £18,600.

The AFF is regularly contacted by soldiers who are struggling with separation from their families.

But despite requests from the MoD and military charities for a discretionary lower level for the Forces, the government continues to uphold this rule.

It now costs £1,875 per person to apply to remain in the UK permanently – that's £7,500 for a soldier on discharge with a wife and two children.

There is currently no funding available for this and the amount is likely to increase year-on-year.

If you are a foreign or Commonwealth soldier, plan ahead and save. If you are not, spare a thought for your colleagues.

www.aff.org.uk

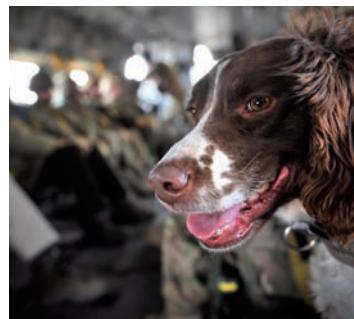
TOP TEN FOR TROOPS

■ PERSONNEL from Scots Training Company in Catterick have completed a punishing triathlon challenge to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The feat saw them cycle from Inverness to their home garrison via six of the formation's seven battalions.

They also completed a one-mile swim and a run over the Pentland Hills.

"This was an arduous, challenging and rewarding way for the company to recognise the anniversary of the regiment," said team member Capt Lance Morris.



DOG SQUAD SALUTED

■ PERSONNEL from 1st Military Working Dog Regiment have been recognised for their support to operations in Afghanistan at the National Service Dog Bravery and Achievement Awards.

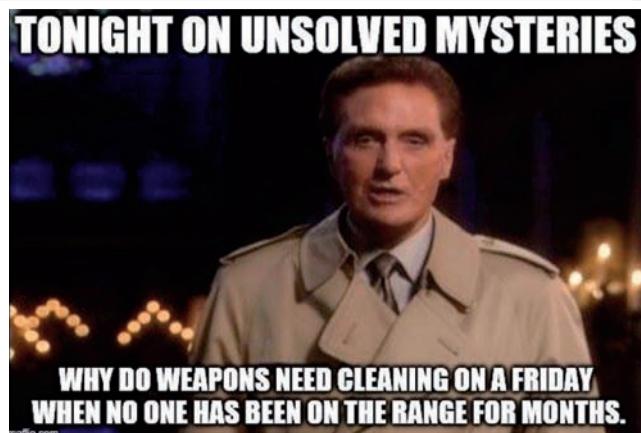
The honour acknowledges the crucial role played by the unit during the Herrick campaign, which included close security on foot patrols, protection at Camp Bastion and a search capability that helped identify roadside bombs and weapons caches.

The regiment's 102 Military Working Dog Squadron Arms Explosive Section was also recognised.



MEMES OF THE MONTH...

Share your favourites with us online or via news@soldiermagazine.co.uk



“
We're the best because we pack a punch

”

– Fighting talk in *Final Word*, page 90



THE BIG PICTURE

> BAD LIPPSPRINGE, GERMANY

TIGERS TAKE TO THE SKY

THE Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment's free-fall parachute team – known as the Tigers – has been gearing up for the upcoming display season with an intensive training package. A busy schedule of international events lies ahead and squad members spent two weeks honing their techniques and tricks, including canopy formations, stacking and precision landings. Picture: Dominic King



300 YEARS:

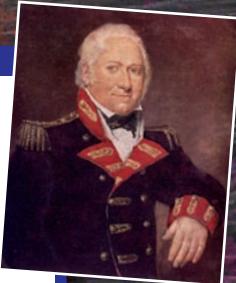
BATTLE OF THE BIRTHDAYS

THE **Gunners** and the **Sappers** share an anniversary, a motto and a distinguished history of specialist service, not to mention a long-standing rivalry. As both formations celebrate three centuries since their establishment in 1716, we challenged serving amateur historians Lt Col James Cook (RA) and Maj Sean Scullion (RE) to select their cap badges' greatest triumphs. From technical innovations and visionary leaders to battle-winning brilliance, who comes out on top? You decide...

CUNNING INVENTIONS

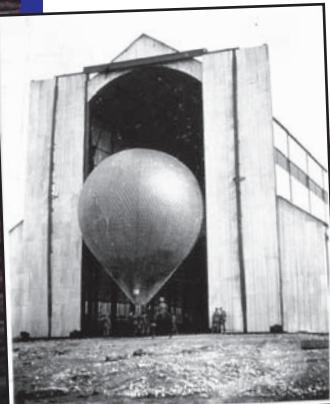
SHRAPNEL

In 1784, **Lt Henry Shrapnel** designed and developed "spherical case" ammunition, a kind of shell that, instead of being solid iron, would be hollow and filled with lead shot. The idea was to detonate the weapon above the enemy and project small fragments and high velocity ball bearings at the target, for example infantry or cavalry. Shrapnel had to lobby hard to get the Ordnance Board to accept the idea but eventually his namesake was adopted and quickly became a battle winner. He rose to the rank of lieutenant general and the government recognized his contribution to warfare by awarding him a £1,200 salary every year for life.



AVIATION

Sappers have long led the way in military technical advances. **Ballooning** and early experimentation with aircraft became a Royal Engineers activity from the late 1880s through to the formation of the Royal Flying Corps in 1912 and the Royal Air Force in 1918. Many transferred and flew with distinction during the First World War, including the most highly decorated British pilot of the conflict, Maj "Mick" Mannock, who was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and two bars and the Military Cross and bar. He was killed in action on July 26, 1918 at the age of 31.



BATTLE HONOURS

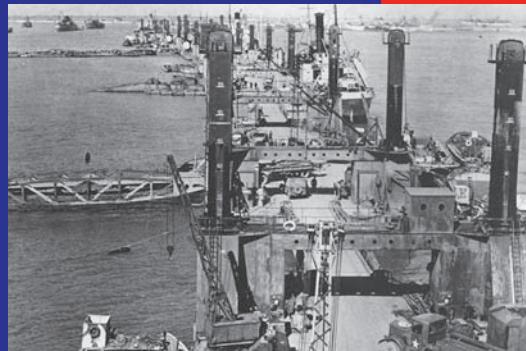
EL ALAMEIN

■ In July 1942 the Allies fought the First Battle of El Alamein in an attempt to delay the advance of Axis forces under the command of Gen Erwin Rommel. Until then victory had proved elusive but the **British and Commonwealth guns held the foe in their tracks**. Deployed well to the front and

in range of enemy tanks they maintained an intense rate of fire and were quick to change targets. Their winning



tactics were the strength of their supply chain, speed of movement and novel approach to communications, which allowed for surprise bombardments that Rommel's troops could not foresee.



■ D-Day in June 1944 saw the Royal Engineers showing their ultimate adaptability in the greatest logistical engineering project of all time, the construction of the two **"Mulberry" harbours**. Without these mile-long, temporary floating docks the Allies would have had to capture one of the heavily defended French ports in order to sustain their invasion. Although "Mulberry A" off Omaha beach was destroyed in a storm on June 19, "Mulberry B" at Arromanches was used for 10 months, with two-and-a-half million men, 500,000 vehicles, and four million tons of supplies passing through it before it was decommissioned.

SPORTING GLORY

GOING FOR GOLD



■ Since playing in the earliest recorded cricket match in 1765, the Gunners have built a reputation for sporting excellence. Arsenal Football Club was founded by artillerymen based at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich. In boxing the regiment produced the 1911 British and Empire Heavyweight Champion, Bdr Billy Wells, while on the rugby field, 20 Gunners have won international caps, including England full back Josh Lewsey and current Wales starter Capt Gemma Roland. Since 1936, Royal Artillery personnel have also represented their country in no less than seven Olympic Games, most famously coxless pairs **gold medalist Maj Heather Stanning**.

FOOTBALL FOREFATHERS

■ In the early days of the beautiful game the **Royal Engineers Association Football Club** were a force to be reckoned with, winning the 1875 FA Cup Final and appearing in a further three finals in the first seven years of the competition. The Sappers pioneered the so-called "combination game", which saw players passing to each other instead of simply kicking and chasing after the ball.

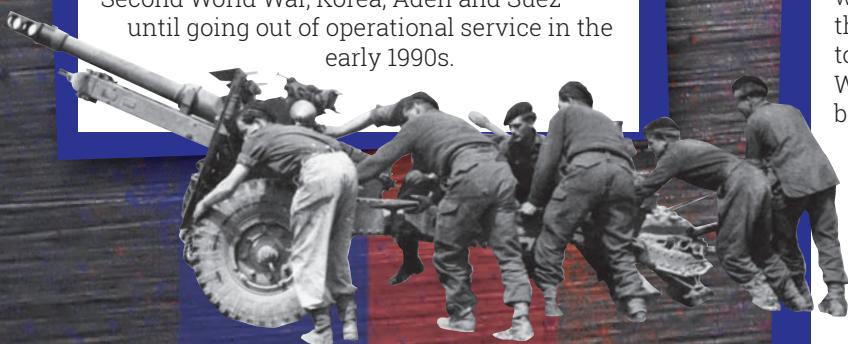
D-DAY



TOP GEAR

ORDNANCE 25 POUNDER

■ The weapon that has seen the most action out of the Gunners' arsenal is the **25 Pounder**. Versatile, accurate and robust, it was able to withstand the harshest conditions and needed little maintenance. It could fire a variety of ammunition, while its multiple charge system allowed for a reduced logistical burden and an ability to fire from both high and low angles. Its stable platform, short recoil, wide arc of fire and well cooled barrel all meant it could keep up a withering rate of accurate fire over a range of up to 12km. It served tirelessly throughout the Second World War, Korea, Aden and Suez until going out of operational service in the early 1990s.



BAILEY BRIDGE

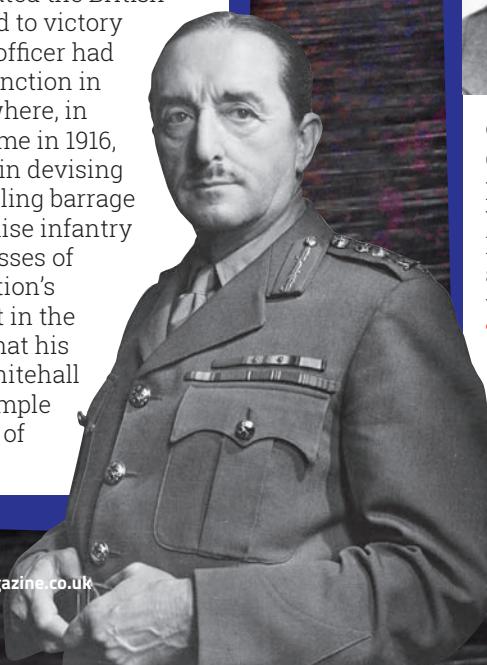


■ THE portable, pre-fabricated **Bailey Bridge** was described by Gen Eisenhower as one of the three pieces of equipment that most contributed to the Allied victory in Europe in the Second World War – alongside radar and the heavy bomber. Its success lay in the simple design and assembly of its modular components, which could be swiftly erected by manpower, with no need for heavy lifting capability. Named after its designer, Sir Donald Bailey, it was introduced in 1941 and by the end of the war some 490,000 tons had been manufactured, equating to more than 240 miles of bridge.

FAMOUS FACES

ALAN BROOKE

■ As the primary military adviser to Winston Churchill towards the end of the Second World War, **Fd Marshal Alan Brooke** coordinated the British military effort that led to victory in 1945. The artillery officer had also served with distinction in the First World War where, in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, he was instrumental in devising the techniques for rolling barrage that would revolutionise infantry support for the successes of 1917 and 1918. The nation's debt to him is evident in the prominent position that his statue occupies in Whitehall to this day and the simple inscription – "Master of Strategy" – says it all.



"HOBO"



■ **Maj Gen Sir Percy Hobart** was the pioneer of specialist armoured engineer innovations that were crucial to the success of D-Day. "Hobart's funnies" included modified tanks such as the amphibious Duplex Drive "Swimming" Sherman and other armoured vehicles designed to bridge ditches and rivers, clear minefields and destroy pillboxes and gun emplacements. Considered a visionary by some and a troublemaker by others, Hobart had been forcibly retired early in the war and was serving as a corporal in the Home Guard when he was recalled to service to spearhead the **79th Experimental Armoured Division**. His legacy lives on in today's Assault Engineers.



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Trailblazers

Royal Artillery air defence specialists develop high readiness capabilities

Flash point:
LBdr Kudaknashr
Kufarwedu of
12 (Minden) Air
Assault Battery
fires a supersonic
Firestreak missile at
a Banshee drone

'It's such an exciting time to be part of this battery because we are developing our capability all the time'

Words: Steve Muncey Pictures: Graeme Main

THE Royal Artillery's first generation of recruits from 300 years ago would probably recognise quite a few of the items that currently sit in the regiment's weapons stores around the country.

But the laser-guided Starstreak high-velocity missile isn't one of them.

It weighs 18 kilograms, can be launched from a shoulder-mounted tube and accelerates to a speed of Mach 3.5 – or 3,000mph – before

splitting into three explosive darts that can obliterate aircraft up to six kilometres away.

A cast-iron 12-pounder gun it isn't.

This high-tech armament is incredibly effective on the battlefield, but only when the operator knows how to extract the best performance from it. And therein lies the rub.

Loading a shell into the breech of a howitzer is one thing; steering a laser-guided supersonic projectile on to a fast and highly manoeuvrable enemy asset is quite another.

That's why the annual missile practice camp



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'Most of our training is done on computer simulators and first-timers have to do 1,000 shots on them'



for 12 (Minden) Air Assault Battery Manorbier range in Wales is, arguably, the most important date on the unit's calendar.

"Most of our training is done on computer simulators and first-timers have to do 1,000 practice shots on them with a high success rate before they're considered competent enough to operate the real thing," Bdr Aaron Edwards (pictured below), told *Soldier*.

"This exercise is the only time we can fire these missiles live and that's our core job so the training benefit is massive."

Those who complete the mandatory test sessions and have achieved the required accuracy get to launch the weapons at Banshee semi-autonomous drones, which have been programmed to fly different routes inside reserved airspace over the Bristol Channel.

Just as in a real combat situation, radar operators track the targets at distance and then

communicate positions and headings to firers.

During the exercise the system is calibrated so that a successful strike is recorded when the darts explode a set distance away from the drone, allowing it to fly on – a useful economy measure when each unmanned aircraft costs around £100,000.

"We have a moving target, radar tracking, early warning, live ammunition and well-trained soldiers, and that provides the mix we are after," commanding officer Maj Terry Reilly told *Soldier*.

"We need live-firing opportunities like this because there isn't a trainer in the world that can simulate this exactly."

Gnr Logan Hunter, one of 40 soldiers looking to complete at least one live practice shot during the two-



Above left, On the range: ACS operator Gnr Pranny Rai in the range fire control centre; Lbdr Callum Lee prepares a missile before loading
Above, In the classroom: Gnr Sean Palmer and Logan Hunter demonstrate the HVM trainer

week serial, concurred.

"The simulators are good but when you're firing outside the wind can knock you off balance and the kick of the missile launching and dealing with the blast and smoke while aiming your laser is not something you can accurately reproduce inside," he explained.

Having the opportunity to fire these dynamic weapons for real is exhilarating enough but the battery, which is



Firing on all cylinders: The gunners who prove accurate enough on the simulators are given the chance to master the LML triple tubed launcher with a live-fire first; when they are up to scratch they can move on to the shoulder launcher training stage



'All-arms air defence is a forgotten art'



part of 12 Regiment, is also going through one of the most exciting phases in its history.

In 2014 it moved from operating on Stormer armoured vehicles to become part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, assuming the Army's only light role very short-range air defence function.

The majority of the unit's personnel have since been through P Company so that they can deploy in support of all parts of the formation. There has also been a thorough reassessment of standard operating procedures, training and even equipment.

"Our job with 16 Brigade has changed the way we do things, no question," commented Lt Phil Wright.

One major revision this year has been to alter the way personnel train on the two variants of the missile the battery uses – the lightweight multiple launcher (LML), with three tubes mounted on a stand, and the shoulder-launched version with a single tube.

Lt Wright explained: "We were training on LML first and then the shoulder launcher, which is trickier to handle but we want to supplement 16 Brigade with the most highly skilled firers possible and on the last four exercises it's all been shoulder launchers."

"As a result we have adapted our drills this year to qualify personnel on that weapon much more quickly than before."

The battery is also ensuring the Banshee drones' flight plans are as challenging as they can be for the

STARSTREAK IN NUMBERS

Missile range in metres

5,500

Flight time in secs

8

Missile speed (Mach)

3



missile operators.

"The shots can be very hard to achieve and in my opinion the oblique crosser, where the drone comes in across and low at a shallow angle, is the toughest of all," said Gnr Sean Parker.

"You have to do what we call 'super-elevate' because the missile drops as it comes out of the tube and you need to allow for that as well as giving the three darts enough altitude to move around in the air as they home in on the target."

Procedures for deploying personnel and equipment have also been reviewed and some radical departures from previous tactics are in the pipeline.

One will supplement the tried-and-tested Pinzgauer all-terrain vehicles which are used to bring in the weapons over ground.

"We trialled quad bikes at Catterick recently and it went great so they should be arriving imminently," explained Bdr Edwards. "They will allow us to move shoulder launchers much more quickly into the field."

"If we tab in with them we can only have one missile per man, top-packed on our Bergen, and the weight can prevent us taking other kit, but with the quad bike you can transport multiple missiles quickly and the vehicles can also be used to evacuate casualties."

He added: "It's such an exciting time to be part of this battery because we're developing our capability all the time."

Despite the highly technical nature of their trade, the

personnel of 12 Battery are not afraid to adopt a more prosaic approach to destroying enemy assets when appropriate, such as meeting the threat of unmanned aerial systems.

