

# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

**TAG-TEAM  
TACTICS**

AIRFRAMES WOW  
IN WALES

JENNER, JOLLY, LISTER, SEACOLE

RUSH OF

BLOOD

24 hours on  
the front line

**46**

TANKS  
8 NATIONS

**ONE**

**SHOWDOWN**



JULY 2018

£3.50





## Leading the whey...

- ✓ 20g protein
- ✓ 2g leucine
- ✓ Supports muscle growth and recovery
- ✓ Added vitamins for improved absorption
- ✓ Unflavoured for versatility
- ✓ FREE great tasting flavour drops
- ✓ FREE UK delivery



**£5 OFF**

TRIAL PRICE\*  
£24.99 NOW  
£19.99

[healthspanelite.co.uk/protein](http://healthspanelite.co.uk/protein) Offer code **ESOFJN**

\*Quote code ESOFJN when ordering at checkout. Please allow up to five working days for delivery. Free delivery on all Healthspan Elite\* orders delivered to UK addresses. Single use only. Voucher valid until 31.10.18 at [www.healthspanelite.co.uk](http://www.healthspanelite.co.uk) and only when purchasing Healthspan Elite\* products.



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

## The Army's National Charity

**We provide a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families.**

Each year, we support a wide range of front line charities and specialist organisations, such as SSAFA, Combat Stress, Royal Star & Garter and the NSPCC, which deliver help on our behalf. We also make direct grants to thousands of individuals, ranging in age from two to 106 years old. Through our network of support, our work touches the lives of around 70,000 people worldwide, every year.

It is because of the generosity of people like you that we are able to do this vital work - today and in the future.

Donate online or get involved in fundraising at [www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)



ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (039189)  
Registered Office: Mountbarrow House, 12 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB  
Tel: 020 7901 8900, Email: [fundraising@soldierscharity.org](mailto:fundraising@soldierscharity.org)



Left to right: Siobhan Weller, Les Fryatt, Kenneth Kwogyenga - Charity beneficiaries



## CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 28 **Potent partners**  
Wildcat and Apache join forces
- 32 **Tank wars: the debrief**  
British crews take on Europe's finest
- 38 **Medical front line**  
How trauma care is evolving on ops
- 42 **A tale of two theatres**  
Army and NHS swap expertise

COVER  
STORY

## REGULARS

- 7 **The Informer**  
Top stories from across the Service
- 22 **Need to Know**  
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 45 **Talkback**  
Ruminations from the ranks
- 52 **Bullet Points**  
Troops' intelligence assets
- 61 **Reviews**  
Movies, music, books and games to fill your downtime
- 82 **Final Word**  
Hacks for living in the field

## SOLDIERSPORT

- 70 **Ice hockey**  
Blades blunt Forces rivals
- 72 **Cricket**  
Lord's loss ends title run
- 75 **Football**  
Medics claim inaugural defence crown
- 76 **Triathlon**  
Hudson revels in sprint success
- 78 **Karting**  
REME racers resume track campaign
- 79 **Orienteering**  
Ridge runners battle for unit glory
- 80 **Enduro**  
Newcomers accept off-road challenge

“

The NHS is fully supportive of my life as a Reservist

”

A tale of two theatres – page 42



**NHS 70**



28



# In praise of an estate shake-up



IT IS a fact that our mood is affected by our surroundings – ask any architect or psychologist that.

So in a month where the continuous attitude survey reports the lowest level of satisfaction among troops since the study began (page 15), it is heartening to learn that Service personnel have been put in charge of maintenance across the Army estate (page 7).

Although many of our readers have learnt to be cautious, if not sceptical, about sweeping organisational changes that promise the world, it doesn't take a genius to see that something had to give with the upkeep of military barracks and buildings.

Let's hope that through more timely repairs and better prioritisation of tasks, the delegated infrastructure project will bring a much-needed boost to the well-being of soldiers.

And if it doesn't, I have no doubt our ever-honest readers will tell us (*Talkback*, page 45).

We wish the team every success as they try to effect change.

**Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor**

32



61



80



72

## Where to find *Soldier*

### > Printed copies

THESE 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 latest magazine at [www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine](http://www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine) and on Twitter (@soldiermagazine).

### > Online

DIGITAL versions of current and past editions are available on the Army website at [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) Just click on the "read it now" tab.

### > 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](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk) (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).



# THE LEGENDARY PILGRIM GTX® COMBAT FG M



THE NEW COMBAT BOOT  
CHOSEN BY THE UK MILITARY  
ACROSS THEIR SERVICES



BREATHABILITY

STABILITY

GRIP Vibram®

**GORE-TEX**  
WATERPROOFNESS  
BREATHABILITY  
QUICK DRY FUNCTIONALITY

AKU PILGRIM GTX® is the new UK COMBAT BOOT. A comfy and versatile boot offering support and stability for demanding use in the field. The GORE-TEX® Extended Comfort membrane provides excellent breathability, waterproofness and quick dry functionality. An iconic boot from AKU, a brand dedicated to the legendary tradition of Italian workmanship.  
[akutactical.com](http://akutactical.com)

Stockist info: ARDBLAIR SPORTS importers ltd - [www.ardblairsports.com](http://www.ardblairsports.com) - 01250 873863







Pictures: Graeme Main, FreePik

## More order on the Army estate

### Troops put in charge of improvements to barracks, digs, offices and hangers

**T**EAMS of soldiers are to oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the Army's barracks and buildings in a radical shake-up.

The delegated infrastructure project, launched in April, aims to improve the way Service property is managed following years of underinvestment and problems with various contractors.

While the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and its industry partners will continue to deliver the actual repairs and upgrades, those in uniform will now have a direct say on how budgets are spent and what work should be a priority.

"For decades the Army, and defence as a whole, has underinvested in infrastructure due to the pressure of operations," Col Andy Szabo (pictured below), assistant chief of staff for infrastructure at HQ Regional Command, told *Soldier*.

"As a result, parts of the estate are now in a position where they do not support our personnel in what they need to do.

"What we have taken from the DIO is the process of identifying a problem and saying what needs to be done.

"In the past there hasn't been a great understanding

of what it means to the soldiers if something goes wrong and the impact that has in terms of training and preparation."

The new structure means the Army will have closer links to the DIO so it can highlight potential problems that will occur if work and upgrades are not completed.

It also allows them to be proactive instead of reactive. For example, the maintenance of heating and hot water systems can be carried out during the summer months rather than waiting for issues to arise in the winter.

A team of 69 infrastructure specialists – comprised of Regular personnel, Reservists and civil servants – will be based at DIO offices across the UK to allow the two organisations to work more closely.

"The old system relied on the DIO having the capacity to understand what we were doing, but we weren't in a position to tell them that," Col Szabo added.

"This is us holding ourselves to account.

"The new set-up allows us to decide where the money goes and how we plan ahead, and it has made a positive change to the relationship we have with the DIO."



#### ESTATE BRIEF:

##### THE SITUATION:

In some cases problems with the Army estate have impacted on how people feel about being in uniform.

##### WHAT IS COVERED BY THE PROJECT:

Not Service family accommodation – that budget is still controlled centrally. But everything else found in a barracks, such as single living accommodation, offices, hangers, catering facilities and shops.

##### REPORTING FAULTS:

Issues still go to the helpdesk. But if there is a problem at the business end the Army team will step in.

##### MONEY MATTERS:

The maintenance budget hasn't increased but existing funds can now be focused where they are needed. By giving control back to the Army, better investment decisions can be made.

## SOLDIER

**Editor** Sarah Goldthorpe  
01252 787096 (mil 94222 7096)  
sgoldthorpe@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Sports Editor** Richard Long  
01252 787098 (94222 7098)  
rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Becky Clark  
01252 787099 (94222 7099)  
rclark@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Cliff Caswell  
01252 787097 (94222 7097)  
ccaswell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Art Editor** Tudor Morgan  
01252 787100 (94222 7100)  
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Designer** Maddie Marchment  
01252 787101 (94222 7101)  
mmarchment@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Graeme Main  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Peter Davies  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
pdavies@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Advertising** Heather Shekyls  
01252 787106 (94222 7106)  
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Subscriptions**  
01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Managing Editor** Steven Muncey  
01252 787095 (94222 7095)  
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk



**SOLDIER – Magazine of the British Army**  
Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,  
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

**All enquiries:** 01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
**Fax:** 01252 787110 (94222 7110)  
**Email:** news@soldiermagazine.co.uk  
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Wyndeham (Roche) Ltd. Print contract managed by CDS.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.



**Facebook:** facebook.com/soldiermagazine  
**Twitter:** @soldiermagazine  
**Instagram:** @soldier\_magazine





# GLOBAL SITREP

## 1. CANADA

### PRAIRIE SUNSET

TROOPS from Alma Company, 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (pictured) – part of the King’s Royal Hussars Battlegroup – bid farewell to the plains of Alberta as this year’s Exercise Prairie Storm drew to a close.

Their departure clears the way for personnel from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Tank Regiment to conduct two consecutive back-to-basics packages.

The 18-day serials – known as Exercise Warrior’s Craft – will see the formations certified to collective training level two at British Army Training Unit Suffield.

They will also stage a light role reconnaissance manoeuvre further north at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright.

## 2. BELIZE

### MAYAN MANOEUVRES

MORE than 70 Reservists from Northern Ireland-based 591 Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment have been honing their skills on Exercise Mayan Star at British Army Training Support Unit Belize.

Capt Ian Baxter (RE), the unit’s permanent staff administration officer, said the soldiers had gained a great deal from the month-long package, which saw them carry out building tasks around camp and on the exercise area.

“They’ve been filling their boots and having a great time,” he commented.



## 3. FALKLAND ISLANDS

### OP CORPORATE RECALLED

THE annual ceremony to mark the end of the Falklands War saw Armed Forces personnel parade through the capital, Port Stanley.

Grateful islanders applauded troops from all three Services during the event, which is held on June 14 – the day the Argentinians surrendered in the wake of the Battle of Tumbledown.



## 4. CHILE

### KEEPING FRIENDS CLOSE

DEFENCE Minister Mark Lancaster met political counterparts and military top brass during a visit to three South American countries.

The MP said the UK already had a “proud and long-standing history” with Chile, Uruguay and Colombia, adding that it was “vital to keep all our international friends close”.

His programme included a visit to the Military Academy in Santiago and Uruguayan National Peacekeeping School – which has trained troops for the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## 5. SOUTH SUDAN

### PEACEKEEPING PREP

TROOPS from 36 Engineer Regiment and Inkerman Company of 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards have been in the final stages of their ramp-up training before heading to South Sudan.

The soldiers recently conducted their mission rehearsal exercise on Stanford Training Area in Norfolk, running through serials including mass casualty drills ahead of their Op Trenton deployment, which begins this month.

Their task force – which is headed up by the Sappers – will be joining the wider United Nations-led mission and based at two locations in the north of the African country.



Pictures: William Jenkin



1. CANADA

2. BELIZE

4. CHILE

3. FALKLAND ISLANDS

5,500 miles

The distance British and American airborne troops flew from Fort Bragg to Latvia in a fleet of C17 Globemasters before jumping directly into Exercise Saber Strike – page 15



## INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?

Brief the team now:



Email: [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/soldiermagazine](https://facebook.com/soldiermagazine)  
Twitter: @soldiermagazine  
Instagram: @soldier\_magazine

### 8. BOSNIA BALKANS REVISITED

EXTRA soldiers have been earmarked for deployment to the Balkans to bolster European stabilisation efforts, the defence secretary has confirmed.

Gavin Williamson said 40 troops would be joining the Eufor mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Op Althea – where they would undertake a six-month tour, forming part of a specialist surveillance and intelligence task force.

The UK already has 30 soldiers in a similar role as part of Nato's Kosovo Force alongside allies from Germany, Italy, Poland, Turkey and the United States.

7. GERMANY

8. BOSNIA

6. IRAQ

5. SOUTH SUDAN

“  
Clinical  
timelines  
are tight  
”

Medics make it work  
in Poland – page 38

### 6. IRAQ A JOB WELL DONE

PERSONNEL from 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Scotland have completed a successful tour to Iraq on Op Shader.

Working as part of a coalition of 72 nations, the soldiers played a key role in training instructors for the Iraqi Security Forces – who continue to counter Isis threats in the region and potential attacks from the bordering nations of Iran and Syria.

The Scots troops also provided force protection at the locations where the training takes place, as well as Al Asad Airbase.

More than 500 soldiers from the two battalions were involved in the deployment, helping Iraqi personnel learn counter-IED drills, infantry skills and combat medical techniques.



### 7. GERMANY CLERKS CRANK IT UP

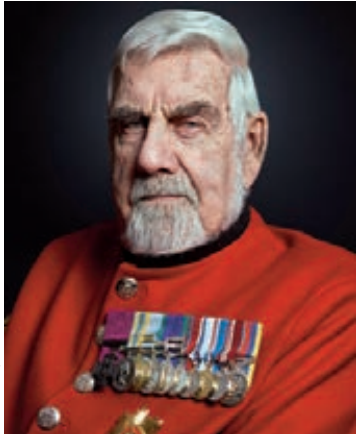
SOLDIERS from the Adjutant General's Corps Staff and Personnel Support Branch swapped their spreadsheets for SA80s during a week-long exercise on Sennelager Training Area.

Around 40 troops from across 3rd (UK) Division focused on basic soldiering skills, testing their ability with a range of drills including establishing a harbour area, conducting recce patrols and completing a platoon attack in an urban area with armoured support.

Capt James Harrison (AGC (SPS)) said: "It is not often we have the opportunity to deploy into the field so not only does an exercise like this give us credibility, it also provides a fantastic platform for us to test our troops' leadership skills outside of their normal working environment."







## TRIBUTES PAID TO VC HERO

■ WARM tributes have been paid to the first soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross by The Queen.

Bill Speakman received the highest decoration of bravery during the Korean War after holding off waves of enemy attackers despite having been wounded during heavy fighting in 1951.

Having enlisted in The Black Watch in 1945, he had been attached to the King's Own Scottish Borderers during the conflict – subsequently transferring to the regiment.

He went on to serve on several worldwide deployments.

A staunch Royal British Legion supporter, the 89-year-old had moved to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in 2015.

A statement from the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association said: "He died peacefully on June 20 – members of his family were at his bedside."



## PLAIN HOMES ON TARGET

■ A PROJECT to build more than 900 new homes for troops and families returning from Germany is now well under way in Wiltshire, it has been confirmed.

Initial work on the first houses in the £250 million initiative has been completed – with contractor Lovell claiming properties will be ready on schedule next year.

The new homes are being built around Bulford, Larkhill and Ludgershall on Salisbury Plain. Part of the Army Basing Programme, the scheme is expected to deliver 20 properties per week.



# 'I want ours to be a winning Army'

### Chief of the General Staff, Gen Mark Carleton-Smith, reveals to *Soldier* his vision for the Service's future...

I AM delighted to be appointed Chief of the General Staff.

To command the British Army is the highest honour and I am privileged to serve the best soldiers in the world.

We live in exceptionally unstable times and the world seems to be more unpredictable than ever.

I place a great premium on the hard-won lessons from the battlefield and feel strongly that the Army needs to be used and needs to be useful – we are both. We are deployed on operations contributing to security by reducing the risk of conflicts through tasks such as the enhanced forward presence in Estonia and Poland, the Kabul Security Force in Afghanistan and by building stability overseas with numerous short-term training teams.

My focus as CGS is the future, to ensure we are combat ready today and prepared for tomorrow; an Army persistently engaged overseas to deter and protect while remaining positively engaged and connected at home, contributing to both national security and to enhancing our national prosperity.

I want ours to be a winning Army, one that is founded on comradeship, self-respect and self-discipline, imbued with initiative and daring, with originality and self-confidence,

with professional knowledge and infectious energy in all its soldiers and commanders.

It's also important we are bound by a common set of values and standards and appreciate the irrepressible sense of humour of the British soldier who keeps things in proportion and fundamentally has a sense of humility and an honest sense of decency.

If I were to brand our Army it would be as intelligent, dynamic and adaptive warfighting professionals – recognising that we're paid to fight and to win.

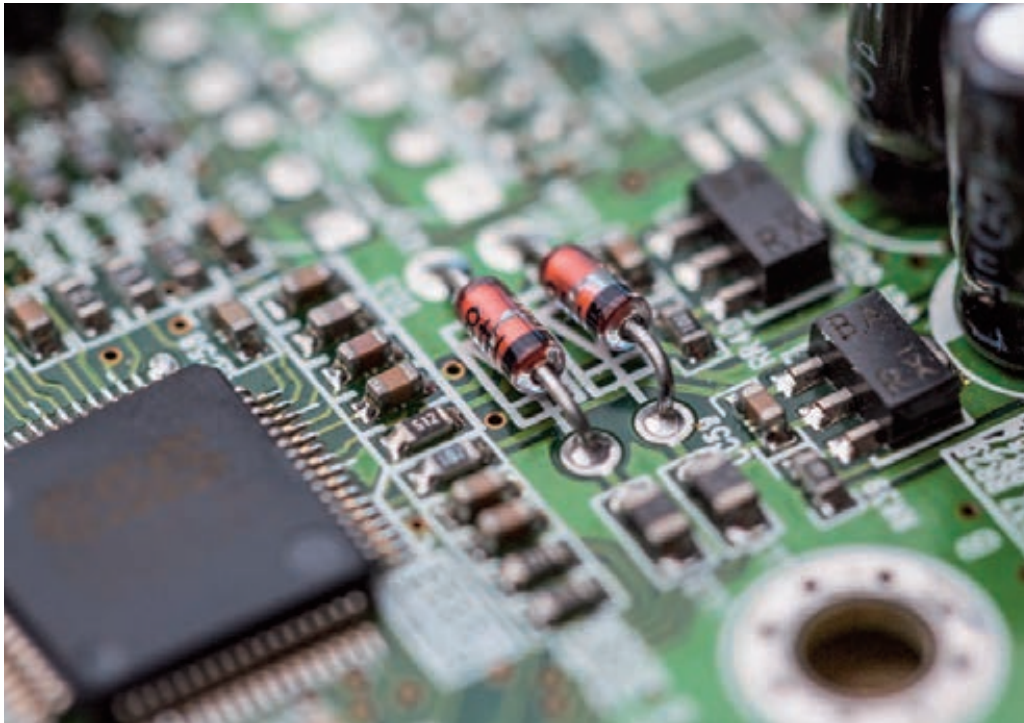
This is a unique responsibility and on behalf of our nation and as your commander, my primary responsibility is the nurture and nourishment of the Army's fighting spirit. It is what sets us apart and is the true litmus test of our readiness. Keep it bright and we will remain world-beating.

As soldiers, we are custodians of something exceptionally precious, not just our Army, but our nation's Army. And it is made of flesh and blood and beating hearts. This is the family we all belong to.

I will spend the coming months taking the chance to visit as many units and troops as possible and I look forward to meeting you, and hearing your views.







# Shooting for a hi-tech revolution

## Army chief to encourage measures for developing talent and new technologies

**T**HE Chief of the General Staff, Gen Mark Carleton-Smith, says he wants to ensure the Army is sufficiently well equipped to tackle new and growing threats in the virtual space as well as on the battlefield.

Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute's land warfare conference in London, he said the nature of conflict "had broadened beyond traditional physical spaces".

"Our ability to manoeuvre in the information and cyber domains is already being tested and will increasingly influence how we will modernise, train and fight in the future," he added.

The top officer said the Service is placing an increasing emphasis on attracting highly talented personnel who might otherwise be drawn to employers such as technology firms.

"You'll find in the Service I command some of the brightest and the best of all generations in those posts that will shape us," he added.

"And the further out we look, the younger I want those teams to be."

However, he admitted there will be hurdles to clear when it comes to employing those specialists.

"We need new non-traditional skills

not normally associated with people looking for careers in defence or the Army," he said.

"They will have aptitudes that are highly sought after in a global market and their instincts will be more independently minded and less hierarchical than some in uniform would feel comfortable with.

"They will make very different demands on our leadership."

Gen Carleton-Smith also noted that experimentation and utilising cutting-edge equipment and techniques should become the new norm.

He said the development of the Army's capabilities must be more proactive and include major investments in certain technologies in order to avoid being left behind.

"We need to accelerate the pipeline taking operational concepts and requirements from acquisition to fielding," he said.

"And we also need a quicker route to demonstration and rapid prototyping so that if we do fail we do it early and cheaply."

As part of this new drive, the Army is staging an experiment in November to test a range of advanced autonomous systems (page 13).

“  
We need  
new non-  
traditional  
skills  
”



## BIDDER BAGS TASTY TREAT

■ BARS of chocolate gifted to a decorated First World War infantryman more than a century ago fetched a delicious sum when they went under the hammer.

The nine sweet treats – still in the so-called "colonies gift tin" sent to troops in 1914 – ended up being sold for just over £3,000 at the online auction run by Eddisons CJM.

The lot also featured mementoes, including a cigarette container, decorations, letters and citations, relating to Cpl Richard Bullimore of the Leicestershire Regiment.

## TRAVEL TOOL GOES LIVE

■ AN online travel booking system has been launched to encourage troops to book their trains, flights and hotels early and get the best possible price.

The page, which can be accessed via the defence intranet, includes new guidance on making bookings.

It stresses that soldiers should always explore alternatives, such as video conferencing, before making journeys at public expense.

## SPORTING SAPPERS

■ MORE than 1,000 soldiers took to the sports field for the annual Sapper Games in Kinloss.

The event featured a total of 16 disciplines, including a highland games contest, and was won by athletes from the Minley-based 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment.



## MORE FUNDS FOR FORCES

■ THE government needs to consider allocating more cash to put Armed Forces on sure footing for emerging threats and "fill financial black holes", according to an influential group of MPs.