"Using a highly expensive missile against a drone costing a couple of hundred of pounds is not ideal," explained Lt Wright.

"But certain foreign forces have been pioneering the use of them, making their own from bits purchased off the shelf and developing tactics where they use a number of platforms in formations.

"So this week we have been practising with general-purpose machine guns to engage with one-bit tracer to bring them down.

"All-arms air defence is a bit of a forgotten art after Iraq and Afghanistan, where there was no air threat, but a unit like us needs to have this option available if the situation demands it."

According to Maj Reilly, keeping training relevant to ever-evolving threats has become an immense challenge when planning future exercises.

"Military strategists say 70 per cent of the world's population will be living in a big city near a coastline in the next 25 years so a lot of our fighting will be in an urban environment," he said.

"Ideally, we could fire through gaps in buildings and take over rooftops of office blocks to set up positions but it's a question of finding the right site.

"However, we have practised air assaults with Merlin helicopters here and conducted a five-mile insurgence tab overnight carrying all the kit before engaging with shoulder launchers at a UAV target.

"We are held at five days' notice to move anywhere in the world so we are doing everything we can to have as many personnel as possible operating at the highest level all of the time."

If the tempo, variation and quality of the drills at this annual exercise are anything to go by, 16 Air

Assault Brigade's short-range air defence needs seem to be in more than capable hands. ■





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Judgement Day

Report: Becky Clark Pictures: Cpl Pete Brown, RLC

Infantry deliver verdict on Virtus



KEY COMPONENTS

- **HELMET UPGRADE**
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- **QUICK-RELEASE MECHANISM**
Pulling a pin positioned on the chest releases the entire body kit to aid safe extraction from hazardous situations.
- **SCALABLE TACTICAL VEST**
Virtus can be customised according to mission and threat level by inserting or removing the ballistic torso and side plates, as well as separate neck, pelvic, shoulder and upper arm protection components.
- **DYNAMIC WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION**
A telescopic integral spine bar allows the soldier to shift the load between shoulder and hips while on the move.

THE shift towards contingency operations has required British soldiers to become more flexible, agile and better prepared to take on a range of different tasks.

From deploying on peacekeeping missions to training foreign forces or even war fighting, personnel have to be ready for anything and as their role evolves, so too does the need for kit that is up to the job.

Enter the Virtus body armour system.

The latest personal protective equipment promises greater mobility, versatility and load distribution, all with the aim of increasing the wearer's performance and survivability.

So far the gear has been delivered to some 9,000 high-readiness troops, among them members of 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

Soldier dropped in as they trained alongside European partners on Salisbury Plain, where Pte Liam Wilson and Cpl Cameron MacKenzie gave us their verdict...



'YOU DO HAVE TO BE COMFORTABLE WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING AND THIS FEELS COMFORTABLE'

Pte Liam Wilson:

‘The **helmet** is fantastic. With the old model, if you didn't have it all married up or if your strap was loose you'd have a tilt and people would take the mick but with this new one you've got a dial on the back and you can loosen or tighten it so no matter what you do it stays in place. It's so much lighter and looks the part too.

The **night vision mount** and counter-weight are good also. That was always a problem when you were on patrol at night, you were having to concentrate but you had this pain in the back of your neck and you just wanted it to be daylight again so you could take it off.



Helmet adjusting dial, night vision mount and counter-weight



‘The **torso protection** is easily adapted to whichever terrain you're in. If you were doing conventional warfare and needed to fight light you wouldn't have all the plates in, but for somewhere like Afghanistan, where there's a high risk of IEDs, you'd need more. It's pretty much spot on. Osprey only had a certain amount of sizes but we've been measured up for every little bit of this, so it is fitted to my body and feels tight against me.

As a top gunner I'm mainly in the back of the WMIK and this is much less restrictive when you're moving about in the vehicle. It's gleaming.



Dynamic weight distribution system



‘Being in the Infantry one of the main things you deal with is pain in your shoulders but the **spine** spreads the weight and eases the pressure. We used it for a tab and it worked quite well.

‘The **webbing** has caused a few problems. There's not a lot holding it up so even when you're not carrying much it keeps falling down. The straps slip off when you move too – it could do with another clip across the middle to keep it in place.





Cpl Cameron MacKenzie:



Scalable tactical vest



Quick-release mechanism

I like the fact you can skin down the **body armour** to its bare essentials if you need to. That's perfect for infantry. When you've got all the plates this is also more manoeuvrable than Osprey. The other good thing is that it comes with its own **training plates**. Normally you train without them and only get to feel the full weight when you do it for real. This gives the younger lads a better idea of how to work and move in it.

Comfort is much more important than the overall weight. When you start whacking all your kit on like your radio the weight quickly mounts up and you can't really tell it's lighter but you do have to be comfortable when you're fighting and this feels comfortable.

The **emergency casevac strap** is good. If the medics need to remove it quickly they can. It falls away more easily when it's got the plates in because it's heavier but it works well.

The **spine** is either attached to the body armour itself, or to your Bergen or daysack so there's a bit of messing around changing from one thing to the other, which can be time consuming. Also, with everything fixed together it's harder to take your Bergen off when you're on the ground and more difficult to get up as well.

As infantry we live out of our **Bergen**, we don't have the luxury of a vehicle to carry stuff in. The lads have been finding it difficult to pack everything in, especially with sleeping bags. The five-litre side **pouches** are difficult to organise. You have to know exactly where everything is in your kit so you can find it in the pitch black. Now I have to cram stuff in the same pouch and it's harder to access.

What next?

With a hung jury on some elements of Virtus, we asked Defence Equipment and Support what happens next. Here's what they had to say...

"We are **engaged with users every day** to ensure the equipment is fit for purpose and have conducted **extensive and rigorous trials** with soldiers prior to fielding the system.

All units that have been issued with Virtus can provide **feedback** through their chain of command and direct to the project team.

We are now **working with the manufacturer** to implement changes to the system in accordance with these comments.

For example, feedback indicating a preference for a permanently fitted top flap has been used to inform a new design, which will be issued from July.

We will continue to **adjust the system** as required."





Urban operators: Troops conduct house clearance drills using the marker round training system

STREET FIGHTERS

TROOPS MASTER THE ART
OF URBAN OPERATIONS

A

S the Army adapts to the challenges of an uncertain world it seems that preparing for all eventualities is the way to go.

Such thinking has become increasingly prevalent as formations such as the High-Readiness Task Force and Vanguard Enabling Group come to the fore, putting notions of conventional warfare aside.

With this in mind the Service has reinvigorated its urban operations instructors' course in a bid to ensure personnel can deal with the complexities of fighting on city streets, should these skills be required down the line.

Delivered by the Infantry Battle School's senior division, the three-week programme recently underwent a successful debut and the next cohort of students is due to step up later this month.

Spread over sites at Sennybridge and Copehill Down, the lessons give young officers and NCOs the skills they need to flourish in sprawling town centres and protect vulnerable local populations.

They will then pass this vital knowledge on to

Report: Richard Long Pictures: Steve Dock

fellow soldiers at their units.

"Most western militaries have identified that any future operations their armies may be involved in will more than likely take place in an urban environment," Maj Austen Salusbury (WG), OC of the senior division, told *Soldier*.

"Global demographics show that populations are moving to urban areas within close proximity of a coastline or water."

"As a result, potential conflicts are unlikely to be fought solely over the possession of ground; they will be on complex city terrain."

"This course will give personnel the ability to fight and survive in such circumstances."

"It teaches them how to make the best use of cover and ground and allows them to understand the different layouts and threats they may face."

"In Afghanistan most soldiers were operating in semi-rural areas with a fairly primitive population but we are now training for different eventualities."

A total of 40 students, ranging from corporal to captain and from all arms, completed the first



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Ajax has enabled me to find a way to accept love as an emotion again...

Lee, Fire Service & Army Veteran, about Ajax (below), his PTSD assistance dog in training



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Down at dawn: The three-week course culminates in a dawn attack



course and it is hoped that 120 will be trained throughout the year.

The focus is on the fundamentals of urban operations and how to manoeuvre a battlegroup around areas of population, while working on skills such as room clearances and how to enter buildings.

A welcome inclusion was the use of the marker round training system, similar to paint balling, which added an extra degree of realism.

"It offers an authentic threat and gets the adrenalin pumping," said instructor CSgt Steven Gibson (Scots). "It makes individuals more aware of what is around them.

"They will look for a different way to enter a building, whether it is through a doorway or window, and how to work their way through the rubble without getting shot. If you get hit it hurts."

"The students loved this element and they want more of it."

One of those to complete the first course was Sgt Stephen Byrne (2 Lancs).

The NCO has already passed his new-found expertise on to soldiers at his unit and believes such drills will be vital in years to come.

"This is where we are going to be operating in the future," he said. "The days of tanks flying across hills are a thing of the past.

"The course was spot on. I have just done an exercise with my battalion and by the time we had finished the lads were really confident with the skills they had learned.

"They showed such enthusiasm and if we were to deploy now they've got the knowledge they need to succeed."

With the first course triumphantly ticked off and a second now looming there appears to be no stopping the Service's new generation of urban operators.

And should the call to arms come they will be more than a match for the complex environment they may find themselves in.

The specialist teams taking field forensics to another level

A COMMAND wire attached to an explosive has been found below the sand.

The enemy's intention was to detonate the device and kill British troops before fleeing the scene, leaving behind no clues to their identity.

But the plan has failed spectacularly.

The deadly bombs have been uncovered and made safe by an explosive ordnance disposal team after invaluable intelligence provided by experts working alongside them.

It is a familiar scenario to anyone with an Afghanistan tour under their belt.

However, members of 2 Military Intelligence (Exploitation) Battalion's forward exploitation teams (FET) do not stop at gathering forensics on weaponry.

A fresh approach now sees clusters of four or five soldiers drawn from the Royal Military Police, Royal Logistic Corps and Intelligence Corps pool their knowledge and skills so as to derive as much information from a battle scene as is humanly or, indeed, scientifically possible.

"What our team is doing is an offshoot of the weapons intelligence specialists," explains LCpl Jon South (Int Corps) during Exercise Shamal Storm in Jordan.

"But we're not just concerned with weapons, we are exploiting, collecting and analysing a range of items and gathering anything we can on

the enemy's tactics, techniques and procedures.

"That feeds into the wider intelligence picture."

The FET's materiel and personnel exploitation operators bring together a range of technical capabilities including chemical exploitation (chemex), forensics, biometric intelligence and analysing seized media items such as phones or laptops.

Capt Scott Talman (RLC) explains: "The ability to exploit evidence in the field was a battle winner in Afghanistan but our capabilities are now even better as technology has advanced and we've learnt from experience.

"Today we go out with rugged equipment and techniques that would usually be associated with forensic labs."

Each corps brings something different to the party.

RMP soldiers are the crime scene investigators and the ammunition technicians make devices safe and advise on how they work.

"The brains of the Intelligence Corps tie everything together and work out how we can use the information to our advantage," adds the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Matt Cadman.

"The context is vital too, which is why we deploy up with the Infantry. It is usually easier to establish that in situ."

The data extracted helps identify individuals and develop an understanding of enemy networks.

Explaining other ways that recovered evidence can assist



Collectors' items:

Soldiers from a forward exploitation team package up evidence from the scene during training in Jordan while, top right, a crater is measured in order to work out the size and type of bomb used



LIFE-OR-DEATH DEADLINES

The time that forward exploitation teams have to feed their detailed information back to the Army, according to threat level

Red: 24 hours (used when a new weapon is discovered)

Amber: 5 to 6 days

Green: 28 days



in more detail in our level one field lab," says Capt Talman.

"This is a great capability for rapidly identifying threats to the force, raising awareness and establishing appropriate force protection measures."

Within four hours of returning to camp, these experts will have extensive information ready to pass on.

If more scientific details are required on a substance, evidence can be sent back to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory boffins in the UK.

And although these new teams have a broad remit, the focus on weapons remains a crucial one.

In Jordan small flags have been placed around the edges of an IED crater. Gloved soldiers swoop in to measure the diameter and depth of the hole and

that data is fed into a rugged computer to calculate the size and type of weapon.

Items such as pressure plates are also analysed and fingerprints or DNA recorded.

"We examine and store this information electronically in accordance with UK law," explains Lt Col Cadman.

"Then when other items are recovered we can compare any recovered biometric profiles with those on the database and when we get a match we can zoom in and examine the context in detail."

Working under the command of 1st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Brigade, these small teams are set to have an influence far greater than the sum of their parts.

"We are trying to show infantry units what we can offer in terms of expertise because our work can have a huge impact," said team leader Sgt Darren Jones (RMP).

Armed with more tricks of the trade than ever before, these personnel are ready to assist. ■

IN NUMBERS

3

approximate number of FETs deployed on missions with each brigade



WE'RE EXPLOITING, COLLECTING AND ANALYSING A RANGE OF MATERIAL



with building the intelligence picture, Lt Col Cadman adds: "Documents, such as ledgers, can be translated and analysed to help us understand threat finance streams and there could be useful information stored on electronic devices.

"The team will look for patterns and trends so that we can build a picture of adversary activity and predict where, when and what is likely to happen next."

In one serial on this particular exercise, for example, the team takes a Soviet Dragunov rifle back to the battalion's tented laboratory at the base camp for X-ray and "clean" chemex – a process to detect traces of compounds such as home-made explosives, toxins and drugs.

"This process can be conducted forward using a number of handheld tools or

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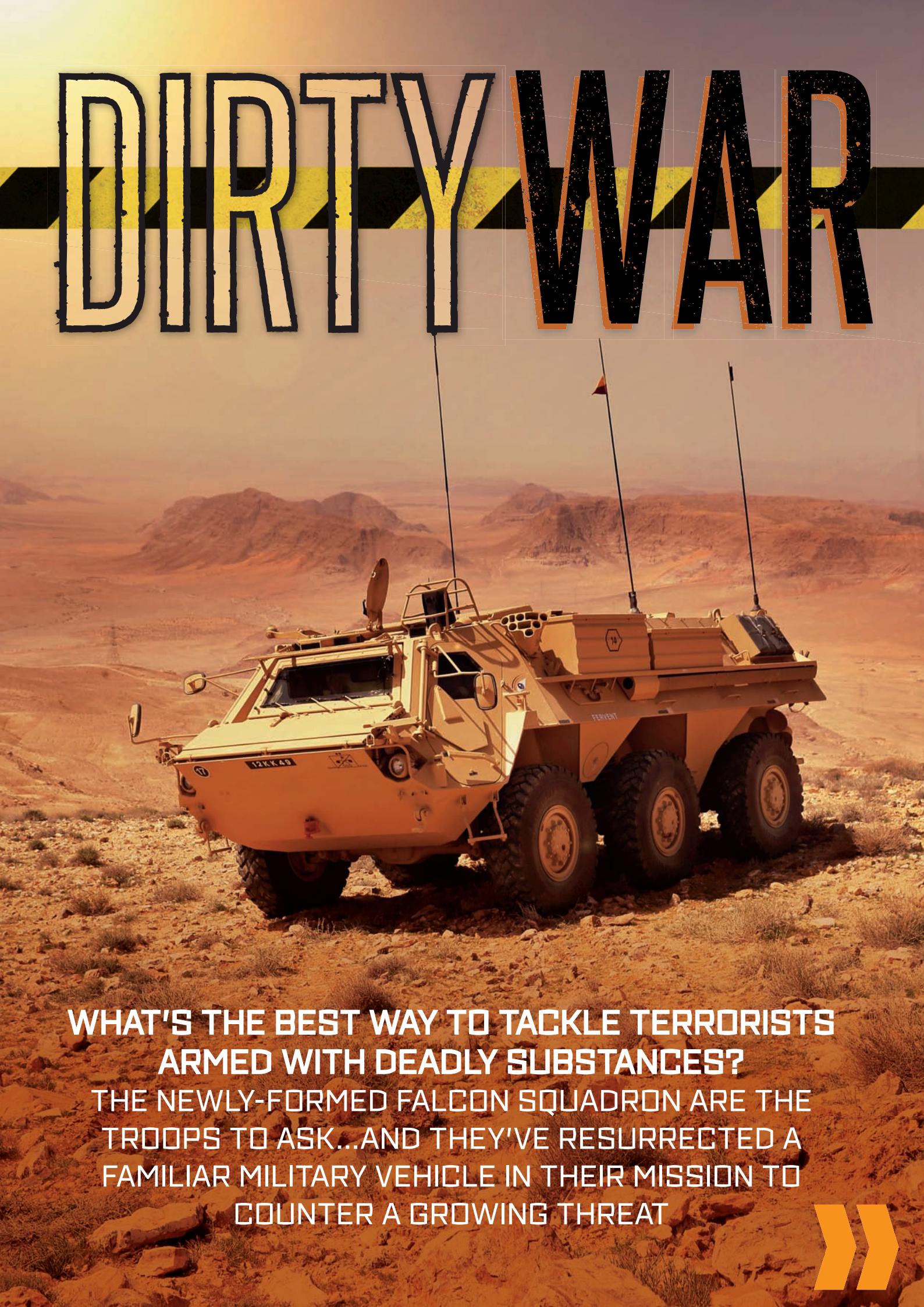
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DIRTY WAR



**WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TACKLE TERRORISTS
ARMED WITH DEADLY SUBSTANCES?**

THE NEWLY-FORMED FALCON SQUADRON ARE THE
TROOPS TO ASK...AND THEY'VE RESURRECTED A
FAMILIAR MILITARY VEHICLE IN THEIR MISSION TO
COUNTER A GROWING THREAT



C

Report: Joe Clapson Pictures: Graeme Main

HEMICAL weapons are back on the British Army's radar.

For more than a decade there has been no real concern about enemy forces launching attacks with noxious gases or nerve agents, the use of which is banned under international law.

But non-state players – terrorists and insurgents – are wasting no time in reintroducing poisonous chemicals into battle, not least in northern Iraq and Syria where Isis and those loyal to President Assad have deployed mustard and chlorine gas against Kurdish forces and civilians.

In line with this toxic new threat, soldiers from the Royal Tank Regiment have formed Falcon (Area Survey and Reconnaissance) Squadron – a very high readiness, specialist armoured reconnaissance unit to counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) attacks.

Attached to 22 Engineer Regiment, its personnel operate airtight Fuchs vehicles – or "Batmobiles" as they are affectionately known by the Tankies.

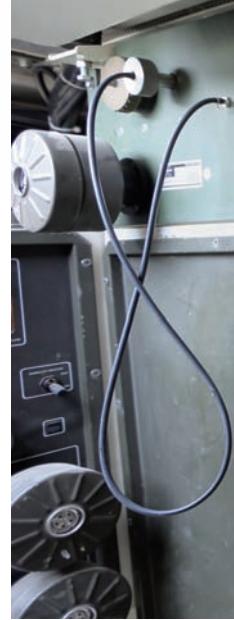
No doubt familiar to the Army's Iraq veterans, the impressive platforms detect and analyse substances of concern using built-in mass spectrometers, called MMIs, which break down compounds to identify what soldiers are facing.

And the kit has form; the nine Fuchs under Falcon's charge are the same ones that countered the chemical threat from Saddam Hussein's regime in 1991 and 2003 when they were sent into operations ahead of 7th Armoured Brigade.

But they have undergone refurbishment and upgrades to make them battle-ready in today's military climate.

With six wheels and an intriguing protective black rubber glove that allows personnel to get their hands on dangerous items, the amphibious beasts can travel up to 300km before needing to refuel.

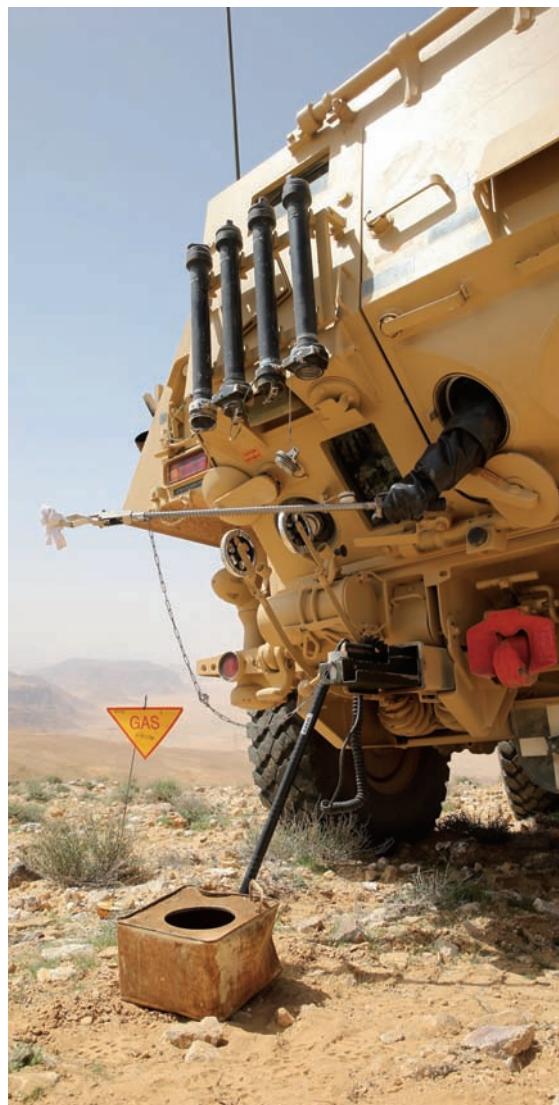
Soldier visited the hot and harsh Jordanian desert to see the team in action before it is signed off to be held at high readiness, when it must be able to anywhere at short notice.



“IT NEEDS TO GET UP CLOSE AND DIRTY IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS”



Clockwise from left, Chemical warriors: Falcon Squadron troops conduct a sweep of the area; LCpl Perry Conner analyses data on the MMI; a Fuchs vehicle reverses back onto a suspect substance to carry out further checks



“The Fuchs sniffs for things, it’s a bit like a gun dog,” explained Maj Gareth Morris (RTR), officer commanding the squadron.

“We discover the bad stuff and make sure that others don’t encounter it by mistake.”

But it is not just attacks that this team are ready to react to; their expertise could also be brought to bear at times of disaster.

“If there is a nuclear accident and you need to identify the extent of contamination you either have to put a lot of people in harm’s way or you can drive into it with this,” Maj Morris added.

“It needs to get up-close-and-dirty in order to understand what has happened and it’s unique in that it provides radiological protection and sense equipment for the crew.”

But in an age when dangerous people can learn lethal skills online, the need for British troops to be focused on responding to chemical attack is clear.

Working out where and how they might have to respond is not so easy. Good job, then, that these vehicles can deploy anywhere in the world by air.

“If you look back to the 1990s, chemical warfare sat with state players,” explained Maj Morris. “But now you find these weapons are much more common and a lot less controlled.”

“In the hands of state armies you could rely on collective intelligence, but now we find ourselves unable to gather as much in-depth information about a potential enemy.”

Out on the ground, the four-man crew inside a Fuchs can survey and monitor an area and remain on lockdown inside its tightly-fitted cabin for up to six days to see if any chemicals are present.

For large areas the recce soldiers employ a “mowing the lawn” technique, where they drive over every inch of earth to ensure its sensors pick up any sniff of chemical or radiation.

With a library of 230,000 compounds stored on its memory, the MMI flags up on-screen whether a substance is toxic or not or what type of radiation is there.

“We drive ahead and if we get a hit we stop, drop the wheels and reverse until we find contamination,” explained LCpl Perry Conner (RTR), a Fuchs operator in the squadron.

“The aim is to get the battlegroup through the area as



quickly as possible.”

In this sort of scenario one vehicle marks out an exclusion zone of up to 300 metres around the suspect location, while a second finds an alternative route for troops to take.

Anyone outside the four walls of the Fuchs could well perish. But once inside a contaminated area, the recce car can turn on its “collective protection” mode, which causes air to be drawn into the vehicle to create higher atmospheric pressure and thus prevent outside agents from entering.

“Colpro filters out chemical agents and radiation,” added LCpl Conner.

“It’s basically an extreme version of cracking on the air conditioning.”

This ability to remain impermeable to lethal toxins gives those on-board a chance to gather information about what has been released before passing that information on via Bowman and back to the UK by satellite communications.

“We use a double-wheel sampling system to put the agent onto a probe, which is connected to the MM1 and allows really fast analysis,” LCpl Conner continued.

“The vehicle can also take in air samples and we have a met mast that tells us wind direction, speed and any other information about the weather, which affects where the chemical could end up.

“It gives the scientists all the information they need.”

Once fed back to the experts at the MoD’s Porton Down labs in the UK, further tests can be carried out before wider defence benefits from the intelligence.

“This technology allows us to send the information to whoever requires it and even to the prime minister’s desk,” said LCpl Conner.

If there is a need for this Serviceman or his colleagues to dismount their vehicles, they don their charcoal-lined protective suits and respirators before carrying out safety drills such as checking for IEDs with a Vallon.

It may sound like an unlikely scenario, but last month alone 25 chemical-filled rockets were fired at Peshmerga forces in northern Iraq and a criminal gang tried to sell 1.5kg of uranium in Georgia worth more than £2 million on the black market.

So with the prospect of terrorist organisations adopting similar tactics, the Army is preparing to react.

On the arid moon-like terrain of Jordan’s Al Quwayrah region, the troops of Falcon Squadron were put to the test in various chemical attack scenarios.

Should the UK or its citizens ever suffer a toxic strike, these soldiers will be primed and ready to swoop. ■



1. Meteorological mast
2. Sample tube housing
3. Rubber glove
4. Sample box to keep evidence
5. Probe
6. Double-wheel sampling system
7. Ground temperature sensor
8. Tongs



GAMES MASTERS

'You showed your families, your friends and yourselves just how far you've come'

Prince Harry



Athletes shine on Invictus stage

THE second Invictus Games proved to be the perfect illustration of how sport can inspire injured and wounded personnel as they travel along the road to recovery.

Staged in Orlando, Florida, the week-long spectacle built on the success of the inaugural event in London as almost 500 competitors from 14 different nations tested themselves across an array of athletic disciplines.

The stateside showdown was particularly fruitful for the UK team, whose contingent of 108 Servicemen and women returned with a healthy haul of 131 medals.

But the tally only formed part of the story and for many athletes simply making it to the start line, and then competing, was victory in itself – a point illustrated by the rousing reception given to Jordan's Ulfat Al-Zwiri during her determined bid to complete the 100 metres dash.

The athlete only started practising in a race wheelchair in the days leading up to the event and was keen to battle it out against a field of seven fully-fit

opponents – despite having limited use of her hands.

The British squad highlighted the shared spirit that existed between the nations as they loaned eight wheelchairs to participants from different countries, while US swimmer Sgt Elizabeth Marks donated one of her gold medals to the staff at Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire, who saved her life two years earlier.

The Games are the brainchild of Prince Harry, who recognised that sport can boost self-confidence and help empower people psychologically.

The former Army Air Corps officer attended every day of last month's extravaganza and praised the efforts of all athletes at the closing ceremony.

He said: "The competition has been fierce with performances of the highest international standard across a number of events.

"What has inspired me is the courage to make it to the start line, to make it to the field or to dive into the pool, motivated by the goal of giving your all – medal or no medal.

"You showed your families, your friends and yourselves just how far you've come, regardless of the result."

Words: Richard Long Pictures: PO(Phot) Dez Wade, RN and Sgt Ralph Merry, RAF



ROAD TO RIO

A NUMBER of UK athletes used the Invictus Games as a key proving ground ahead of this summer's Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Sprinter Dave Henson, a former captain in the Royal Engineers, took three seconds off his personal best as the double amputee dominated the field in the IT2 200 metres.

His time of 25.04sec proved to be the fastest in the world this year and the gold was one of 20 medals won by the UK squad on the track in Orlando.

"I felt good, I felt strong and comfortable," Henson said afterwards. "I've been out here for a little while and my training's all been going really well so happily everything was where it needed to be."

Prince Harry later described his performance as "world class" but the former officer was quick to highlight the team ethos within the group, rather than focusing on individual achievement.

He added: "This is one big family, everybody's in it together, when you cross the finish line everyone celebrates each other's success.

"That comes in different forms, it might be the person who's managed to get round the 400 metres or it might be the guy who's won a gold medal. We're all very much here for each other."

Powerlifter Micky Yule, who has already qualified for Rio, was another to thrive in Florida and produced a sensational effort to secure gold in the men's lightweight competition.

His 190kg lift was the highlight of a spectacular performance by the British team, who claimed a total of six medals in the competition.

"That lift was quite cheeky," the former staff sergeant in the Royal Engineers said. "I think the crowd helped me get it up. It flew off the chest and I felt brilliant."

"It is a massive personal best for me in that weight division; I got caught up in the moment and used that to lift big."

The cycling also proved to be keenly contested with ex-soldier and Team GB para cyclist Jaco van Gass battling Craig Preece, who served with the Royal Engineers, on the road in the IRB2 class.

The former triumphed in the time trial but Preece – who also won gold on the track in the 1,500 metres – gained revenge in the circuit race, where he completed 16 laps of the course in 35min 10.8sec.

"I felt quite slow so I was surprised by my overall time," van Gass said after his victory. "It is great to be here and the atmosphere is fantastic." ■



'I think the crowd helped me get it up. It flew off the chest and I felt brilliant'

Powerlifter Micky Yule



Clockwise from top left, Inspirational in Orlando: Veteran Jennifer Warren, Micky Yule, Jaco van Gass and Craig Preece, Gareth Paterson and David Wiseman compete at the Invictus Games in Florida

Left: Craig Preece with a US veteran after picking up the gold in the men's 1500 IT1



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ADVANCE



Pictures: Soldier Archive and Sgt Rupert Frere, RLC

3 Like every British monarch since 1660, the Queen is company commander of The Queen's Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. The actual officer commanding, who is a serving major, is therefore uniquely called the "captain". Soldiers from this unit have particular privileges and responsibilities because of this and the camp colour of the company is traditionally buried with each monarch as a mark of the link.



4 Every man and woman serving in today's Army has vowed to serve Queen Elizabeth by name, except **three who attested to her father King George VI**. These are three field marshals, who never retire. The Duke of Edinburgh before the war, Lord Bramall in 1942 and Lord Vincent of Coleshill in 1951.



1 The Queen is the first female British sovereign to have served in the Armed Forces. As Princess Elizabeth she reported for duty in the Auxiliary Territorial Service at their base in Camberley. There she learned the workings of the Bedford staff car and Army trucks, and she is still an accomplished driver today.



2 In the event of a casualty, Her Majesty is one of the first to be notified. Since coming to the throne in 1952, every military death and injury has been drawn to her attention within hours of it becoming known.



5 All medals and medal ribbons are passed by the Queen for approval before they are struck, woven and distributed or awarded. All medals are given according to rules issued in Her Majesty's name and decorations for acts of bravery are subject to investiture by a member of the royal family.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

What you might **NOT** know about the head of the Armed Forces

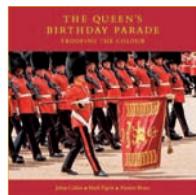
All uniform belongs to the Queen

ER

6 No colours, standards, guidons or regimental badges can be used until the Queen has seen and approved the design. Each one is planned by the regiment or corps and then discussed with Her Majesty's inspector of regimental colours, who is Garter King of Arms and works at the College of Arms. Some matters are passed to the Lord Lyon King of Arms, in Scotland. The final design is then precisely painted by heraldic artists and sent to Her Majesty who writes and signs the painting "approved ER" to make it usable.



8 It was the Queen's wish that a commemorative emblem be granted to the next of kin of all Servicemen and women killed on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism. Holding her name, the Elizabeth Cross acknowledges an unfathomable national debt.



Brig Alastair Bruce of Crionaich's book, *The Queen's Birthday Parade: Trooping the Colour*, is out now



7 All uniform belongs to the Queen and this is why orders and discipline place such emphasis on wearing it correctly as a reflection of the UK's highest standards. No additions can be made without strict permission and no foreign honours may be added without special permission, unless they are already covered by a document called the Order of Wear.



IN the month of the Queen's official 90th birthday, as soldiers prepare for Trooping the Colour, royal expert Brig Alastair Bruce of Crionaich outlines **8** top facts about Her Majesty and the military of today

“We went to the cemetery and the first grave was one of our soldiers. It broke me up.”

Ernie Prior
Resident of The Royal Star & Garter Homes

Monte Cassino was one of the Second World War's toughest and bloodiest battles in Western Europe. When ex-trooper Ernie Prior returned there to visit the Allied cemetery, the first grave he came across was a soldier from his regiment. The memories are still vivid in his mind all these years later.

Today, Ernie needs specialist nursing and therapeutic care so that he can remain independent and enjoy life. However, as a charity, The Royal Star & Garter Homes can only continue to care for Ernie with your help.

This Armed Forces Day, show your support for Ernie and others like him by making a donation to The Royal Star & Garter Homes today.



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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.

”

‘Reservists far from having parity’

IN July 2013 the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Mshl Sir Stuart Peach, announced that reforms would be introduced to bring about greater parity between Reservists and their Regular counterparts but there are still some major anomalies.

In 2014 I deployed to Canada to fill a vacant role in our paired Regular battalion.

We were there for six weeks and my colleagues were rightly compensated for their time away from home.

But because I had volunteered for the training I was not allowed to receive longer separation allowance (LSA), as laid down by the Reserve Forces Act.

However, the spirit and intent of this reimbursement is defined in JSP 752 with the following statement: "Payment recognises the disadvantages of separation caused when return to the duty station at weekends or on stand down is precluded by either the nature or location of the duty. It also provides some support for those who are voluntarily separated from their immediate family."

So why is a Reservist any less separated than the Regular soldier when he or she is deployed or on exercise?

Also, I postponed or sub-contracted my civilian work, meaning I suffered financially too; I accept this as a consequence of service but the disadvantage is still very real.

Furthermore, now that I've taken up a full-time Reserve service (home commitment) contract I am not eligible for the home to duty travel allowance (HDT), unlike my Regular and part-time Reserve counterparts.

This is another example of the inequality in regulations that makes my contribution feel less valued. – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, responds: Reservists are eligible for LSA in line with their Regular counterparts providing they meet the regulations on qualifying separation.

For example, those on additional duties commitments may receive the payment if they are away for periods of seven consecutive days or more.

Had you gone to Batus on that footing, you would have qualified for it.

However, you deployed on voluntary training and other duties (VTOD) and the voluntary part of the tasking means you were not entitled to that allowance.

The aim of LSA, as set out in JSP 752, is "to support and improve retention by compensating those personnel experiencing separation over and above that compensated for by the X-Factor



element within basic pay".

In other words, LSA aims to reimburse for either an involuntary separation from a permanent residence or duty station or voluntary separation when assigned to a different theatre from the family home.

VTOD fits neither of these circumstances; you weren't assigned, you were attached so mobilisation had not taken place.

And, critically, you chose to attend. Regular troops don't have that choice.

Regarding HDT, the Ministry of Defence retains a unique legacy agreement with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for soldiers to receive this as a tax-exempt allowance.

The rationale and justification for this

is under almost constant review.

Regular soldiers are eligible because they are required to be mobile at all times and have limited choice at best over deciding their work address.

Reserve troops are included because HMRC recognises they have already travelled the national average of nine miles commuting at their own expense for their civilian employment and should not bear extra travel overheads.

FTRS(HC) personnel are not eligible because of their non-mobile status and inherent discretion over where they live.

These policies are being reviewed and a new project has started looking at the full range of commitments and the terms and conditions related to each one.