In their *Beyond 2 Per Cent* document, defence committee members said ministers should increase spending on the sector – moving it closer to three per cent of GDP.

Chair Julian Lewis praised Secretary of State Gavin Williamson for raising concerns about cash for the MoD, adding: "We hope our report will assist in sparking debate."





A personal view from Sara Baade, Chief Executive of the Army Families Federation...

## OVERSEAS AND OVERCHARGED

IT IS now just over two years since the combined accommodation assessment scheme (CAAS) was introduced for housing charges.

And while we were initially positive towards something that promised more transparency, in reality it has not been without its challenges.

Families have raised concerns around the reasoning behind the criteria, and this has led to many challenging the category their Service family accommodation was given – a process that has not been straightforward.

Most recently, we've been hearing from those overseas who moved onto CAAS last year.

Many of their issues are site specific, but others, such as concerns over the accuracy of energy performance certificates, are being raised widely.

So why is this happening?

Currently, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is applying UK methodologies to overseas locations, even though policy states that an in-country standard assessment procedure should be used.

As a result, local factors are not considered to the extent they should be.

We are, however, pleased to see that the DIO has recognised this and taken on our feedback.

We will continue to push for policy change to overcome general issues and, of course, the more location-specific concerns too, to help make things better.



[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)



From demos to dictators: CHACR has a wealth of insights on world affairs

## Another view Give us a go, says Army think tank

Picture: Shutterstock

“ We get the Army thinking ”

FROM civil unrest to confusing political situations, if you want the gen on pretty much any region of the world you could do a lot worse than contact the Army's think tank.

The Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research (CHACR), as it is catchily named, may sound like a dry sort of set-up aimed at officers alone.

The reality, however, is very different.

Staffed by soldiers, academics and historians, it exists to provide battle-winning information to personnel of any rank – and it is keen to become as popular among junior soldiers.

“We are all about simplifying a complex world,” explained Capt Josh Miers (Rifles, pictured), a staff officer at the Sandhurst-based organisation.

“The way we do that is by collecting information on global trends

and putting that into an operational context so troops are aware of what they're deploying into.”

The centre, which has a wealth of information available on the Army Knowledge Exchange, runs regular lectures and workshops which are being increasingly frequented by the junior ranks.

Capt Miers said this was a positive step the centre was keen to build on.

He added: “In today's world troops are surrounded by media and other people's opinions, so they need to be well informed themselves.

“CHACR brings in a range of views and analysis on world events to get the Army thinking, whether that be on cultural or strategic issues.”

For more information about the organisation and its events log on to

<http://chacr.org.uk>



### TALENT TOUR

Enduro set-up takes newcomers on the road – page 80

## NHS CHIEFS: KEEP SOLDIERING IN THE BLOOD

■ TROOPS are being called on to help bolster the nation's lifesaving blood stocks.

The NHS is running low on two vital types – B and O negative, the latter of which can be given to any patient in an emergency.

Soldiers are being targeted in particular as they are likely to know their blood type.

For details on how to donate visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)



Picture: Wikimedia Commons





**US asset: The Raven UAV will be among the products to be trialled**



Picture: Michael Saguee

# FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



## Qargha conquered

TROOPS based at Camp Qargha in Kabul braved the sweltering Afghan heat to complete a five-kilometre run round the base. Personnel from the UK, New Zealand, Denmark, Australia, the US and Turkey took part in the race, which was won by Capt Ali Robinson (RA) in a time of 19min 31sec.

Amount raised: **£620** For: ABE



## One in a million

MILITARY charity the Felix Fund has reached the £1 million mark for grants paid to individuals and groups from the EOD community. Among those to benefit are former Sapper Clive Smith (pictured), who received funding for pioneering surgery to enable him to walk with prosthetics. The Invictus Games silver medallist was also presented with a bespoke rugby wheelchair.

# Annual exercise gets robotic treatment

THE Service has announced details of a pioneering four-week exercise that will see soldiers testing the effectiveness of robotic and autonomous systems on the battlefield.

Autonomous Warrior, the 2018 Army Warfighting Experiment, will allow personnel to get hands-on with a range of cutting-edge kit from surveillance and precision-targeting devices to vehicles offering enhanced mobility and better resupply of ground forces.

Troops from 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade will be given the honour of conducting the trials, which get under way on November 12, as commanders look to assess the capabilities of military technology.

The exercise is the result of a collaboration between the Armed Forces, MoD, US Army and 50 industry

partners, with more than 70 pieces of kit being evaluated in the trials.

"Our Armed Forces continue to push the limits of innovative warfare to ensure that we stay ahead of any adversaries or threats faced on the battlefield," said Defence Minister Mark Lancaster.

"Autonomous Warrior sets an ambitious vision for Army operations in the 21st century as we integrate drones, unmanned vehicles and personnel into a world-class force for decades to come."

One of the key areas of the study will be last-mile resupply, with driverless convoys, unmanned lorries and aerial vehicles all being controlled autonomously.

Read more about the 2018 Army Warfighting Experiment in future issues of *Soldier*.

“ Our Forces continue to push the limits ”

## FINAL POPPORTUNITY

■ IF you missed the chance to see the stunning display of handmade ceramic poppies at the Tower of London in 2014 you can catch it – or half of it anyway – at locations around the UK over the coming months.

*Wave* (shown right) was on display in Portsmouth last month and will now move to a permanent home at the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester.

Meanwhile, *Weeping Window* can be viewed at Carlisle Castle until July 8 and at Middleport Pottery in Stoke-on-Trent from August 2 until September 16. It will then go to the Imperial War Museum in London.



Picture: Peter Davies



JAGUAR MILITARY SALES

# EXCLUSIVE MILITARY SAVINGS, WHEREVER YOU ARE. HOME OR AWAY.



## JAGUAR XE WITH UP TO 26% OFF AT MARSHALL MILITARY SALES

Marshall Military Sales are now able to provide full military savings to all previous full-time serving Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

### Impressive and exclusive Military benefits include:

- Savings of up to 32% off a new Jaguar
- Dedicated experienced military sales support
- Tax Free / Tax Paid pricing option
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts\*

### Marshall Military Sales UK

Jaguar Land Rover House, Mallory Road,  
Peterborough, PE1 5AU

Find out more online at:

[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk)

## JAGUAR XF WITH 26% TAX FREE SAVINGS IN GERMANY

The team at Grant and Green are dedicated to constantly reviewing our BFG Jaguar prices to make sure that we're the most competitive on the market

### Impressive and exclusive Military benefits include:

- **NEW** Dedicated local market military pricing
- Local agent customer support and showrooms in Germany
- BFG registration paperwork and Vehicle Test customer support staff
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts\*

### Jaguar Land Rover Germany

Jaguar Land Rover Germany GmbH,  
Campus Kronberg 7, 61476 Kronberg im Taunus

Find out more online at:

[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe)

THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

\*We can now extend the entire military saving to all retired or previous full-time serving H.M. Armed Forces members.

\*Finance is subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Prices and savings correct at time of going to press.







Picture: Cpl Tom Evans, RLC

## New kit trialled in Eastern Europe

**T**ECH-SAVVY troops have given the thumbs-up to a new piece of kit that allows them to exchange battle-winning information with their US allies.

Soldiers from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards put the dismantled situational awareness gear through its paces on Exercise Saber Strike in north-east Poland.

The two-week package of manoeuvres – which saw 18,000 troops operating across Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia – rehearsed tactics for peer-on-peer war fighting.

It also served to reassure Eastern European allies in the face of the growing threat from Russia.

The system (shown), which works on a ruggedised Samsung tablet worn on the chest, is based on a similar device used by the Americans. It enables battlefield data, including photos of targets, to be shared in real time.

Maj Ben Parkyn (ODG), officer commanding C Squadron, tested the kit with his troops on the exercise, having deployed to Poland in April as part of Op Cabrit.

He said that the system – part of the wider Project Morpheus replacement for the Bowman comms suite – had proved a huge asset.

"It allowed us to work with a



Picture: Capt Chris Wade, HAC

common operating picture," he added.

"The technology allows you to mark and put an exclusion zone around identified threats such as minefields or anti-tank screens.

"Our soldiers also gave feedback on where the kit needs refining."

Another notable moment on Saber Strike came when paratroopers completed a transatlantic crossing before jumping into Latvia alongside their US counterparts (shown above).

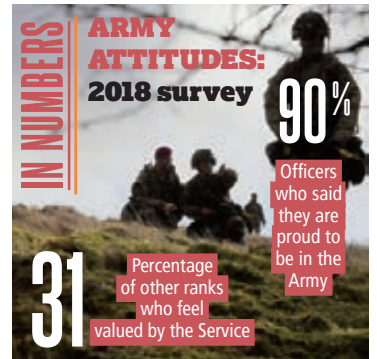
Personnel from 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment flew in directly from Fort Bragg, North Carolina and landed in the drop zone with a range of heavy equipment including vehicles and stores.

"This gives us a lot of confidence," said Lt Max Ramsden (Para). "We've done a number of jumps and they've all been successful.

"There have been very few injuries and that proves our airborne skills are second to none."

“It allows you to mark identified threats”

Medical front line – page 38



### ATTITUDE PROBLEM

■ TROOPS are less satisfied with Army life than at any point in the last decade, according to the results of the 2018 Armed Forces continuous attitude survey.

More than half of officers (55 per cent) reported being happy with military life in general, while among other ranks the figure was 40 per cent.

Although around 50 per cent of officers and two thirds of soldiers reported their own morale as high, 53 per cent of those who responded thought unit morale was poor.

Responding to the statistics on satisfaction, which are the worst since the survey was introduced in 2007, Director Personnel Lt Gen Ivan Jones said he was keen to improve on the negative trend in unit morale.

"I understand we are experiencing a degree of uncertainty, efficiencies and significant change and we continue to try and optimise how these are managed and implemented for the Army as a whole," he explained.

The officer also said he recognised the need to offer "engaging, realistic and exciting" training opportunities for those troops concerned about the frequency of deployments.

### PAY DAY CALL

■ AN announcement on future pay for Service personnel remains delayed – but Army chiefs have stressed that any rise will be backdated to the beginning of April 2018.

The government is still considering recommendations from the Armed Forces pay review body.

Any hikes to housing charges will be confirmed at the same time, and will also be payable from April.

### CHILDCARE WARNING

■ SOLDIERS and their families returning from overseas postings are being reminded to visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to apply for 30 hours of free childcare before they arrive home. Parents with three- and four-year-old youngsters who are entitled to the scheme will be issued with a code.



## ALL IN A GOOD GAUZE

■ ARMY medics are taking delivery of the latest range of haemostatic gauzes which stem bleeding from life-threatening injuries.

The MoD has ordered the Celox Rapid product to treat gunshot and stab wounds, having previously used the items on combat operations.

The latest product can stop arterial bleeding more rapidly – within a minute of being applied, according to the manufacturer.



## TRANSATLANTIC TUITION

■ A GROUP of US Army and National Guard officers have been developing their understanding of the British Army at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham.

Around 30 American troops spent six weeks at the Joint Services Command and Staff College honing strategic planning skills alongside their UK counterparts as well as visiting lecturers and academics from Cranfield University and King's College London.



Picture: Mark Owens

## BIRTHDAY BLAST

■ MEMBERS of 105 Regiment, Royal Artillery helped Edinburgh's University Officer Training Corps fire a 21 royal gun salute to mark the Duke of Edinburgh's 97th birthday.

It is one of 11 royal gun salutes to take place in Scotland each year, seven of them at Edinburgh Castle (pictured).

## TROOPS CONTINUE WITH CHEMICAL CLEAN-UP



Picture: Cpl Pete Brown, RLC

■ ARMY specialists have been continuing to pinpoint sites requiring decontamination in Salisbury in the wake of the March nerve agent attack. Troops and Royal Air Force colleagues are supporting the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in making locations safe. While the risk to public health is low, samples are being taken in potentially affected areas and contaminated items cleaned. Soldiers from the Royal Tank Regiment's Falcon Squadron have been working alongside colleagues from the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Logistic Corps and specialist instructors. Nearly 200 Forces personnel were deployed following the attack, which left Sergei Skripal and daughter Yulia fighting for their lives.

## 'Fantastic' facility a step closer

THE Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre – the new home for staff and patients of Headley Court – was due to be formally handed over as this issue went to press.

The Duke of Cambridge was set to preside over the ceremony, during which the facility (pictured below) was to be formally gifted to the nation on behalf of the seventh Duke of Westminster, Hugh Grosvenor.

Prime Minister Theresa May was expected to receive the complex, on the Stanford Hall Estate near Loughborough, as the drawdown at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Surrey continues.

Staff will move between summer and the end of the year.

And Headley Court is due to close its doors to patients in early autumn.

The new centre was the brainchild of the previous Duke of Westminster,



Gerald Grosvenor, who served as a Reservist for 40 years.

He led fundraising efforts with a £70 million personal donation before his death in 2016.

Surgeon General Lt Gen Martin Bricknell said: "The facility is a fantastic endeavour and I'm grateful to the Duke of Westminster and charitable donors.

"The potential it offers is unparalleled, enabling the UK to stay at the forefront of trauma rehabilitation."

“  
The potential  
it offers is  
unparalleled  
”





# Missile system moves on up

Picture: Shay Woods, MBDA



**A** POWERFUL missile system that will become the lynchpin of Army air defence has successfully completed its first firing trial, the MoD has confirmed.

Land Ceptor was put through its paces on a Swedish test range near the Baltic Sea – where the weapon successfully engaged and destroyed an aerial target.

Military chiefs said the kit – the centrepiece of the new Sky Sabre system that will replace Rapier – performed well. It remains on course for delivery to the Hampshire-based 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery in 2020.

"This is an important stepping stone towards bringing Land Ceptor into service," said Richard Smart, Director Weapons at Defence Equipment and Support. "Our project team will continue to work with suppliers to ensure it provides an effective shield for troops protecting the UK's security and interests."

Sky Sabre is set to be a game changer for Army air defence gunners – using the Saab Giraffe multi-beam radar and a sophisticated electronic brain it will be able to detect threats

miles beyond visual range and engage them in short order.

Built by contractor MBDA in a £250 million contract, Land Ceptor is formed around the common anti-air modular missile, a launcher truck and two fire support vehicles.

The system can be deployed in less than 20 minutes.

It is part of the same weapons family as Sea Ceptor, which is being brought into action to defend Royal Navy Type 23 and 26 frigates.



## A century of sterling support

■ A 103-YEAR-OLD Royal British Legion supporter who has collected for the Poppy Appeal for nearly a century is to hang up her tin later this year.

Rosemary Powell began her long association with the charity as a child in 1921 and has been a regular fundraiser ever since.

The retired nurse even continued to help after moving to a care home in 2015, encouraging fellow residents to donate.

She said: "We lost a lot of family during the First and Second World Wars: it has always been a very important cause for me."

### FILL ROSEMARY'S BOOTS



COULD you be The Royal British Legion's next fundraising stalwart? Some 2,000 troops already are. And this is what their efforts helped to provide for the Service community last year

# 85,118

visits to high street pop-in centres, which offer a warm welcome and advice to soldiers

## TENS OF THOUSANDS

phonecalls to the Legion's helpline

grants totalling

# £3.4m

Get involved:  
volunteersupport@  
britishlegion.org.uk



SPINE LINE COMPETITION



**WIN**  
£200-worth of stylish undies



READERS were put to the test in last month's spine line clues.

Inspired by our feature on Service referees, (Kevin) Friend, (Jonathan) Moss, (Michael) Oliver and (Craig) Pawson all adjudicated over Premier League matches in the 2017/18 football season.

This month *Soldier* has teamed up with unisex underwear brand FOCX (<https://focx.co.uk>) to offer one lucky reader £200-worth of pants.

British made with high quality material, these garments stop wearers getting a bum deal in the comfort department, with a design that prevents the clothing from "riding up".

To be in with a chance of winning this handy prize, tell us what links the words on the side of this issue.

Answer to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by July 31. Readers can enjoy a 15 per cent discount on FOCX items by entering promo code "SOLDIER" at the checkout on its website.



## D-DAY MEDIC DISCOVERY

■ THE courage of a Second World War soldier listed as missing during the D-Day invasion of France was remembered after his resting place was finally identified.

The unveiling of a new headstone for Pte Lacey Tingle (shown), who died after parachuting into Normandy with the 6th Airborne Division, was held on the 74th anniversary of the landings in a service attended by his 96-year-old sister.

Researchers identified the medic's grave at Ranville War Cemetery.





# Queen Ethelburga's



*"To be the best that I can with the gifts that I have"*

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2017/18 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees, around £925 per term. Fees for 2018/19 are to be confirmed.

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on:  
Tel: 01423 33 33 30 Email: [admissions@qe.org](mailto:admissions@qe.org)

Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | [www.qe.org](http://www.qe.org)





Picture: Graeme Main

# Army aviation reaches new heights

**A** LETHAL combination of heavily armed attack helicopters and sophisticated reconnaissance aircraft are set to prove a battlefield game changer, a senior Army Air Corps officer has said.

Brig Mike Keating told *Soldier* the pairing of Wildcat to designate targets with its Apache stablemate to engage them would hit adversaries hard.

And now a shift in aviation rules will see the two airframes operate in teams, giving commanders on the ground a huge array of firepower.

Brig Keating, who is deputy commander and operations director at the Joint Helicopter Command, was speaking as Wildcat and Apache were paired for manoeuvres over Wales, where they showed impressive potential (page 28).

"We launched two Hellfire missiles and both hit the targets with pinpoint accuracy," he continued. "We could not have wished for a better outcome."

"The success represents a significant

development for us and we will now be writing Army aviation doctrine based on using teams of aircraft."

Although Apache can designate targets, using it as a reconnaissance platform means the airframe cannot be loaded with as much ordnance, Brig Keating explained.

Adding Wildcat into the mix and allowing it to scout out objectives, means the full 16 Hellfire missiles can be carried on each attack helicopter.

The senior officer predicted that each team could range from three to nine airframes, meaning huge destructive power could be unleashed if required.

"We have a phenomenal capability to offer on the battlefield," he said.

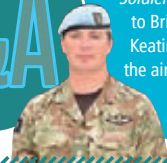
"Our crews will now be taught how to operate in this way from the word go – they will unlock Apache's full capability and provide us with a real force multiplier."

"It's important we examine how we can use it in the future, particularly alongside assets such as armed UAVs."

“  
We could not  
have wished  
for a better  
outcome  
”

## Q&A

Soldier spoke to Brig Mike Keating about the air pairing...



### Why this new way of working now?

Put simply, it is that Wildcat is now in service. Matching this aircraft with Apache means we can optimise both capabilities and best respond to current threats.

### How much extra firepower will you have?

We could put out a squadron of eight Apaches with a combined payload of 128 Hellfire missiles – meaning a lot of tanks destroyed. Wildcat can also connect to the joint fires network to bring in other air and artillery strikes.

### How has Wildcat changed the game?

It means we will be able to find targets earlier, better understand the tactical situation and strike deep into the enemy echelons.

### What does this mean for Apache?

With the latest model of the helicopter we have greater firepower and a more reliable aircraft. The introduction of Wildcat optimises Apache for its primary anti-armour role.



■ AROUND 1,000 soldiers marched on London's Horse Guards Parade to mark the Queen's official birthday. Members of the Coldstream Guards trooped their colour in front of the royal family and spectators. All the royal colonels accompanied Her Majesty at the colourful event, which dates back more than 250 years.



IN NUMBERS:

7,500

spectators that turned out on London's iconic Horse Guards Parade



Pictures: Sgt Paul Randall, RLC



---

# THE BIG PICTURE

Exercise Saber Strike, Poland

---

## AT THE CUTTING EDGE

THOUSANDS of troops from more than a dozen countries honed their conventional war fighting skills and drills during manoeuvres across Eastern Europe. Exercise Saber Strike saw British soldiers take on crucial roles and trial the latest technologies in the field. Maj Gen Bill O'Leary, deputy commander Field Army, told *Soldier* he had been impressed when he saw the serials for himself in Poland. "This is about getting back to basics," he added. See pages 15 and 38.

Picture: Cpl Tom Evans, RLC









NEED TO

KNOW

MENTAL HEALTH / NUTRITION / NEXT STEPS / EXPERIENCE / SKILLS & DRILLS

# Brain training



How mindfulness could take the stress out of soldiering...

▶ IT'S easy to rush through the day preoccupied with to-do lists or other worries, but being constantly distracted not only makes it hard to focus, it can also leave you feeling on edge.

If that sounds familiar it could be time to give mindfulness a try.

Stephen Jack (ex-RAPTC), an exercise rehab instructor at the regional rehabilitation unit at RAF Cranwell, has seen the approach yield results in his work with injured personnel and believes all Servicemen and women can benefit from mastering some basic techniques.

"Mindfulness is simply the practice of training our attention to be in the here and now," explained the former sergeant.

"The brain is like a muscle – overthinking is the same as overtraining in the gym.

"Without the correct balance between stimulation and recovery you can pick up injuries both physically and mentally."

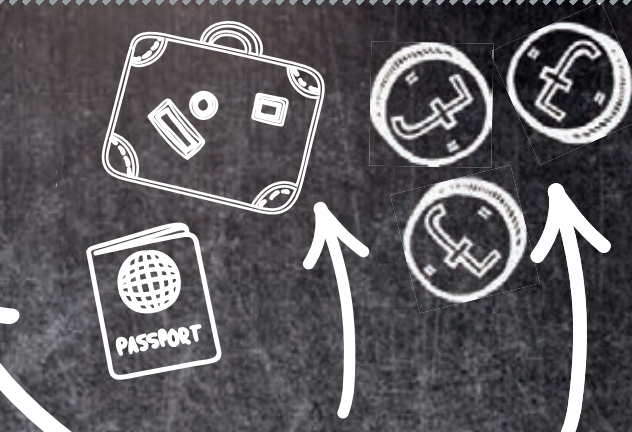
And Jack said those thinking mindfulness is too "pink and fluffy" for the Army shouldn't dismiss it too quickly.