EXTENDED WAIT FOR LONG SERVICE MEDAL

● I READ an article in 2015 announcing that the Reserves will be rewarded for their commitment with a post-nominal decoration while Regulars would soon receive a new long service medal.

I have seen the "VR" post nominals being used by Reservists but there have been no further details of the new decoration.

The defence secretary stated that 15 years of service is a significant commitment and we should have an honour that rewards it, regardless of rank.

Is that dedication valued enough for the military to bother with this new medal? – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig John Donnelly, Head of Army Personnel Services Group, replies: The MoD continues to work on introducing the Regular Forces Long Service Medal based on 15 years' service in the Regulars and applicable to all ranks.

As this new decoration will replace the prestigious Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, it is important that it should be a worthy replacement and properly reflects the significant commitment made by members of the Regular Armed Forces.

You can expect an announcement in the next few months.

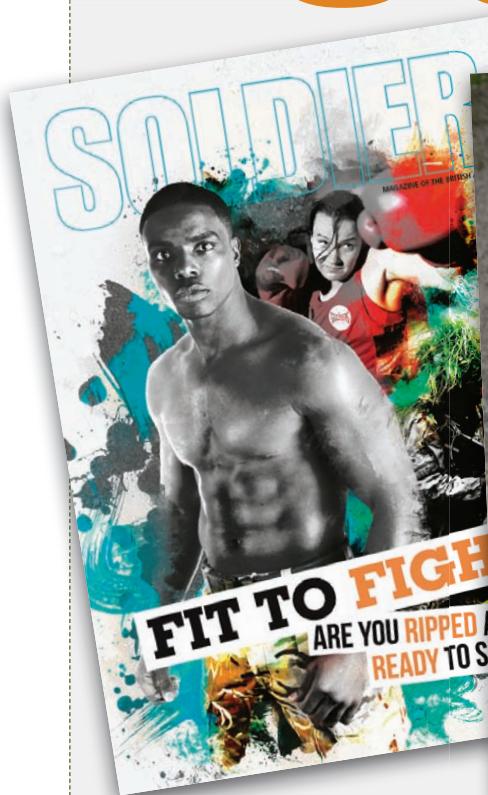
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RANT OF THE MONTH



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WE SAID...



Something we're not covering? DM us and let us know what you'd like to see in the magazine.

YOU SAID...

Rich Cooper The horrendous condition of married quarters from Carillion and poor food quality produced by Sodexo, which the head shed have placed a media blackout on. And the stealth pay cut that many in the Armed Forces have received.

You won't, of course, because you are accountable to the same head shed and fear that telling the truth would jeopardise your unique placement with the finest armed force in the world.

We are living in an Orwellian society.

“
COMMAND
SERGEANT
MAJORS
SHOULD BE
ABOLISHED
”



Benefits of being hitched

I AM over 37 years old, single and have recently purchased my own home but I will be posted away in the next few months.

As a result, I will have to move into Army accommodation again and pay for that as well as my mortgage.

However, I can't understand why I'm not eligible for the same benefits as married personnel in my situation.

They receive the over-37 package too but don't pay for Service housing.

In many cases they will have two incomes and so be in a financially stronger position than me.

Where's the logic in that? – **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Chris Ghika, Director Personnel Capability, responds: The over-37 package supports the domestic stability of personnel who elect to serve unaccompanied late in their careers.

It assists with the cost of settling the individual's family into a residence in the UK and eligibility is dependent on being married and/or having primary parental responsibility for a child.

In recent years a greater number of personnel have sought to become homeowners and the Army's policy for applying a waiver to single living accommodation charges and its substitutes is under review.

The aim is to change the way in which this housing is provided, promoting more choice.

This is likely to include provision to encourage home ownership earlier in a career.

While this does not solve your issue in the short term, I hope it reassures you that we are working hard to make all allowances relevant to soldiers' needs.

CONFUSED BY LEADERSHIP CODE

● I FAIL to understand why the promotion and delivery of the Army's leadership code and its values and standards are so often devolved from officers to the command sergeant majors and the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

These two excellent charters should be upheld, furthered and disseminated by the Army's leaders – its officers.

Padres should stick to pastoral care and spiritual guidance.

Command sergeant majors, who without the leadership code to promote are redundant, should be abolished and employed far more gainfully as late entry officers. – **Name and address supplied.**

Army Sgt Maj, WO1 Glenn Haughton, replies: This is very much the business of officers but some of them are lucky enough to have a command sergeant major to assist in delivering the charters.

These senior NCOs are able to provide a soldier's perspective, have years of service under their belts and an extensive job specification that covers many areas.

I rely heavily on their experience and feedback to ensure the message I give to the chief of the general staff and the

executive committee of the Army board is accurate, honest and evidence based.

Rev Prof Philip McCormack, S01 Ethics,

HQ ARTD, also replies: Chaplains are tasked with providing spiritual support, pastoral care and moral guidance to all, irrespective of religion or belief.

Their ministerial formation and theological training, in combination with practical experience in civilian ministry gained before military service, offers the chain-of-command a capability resource ideally suited in assisting, promoting and explaining the principles concerned.



‘It’s time to cut the Army’s hair policy’

UNDERSTAND the importance of the Army’s dress standards but I fail to comprehend why we continue to hang on to outdated rules with regard to beards.

In our multicultural society many soldiers have facial hair and other features such as dreadlocks for religious or cultural reasons.

During recent conflicts we had many troops who fought unshaven and their appearance didn’t affect discipline, performance or the Army’s reputation.

It seems to me the main reason for not allowing beards is related to wearing CBRN kit but with an increasing diversity of soldiers in front-line units how will this work?

Let us continue to strive to be the best but at the same time realise that what was acceptable many years ago may no longer be relevant. – Maj Paul Lamont, RE.

Brig John Donnelly, Head of Army Personnel Services Group, responds: The Service has set standards for dress and appearance which are articulated in Army general administrative instructions and Queen’s regulations.

These provide a common framework and a smart and disciplined appearance for the general public, conveying the image of reliability and dependability.

As with other aspects of life within the military environment, these directions do



tend towards the conservative and are designed to be easily understood.

The common threads running through all the regulations centre on smartness, uniformity and practicality.

The term “beard” can mean many different styles and giving personnel free rein in the matter would not sit comfortably within our rules.

Exemptions for cultural or religious reasons can be made by commanding officers but the Service enforces the instructions for both health and safety and operational purposes – those using CBRN kit must be clean-shaven, regardless.

This is not to say these standards will never change, but at present there are no plans to alter them.

Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

Rubbish assignment

ON a recent visit to Tidworth I was surprised to see a large group of soldiers conducting a litter sweep in the town centre.

You could view this as giving back to the local community, perhaps by way of some reciprocation of the Armed Forces Covenant, but at a time when the Army is unable to recruit and retain enough soldiers I wonder whether this represented a good external or internal message.

Council tax is used to provide the services that keep the streets clean, and Tidworth is no exception.

This activity didn’t create a favourable image of the military in my opinion and I doubt it raised the soldiers’ morale.

I would like to understand the rationale behind the sweep and what consideration was given to the impression it would create. – Maj Jim Vincent, RLC.

Col Toby Bridge, Commander, Headquarters South West, Tidworth, replies: Military personnel have been involved in litter clearance at many of the garrisons in the region.

At Hullavington, for example, we worked with Wiltshire Council to pick up around 1,800 bags of rubbish weighing more than 14 tonnes.

This took place as a part of the “Clean for the Queen” initiative, a nationwide civic effort associated with the monarch’s 90th birthday celebrations.

You may have only noticed soldiers picking up litter but supporting contractors Aspire, Sodexo, Babcock and Gavin



Jones were all involved along with civilians, so this was very much a community effort.

The garrison and regional headquarters consider this activity to be a valid and useful one.

Elsewhere, villages and volunteer groups have taken it upon themselves to clean up the rubbish that individuals drop without any thought for the environment.

I am sure you will agree that such action very much benefits the local population, of which soldiers are a part.

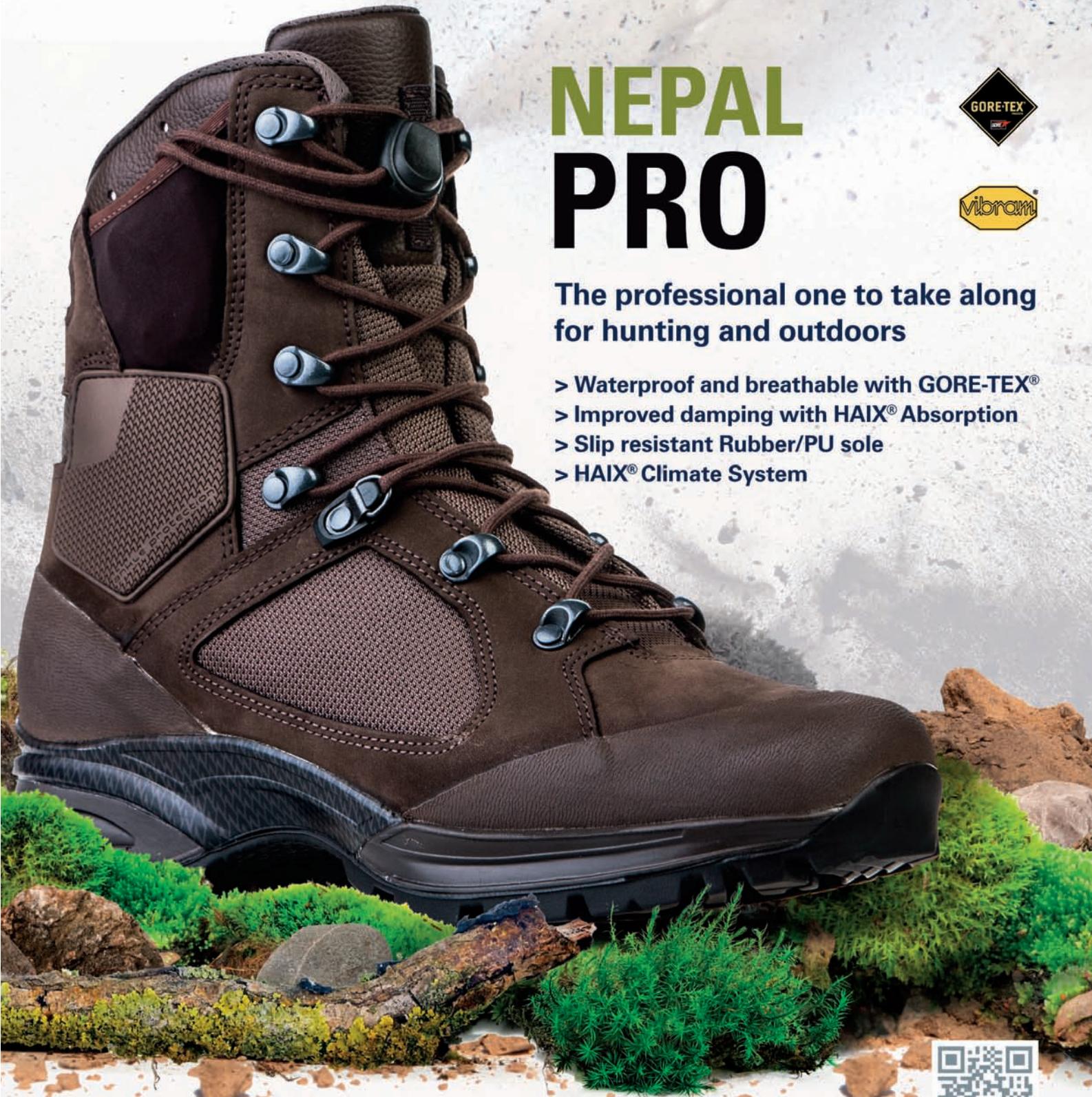


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BULLET POINTS

BITE-SIZED DATA TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen Richard Nugee, formerly Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel Capability), appointed **Chief of Defence People**

CAREERS

The Officers' Association will hold its second northern employment symposium on June 22 at Network Rail's York training centre, Cinder Lane, off Leeman Road, York, YO26 4AB from 1400 to 2030. For details and to register visit www.officerassociation.org.uk/events

COMPETITIONS

Spine line winners: Capt Stephen Gibbons, Ashby de la Launde, Lincolnshire; Jennifer Blackburn, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

DIARY

June 18: East Anglia D-Day Memorial Ride on behalf of ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Starting from Cpl Budd VC Gymnasium, Colchester. Registration from 1000, with first off 1300. For further details visit www.the-dday-memorial-ride.co.uk

June 25: Armed Forces Day 2016. For details of events near you visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk

June 29-January 2018: Wounded, Conflict, Casualties and Care at the Science Museum London. The exhibition explores the pioneering innovations of the First World War and parallels to the treatment and care of soldiers in modern conflicts. Visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/wounded for more information.

June 30-January 8, 2017: Real to Reel: A Century of War Movies at the Imperial War Museum London. Marking the 100th anniversary of the release of *The Battle of the Somme*. Adults £10; children (15 and under) £5; concessions £7.

July 1: Over The Top. Remember the Battle of the Somme and watch football at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford. Some 20 teams – military

and civilian, male and female, adults and youth – will play each other to honour the sacrifices made by local men from the South East, who 100 years earlier kicked footballs "over the top" to encourage an advance. Chelsea, Southampton and Aldershot are among the clubs taking part. For details email Fred Hughes via se-comms@rfca.org.uk

August 6-7: Military and Flying Machines Show, Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Upminster, Essex. Military vehicles, living history displays and trade stalls plus fairground and 1940s fashion show. For details visit www.militaryandflyingmachines.org.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.armedforceshumanists.org.uk

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

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

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

Army Libraries: 01252 340094

Army Ornithological Society: www.armybirding.org.uk

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

Big White Wall: www.bigwhitewall.com

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

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

Career Transition Partnership:

020 7469 6661

Children's Education Advisory Service:

01980 618244; enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk

Combat Stress:

01372 841600; www.combatstress.org.uk

Erskine:

0141 814 4569; www.erskine.org.uk

Family Escort Service:

020 7463 9249

Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity: 07713 752901;

www.felixfund.org.uk

Forcesline:

UK – 0800 731 4880; Germany – 0800 1827 395; Cyprus – 080 91065;

Falklands – #6111; from operational theatres – Paradigm Services *201; from anywhere in the world (CSL operator will call back) – 0044 1980 630854

Forces Pension Society:

020 7820 9988

Help for Heroes:

0845 673 1760 or 01980 846 459; www.helpforheroes.org.uk

Heroes Welcome:

www.heroeswelcome.co.uk

HighGround:

www.highground-uk.org.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

Medal Office:

94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

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

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

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

Poppyscotland:

0131 557 2782; www.poppyScotland.org.uk

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

Remount:

01451 850 341; www.remount.net

Royal British Legion:

0808 802 8080; www.britishlegion.org.uk

Royal British Legion Scotland:

0131 550 1583; www.legionscotland.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:

01622 795900; www.rbl.co.uk

Scottish Veterans' Residences:

0131 556 0091; www.svronline.org

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

Veterans Welfare Service:

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

SSAFA:

0845 1300 975; www.ssafa.org.uk

Stoll (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation):

020 7385 2110; info@stoll.org.uk; www.stoll.org.uk

The Not Forgotten Association:

020 7730 2400 www.nfassociation.org

The Poppy Factory:

020 8940 3305; www.poppyfactory.org

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

The Veterans Charity:

01753 653772; info@veteranscharity.org.uk

uk4u Thanks!:

01798 812081; www.uk4u.org

INTELLIGENCE

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

ABN 59/16: Establishment of Home Command

ABN 58/16: Army LGBT Conference 2016 maximising talent in the workplace

ABN 57/16: First World War commemoration media opportunities

ABN 56/16: *Land Environment 2035 Agile Warrior report*

ABN 55/16: Additional CLM part 3 courses

ABN 54/16: Anonymous sifting for civilian recruitment

ABN 53/16: Army orienteering

ABN 52/16: Tactical hearing protection system – dismounted close combat user

ABN 51/16: Tactical hearing protection system – specialist user

ABN 50/16: 2016 Army families continuous attitude survey

ABN 49/16: The 2016 Gems campaign, “Be Frank” good ideas required across the Army

ABN 48/16: Performance management 2015/16 end of year process for civilian appraisals

ABN 47/16: The establishment of director Reserves

DIN 2016DIN01-084: Senior officer’s course 129 – Nato Defence College Rome – August 29, 2016 to February 3, 2017 (inclusive)

DIN 2016DIN01-083: Pre-assignment recce visits

DIN 2016DIN01-082: Force preparation for deploying and high readiness Reserve personnel

DIN 2016DIN01-081: EU referendum – guidance for members of the MoD community wishing to vote

DIN 2016DIN01-080: Removal of feedback at sift stage of civilian recruitment

DIN 2016DIN01-079: Service Police response to joint units and overseas locations without dedicated Service Police assets

DIN 2016DIN01-078: Civilian operational deployment and operational leave

DIN 2016DIN01-077: Introduction of the code of practice for medical assistants and formation of the governing body for the medical assistant cadre

DIN 2016DIN01-076: Volunteers for service with 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery, Royal Artillery

DIN 2016DIN01-075: Uniform tax relief and tax relief for laundry expenses

DIN 2016DIN01-074: Arrangements for access to the NHS Education for Scotland portfolio for registered nurses working in the Defence Medical Services

DIN 2016DIN01-073: Introduction of a Joint Personnel Administration system competence to identify concurrent civilian and military employment for Reservists

DIN 2016DIN01-072: Employment of general duties medical officers

DIN 2016DIN01-071: Defence representation at LGBT Pride in London parade 2016

DIN 2016DIN01-070: The Sir Colin Terry Award for Excellence in Airworthiness 2015/16

DIN 2016DIN01-069: DMS dental care for deploying and high readiness Reserve personnel

DIN 2016DIN01-068: Revised mess and single accommodation charges for MoD civilians temporarily residing in Service messes in the UK