"You probably haven't realised but it's an essential part of the marksmanship principles," he added.

"As you draw your mind to the breath, you watch the inhale, then the exhale and – boom – you've fired yourself into the present moment."

So if you find your brain buzzing with random thoughts, try following these tips to restore your inner Zen...





## Take a breath

The next time you receive a sarky email or get cut up by a mindless driver take three deep breaths. Breathing is always there when you need it.

## Learn to relax

As stress levels rise so does the amount of tension held within the body. Either sit or lie down somewhere quiet, then starting at the head and finishing at the toes, progressively contract and relax one muscle group at a time. Gradually feel all that built up stress melt away.

## Head outside

When you want to clear your head there's no better place than the great outdoors. Make the most of what nature provides by going for a walk in the woods or countryside – or even just a park.

## Give yoga a go

Forget the stigma attached to yoga, it's now an essential part of the England rugby league and union teams' training schedules. Not only does it hit a neglected component of fitness – flexibility – it can reduce stress and improve quality of sleep.

## Be thankful

Do you find yourself complaining a lot about people, work or life in general? As you lie in bed at night think of all the things you've been grateful for that day. Shift your perspective by focusing on what you have got rather than what you haven't got and challenge your thoughts next time you find yourself whinging.

## Read a book

If life gets on top of you pick up a book and escape into a different world. When your mind wanders just accept it's happened, reread the part you missed and carry on. Over time you will train your brain to stay focused.

## Put down your phone

Far from taking your mind off things, mindlessly scrolling through social media has been shown to be distracting and depressing. If you can't keep away from your smartphone the meditation app *Headspace* could help you break the habit of constantly refreshing your newsfeed.

## Shower your stress away

The shower can be a good place to wash away some of that mental noise, especially if you have kids and don't have much time to yourself. Focus on the sound and feel of the water hitting your head, ears and shoulders. It's as easy as that.


## Online advice

YouTube is a great resource if you would prefer to listen to someone talk you through a five- or ten-minute practice. Type "guided mindfulness exercises" into the search engine. You might be pleasantly surprised.



Stephen Jack is the head coach at Lone Wolf Fitness

[www.lonewolfitness.com](http://www.lonewolfitness.com)

 Lone Wolf Fitness – Online Personal Fitness


 @lonewolfit

Illustration: Tudor Morgan



# Going green

Tempted to join the meat-free set? Here's how to ensure your battlefield performance doesn't suffer...

▶ YOU can't spend more than five minutes online these days without some smug Instagrammer showing their #plantbased diet in your face.

From bog-standard veggies to raw vegans who don't touch anything heated above 45 degrees Celsius, there are plenty of ways to overhaul your diet.

But if you're considering going down the meat-free road – and more of us are – there are some important things to note...

## On a meat-free mission?

Follow these tips to stay on top of your nutrition

**Continue to eat a variety of foods** to make sure your body gets a healthy diet. Most cookhouses offer meat-free options – if you're unsure just ask. Plan your meals so they're balanced.

**Base your diet on potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy carbs.** Choose wholegrain options where possible and ensure you get your five portions of fruit and vegetables per day.

**Think protein.** Non-meat sources of this food group usually have a low biological value so try to combine different types in each meal, such as beans on toast or cereal with milk.

**Try to eat vitamin C-rich foods at the same time as iron** to help the body absorb it. For example, orange juice with cereal.

**Don't forget your calcium if going dairy-free.** It is vital for keeping bones strong and can be found in dark green leafy veg, fortified cereals, tofu, dried fruit, seeds, tahini and nuts.

**Watch your fat, salt and sugar intake.** Just because something is meat-free doesn't mean it's healthy.

Try the **Vegetarian Society Recipes app** for some nutritious meal ideas.

## Expert view

Is it safe for soldiers to shun meat?

“As long as they continue to fuel themselves appropriately so they can perform their duties. It's all about being knowledgeable and planning ahead as to what you are going to eat. Troops should also bear in mind that in some operational situations there might not be the availability of vegetarian and vegan options that there is at home.”

Dr Trish Davey,  
Defence Nutrition  
Advisory Service

## Protein power

Good veggie sources include:

Lentils and beans

Quorn

Eggs, milk and dairy products

Soya and soya products

Nuts





IN NUMBERS  
**121**  
 PRISONS ACROSS  
 ENGLAND AND  
 WALES

“As a former soldier, coming here was a natural fit for me,” Tucker – who is currently working at HMP Woodhill high security prison in Milton Keynes – explained.

“Although it can be a stressful job I expected nothing more when I signed up.

“You also have your mates to rely on and they will be with you if there is trouble.”

The Ministry of Justice, like many sectors, has seen significant restructuring over the past decade, brought about to cut the public spending deficit.

But a more recent recruitment drive by HM Prisons and Probation Service has been drawing new officers to the fold.

Tucker, who served in Northern Ireland during his five-year stint in the Army, had this message for ex-personnel considering applying: “You always hear the negative rather than the positive about working here.

“If you have coped with the military then you will cope in this setting.

“Just like in the Services, you never know what is going to happen day-to-day – if you are running to an alarm you really feel the adrenalin pumping.

“You need to have the skill sets to deal with different incidents – discipline, the ability to work in a team and individual resilience are also important qualities.

“Ex-soldiers bring a strong work ethic with them too.”

For Tucker, one of the most rewarding aspects of his civilian career has been the chance to help offenders begin rehabilitation.

“It doesn’t take you long to find out that some people have simply taken the wrong path in life, and we are trying to change their outlook,” he continued.

“Obviously, you have to be diplomatic in this role, but it is satisfying if you can assist prisoners and help them to realise that their future can be different.”

A career in the Prison Service undoubtedly has its stresses and strains, but many veterans have the skills that are well suited and sought after in this line of work.

Tucker is certainly convinced that the benefits outweigh the pressures of his job.

“This is a disciplined service, the people are professional and the camaraderie fantastic,” he concluded. “If that is what you are looking for, this is a good life.” ■

# Inside story

Your military experience could prove invaluable in a Prison Service career, according to this former soldier...

▶ FINDING a sense of vocation when you’ve served Queen and country as a member of the Armed Forces is always going to be a tough ask.

But Barry Tucker – who became a prison officer after five years in The Queen’s Lancashire Regiment – believes veterans can put their skills to good use in the security and policing sectors, all while making a real difference.

And while these areas have been a traditional post-Service destination, he reckons military experience is increasingly prized in these high-pressure environments.



# 'You're never too old to try something new'

Powerlifter Maj Mark Aslett (AAC) only started in the sport two years ago but the 49-year-old says age is no barrier to sporting success



# Living the life aquatic

Make sure your first dive goes swimmingly with these top tips

▶ **DONNING** scuba kit and submerging into the depths for the first time is an exciting prospect for virgin underwater adventurers, but it can also be something of a daunting experience.

Whether you are taking part in a military exped or going on holiday, amputee diver and former sapper Josh Boggi has this advice for newbies...

## Start while dry

Try to relax before you get into the water. Listen carefully to what your instructor has to say and do what you are told. If you don't understand something, it's important that you ask.

## Trust your friends

You must have confidence in those diving with you and they must have confidence in you. We depend on each other in the military, so get to know your mates and trust them. Work through your skills and drills and you will be fine. Good relationships will make your dive much more enjoyable.

## Stay stable

They say buoyancy is the Holy Grail of diving. You immediately become more comfortable in the water from the moment that you learn how to stay naturally buoyant, so focus on this discipline.

## Breathe easy

You need to sort out your breathing. You are likely to be nervous at first, which means it's possible to go through a cylinder in 25 minutes or so. You can extend that by ten minutes by controlling your breathing – it will also help you manage your buoyancy.

## Relish the occasion

Above all, enjoy yourself. Diving is fun.

**Interested in diving?**  
Visit [www.jssadc.org](http://www.jssadc.org)

MY motivation for starting was WO1 Dave Heath (AAC). He has won world titles and one day in the gym he asked if I was interested in powerlifting – it began there.

I've always lifted weights and, having previously served in the Infantry, felt I had to be strong to climb over walls and carry equipment.

When I joined the Army 33 years ago the emphasis was on getting your kit on and going for a long run, but attitudes have changed now.

It is important to look after your body and health – we play hard, fight hard and train hard.

I'm not getting any younger and you're only as good as your last cock-up. It is my duty to be fit and I hope to inspire the younger generations behind me.

I've since opened two powerlifting gyms in the Army Air Corps and they support around 20 amateur athletes. It is something that has gained more popularity over the past decade and the Service has a fantastic team.

I've only been competing for two years but have set two British records in the masters two category.

I lifted 152.5kg to win the British Bench Press Championships early this year and my aim is to go to the World Championships in Malta and lift 160kg.

The great thing about this sport is that you do not have to do full power – you can specifically focus on the bench press, squat or deadlift.

But you have to work at it and it can be quite painful at times – if you go too hard, too quickly your body does not always adapt.

You're never too old to try something new. When I go to different competitions I don't see any other late entry officers so I'm probably the oldest one doing this.

Hopefully, a few more will be inspired to take part. ■







“

We'll be looking to integrate further and further

”

Army helicopters join forces off Welsh coast to rewrite rules of the air

# POTENT

**A**S WILDCAT'S blades thump through the oppressive morning mist at RNAS Yeovilton, its ground crew dart around the tarmac with an even greater sense of purpose than usual. Lingerer summer storm clouds may be threatening to call off today's outing, but if this reconnaissance helicopter and its crew get their way they will be playing with Hellfire missiles off the coast of Wales by lunchtime.

To call this a good day out would be an understatement. Alongside its Apache cousin, the airframe is heading for the Aberporth Ranges where it will test a capability called attack reconnaissance teaming that could revolutionise the way the Army does business in the air.

“Today is a really significant day for aviation,” explains Maj Si Pope (AAC, pictured right), officer commanding 1 Regiment's 659 Squadron, which operates the state-of-the-art platform.

The officer is upbeat, but with an air of solemnity.

And who can blame him. Today, for the very first time, the Army Air Corp's relative new kid on the block will pinpoint a target, onto which the Apache will unleash its own unique version of hell.

But the “proof of concept” exercise, as it is known, must go without a hitch if this way of pairing up aircraft is to become a feature of British missions.

Watching an old barge getting blown to pieces off Aberporth Ranges is all well and good, but if the two platforms fail to bring this £90,000 weapon to bear seamlessly, the consequences don't bear thinking about.





# PARTNERS

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe Pictures: Graeme Main

Maj Pope explains the backstory to *Soldier*: “Our main focus this year has been integrating these helicopters as part of an attack reconnaissance team – it is one of the key things we have been doing within the wider Army war fighting division.