DIN 2016DIN01-067: Staff specifically recruited for overseas service – annual uplift to monthly accommodation charges

DIN 2016DIN01-066: Armed Forces transition fair Cardiff, June 23, 2016

DIN 2016DIN01-065: Recruitment – the introduction of anonymous sifting in civilian recruitment

DIN 2016DIN01-064: Dental treatment rates overseas

DIN 2016DIN01-063: Selection of Army Medical Services command sergeant major

DIN 2016DIN01-062: Civilian attendance at the advanced command and staff course

DIN 2016DIN02-003: Requirement to operate business continuity management in defence

DIN 2016DIN03-021: Establishment of the Joint Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities Group

DIN 2016DIN03-020: Defence lessons policy

DIN 2016DIN03-019: The provision of temporary landing zone safety officer training

DIN 2016DIN03-017: Defence strategic communication and the role of military strategic effects

DIN 2016DIN03-016: Strategic mobility asset prioritisation

DIN 2016DIN03-015: New quality assurance regime for de-icer and anti-icing fluids

DIN 2016DIN03-013: UK referendum on membership of the European Union – guidance

DIN 2016DIN04-086: Minister Acquisition Awards 2016 calling notice for nominations

DIN 2016DIN04-084: Defence support to national citizen service

DIN 2016DIN04-083: Information regarding the Armed Forces blood grouping service

DIN 2016DIN04-082: Declaration of obsolete light and medium ground-based intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance

DIN 2016DIN04-081: Combat helmets returned to stores

DIN 2016DIN04-080: Notification of demanding process change to contract DC/4060 industrial eyewear

DIN 2016DIN04-079: 30 Metre integrated firing device

DIN 2016DIN04-078: Provision of multimodal UK and worldwide commercial surface movements service

DIN 2016DIN04-076: Immediate withdrawal of Spyglass tripod and angulation head

DIN 2016DIN04-075: Intended out-of-service date – declaration of obsolescent hand tool

DIN 2016DIN04-074: Use and management of non-Service pattern light weapons

DIN 2016DIN04-073: Declaration of obsolete air publications for ground support equipment

DIN 2016DIN04-072: Intended out-of-service date – declaration of obsolete hand tool

DIN 2016DIN04-071: Declaration of obsolescence of JIM LR and all

associated spares

DIN 2016DIN05-019: Use of SHA-1 hashing algorithm in MoD information systems and applications

DIN 2016DIN05-018: Relocation of RHQ Special Investigation Branch Regiment, Royal Military Police and HQ 4 Investigation Company, SIB Regt, RMP

DIN 2016DIN05-017: Defence airspace and air traffic management – the defence approach to a changing domestic and international regulatory environment

DIN 2016DIN06-012: Claims and insurance provisions for the use of MoD vehicles in the UK and overseas and confirmation of motor liability cover

DIN 2016DIN06-011: Guidance on bringing a common-law claim for compensation against MoD

DIN 2016DIN06-010: *JSP 426, vol 3, leaflet 2 MoD Aerodrome Rescue and Firefighting Services*

DIN 2016DIN07-071: Defence recovery capability employment training courses schedule, April 2016 to March 2017

DIN 2016DIN07-070: Sikh moral leadership and development conference, May 12-14, 2016

DIN 2016DIN07-069: Access to Rosetta Stone language learning licences for Army personnel

DIN 2016DIN07-068: Army undergraduate opportunity: Open University BA (hons) in international studies for academic year 2016/17

DIN 2016DIN07-067: Unit custody staff course and CPERS detention officer course

DIN 2016DIN07-066: 2016 cyber operational awareness course programme

DIN 2016DIN07-065: Spouse/partner language training for overseas postings

DIN 2016DIN07-064: UKSF selection application instructions – 22 SAS, SBS, SRR and 18 SR

CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

INTELLIGENCE CONTINUED

DIN 2016DIN07-063: Access to aerosystems course projects and papers

DIN 2016DIN07-062: Higher education opportunities: Higher defence studies programme

DIN 2016DIN07-061: Refund of engineering professional body fees

DIN 2016DIN07-060: 77 Bde Military Psychological Operations Course and Civil Affairs course

DIN 2016DIN07-059: Defence culture/human terrain courses for training year 2016/17

DIN 2016DIN07-058: Introduction of online training for defence medical information capability programme users

DIN 2016DIN07-057: Army trainer capability – implementation of defence policy

DIN 2016DIN08-004: Non-entitled accommodation rates

DIN 2016DIN10-024: British Army motorsports event – Magnum Spirit 2016

DIB20/16: Publication of the Service complaints ombudsman's annual report for 2015

DIB19/16: The new Armed Forces covenant website

DIB18/16: New employment model: Officers talent management

DIB17/16: Quick reference guide: Changes to Service personnel take-home pay from April 1, 2016



REUNIONS

The Army Lesbian, Gay and Transgender Forum summer ball at St David's Spa and Hotel in Cardiff on July 9 at 1830. Drinks reception followed by three-course meal, guest speakers, entertainment and charity raffle. Serving personnel and veterans welcome. Tickets, £50, from Sgt Alastair Smith on 07970 785913.

The Queen's Own Highlanders grand reunion gathering on June 11-12 at Cameron Barracks, Inverness. For more information contact the RHQ on 01463 224380 or visit www.cabarfeidh.com/gathering2016

Dover Grammar School CCF 100-year anniversary dinner on July 9. All ex-cadets are welcome to attend. For further information email Capt Matt Peall via 2ic-dgs-ccf@armymail.mod.uk

Royal Green Jackets 50th anniversary veterans' day on July 9 at ATR(W), Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester. Open to all past and present riflemen and their families. For full details contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or email roy.stanger787@mod.uk

26 Regiment, Royal Artillery Big Weekend Bash on July 23-24 at Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh. Open to all past and present members and their families. A parade and fun day on July 23 will be followed by a church service and lunches in the messes the following day. For further details on the events, travel queries and attendance, contact the QM, Maj Gary Leadbitter, via 26ra-qmdept-maint-qm@mod.uk

24 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers reunion on August 5-7 at the Waterfront Hotel, Brighouse, West Yorkshire. Members of the squadron who served between 1963 and 1965 at Kingshill Camp, Hoo and Aden are welcome to attend. For further information contact Tony Saunders on 0113 285 2621 or Alex Watson on 01484 715330.

The LG Groves Memorial Award ceremony will be held on September 6 in Somerset. All previous winners are invited to attend. Please contact Doug Fowler on 030679 88403



ROADSHOWS

The Army Engagement Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to its hi-tech roadshow. The event starts with a reception, is followed by a presentation, questions and culminates with refreshments. There will be a range of military personnel on hand to

answer any of your questions. Call 01276 412880 or email your name and address to armymediacom-aeg-mailbox@mod.uk with the event you want to attend.

June: 1, Leeds; 7, Grimsby; 8, Scunthorpe; 23, Cardiff; 29, Hereford

July: 14, Carmarthen; 19, Newcastle



SEARCHLINE

Former soldier John Linley, who served with 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, is calling for **Servicemen and women to submit their funny stories from life in operational theatres** with a view to having them published in a book. Details of name, rank and unit will be required, along with the location and timeframe of the incident. Email maclinley@hotmail.com

Trevor Kirkman is trying to trace **John Edward "Taffy" Davies, who is believed to have served with 302 Brigade in 1945.**

Anyone with information is asked to email enid.trevor@ntlworld.com

Suzanne Fernando is trying to trace any **photographs and video footage taken during the Queen Mother's visit to Guildford Barracks in 1991.** Email suzfernando@yahoo.co.uk

NO. 895

JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

TEN details have been changed in this photograph taken at the Babcock Trophy 2016 game between the Army and Royal Navy at Twickenham.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 895, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,**

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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 June issue. Usual rules apply.

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Runners up: Taff Watkins, Bangor, Co. Down and WO1 Craig Bradley, Swinton Barracks, Perham Down.



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Foreword by HM THE QUEEN

Messages from Prime Minister The Rt Hon David Cameron MP,
Prime Minister of Australia The Rt Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of New Zealand The Rt Hon John Key MP,
Singapore High Commissioner Ms Foo Chi Hsia.

The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association journal is £10.00
plus p&p, out in July 2016 and available from the Association website
www.nmbva.co.uk and horizonpublications.co.uk



THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION is part of a worldwide network. Membership is open to all who served in Her Majesty's Forces, the Commonwealth Forces, the Royal Federation of Malaya Police, the Civil Service, Saint John Ambulance and Auxiliary Forces during the Second World War, The Malayan Emergency and the Borneo, Indonesian Confrontation and thereafter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

village website for further information, including Elite Rugby (supported by Yorkshire Carnegie) and Netball (with Yorkshire Jets). www.sportsvillageqe.org. With the number of young people we have living on campus it is important that there is always a range of things to do in their spare time. This is the idea behind our new Activity Centre. Packed full of all the favourite things young people like. Combining outdoor energetic activities and challenges such as a huge climbing tower, assault course, trampolines, roller boating, go-karts, Segways and professionally built BMX track with indoor activities like electronic games, musical activities plus much more. Don't just take our word for it, pay us a visit and see for yourself.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

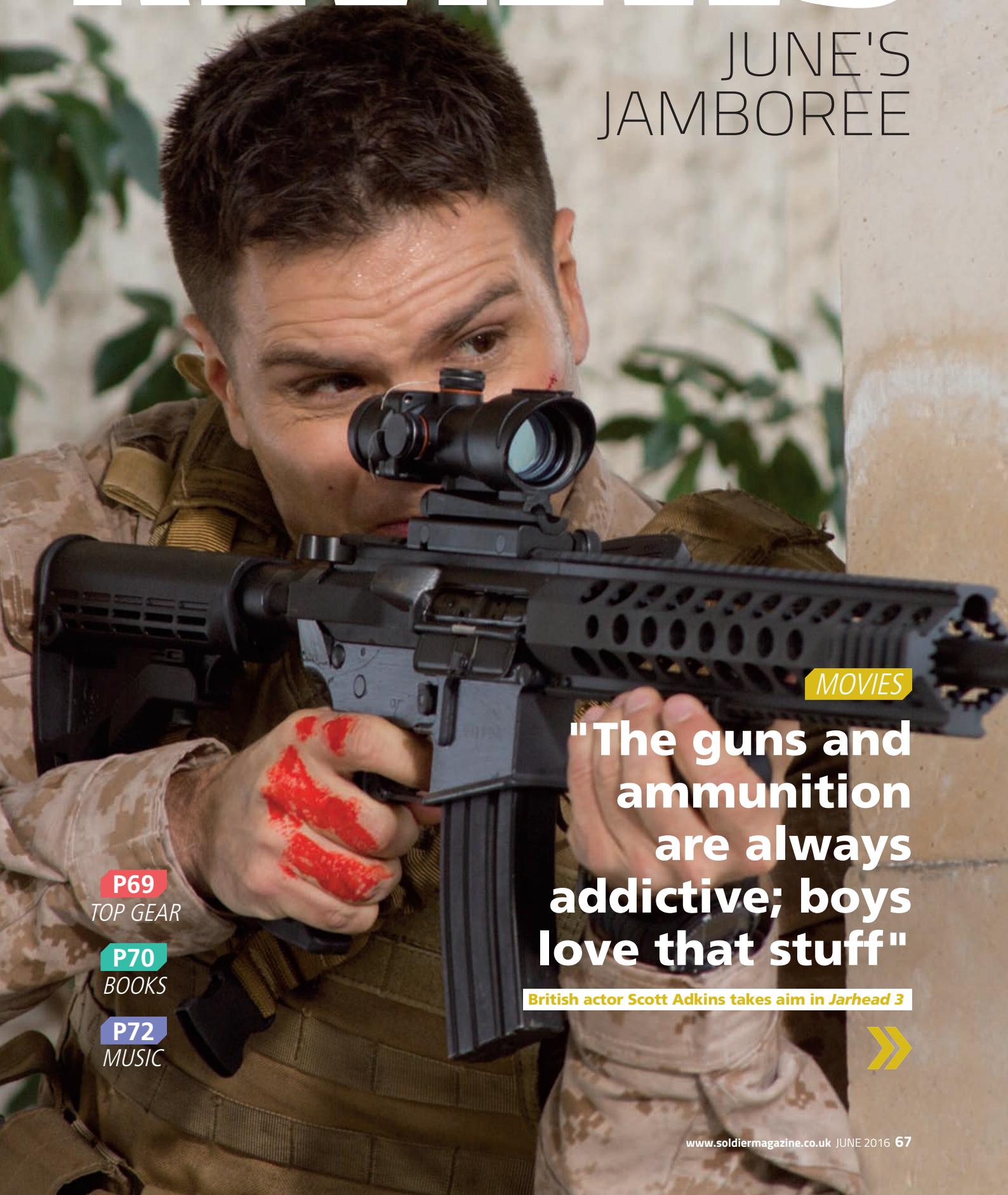
Why choose an independent school education for your child if you qualify for CEA? If you made a list, the same reasons would keep appearing. We think the list might include: happy children, academic results, a personalised approach, top quality teachers with specialised expertise, good discipline, latest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

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



REVIEWS

JUNE'S
JAMBOREE



MOVIES

"The guns and ammunition are always addictive; boys love that stuff"

British actor Scott Adkins takes aim in *Jarhead 3*

P69
TOP GEAR

P70
BOOKS

P72
MUSIC



MOVIES



AMONG military movie aficionados *Jarhead* is often held up as one of the greatest because of its true-to-life depiction of the Desert Storm conflict.

So a second sequel will no doubt intrigue many.

While the original title portrayed a specific operation in Iraq, highlighting how a soldier's job can involve lots of down time as well as full-blown fire-fighting, *Jarhead 3: The Siege* does not refer directly to a particular conflict.

The latest iteration is directed by Will Kaufman (*The Hit List*) and stars Charlie Weber (*How to Get Away with Murder*) and British actor Scott Adkins (*The Bourne Ultimatum*). It sees elite US Marine Corp Security Guards tasked to protect an American embassy in a seemingly safe Middle Eastern capital.

Cpl Evan Albright (Weber) is a new recruit hungry for action but finds himself bored playing video games while guarding the compound's gate.

Things take a dramatic turn when, under the tutelage of senior officer Gunnery Raines (Adkins), he finds his team heavily outgunned by a professional militia intent on killing an informant housed in the embassy.

After a slow beginning things ramp up with the noise and bullet count turned to maximum for the second half.

Here's what action-man Adkins had to say about the movie and his role in it...

Why do you think the *Jarhead* movies are a big hit with home viewers on DVD?

Well, in this case it's about having Scott Adkins on your television, isn't it? But if you've got a good TV, a good sound system and the kids are in bed they're perfect films to watch at home.

What physical preparation did you do for the role?

There wasn't a lot of time for that. It was only two weeks between finding out I was doing it and starting filming. The main thing for me was to work on the Texan accent and give the character a good backstory, although I've played military guys before so it wasn't like I had to do a lot of research into that side of it.

Raines is a bit of a renegade. Is that a part you enjoyed playing?

He's definitely a cool character and when I read the script I was like "oh man, I want to play this guy, I want to bring this guy to the screen". It's a really good part.

Do you have anything in common with him?

I understood him but I wouldn't say he's that similar to me. He's quite philosophical at times. I sort of based him on **Patrick Swayze's** character in *Point Break*. He's the leader but he's also been there and done that and he's a bit more spiritual about life.

What more can you tell us about him?

He's been in battles in Iraq and my backstory for him is that he's seen so much stuff and he's been in so many predicaments that his commanding officer has probably said to him "listen, I'm sick of seeing you in the war zone, you need to go and work in this embassy otherwise you're gonna end up dead". But of course Gunnery



JARHEAD 3
IS OUT NOW
ON DVD

Raines chooses the embassy in the worst country in the Middle East because he's itching to see a little more action if he can.

Was there much bonding between you and your castmates?

Yes. These marines are a unit and you look after the man next to you; that's their motto. We were friends and a team, and there were a few drinks down in the hotel lobby or we'd go out and have some food.

What did you most enjoy about making the film?

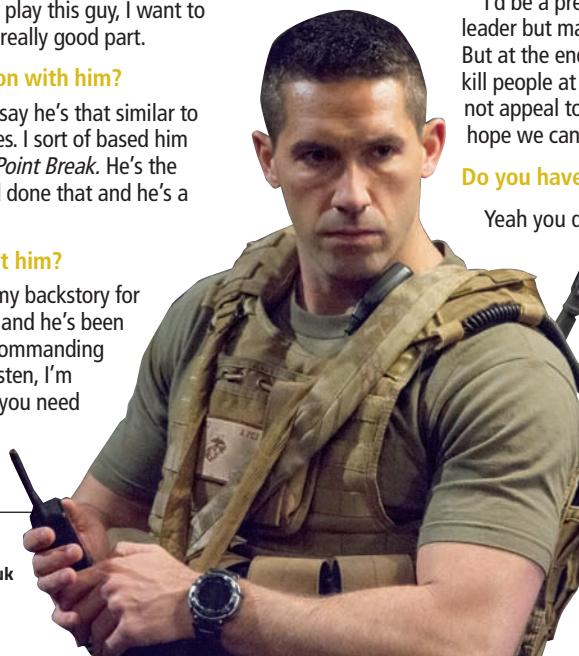
As I say, the guns and the ammunition are always addictive; boys love that stuff. And I really enjoyed working with the director Will Kaufman. He's from a military background so he's perfect for this kind of movie.

How do you think you'd fare in the military for real?

I'd be a pretty good soldier. I'm not sure I'm a born leader but maybe I'd be a really good lieutenant to have. But at the end of the day you're being sent out there to kill people at the risk of being killed yourself and that does not appeal to me. I salute the guys who do that and I just hope we can keep sending them out for the right reasons.

Do you have a shelf life as an action hero?