“In future we will be looking to integrate further and further.”

Definitely no pressure, then.

An hour or so into the flight, and with a couple of thunderstorms circumnavigated, Wildcat arrives at its destination along with a pair of Apaches.

Maj Pope, who occupies the impressive glass cockpit of the accompanying airframe, is in confident mood as his crew observe the start of the



serial from around 18 kilometres away.

“This is one of those things we have been training to do for a long time,” he adds. “And to actually do it live, with a real Hellfire missile and using Wildcat in the designation role will really prove to us something we have known for a long time: how effective the team concept will be in defeating armour.”

Wales’ Cardigan Bay is in full view now, and the test begins.

The target is identified and the airframes exchange information before a missile is swiftly deployed from each of the attack helicopters.







Maj Pope explains: "What you see here is Wildcat using its laser target designator. "It moves into position and passes the fire mission, either via data networks or voice, to the Apache."

"The AH then confirms what we told it, tracks our coded laser and designates, using the Hellfire missile seeker head, to destroy the target."

Beyond today's excitement, though, Maj Pope is also keen to talk about future training.

"My squadron is going out to France shortly where we will be operating with French Tiger attack helicopters," he reveals.

"Of course, we will now additionally be able to designate for close air support."

Wildcat might not be the slickest looking military aircraft, but today's test has confirmed – as if any of these airmen needed convincing otherwise – what battle-winning potential is contained within its guts.

With a state-of-the-art digital cockpit, awesome sensors and powerful CTS800 engines, this multi-role chopper can now add "assisting Apache" to its list of career highs.

The revered attack helicopter, which found its teeth for the UK on operations in Afghanistan (see panel), cannot carry as much ordnance when used for reconnaissance.

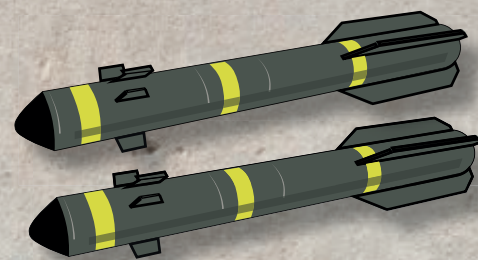
But when Wildcat enters the fray to scout out targets, Apache can revert to carrying a full load of 16 Hellfire missiles.

"These new fantastic digital cockpits are really taking Army aviation a big step forward and as the Apache force looks to move onto digital cockpits too, with better mapping and better cameras, this can only be a step forward," Maj Pope concludes at the end of what will be a day to remember for all involved. ■



## Lightening the load

Wildcat's air pairing in numbers



**2**  
Hellfire  
missiles  
released  
on the  
exercise



litres of fuel required to fill both  
Wildcats for the day's mission



distance, in miles,  
of the target off the  
Welsh coast



seconds it took for the fire  
mission to be passed to Apache

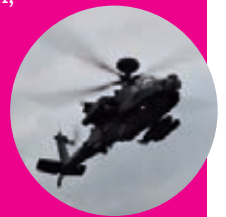




# Back to basics for Apache

AS THE Apache attack helicopter was being drawn up in the wake of the Vietnam War, its American designers had a prime prey in mind – Soviet armour.

Heavily protected and with the firepower to match, its intended destination was the Western European plains – where the potent combination of a chain gun, rockets and missiles would eat enemy tanks for breakfast.



When the British Army took delivery of the airframe in the early 2000s, however, its first action was outside this originally intended remit – Afghanistan.

While the crews, aircraft and its payload proved extremely versatile – with Hellfires effective against Taliban strongpoints – the pairing with Wildcat marks a return to home territory.

Brig Mike Keating, deputy commander and operations director at Joint Helicopter Command, said: “It is important to realise that there are still hugely significant lessons from our time in Afghanistan that we can apply to a warfighting role.

“But we also have to think about how we move forward and adapt.”







# TANK WARS:

## THE DEBRIEF

The Queen's Royal Hussars took on their European counterparts in a major military skills competition. One of their crews gave *Soldier* the lowdown on the action...

Report: Becky Clark





**LCPL RICHARD ROBINSON**

*Age: 29*

*Role: OPERATOR/LOADER*

*Match report:*

"The simulated IED casualty evacuation went really well. We had to remove a track, put it back on and get moving again. The average time was 30 minutes but we did it in just over ten. We had rehearsed a lot, everyone knew what they were doing and that round went flawlessly."

**CAPT BARNABY SPINK**

*Age: 26*

*Role: COMMANDER*

*Match report:*

"We picked our very best team. We have some fantastic soldiers here and a real breadth of experience, right from the sergeant majors to some of the newest troopers who have only recently joined the regiment. It was a great opportunity to work on the basics and get back to our roots as armoured troops."

**LCPL JOSH BRUTON**

*Age: 22*

*Role: GUNNER*

*Match report:*

"The defence and offensive shoots were definitely the most challenging. When the tank fires, a massive ball of dust comes straight in front of the sights and you can't tell for 20 seconds whether you've hit the target, so that was quite difficult. This competition has brought us closer together as a crew."

**TPR ROBERT DYSON**

*Age: 23*

*Role: DRIVER*

*Match report:*

"We did a driver obstacle course which involved some slaloms, reversing and driving over cars, but the sight was taped over so you had to rely on the commander to guide you. It was good fun and a real test of teamwork. I don't think I'll ever get to crush another vehicle again in my life."







**W**ORKING alongside partner nations has become bread and butter to British troops in recent years but opportunities to directly test trade skills against allied colleagues are still rare.

That looks set to change – in the armoured world at least – with The Queen's Royal Hussars becoming the very first UK team to take part in this year's Strong Europe Tank Challenge.

Staged in Grafenwoehr, Bavaria, the American- and German-led event saw crews from eight nations battle it out in a series of armour-related tasks.

Organiser Sgt Patrick Flanagan, from the US military's 7th Army Training Command, said the competition had been designed to create a level playing field despite the different capabilities of each army's vehicles.

"Live firing had to be a component so there are two rounds – one for offensive operations and one for defensive," he explained.

"Then we thought of all the other critical skills that a tank platoon needs to be successful in combat, so we test CBRN drills, vehicle recovery, medevac procedures and pistol shooting.

"Communication is essential – we incorporated a reporting stand and then added a driving event, which has become really successful because people love being able to run over cars."

For the QRH crews, mounted in their mighty Challenger 2 main battle tanks, some serials proved trickier than others.

"The variety of stands really played to the different countries' strengths," said Capt Barnaby Spink, leader of the UK contingent.

"Because most of our training is conducted on exercise and through field work I felt we capitalised on the casevac and battle damage assessment element, as well as the communication of sitreps up to a higher formation – we were well drilled for that.

"I think the areas where we struggled most was anything to do with agility or the weight of our tank.

"Challenger 2 is one of the heaviest out there and less nimble than some of the others.

"It's much more designed with protection and firepower in mind, and because of that our mobility suffers."

At close of play the standings saw the German team clinch the top spot, with the Swedish and Austrians in second and third positions and the UK in fourth.

Capt Spink said he was pleased with his crews' performance.

"We came first in the casevac serial and managed podium finishes in some of the others, including defensive live firing, the pistol shoot and the obstacle course," he continued.

"So given it is our first year and we were going in without any prior knowledge, we're happy."

Next year the baton to represent the Royal Armoured Corps at the contest will pass to the Royal Tank Regiment, and with the QRH having laid the groundwork the Germans should be looking over their shoulders ■

**Squad goals:** The QRH entered four Challenger 2 crews – 16 Service personnel in total (below) – into the competition

**Pictures:** Peter Davies, Spc Rolyn Kropf, Gertrud Zach, Lacey Justinger and Matthias Fruth







^ **EVENT: OFFENSIVE LIVE FIRE**



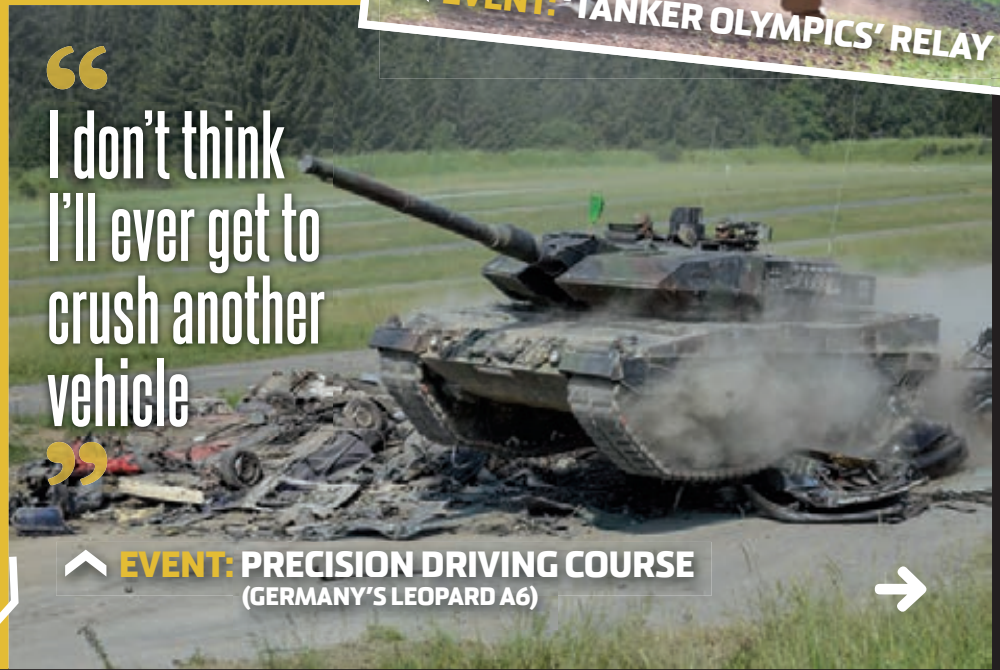
^ **EVENT: PISTOL SHOOTING**



^ **EVENT: 'TANKER OLYMPICS' RELAY**



^ **EVENT: OBSTACLE COURSE**



“ I don't think I'll ever get to crush another vehicle ”

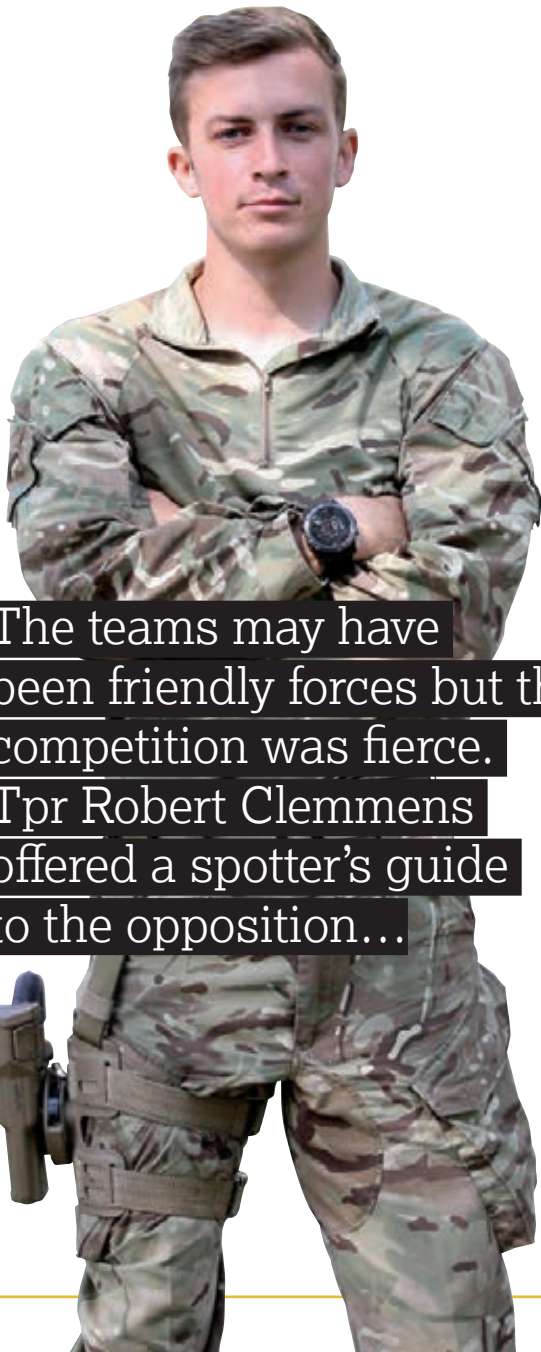
^ **EVENT: PRECISION DRIVING COURSE (GERMANY'S LEOPARD A6)**







# Know your 'enemy'



The teams may have been friendly forces but the competition was fierce. Tpr Robert Clemmens offered a spotter's guide to the opposition...



## LEOPARD 2 A4, A5 AND A6

**Operated by:** Austria, Poland and Germany

**Crew:** 4

**Length:** The longest model is the A6 at 10.97m

**Weight:** The heaviest model is the A5 at 62.5t

**Main armament:** 120mm smooth-bore

**Top speed:** 72km/h for the A4 and A5 (road)

"Each country has a slight variation of the Leopard – the Austrians have the A4, the Polish the A5 and the Germans the new A6 [pictured]. It has a powerful engine so it has the edge in mobility but Challenger's gun is more accurate and we can load our three-piece ammunition far quicker. Their single-piece ammo is a lot more cumbersome. Our fire control computer is also better for hitting targets on the move. The Leopards are very strong in this competition but in battle I'd rather have the Chally because it has more protection."



## STRIDSVAGN 122

**Operated by:** Sweden

**Crew:** 4

**Length:** 9.97m

**Weight:** 62t

**Main armament:** 120mm smooth-bore

**Top speed:** 68km/h (road)

"I've spoken to the Swedish team about the Stridsvagn and it's basically an up-armoured A5. It has the same gun, which is smooth-bore and quite accurate but they've added further protection. It's a very good, strong tank."





### MIA2 SEP

**Operated by:** United States

**Crew:** 4

**Length:** 9.77m

**Weight:** 62t

**Main armament:** 120mm smooth-bore

**Top speed:** 67km/h (road)

"The M1 Abrams has the Rheinmettal L44 smooth-bore gun, same as the Leopard A5, but inside it's got a lot more space. It has single piece ammunition weighing 20kg, which could tire the loader out. A gas turbine engine makes it very powerful and it has good mobility, but its armour isn't quite as good as Challenger's."



### LECLERC

**Operated by:** France

**Crew:** 3

**Length:** 9.87m

**Weight:** 55t

**Main armament:** 120mm smooth-bore

**Top speed:** 71km/h (road)

"From what I've seen the gun on the Leclerc is good. It has an auto-loader, so it doesn't rely on a person to load it, which they say is good for consistency but a good loader can work a lot faster – ours can do a three-second reload."



### T-84

**Operated by:** Ukraine

**Crew:** 3

**Length:** 9.72m

**Weight:** 46t

**Main armament:** 125mm smooth-bore

**Top speed:** 65km/h (road)

"The T84 is quite cramped inside – crew comfort isn't its strong point. The pros are that the gun is bigger so you'd expect it to have a faster round but again, it has an auto-loader. While it's significantly lighter than any other tank here it has the same engine power as Challenger so it will be quick when manoeuvring."



### ...HOW THE CHALLENGER 2 COMPARES

**Crew:** 4

**Length:** 11.55m

**Weight:** 62.5t

**Main armament:** 120mm rifled

**Top speed:** 59km/h (road)

IN NUMBERS

**283**  
SOLDIERS  
**EIGHT**  
NATIONS

**46**  
TANKS

competed in the **Strong Europe Tank Challenge**



# MEDICAL *FRONT LINE*







## Behind the flash and bang of Army operations, trauma care is evolving in a brand new environment

**W**HEN the sound of sirens reverberates in the near distance, the mood among Service personnel at the makeshift hospital changes from one of calm normality to quiet apprehension.

Grimly aware that they will – in all likelihood – be called into action soon, there are some cautious exchanges between professionals in the medical teams.

The possibilities are considered and likely scenarios mentally rehearsed.

Then the call comes confirming the worst news: there has been an ambush with multiple casualties, a number of ambulances are inbound.

Beneath a tented canopy full of lifesaving machinery, with the smells of damp canvas, soil and antiseptic prevailing in the air, the front line is about to arrive.

“We were far less organised for this when we had our first casualties on this exercise,” Maj Martin Moody (RAMC) – a consultant urologist – tells *Soldier* as we wait for the injured to arrive.

“But it didn’t take very long for this to change – best practice soon started to evolve and multinational personnel are now working efficiently together.”



Report: Cliff Caswell Pictures: Graeme Main





➔ By all accounts these US-led medical manoeuvres in Swidwin in northern Poland – part of the European-wide Exercise Saber Strike (page 15) – are providing a steep learning curve for everyone involved.

Among those taking part are a number of Reservists from the Yorkshire-based 306 Hospital Support and 335 Medical Evacuation Regiments – many of them NHS employees in civilian life.

And while a significant number have seen the likes of Iraq and Afghanistan on operations, these rehearsals are for a different scenario completely.

In the simulated conflict, working alongside their Polish and American allies, the Brits are preparing to fight a well-matched enemy force.

This means they must be up to speed with both soldiering and clinical skills to deal with threats such as chemical, nuclear, radiological and biological agents as well as cutting-edge conventional weapons.

It also demands a rethink of how things are done.

Lacking air supremacy, the Op Herrick drills of evacuating casualties by helicopter could prove suicidal on this mission.

Bringing in wounded troops by Land Rover is less risky but it has its challenges – not least that medical crews must be closer to the front line and for longer, often in the testing conditions of improvised hospitals which are a far cry from well-established bases like Camp Bastion.

“The clinical timelines we are working to are tight,” says Lt Col Catherine Bramwell-Walsh (RAMC, pictured right), officer commanding Bravo Squadron at 306 HSR.

“Although an ambulance provides the same care as a Chinook, it’s a more austere environment so it raises force protection issues.

“You also have to make decisions about managing a casualty over longer distances – some clinical procedures mean the vehicle must stop.”

Fortunately, the right expertise is available to meet this challenge – both 335 MER and 306 HSR have the likes of top-level consultants, paramedics and a range of specialist nurses in their ranks.

But ensuring they can work seamlessly alongside allies is key.

Col Helen Singh – commanding officer of 306 HSR – emphasises that ensuring their work combines well with the other nations’ ways of doing things is a critical part of the exercise package.

“For example, it’s important to check whether our kit fits together,” she says. “We need to know that a US oxygen cylinder



can fit a UK vent. These are small details but important in a multinational force.

“It’s crucial that we are all on the same page when it comes to ways of working.”

This has been a priority for American officers leading the drills, although they are satisfied with the way that differences in kit and protocols have been addressed.

“We have learnt a great deal from each other,” remarks Lt Col Jennifer Saenz (US Army), the assistant chief nurse on the exercise. “The UK, for example, does a phenomenal job with casualty simulation so we can take this on-board.

“It’s also been great to have new nurses and soldiers here, who are learning all the time.”

Back in the hospital, three casualties are being brought in. Missing limbs, chest injuries and gunshot wounds present challenges in a claustrophobic environment.

Wheeled stretchers battle uneven floors, runners dodge colleagues to bring kit back and forth, and there are instructions from all directions. Yet the troops from three nations remain disciplined and hold the line between life and death.

One by one, the injured are moved to the glare of operating theatre lights, enabling Maj Isobel Sommerville (RAMC) to stand down from her duties.

The ear, nose and throat specialist – who has some three decades of service as a Reservist under her belt – has seen the Army change. She is convinced, however, that it remains adept at evolving.

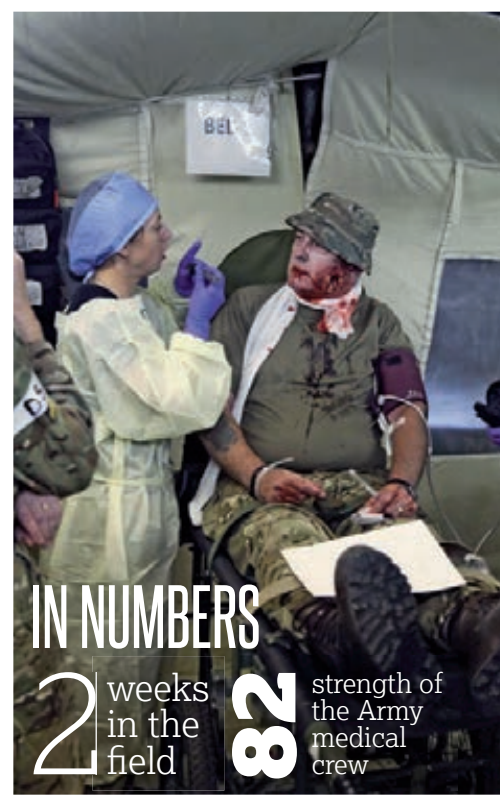
“We have learnt a great deal from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan,” she adds. “In particular, advances in trauma care continue to serve us well – and we are still picking things up through this type of training.”

This is certainly true. The current operating environment is different and harsh, but those who save lives are undaunted.

With a strong soldiering ethos matched with extraordinary professional acumen, they are proving themselves up to the challenge. ■







## IN NUMBERS

2 weeks in the field

82 strength of the Army medical crew

“ You have to make decisions about managing a casualty over longer distances ”







# A TALE OF TWO THEATRES



As the NHS turns 70, its relationship with the Army grows stronger by the day...

**I**T IS a glimpse into a world NHS bosses have never seen – a place where well-rehearsed protocols serve not only to keep patients alive, but medical professionals as well.

A year ago the scenario behind this exercise would have been unthinkable back on UK soil.

But as senior health care trust staff watch on, perhaps with the recent nerve agent attack in Salisbury in mind, the first responders move forward – their identities masked by respirators.