Yeah you do but I plan on breaking the rules on that one. Mind you, someone like **Stallone** is still going at it and I'll put 110 per cent into each action film I do. I hate using stunt doubles for anything. I'll do as much as I can until the producers say "no, you can't do that because you might kill yourself". ■



INTERVIEW: JOE CLAPSON



SOLDIER SELECTS

Trumbo
out June 20

If you ever grew up watching **John Wayne** or **Kirk Douglas** movies with your parents, don't miss this film. Talented screenwriter Dalton Trumbo and his colleagues are singled out as members of the Communist party and therefore traitors. The feature tracks how he and his fellow writers, with the help of families and some surprising allies, survived the accusations. What is most interesting is the political part Wayne played, and how Douglas bravely did what was best for the successful production of *Spartacus*. **Bryan Cranston** is astounding in bringing this amazing man to life. **Dame Helen Mirren** plays the viperous gossip columnist, Hedda Harper, who is his nemesis at every turn. It is a fascinating peek behind the scenes of Hollywood during the McCarthy era.

Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals

Hail, Caesar!
out July 11

This is definitely a turn-off-your-brain sort of movie. It promises so much but doesn't quite deliver. The cinematography is great with 1950s Hollywood film settings but the story is disjointed. The main premise is that movie fixer Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is on a quest to track down screen idol Baird Whitlock (George Clooney), who has been kidnapped and held to ransom, but this is lost in the myriad of confusing sub-plots only to return in a spectacularly silly set-piece ending. Having real characters in a fictional setting with below-average comedy does not make for a decent film.

Thor Elsson, civvy



PICK OF THE MONTH:

EYES
ON THE
HOME
FRONT

The slick security device you can control from your smartphone

► WHEN I opened up the box of the state-of-the-art Canary system it was lacking in any sort of paperwork.

Instead, a note advised me to go online and download instructions for this strangely named piece of kit.

A typical bloke, I immediately decided against this and thought "nah I'll just give it a go".

As an infantryman I am not at all tech savvy when it comes to electronic gadgets.

But I do run my life with my Android smartphone – a prerequisite for anyone looking to get the most from this household device.

The gadget works with both newer Android and Apple systems, so after installing its app – which effectively works as the control panel for the

various functions – I was away.

An audio jack allows a secure connection to be made with a specific phone during setup (although some models are Bluetooth-enabled apparently).

And after a few details are entered it is up and working in ten minutes. Simples.

Frankly, if I can do it at my age (a child of the swinging sixties) then anyone can.

I positioned this "spy-on-the-shelf" in my lounge which measures about 4.5 metres by 5.5 metres. The Canary's wide-angle camera covered virtually the whole room and down the hallway to my front door.

The video feed was then relayed live to my phone, albeit with a few seconds' delay.

The system can stream footage constantly or else activate an alert when movement is detected.

You can "arm", "disarm" or set it to "privacy", and adjust all the settings via your phone from absolutely anywhere providing that you have access to the web.





Users can also find out the temperature, humidity and air quality of whichever room it is in.

The Canary proves to be very handy for keeping an eye on what is going on at home while you are away or simply out of the room.

Should there be an "OMO" situation where a mate from another company pops round for a welfare check on the other half, for example, you could be pinged a message and set about recording crucial evidence for the prosecution.

There is even an alarm function where you can sound a 90-decibel siren to frighten off any intruders it may detect.

For the serious situations, however, a button allows you to remotely call the emergency services in whatever country the Canary is set up in.

So whether your requirement is genuine – or perhaps you are just a technology addict – this kit has the ability to please.

It has a night vision capability as well.

I have six-month-old twins so was able to deploy it as a baby monitor with both audio and visual coverage.

And if away on exercise or working in my man-cave, I can keep an eye on the family and check they are okay.

The Canary can easily be moved and repositioned, but is soon defeated by pulling out the plug or turning it against the wall.

I got away with spying on my other half for a week before she got wise to it.

Unfortunately, there is no battery back-up.

And the full range of services – including seven-day video backup – requires an additional subscription.



VERDICT:
Worth adding
to your
gadgetry
collection.
★★★★★

But I am happy enough using it with the basic free package.

All in all, this is a well made and useful bit of kit.

Aesthetically pleasing and discreet, it seems reasonably priced at £159.

With a bit of imagination it can be a lot of fun.

I would recommend it. ■

REVIEW: CSGT COLIN TESTER, PWRR



WIN!

A CANARY HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

IF like our reviewer you can think of some handy uses for a Canary, why not enter our competition to win one? To be in with a chance, just tell us what decade our aptly-named reviewer Sgt Tester was born in. Usual rules apply. Answers to the usual address or email comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Closing date: June 30

PICK OF THE MONTH:

2017: WAR WITH RUSSIA

General issues stark warning to the West

AN all-out war with Russia is not only likely but could take place as early as next year, according to a new book by the former deputy head of Nato in Europe.

2017 War With Russia by Gen Sir Richard Shirreff paints a grim picture of what could happen if Britain and her allies fail to take seriously the threat posed by Vladimir Putin.

Based on war-gaming scenarios from his time as deputy supreme allied commander Europe and as head of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, the title is a fictional take on the West's response to a Russian invasion of the Baltic states.

The plot may have all the ingredients of a Tom Clancy novel, but Shirreff insists that it is anything but far-fetched.

Speaking at the launch of the book he said: "The title is not understated and it's deliberately not understated because the purpose of writing this book is to prevent the most ghastly potential result taking place and that's of interest not just to Europe but to the wider world as well.

"I wanted to get the debate going. I want people to understand the dangers."

The retired officer argues Putin has signalled his intent clearly through "words and deeds", most notably his actions in Georgia, the Crimea and Ukraine.

Further evidence, according to Shirreff, is a recent major Russian exercise, in which its forces rehearsed the invasion of its Baltic neighbours and Sweden, Norway and Finland.

"Like it or not, these ideas, these plans are taking place now," he continued.

"The other chilling fact is that nuclear weapons are hard-wired into Russian defence thinking. Then it gets really serious and potentially existential."

Under this worse-case scenario, he suggests Nato would be unable to respond to an attack on one of its members and, faced with the threat of nuclear war, the alliance would collapse, decoupling America from Europe and changing the face of the world irrevocably.

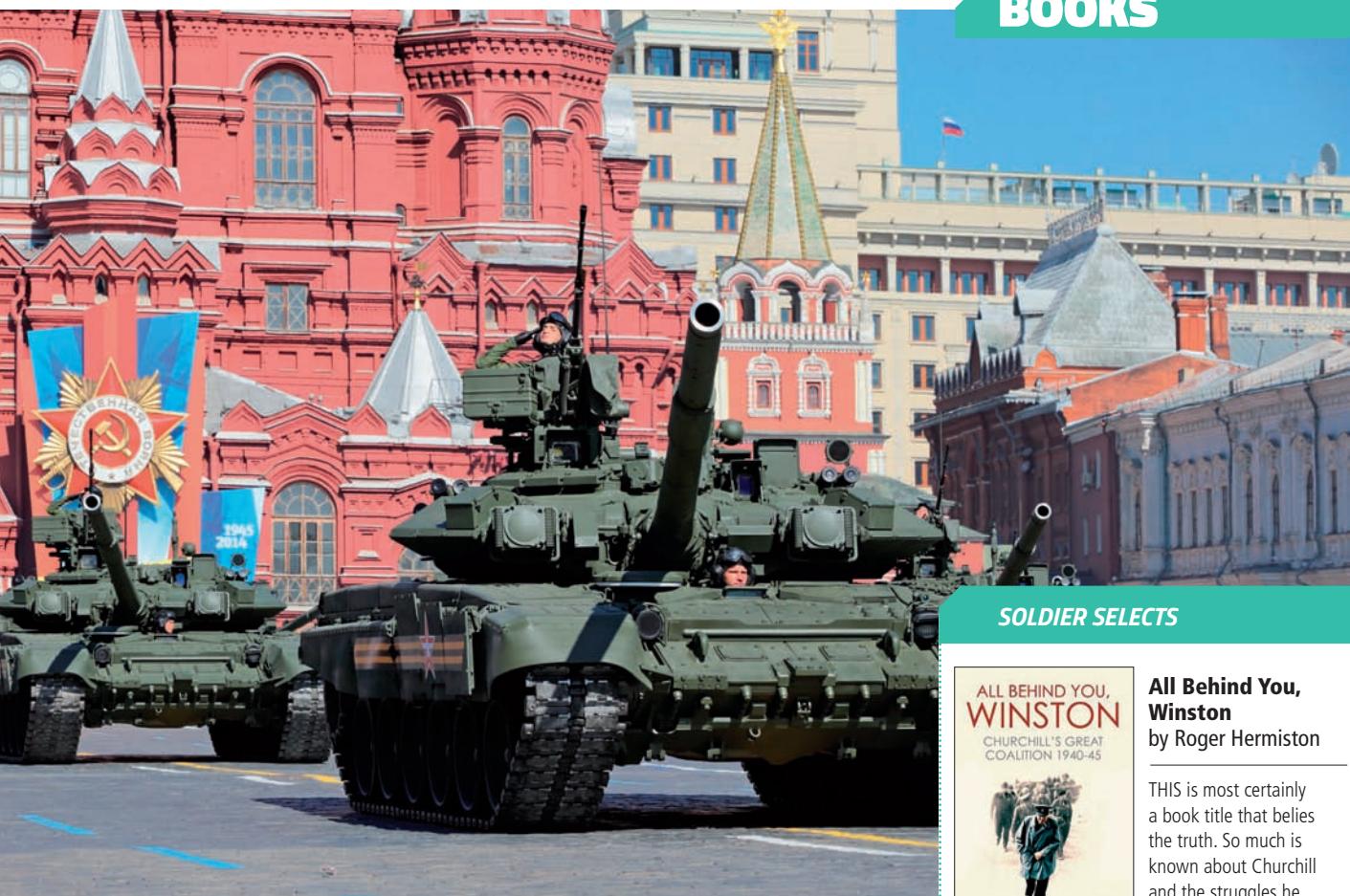
Serious stuff. But the former cavalryman thinks that this doomsday scenario can still be avoided.

"What needs to happen is a wake-up call. The way we ensure this dreadful scenario remains a fiction is to do what Nato has always done very effectively, which is to deter.

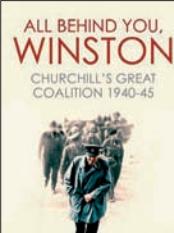
"In broad terms we need to raise the bar sufficiently high that there is simply no question of [Putin] trying this on and that means reinvesting in our defensive capability, not only within the UK.

"I think we'll see some important announcements out of the Warsaw summit





SOLDIER SELECTS

All Behind You, Winston
 by Roger Hermiston


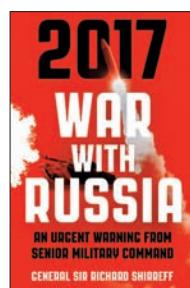
THIS is most certainly a book title that belies the truth. So much is known about Churchill and the struggles he faced during Britain's darkest hours that it is

almost unimaginable that there could still be more information out there. Roger Hermiston has proved otherwise, brilliantly examining the fraught relations within the most unlikely of coalition administrations and the relentless internal difficulties facing Churchill for five horrendous years. Somehow he managed to overcome all that was thrown at him – and not just by Hitler. This is a must for anyone interested in British wartime politics.

WO1 Dave Henley, Int Corps



2017 War With Russia by Gen Sir Richard Shirreff (Coronet) is out now, priced £20


Jutland 1916
 by Angus Konstam

USING vivid eye-witness accounts drawn from broad research, experienced naval writer Angus Konstam enlivens the well-known story of the Royal Navy's largest battle. His narrative of the night destroyer action is particularly illuminating and he gives the reader a plausible explanation of the German Admiral Scheer's second lunge at Jellicoe's battle line, leading to the battlecruisers' "death ride". His conclusions are less sure. The Grand Fleet's failure to win a second Trafalgar was not the only factor that led to the demise of British naval supremacy. But this account of Jutland is vivid and well told, bringing good insights to most aspects of the battle.

Dr Rodney Atwood, military historian

coming up shortly.

"But any form of deterrence based on the deployment of reserve forces is simply doomed to failure.

"I would urge Nato to ensure that they are not just token forces, but credible forces – land, sea and air – capable of sending a strong signal that we are prepared to fight for the Baltic states.

"That is the only way to resolve and reduce the risks."

So does he predict greater numbers of British personnel deployed in Eastern Europe in the near future?

"I hope so," he told *Soldier*.

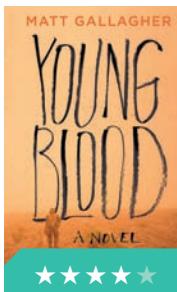
"I think they can expect to find themselves spending more time in the Baltic states, exercising and demonstrating the UK's willingness to support our allies.

"That's going to be important but – equally – I'm certain they will sample a whole range of experiences and activities which none of us could have foretold, which will continue to make serving under the Queen's colours as exciting and challenging as it has always been."

REVIEW: BECKY CLARK

VERDICT: Frighteningly plausible – enough to keep you up at night.




Youngblood
by Matt Gallagher

FORMER US Army captain and author, Matt Gallagher, delivers an excellent account of the daily struggles confronting a young officer ahead of the withdrawal from Iraq. As

well as living up to his heroic older brother, Jack Porter is trying to solve the mystery surrounding the murder of a US soldier and an affair with a local sheik's daughter. The novel transports the reader to Iraq to witness his daily struggles with corruption and the loneliness inherent in leadership and keeping secrets. This is an excellent, heartfelt novel about one man's personal battles during the Iraq War.

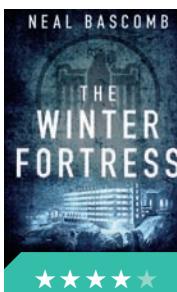
Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals


Pumpkin Flowers
by Matti Friedman

DURING the 90s, when the British Army was in the Balkans, the Israeli Defence Force was cutting about in Lebanon, learning lessons that we would soon be learning in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Matti Friedman tells his own story of fighting around the hill known as the "Pumpkin" – Israel's own Rorke's Drift. He also relates the experiences of Avi, a previous occupant of the station and of several mothers, who tried to get the Israeli government to change its strategy. Overall the book is a little disjointed and is really three short stories thrown into one, but this is an interesting tale of a little-known conflict.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles


The Winter Fortress
by Neal Bascomb

THIS is a tale of daring beyond belief. A small group of specially trained Norwegians and British commandos are asked to brave the harsh Scandinavian winter to

destroy the hydroelectric plant where the Nazis were trying to produce the "heavy water" they needed to build their atomic bomb. The book has it all as far as I am concerned; excitement, fear and the knowledge that these brave men really did exist. Looking back on his leadership of the raid, 96-year-old Joachim Ronneberg said: "You have to fight for your freedom and peace." These words summed up this title beautifully for me.

Tony David, ex-RE


PICK OF THE MONTH:
THE LUMINEERS
Cleopatra

► HAVING seen The Lumineers crash into the spotlight with a platinum-selling debut album it has been somewhat of a surprise to wait four years for a follow-up effort.

Hit single *Ho Hey* afforded the New Jersey trio overnight success and their journey since then explains the lengthy wait for new material.

The track was spawned from a highly infectious self-titled offering that went on to sell more than three million copies worldwide and provided the impetus for three years of solid touring across six of the world's seven continents.

Among the many highlights were consecutive sold-out nights at Brixton Academy, headlining the 10,400-capacity Alexandra Palace and delivering a show-stopping performance on the Other Stage at Glastonbury in 2013.

When the pace finally slackened thoughts eventually turned to a second record so songwriting duo Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites rented a small house in Denver and spent six months writing and honing material.

With third member Neyla Pekarek and producer Simone Felice in tow they then isolated themselves at The Clubhouse studio in rural New York, where two months of intensive sessions led to the birth of *Cleopatra*.

"It was almost like a cleansing," said Schultz, who likened the process to a kind of therapy. "Jeremiah and I

VERDICT:
If it ain't broke,
don't fix it

★★★★★

had gone through ten years living together, writing together, working at side jobs together, on the road together, it was like there was no separation.

"There was so much crap swept under the carpet there was nowhere else to put it, the streets were overflowing, the sewers needed to be flushed out so that we could look at each other clearly and have a conversation. The only way to do it was to go on long walks, and talk and cry and scream and make up."

Fraites added: "And then you go back in the studio and try and figure out what the chorus needs."

"It was the most intense, densely packed experience of our lives. There is no way to sum it up. When people ask how it was, you just have to laugh and say it was great."

Despite such intensive efforts in the studio much of the material found here is very



similar to what has gone before.

If anything the tracks are more polished and the quirky, carefree vibe has been slightly restrained, but the winning formula of understated musicianship and Schultz's Nashville-esque vocals remain at the fore.

A heavy dose of Americana underpins many of the tracks, where soft guitars and strings form the perfect accompaniment to the singer's powerful lyrics.

Sleep on the Floor, which charts the fleeing of an overly religious small town, offers a storming opening, while *Angela* and *Ophelia* tell stories of strong female characters in the band's distinctive folk sound.

At just 35 minutes in length some fans might feel short-changed but this album marks the impressive continuation of a group on the rise ■

REVIEW: RICHARD LONG

SOLDIER SELECTS



British Road Movies by Kate Jackson

ELECTRO pop, heavy guitars and catchy lyrics, what could go wrong? The answer is very little, which left me pleasantly surprised. My favourite song and probably by far the catchiest is *Wonder Feeling*. It throws together synthesisers and a pretty decent guitar solo, making it head and shoulders above the rest. Jackson even takes a step back with the next track, *16 years*, which is a slower and more emotional ode to teenage romance. The only let-down was when she lost her voice in a few songs, especially *The Atlantic*, where her lyrics are completely overshadowed by the music and I couldn't help but think a few tracks were hampered by overproduction.

LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles



The Heart Speaks in Whispers by Corinne Bailey Rae

WITH the artist describing these songs as "mystical, elemental and life affirming" I

thought it best to play the album quietly, just in case the neighbours thought I'd turned into a full-blown hippy. In fact, keeping the volume down actually paid off as this is difficult to get into. Don't get me wrong, **Corinne Bailey Rae** has a great voice and it's well produced but there seems to be such a sad and tired underlying current. This is her second offering, she is a two-time Grammy winner and British so hopefully this isn't where she's going to stay with her music. I'm sure it will appeal to a few people out there but, unfortunately, I wasn't one of them.

Rodge Tapply, ex-RE



Lukas Graham by Lukas Graham

THERE has been a lot of good stuff coming out of Denmark lately and **Lukas Graham's** new album comes into that category. This is a group who, in 2011, released two home-made singles for YouTube – *Criminal Mind* and *Drunk in the Morning* – and they have flown from there. Within a short spell hundreds of thousands of people had viewed them and these tracks, along with the smash hit *Seven Years*, are included here. You'd be wrong to think these are the only highlights and, instead, they serve as the backbone to a very strong record. Almost every tune is single material; not that **Lukas Graham** need another number one as nearly everything they have released has topped the charts in all the Scandinavian countries, as well as in the UK and US. They are a really refreshing phenomenon and I look forward to the next instalment

Tony David, ex-RE



Things Will Matter by Lonely The Brave

THIS is the second album from Cambridge's **Lonely the Brave**. Fans of bands like **Pearl Jam** or **Mogwai** are going to be pleased with the results, it's good to see a group who wear their influences on their sleeve and are talented enough to pull it off. The record opens with the broody and minimalist *Wait in the Car*, which is just vocals and atmospherics; but don't be fooled, the noise will follow. Singles *Black Mire*, *Radar* and *What If You Fall In* are etched in the grunge school of writing but are by no means run-of-the-mill offerings, each song would easily grace any top album in this genre.

The standout track is *Diamond Days*; close your eyes and you'd believe this was being performed by **Eddie Vedder**. Indeed, this is a song he would be proud of.

Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)



Let Bad In by Ciaran Lavery

THE second offering from Ulsterman **Ciaran Lavery** concentrates on childhood innocence and growing up. His strikingly haunting husky tones offer the perfect relaxation after a busy day. The record has an essence of folk with soulful undertones, which produce a timeless collection. The more upbeat *Okkervil River* and *The Show* are particularly pleasant listening, whereas the emotional *Train* will strike a chord with all of us who have grown up around a close family. The uncomplicated musical accompaniment suggests that Ciaran's live concerts will be just as good, if not better, than the album.

Janet Dornan, ex-R Signals

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SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

Up and running: The opening round of the Army Cross-Country Mountain Bike Series was held at the Olympic venue of Hadleigh Park. Read about the race on page 83...





TALE OF TWICKENHAM



» The Army lined up against the Navy knowing a win by two points or more would see them regain the Inter-Services title – having lost to the RAF in 2015

ROKO'S RETURN FAILS TO INSPIRE REDS

Babcock Trophy

Army 29
Royal Navy 29

THE Army blew a 19-point lead to draw their annual Twickenham showdown with the Royal Navy and, in the process, hand the coveted title to their fierce rivals.

A brace from the returning LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni (Scots DG), along with further efforts from Bdr Owain Davies (RA) and LCpl James Farrell (REME), put the Reds in firm control at 26-7 but a stirring fightback from the Senior Service saw the contest end all square at 29-29.

The soldiers headed into the game knowing victory by two points or more would secure the Inter-Services trophy and they appeared to be well on course as Rokoduguni – who was released by club side Bath to play in the fixture – weaved his magic.

Having seen his side fall behind to a try from Cpl David Fairbrother the centre fired an immediate response as he capitalised on surging runs from LBdr Ifereimi Boladau (RA) and Cpl Matthew Dawson (Int Corps) to glide through the Navy defence and score under the posts.

The England international

turned provider moments later as fullback Davies rounded off a flowing cross-field move and he was in the thick of the action on the stroke of half-time as the Army stretched their lead.

Skipper Capt Rob Lennox (Scots) kicked down field to spark a counter-attack and as the phases quickly built Rokoduguni produced another ruthless finish.

The momentum was maintained after the break as the Reds' forwards set the platform for scrum half Farrell to dart inside to the line for what seemed to be a match-winning try.

But the Navy steadied the ship and set about reducing the arrears as replacement AB(MW) Gareth Rees spotted a gap out wide and touched down in the corner.

Further problems followed soon after as CSgt Paul Llewellyn (R Welsh) bore the brunt of the referee's frustration at a string of team infringements and was punished with a yellow card.

The challengers exploited their numerical advantage to full effect as the scrum – spearheaded by front row ace Mne Chris Robinson – rumbled towards the line and forced a penalty try.

AB(Diver) Rhys Dimmock-Williams drew the sides level when a fortuitous bounce of the ball allowed him to latch on

» 25mins – The soldiers open their account as LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni bursts to the line



» 30mins – A flowing team move is rounded off in the corner as Bdr Owain Davies gives his side the lead

to a kick over the top and he scored against a wrongfooted Reds' defence.

But the soldiers stopped the rot as Davies held his nerve from the tee to edge his team ahead with just two minutes remaining on the clock.

However, the Senior Service were not finished and fullback AET John Humphrey slotted a penalty from distance as yet another Army misdemeanour was fully punished.

The result saw their rivals claim the Inter-Services crown following a 9-8 win over the Royal Air Force in Portsmouth earlier in the tournament. ■

In Numbers

10

Tries scored by LCpl Semesa Rokoduguni in five Twickenham appearances



Changes to the Army line-up from last year's Twickenham clash with the Navy

9

» 37mins – The Army hit top gear as Rokoduguni notches his second try from a turnover in Navy territory



SOLDIERS RUE DIP IN DISCIPLINE

ARMY head coach Maj Andy Sanger (RE) was left counting the cost of further ill discipline as the Inter-Services trophy eluded his team's grasp for a second successive year.

Two yellow cards and the conceding of a penalty try helped the Royal Air Force to a 13-12 win in their opening fixture and the problems continued at Twickenham, where a further sin binning boosted the Royal Navy's fightback.

"You have to give credit to them; to come back from that deficit took some doing," Sanger told *SoldierSport*. "But we have to look at ourselves.

"We didn't deal with things when we conceded that yellow card. We had been through different scenarios of what to do if that happened but we crumbled under the pressure of the game.

"Discipline has cost us this season. We have been on the wrong side of the penalty count and were hammered against the RAF.

"At times we have created an error and followed that up with another error. The referee is thinking 'that's two offences in the same area' and then he has a decision to make."

Sanger plans to sit down with the Army Rugby Union to discuss his future and is open to the idea of continuing in his role and helping the team in a period of transition.

"We've had ten new caps this season," he added. "And there were nine different starters compared to last year's Navy game.

"I've gone through the range of emotions. First it was shock, then there was anger and now there is some resolve; I would like to turn this team around."

WE CRUMBLLED
UNDER THE
PRESSURE OF
THE GAME

SPORT SHORTS



Points pile up

Inter-Services Women's Rugby

Army 74
Royal Navy 0

» THE Army women underlined their status as the Forces' number one team with a resounding 74-0 defeat of the Royal Navy at Kneller Hall.

Victory secured yet another Inter-Services title for the soldiers following their hard-fought win over the Royal Air Force.

The Reds have never lost a match in the competition and there was little danger of that record ending as they raced into a 44-0 lead at the interval.



» 49mins – The result looks to be secured as LCpl James Farrell stretches for the line



» 78mins – Having seen the Navy draw level Davies keeps his cool to slot a late penalty



» 80mins – The Reds reflect on what might have been as their rivals claim the trophy

MONTH in sport

June's key fixtures...



WHAT: Army Team Athletics Championships

WHEN: Wednesday, June 8

WHERE: Army Military Stadium, Aldershot

COMMENTS: Athletes will compete in the usual mix of track and field disciplines as they look to topple last year's champions 27 Regt, RLC



WHAT: Army Individual Boxing Championships

WHEN: June 12 to 16

WHERE: Combat Sports Centre, Aldershot

COMMENTS: The week-long festival of boxing will showcase the Army's finest amateur talent as another season in the ring draws to a close



WHAT: Army v Scotland Warriors Rugby League

WHEN: Sunday, June 26 (1230 kick-off)

WHERE: Odsal Stadium, Bradford

COMMENTS: The Reds take on their Scottish rivals in an Armed Forces Day fixture at the home of the Bradford Bulls



Picture: WO2 Andy Bonner, AGC (SPS)

Referees shine in Services spotlight

WHILE the Army's rugby players got to run out at Twickenham in the pinnacle of their season the highlight of the sport's refereeing campaign came a week earlier in Portsmouth.

The various clashes between the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force saw the Service's top officials taking centre stage and a programme of meticulous preparation ensured they were ready for the big day.

John Voss, a former captain in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and an instructor to World Rugby match officials, hosted a training session on the eve of the fixtures to ensure participants were fully up to

speed with the game's rules and nuances and to help them pass without controversy.

"We have three teams of five for the Inter-Services matches," explained Col Dave Wakefield, chairman of Army Rugby Union Refereeing. "Every one of those 15 is a qualified referee, some to a very high standard.

"This is also about training people for their jobs as assistant referees and their roles on the touchline – there is so much to it.

"The man in the middle wants to be consistent with his decisions. He has to deal with player noise and other distractions, then he has an assistant trying to communicate with him. It is

important that information is relevant; there is no room for any clutter."

The Army trains more than 100 referees each season, with four courses spread across the country.

Those at the top of the game can find themselves employed in the National League but the influx at grass roots level is equally important.

"There is a big focus on the development side of things," Wakefield added.

"We have younger guys who have started out early in their careers through to those who have played for a long time and picked up injuries but still want to be involved.

"They have a lot to give back to the sport." ■

Gurkhas claim court win

THE Inter-Unit Volleyball Championships proved to be a happy hunting ground for 1st Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles as they secured a 2-1 win in the final.

Victory was made all the sweeter as it came against their rivals from 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles.

A total of 16 teams entered the competition – two of which were from Reserve units – and Maj Steve Black (RE), chairman of the Army Volleyball Association, was delighted with the turnout.

"202 Medical Regiment had six players on court and three on the bench," he said. "That means nine people took time off work to play, which is fantastic.

"This competition is getting bigger every year and it is a fertile scouting ground for new Army players.

"Some of those will be selected for the Crown Services tournament, which is the highlight of our season, and I've been very impressed by their standard of play."



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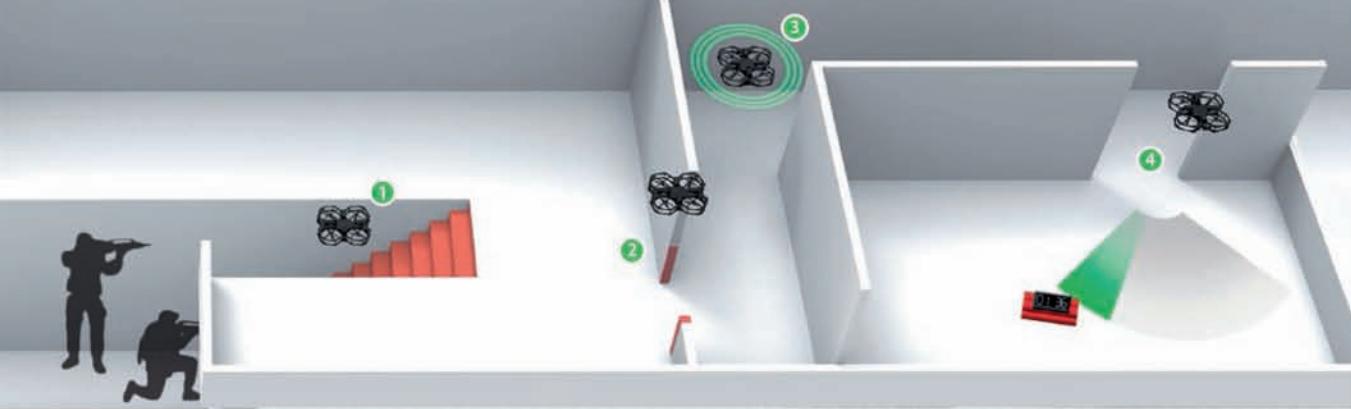


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Run machine: Opening batsman Maj James Hudson (RA) crashes another ball to the boundary on his way to an unbeaten 88 against the Royal Navy

Lord's masters maintain their grip

Inter-Services Twenty20

Royal Air Force 149-8
British Army 153-4

Royal Air Force 215-6
Royal Navy 124

Royal Navy 126-4
British Army 130-1



To restrict the Navy to 126 was a fantastic effort and Hudson was on top form

Cpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE)

A CLINICAL performance with both bat and ball saw the Army claim a fourth successive Inter-Services Twenty20 title in impressive style at Lord's.

The home of English cricket has become a happy hunting ground for the soldiers in recent times and they continued the trend in 2016 as their rivals failed to match the intensity of their play.

Having bowled first in both games the Reds restricted their opponents to average totals at best and with the batting line-up firing on all

cylinders neither result was ever in doubt.

An expertly timed run chase eased the defending champions to victory against the Royal Air Force, who posted 149-8 in their innings.

Maj Alex Senneck (R Signals) took full advantage of the overhead conditions as he removed opener SAC Tom Shorthouse in the first over.

LCpl Brannon Varley (AMS) maintained the stranglehold when he had Flt Lt Adam Fisher caught behind and the airmen stumbled their way to a disappointing 19-2 at the end of the powerplay.

SAC Ross Diver and Cpl Ash Watson set about repairing the damage and the duo combined for a 40-run stand that featured five boundaries.

However, Reds skipper Cpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE) bowled Diver for 25 and then dismissed the dangerous Watson in his next over as the challengers slipped to 66-4.

The wickets set the tone for the remainder of the innings as Cpl Jake Wray

and Cpl Tom Chapman both made starts before falling to Varley and Maj James Hudson (RA) respectively, but former Worcestershire man Cpl Graeme Cessford launched a brutal assault late on to propel the score upwards.

The Army started briskly in reply as back-to-back boundaries from Hudson got the scoreboard ticking and Varley injected further impetus following the departure of LCpl Jordan Relph (R Signals).

The all-rounder struck four fours and a six as he raced to 24 before being stumped off the bowling of Chapman.

His dismissal brought Spr Leo Beal (RE) to the crease but the batsman struggled to match the fluency of his colleagues as the RAF seized control in the middle overs.

Having scored just four runs from 15 deliveries the right-hander holed out as he attempted a big shot but with LCpl Jay Boynton (REME) replacing him in the middle the Reds upped the tempo.

Chapman's final over went



for 15 and the short leg-side boundary became an obvious target as both Hudson and Boynton found their range.

The former fell to Cessford for a well-constructed 48 but his partner held firm to finish the job – striking three sixes and five fours in an unbeaten 48 from 25 balls.

With the RAF emphatically beating the Royal Navy in the tournament's second fixture the soldiers were confident of another win ahead of their clash with the Senior Service.

However, they suffered an early scare as a boundary-laden partnership between

opener ETME Ben Kohler-Cadmore and WO2 Steve Needham seemed to have laid the foundations for a formidable total.

The pairing took the score to 92-1 at the end of the 13th over, with the former smashing 46 runs off 34 balls.

But the return of Prinsloo turned the innings on its head. The spinner turned a vicious delivery through the defences of Kohler-Cadmore and on to the stumps with his first ball of a wicket maiden and the tempo suddenly dipped.

Varley dismissed Needham in the next over and with the

Navy's middle order lacking the fire power needed for a big score they finished on a below-par 126-4.

Player-of-the-tournament Hudson spearheaded the victory charge as he dominated a 121-run stand with opening partner Relph.

The all-rounder bludgeoned 14 fours and two maximums in a destructive knock of 88 not out from 57 balls as the Navy's bowlers fell short.

Relph played the perfect supporting role before he was caught in the deep for 32, leaving Hudson to strike the winning blow. ■

In Numbers

136

Runs from player-of-the-tournament Maj James Hudson in two matches



Wickets from LCpl Brannon Varley (AMS) in his final appearance at Lord's

4

Successive Inter-Services titles for the Reds at Lord's

4

Cricketers well placed for future triumphs



WITH the Lord's showdown falling earlier in the season compared to recent years the Army had enjoyed little in the way of preparation coming into the tournament.

Speaking to *SoldierSport* at the end of the day, skipper Cpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE, pictured) praised the performance of his victorious team, which featured a healthy blend of youth and experience.

"We struggled in the middle overs of our innings against the RAF but we kept cool and pulled together," he said.

"The run rate edged towards 11 at one point but two great overs from James Hudson and Jay Boynton put the pressure back on them.

"The Navy raced to 90 from 12 overs so to restrict them to 126 was a fantastic effort and Hudson was on top form with the bat.

"We've got a few older pros who are leaving us so it was important to get the young guys involved. We've really pushed the development side over the last three or four years and these players are the future."



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SPORT SHORTS



Surprise double

» JOCKEY Lt Col Erica Bridge (RA) celebrated the biggest success of her riding career after partnering Jenny's Surprise to victory in the Grand Military Gold Cup.

The horse, which also won the Royal Artillery Gold Cup in February, beat a competitive field over 22 fences to become the first runner in ten years to complete the double in the same season.

Next year both events will be followed by a new race for military riders at Wincanton in April.

For more details email alexander.michael409@mod.uk



Riders at the ready

» THE Army's equestrian stars locked horns with their military rivals, as well as riders from the emergency services, at the annual Armed Forces Championships.

Competitors were tested in dressage, showjumping and tent pegging, with a range of events catering for entrants of all levels.

The Army Medical Services won the novice showjumping and the Adjutant General's Corps took the intermediate title.



SERIES STARTS ON A HIGH

» A CAPACITY field assembled for the opening round of the 2016 Army Mountain Bike Cross Country Series.

Staged at the Olympic venue of Hadleigh Park, the event attracted 200 riders who were tested on the course that saw Jaroslaw Kulhavy and Julie Bresset win gold at London 2012.

Service stars Capt Bruce Spilsbury (RLC) and Maj Angela Laycock (RE) dominated the field in the men's and women's races respectively but with representative athletes excluded from the standings

the honours were handed to Maj Ficke (Inf) and Capt Sewell (R Signals).

The team from 24 Commando Engineer Regiment were major unit champions, with the Infantry Battle School taking the minor units crown.

The competition is now in its sixth season and when it first started it averaged 50 soldiers per round, but the latest stage had to incorporate two races due to the high turnout.

"We have really pushed this hard among the units and mountain biking has massively taken off

in the Army," said Capt Tiny Simmonds (RE), the secretary of the sport. "We have now hit the sweet spot. We organise these events like national races, with professional timing and prizes on offer, and get more people round the course than in any other competition in the UK.

"The series is getting better and better. The Army team races nationally and overseas and that is a big carrot for some people. Selection will now become more fierce and that makes guys ride harder and push for improved results." ■

» ROWING ace Maj Heather Stanning (RA) made the perfect start to the season as she claimed gold at the European Championships in Germany. Competing alongside Helen Glover in the women's pair, the duo finished almost eight seconds clear of their nearest rivals – despite battling strong cross winds. "We wanted to make sure that the conditions didn't dictate our race and we concentrated hard," the officer explained. "Training has been going very well so we are delighted."



HEAVY HITTER

Wroe puts injury aside to bag national title

COMEBACK star Cpl Steph Wroe (REME) continued her impressive form in the ring as she claimed a national title at the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) Championships in Liverpool.

The welterweight fighter defeated Laura Stevens to add the prestigious silverware to the England Title Belt she won two weeks earlier and is now targeting further glory on the international stage with England.

Wroe's season has been hampered by injury after a tear in her retina saw her sidelined for nine months but the soldier returned to action in time to pursue an end-of-season push for honours.

However, success in Liverpool did not come easy and semi-final opponent Hannah Shield provided a stern test for the Servicewoman.

"It was a tough fight," Wroe told *SoldierSport*. "We had no idea what she was going to be like but they knew all about me and had done their research."

"I was a bit slow in the first round but then I upped the revs and got to work."

"I saw Laura fight in the semis so I knew what I would be up against in the final. I cut her in the first round and went on to win via a unanimous decision."

"It was a fantastic feeling. They announced the result and it took a few seconds to sink in; I was so excited."

"When I won that first belt I thought 'this is great, but don't get too comfortable'. It is never easy to win at the ABAs and I was pushed all the way in that semi-final."

Wroe was one of two Army fighters to reach the finals but team captain LCpl Chez Nihell (1 PWRR) suffered an agonising loss to Alex Dickinson in the super heavyweight ranks.

"It was a split decision," Wroe said. "In my eyes he won the first and third rounds and I turned round thinking he's got that. I'm really gutted for him. He gave everything in that fight and left nothing in the ring."

Wroe was due to represent England at the Three Nations tournament as this issue went to press. ■



Spence set for Spanish test

CROSSFIT star Sgt Charlotte Spence (RAPTC) is hoping to make a name for herself on the international stage when she competes at the sport's European competition in Madrid.

Some impressive results at the Reebok Crossfit Games Open – where she placed fifth in the UK and first in the military category – saw the Servicewoman qualify for the showdown and she is hoping for further progress in the Spanish capital.

"This was my second attempt at the event," Spence told *SoldierSport*. "Last year I had a regional placing of 144th and this time I was 16th. I was hoping to break into the top 30 so I'm really happy. I wanted it but it was a surprise to do as well as I did."

The rehab instructor, who is based at ATC Pirbright, is a relative newcomer to the sport having previously competed in distance running and triathlon and while her results have been impressive to date she believes there is room for improvement.

"I want to keep going and need to work on my strength," she said. "Hopefully that will make me a better athlete."



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Medics turn penalty masters

Edwards Cup Final

Army Medical Services 2
Royal Logistic Corps 2

(AMS win 4-2 on penalties)

THE Army Medical Services lifted the Edwards Challenge Cup after they defeated the Royal Logistic Corps in a thrilling penalty shoot-out at the end of an action-packed final.

Having converted two long-range efforts either side of half-time the medics looked in firm control but the

loggies were handed a lifeline at the death as a defensive howler gifted them a dramatic equaliser and forced the tie into a spot-kick decider.

But their rivals fared better under the pressure and some clinical finishing saw them triumph 4-2.

There was no sign of the tension to come in a tight opening period that offered little in terms of goalmouth action. Pte Millie Marriot [pictured] threatened for the medics when she eluded her marker and fired into the side netting, while the RLC seemed intent on shooting from distance – without any luck.

However, the contest came

to life as the interval loomed. A clearance from Pte Ashley Mackenzie fell to Capt Dani Pye and the defender struck a superb first-time shot that sailed over the back pedalling keeper and into the top corner from 40 yards.

The loggies started the second half on the front foot but having forced a succession of corners they failed to capitalise. With the game drifting somewhat, it was given a much-needed boost as LCpl Delise Clifford doubled the lead with a well-placed effort from the edge of the area.

Instead of protecting their advantage the AMS immediately conceded a

penalty that was dispatched by opposition skipper LCpl Jennifer Keane. The goal set up a nerve-shredding finale that reached its peak when LCpl Kayleigh Oliver prodded home following a mix-up between keeper Pte Teri Brown and Pte Kayleigh Dawe.

The medics put the disappointment behind them in the shoot-out, where LCpl Annie Townsend struck the decisive blow.

"We played well in the first half but they really came at us after the break," said winning skipper Cpl Hayley Sloan.

"The RLC got a scrappy goal at the end but the girls hit some awesome penalties." ■

» THE Army Aviation Centre recorded a convincing 4-1 win over 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery in the Minor Units Cup Final.

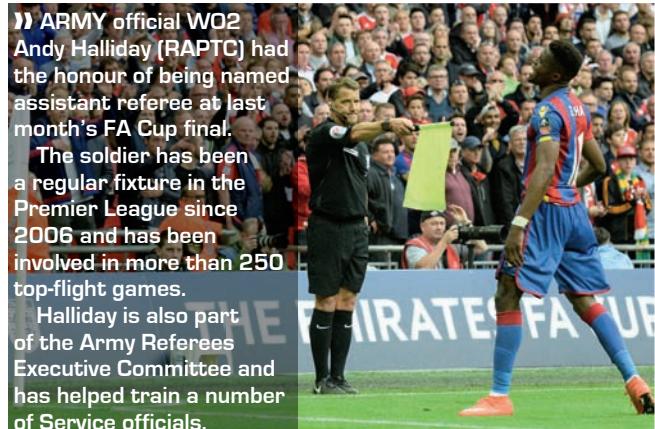
A brace from SAC Aaen Robinson, along with strikes from Sgt Barry O'Neill and SAC Kyle Frost put the airmen firmly in control. LBdr Tom Broadbent reduced the arrears from the penalty spot.



» ARMY official WO2 Andy Halliday (RAPTC) had the honour of being named assistant referee at last month's FA Cup final.

The soldier has been a regular fixture in the Premier League since 2006 and has been involved in more than 250 top-flight games.

Haliday is also part of the Army Referees Executive Committee and has helped train a number of Service officials.



Picture: Sgt Paul Morrison, RLC



Team to beat: The 7 Regt, RLC defence repels another 1 Yorks attack during a gripping cup final in Aldershot

Loggies toast cup double

Challenge Cup Final

7 Regt, RLC 3
1 Yorks 1

REIGNING champions 7 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps turned on the style as they mounted an emphatic defence of their Army Challenge Cup title.

The loggies came from a goal down to beat 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment 3-1 in the showpiece fixture and underline their status as the team to beat at unit level.

Their rivals came into the contest on a run of fantastic form having already won the Infantry and Southern League Major Unit Cups this season and they took the lead in the fourth minute.

Skipper LCpl Darren Clark latched on to a low cross from the left and calmly found the bottom corner as the opposition defence failed to deal with the danger.

But the champions quickly recovered and they came agonisingly close to an equaliser moments later.

A long ball downfield found Pte Sean Woolley on the left and the winger picked out skipper Cpl Calum Wilkinson, who saw a vicious shot from the edge of the area thunder off the crossbar.

Cpl Mark Marriott then tested 1 Yorks' keeper Lt Dan Sturley at the near post before going one better midway through the half as a stunning free kick from distance struck the underside of the bar and bounced over the line.

Wilkinson and Pte Ben Rose continued to threaten with some clever link-up play and

midfielder Marriott was also in the thick of the action as he fired straight at Sturley from long range.

And the loggies took the lead on the stroke of half-time as a quick corner from Rose allowed Woolley to head home before the 1 Yorks' defence was set.

Pte Jake Sanderson came close to an equaliser on the hour mark but he was thwarted by some brave goalkeeping from Pte Joe Gorman and the miss proved costly as Rose ran clear on the left before calmly slotting the ball past Sturley for a crucial third goal.

Sanderson forced a smart save from Gorman late on but 1 Yorks failed to generate the momentum needed to overturn the champions elect, who expertly played out the final minutes to seal back-to-back cups wins. ■



Game brief

Date: April 27, 2016

Competition: Challenge Cup Final

Venue: Army Military Stadium, Aldershot

7 Regt, RLC

Gorman	1
Kershaw	5
Brown	2
Jaques	4
Carpenter	7
Rose	10
Wilkinson	9
Laidler	6
Codman	3
Marriott	8
Woolley	11

Subs: Sharif, Morley, Perera, Linskell, Williams



Cpl Calum Wilkinson

Captain's comments

A lot of our lads are very young and in their first two seasons of regimental football they have won the Army cup. I have got friends who have been involved in the game for a number of years and they have not even had the opportunity to play in one final, let alone two. We have now won back-to-back titles and that is a fantastic achievement.

SPORT SHORTS



Sheffield calling

THE Army's ice hockey players head to Sheffield this month on a mission to claim a fourth straight Inter-Services title.

If the team emerges victorious they will equal the record for consecutive tournament wins, which is held by the Royal Air Force.

The competition also features a corps/station-level contest and matches will be played on June 8 and 9.



Winning start

ARMY athletes made an encouraging start to the triathlon season at the Inter-Services Duathlon Championships.

Featuring two running stages and a 21-kilometre cycle leg, the soldiers won the men's competition, while the women finished second behind the Royal Air Force.

The event doubled as the Army Championships, which saw troops from 1 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps taking the major unit title.

Team of the month

1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Boxing Team



A DRAMATIC win for LCpl Kris Sterling in the last bout of the night handed 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers victory in a nerve-shredding finale to the Inter-Unit Boxing Championships.

With the score locked at 3-3 the heavyweight prospect secured a unanimous verdict against Pte Nick Owens, of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, to end his team's 26-year trophy drought.

The Fusiliers made the perfect start to the contest as Cpl Andrew Foley triumphed over Pte Eddie Simpson in an energy-charged opening fight.

But the Paras came storming back as skipper Cpl Matt Benge proved too hot for Fus Kevin Kimber.

The lightweight entered the ring with a steely focus and he soon found his range with some brutal right shots.

Benge picked up the pace at the end as a punishing

body shot, followed by a quick combination, forced a standing count.

Pte Jordan Heys edged a tight bout with LCpl Luke Smith to move the paratroopers ahead at the break before another inspirational captain's performance drew the sides level once more.

This time it was Fus Mark Thompson who took centre stage and the 23-year-old combined a strong defence with some well-directed punches to seal a unanimous verdict against Pte Jordan Kelly.

However, their rivals refused to back down and Pte Charlie Dain produced a dominant showing against LCpl Mark Sedgwick.

The Welshman bloodied his opponent's nose with a stinging left in the first round and the punishment continued before the referee stopped the contest in the third, leaving the Paras one win from victory.

But Cpl Adam Miles

[pictured above] halted their charge in the night's standout bout.

The 29-year-old made a frenetic start to his clash with Cpl Rob O'Neill and the two fighters traded a flurry of blows over four pulsating rounds that ended with a standing ovation.

The fusilier eventually emerged victorious and teammate Sterling [pictured below] finished the job against Owens.



Inter-Unit Boxing Championship Final

1 RRF 4
2 Para 3



FORCES FIND FORM

THE new-look UK Armed Forces netball team underlined their rapid progress on court by claiming a first victory against international opposition.

Replacing the former Combined Services set-up, the outfit – which featured a healthy Army contingent – defeated Gibraltar 41-36 in just their third game of the 2016 season.

Some clinical shooting from Sgt Ellie Nawe (AGC (SPS)) edged the military side ahead in the opening quarter and they showed no sign of slowing down as the game progressed.

Defensive linchpin Sgt Nordia Masters (AGC (SPS), pictured) dominated the rebound count and excellent link-up play from Lt Rachel Hockenhull (AMS) and Sgt Laura Duckworth (R Signals) ensured the points continued to flow.

With a game against Wales looming coach Lt Cdr Linda Cairney made a number of changes late on and while the alterations resulted in a dip in tempo the outcome was never in doubt.

However, their next fixture proved more challenging and with several players looking to cement their place in the Welsh squad the pace was relentless.

The strength of the opposition defence meant scoring opportunities were at a premium but Nawe and Pte Melissa Price (RLC) worked hard to convert the chances that came their way.

After falling behind the Forces steadied the ship and by the final quarter were starting to force more and more errors from their rivals, while claiming an increasing amount of interceptions.

The team went on to lose 57-13 but manager Capt Samantha James (RA) was pleased with their efforts.

"Despite the loss we were positive and excited by our performance and left the court with something to aspire to in the future," she told *SoldierSport*.

"But we were extremely pleased with the win against Gibraltar. It gives us great credibility and proves we can compete at this level."

The Forces also locked horns with Ireland and gave an impressive showing despite a 35-21 defeat. ■

SAPPERS STEAL THE SHOW

» THE tercentenary celebrations of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery extended to the cricket field last month as the two corps did battle at the Kia Oval.

Batting first, the gunners posted 241 in their 50 overs. Gnr Craig Ross top scored with a knock of 78 but Cpl Ian Redfern returned figures of 5-52 with the ball to keep the total under control.

The sappers made a solid start in the run chase and moved to 45-1 after the first ten overs.

They maintained the pace throughout the innings, with skipper Cpl Ross Dearden leading the charge.

The Army star was stumped for 74 but his teammates reached their target with an over to spare, recording a three-wicket victory.



Picture: Sgt Jon Bevan, RLC

Final word

We asked troops from 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery and 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment what makes their cap badge the best

Sgt Nicholas Lloyd, RA

Our lads are robust and are taught to think quickly on their feet. The bombardiers don't need permission to shoot down an aircraft, for instance, it's their sole decision. They have a very high level of responsibility for their rank and that says it all about the quality of our regiment.



SSgt Chris Greenaway, RE

The Gunners are good at what they do but we have more versatility. We separated in 1716 and since then we've grown stronger as two corps but we've always had that rivalry. It's just banter though – there is still mutual respect. But I'd much rather be a sapper. It's a brotherhood – everywhere you go there are friendly faces.



Bdr Andrew Raynor, RA

The Royal Artillery offers lots of opportunity for promotion. I have friends in the Engineers and I'm moving up a lot quicker than they are. We're the firepower of the Army, and our stuff is a lot more exciting than theirs. What would you rather do, launch a supersonic missile or build a bridge?

Cpl Nick Shinner, RE

Having worked with other corps I don't think they can adapt to changing environments as well as us. The Gunners have a proud history like we do. Yes, we're famous for bridging but we do everything else before and after too and I'd say we are more accurate at blowing up stuff than they are as well.



LBdr Calum Lee, RA

You can't really compare us with the Royal Engineers. We have a much better rugby team for a start – we smashed them in the Inters. They do get to blow a few things up but we get more interesting jobs. We fire missiles off our shoulders, operate AS90s, light guns and fly unmanned aerial systems.



Cpl Kyle Smith, RE

We can go pretty much anywhere and from very little we can sustain a lot of people, from water supply to mobility and counter-mobility such as bridging, demolitions and mines. Not much gets done without us. The Engineers have been at the epicentre of most conflicts.



Capt Josh Wray, RE

You look at the sheer capability we provide and I honestly believe there's no other area in the Army that is as diverse. Firing guns is very one-dimensional, whereas we do bridging, EOD and search, demolitions and construction. We deal with live, move and fight – the Artillery deal with fight, from 20-30km away. I have respect for what they do but it's a bit of a one-trick pony.



Bdr Aaron Edwards, RA

Our versatility makes us the best regiment. We support the Armed Forces, not just the Army. We use various guns and have missiles for hitting targets in the air and on the ground. We're the best because we pack a punch. The Royal Engineers do build some brilliant stuff and provide superb humanitarian aid but we offer firepower and support on the battlefield.

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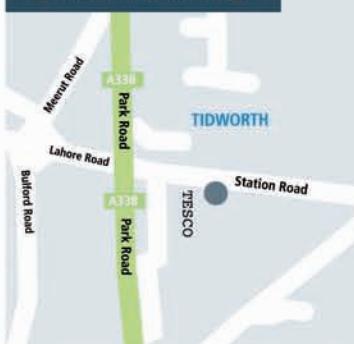


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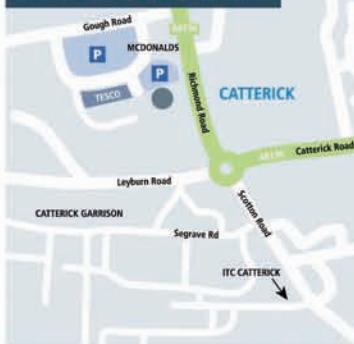
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