As they reach the casualty it doesn't take long to confirm a chemical attack: a blister agent has been used.

Troops start securing the area, and the medical teams set to work to ensure their injured comrade is protected from any residual agent.

Then there are muffled shouts as their minds turn to decontaminating and evacuating him – all

while staying safe themselves.

Although the health service managers have no military experience, they have employees involved in this serial in northern Poland as part of Exercise Saber Strike. Released as Reservists, they are testing their skills in a demanding front-line environment.

“The military has always been something that has felt distant from me,” David Cox, specialist lead for trauma and orthopaedic surgery at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, admits. “But seeing this exercise has brought it closer – and it’s exciting.

“It is impressive that the medical teams in the field can replicate what we do in civilian hospitals – methods and time frames are the same, as is the operating theatre preparation.

“I will definitely now be expanding my





knowledge on how the Armed Forces work.”

Medicine is an area in which there has long been close collaboration between the military and civilian worlds. Individuals from the NHS – which is marking its 70th anniversary this year – have often seen service as Reservists.

Part-time Army medical personnel, who have served in high-intensity theatres such as Iraq and Afghanistan, have then imported their front-line lessons directly into the civilian system.

As a result, higher standards of trauma care are being used to treat those who have been seriously injured on home soil.

Further afield, their expertise has been instrumental in humanitarian missions, from Ebola outbreaks in Sierra Leone to exercises promoting health care in rural areas of Kenya.

There have also been key personal benefits for those who give their spare time to serve with the military – namely that training they undertake on Army time can count towards their continuous professional development.

“The NHS is fully supportive of my life as a Reservist,” says WO2 Sally Taylor (RAMC), who works for South Central

Ambulance Service and is the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) instructor for the serial.

“Our employer gives us two weeks of full paid leave for military activities.

“If you can deal with anything on a battlefield, you’ll cope in civvy street.

“With a CBRN environment, for example, you are operating in kit that is claustrophobic even before you start dealing with a casualty.”

Sharing the sentiment, SSgt Ian Skryme (RAMC) is convinced that bringing Army learning back into the civilian world has made a difference – as well as helping his own knowledge base.

“I work as a paramedic in the West Midlands and I’m convinced the NHS gains a great deal from the military,” he adds. “Being a Reservist is a great opportunity to get to know and interact with other professionals.

“You have access to a fantastic cocktail of ideas that you can take back to your workplace.”

With the troops from 335 Medical Evacuation Regiment successfully extracting their wounded colleague, Rachel Diamond – assistant director of nursing at Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust – is visibly impressed by the training.

Although one of her employees serves as a Reservist, the health boss admits she had little concept of the demands being placed on medical teams in operational conditions.

“I’ve met Col Helen Singh (commanding officer of 306 Hospital Support Regiment) to discuss what we can offer the Army, and what it can offer us,” she continues. “My employee has learnt so much here.”

By all accounts, the relationship between the NHS and Service is standing the test of time. With the cutting edge of medicine being forged at the sharp end of military operations, there are clear benefits for bringing that lifesaving training into the British health care system.

And Reservists are a crucial element of that story. ■

“  
You have  
access to  
a fantastic  
cocktail of  
ideas  
”





**FIRST TO STAY  
ALERT**

**THEN TO GET  
TO SLEEP**

**NOW TO GET  
THROUGH  
THE DAY**

Addiction can take hold without you even realising.

**Forcesline** is a free, independent helpline, that's outside of the chain of command for the Armed Forces and their families. We'll listen and help get you back on track.

**0800 731 4880**

Open weekdays, 9am to 5.30pm

Or get in touch online at [ssafa.org.uk/forcesline](https://ssafa.org.uk/forcesline)

**ssafa** | the  
Armed Forces  
charity



# TALKBACK



Picture: Graeme Main

**Looking for motivation?  
British troops teach night  
navigation skills on Op  
Orbital in Ukraine**

## ‘Safe’ ops need rewarding

**W**HAT is the justification for deployed British personnel not being granted tax breaks while Servicemen and women from most Nato nations are?

Also, why has the operational allowance been removed?

I realise the theatres we currently serve in are not as deadly as Iraq or Afghanistan but they still involve inherent risk and time away from our families.

And I’d like to know why those who have deployed on Operation Cabrit receive a medal but cannot wear it while those who have served in Ukraine are not even given one.

Many soldiers want to go on operations and gain recognition and if they can’t they might well leave the Service.

If we don’t change this soon the Army will be in a much worse place than it is already when it comes to manning.

– Name and address supplied

**Col John Oldroyd, Army Pay Colonel, Personnel Directorate, responds:**

Thanks for your letter, which touches on a very emotive topic.

Operational allowance is designed to recognise increased danger above and beyond that compensated for by the X-factor.

The payment is set at an amount that would roughly equate to the tax and national insurance contributions paid by a private soldier deployed on tour with five

years’ service and receiving longer separation allowance.

It is awarded as a tax-free lump sum at the end of the tour.

The qualifying criteria is geographic, not mission specific, and is applied to certain locations which are set by the operational review board at Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood.

This was recently reassessed, and the decision was taken not to change the allowance’s policy or the qualifying locations. However, the list is re-evaluated every six months.

Also, you correctly highlight the importance of medallic recognition to our soldiers.

Campaign medals are only awarded when there is sufficient risk from enemy action, and when troops are required to live and work in a rigorous and austere environment for a prolonged period.

To award campaign medals to those who do not meet that criteria would devalue the prestige and integrity of past awards.

However, there is a lot of work currently in progress to identify how individuals who deploy on operations that do not involve facing an armed enemy, including Operations Cabrit and Orbital, might be properly recognised.

● Shader medal miss – page 51

“  
The Army  
will be in a  
much worse  
place  
”

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers’ agendas... but please be brief. Emails 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.

✉ [mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
🐦 [@soldiermagazine](https://twitter.com/soldiermagazine)



## HALAL HOO-HA

● I HAVE served for 28 years in the military and today I was shocked to learn from a recently retired chef in the Royal Navy and also my wife, a civilian who works in retail at Southwick Park, that every piece of meat that troops eat is halal.

This is disgusting, and why is this not advertised?

What would happen if someone asked for non-halal meat? – **Name and address supplied**

**Richard McKinney, Director of Service Delivery, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, replies:** Food provision on MoD sites takes place under different regional contracts with various providers, and their policies regarding halal differ.

To that end, any individual with questions about whether the meat they are eating is halal or not should address them to the catering team on site who are best placed to provide an answer.

However, in the case of Southwick Park the food provider does not serve this kind of meat, either there or at any defence site it supplies without first applying a label stating this on their point of sale information.

All food procured for MoD personnel is fully compliant with current UK legislation and government guidelines.

Nominated suppliers must adhere to strict quality and safety standards. This includes the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which covers halal slaughter.

There is currently no legal requirement within the UK to label halal meat in mainstream products and menus so Service and civilian personnel with special dietary requirements should speak to their catering staff about which dishes are suitable for them to eat.



Picture: Graeme Main

## ‘Specialised infantry will drain us’

**D**O THE higher echelons of the Army realise that specialised infantry manning is unsustainable in the long run?

My battalion is not earmarked for this role but we have to provide around 30 to 40 soldiers and officers from across the ranks for these units in addition to instructors for phase one establishments such as the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and the Army Foundation College at Harrogate.

Due to most of the personnel concerned being junior NCOs or above this is proving to be a considerable drain on our command structure and has the potential to leave our battalion short of numbers for its own taskings.

Why not increase the specialised infantry’s private soldier liability so they can at least develop some of their own NCOs? – **Name and address supplied**

**Lt Col Lee Pearce, SO1 Organisational Plans, responds:** The specialised infantry battalion structure is rank-heavy due to its role.

When taken in isolation this could be considered unsustainable but they are designed to be manned by their infantry division, with troops moving

back and forth between these and other battalions and training centres at different stages in their careers.

This approach enables those who have demonstrated an aptitude for such a job to be selected and then bring their experiences and skills back to their units.

The methodology has been modelled and proved sustainable.

As a third of the specialised infantry teams will be made up of privates and lance corporals, these battalions will, over time, be able to grow their capability from the bottom up and reduce the demand on the rest of the division.

The group is in a transition phase and won’t be fully operational until 2020. Until then, and while the units focus on building capacity, the divisions may need to move manpower from other battalions.

This may create the illusion they are unsustainable but it’s important not to make false assumptions at this early stage.

● Look out for a Specialised Infantry update in the August issue

“ They should develop their own NCOs ”

## TOP RECOGNITION FOR REFEREE

● THANKS for the first-rate article on Army football referees in the June edition.

You mention WO2 Andy Halliday (RAPTC) and list his many achievements and I think it’s worth noting that he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen’s birthday honours list.

I look forward to seeing more coverage of my colleague in the future – and thanks too for a great publication.

– **Col Philip Harrison, Commander HQ North West**



Picture: SSgt Paul Morrison, RLC



**Uphill climb:** The high demand for places means only the fittest succeed at Gurkha selection



Picture: Mike Weston

disorders and injuries are the most common, as they are with the rest of the Armed Forces.

The physical standards used for Gurkha selection are the same as those employed for British-based recruits but as a result of the exceptionally high demand for places only the very fittest are chosen – the tests are performed as a best effort rather than having to meet a minimum standard.

Cultural attitudes towards healthy lifestyle choices may also play a part in the Gurkhas' low susceptibility to these injuries as well as their approach to prevention.

In addition, there may be some genetic factors that protect or enhance Gurkha performance, but they have not been assessed.

There are currently no plans to examine this population in isolation as part of research into musculoskeletal injuries, but it may be undertaken once the health behaviours associated with these problems are better understood.

The Service's policy for injury prevention aims to capture best practice and ensure that commanders have an accessible aid for improving their troops' availability and deployability.

This is due to be revised to include advice linked to the new Army physical training system, which has already been developed to incorporate the most up-to-date training principles and components designed to minimise injury while progressively improving fitness levels. Details are in [ABN 36/18](#).

## Gurkhas ahead on the fitness trail

**A**FTER reading the special section on physical training in the May edition of *Soldier*, I wondered if comparative data exists on the fitness and injury levels of Gurkhas compared to British-born recruits?

I know that Gurkhas are unusual for achieving above average marksmanship standards and I believe they once had the highest deployable levels in the British Army.

I assume they still do and, if so, have the reasons for this achievement ever been properly examined?

Would there be value – and possibly lessons learnt – from studying their

attitudes, fitness and injury levels?  
– Maj Sergio Miller, Int Corps

**Maj Mohammed Fertout, Senior Health Advisor, SO2 Health and Wellbeing Policy, replies:** You make a good observation and a recent check of Field Army health data confirms that 93 per cent of Gurkha personnel are currently fully deployable. There are several factors to consider in this, however.

Like the rest of the Army, Gurkhas can be medically discharged and downgraded for a wide range of reasons, and musculoskeletal

“There may be genetic factors”

## Is a break-in allowed?

● MY STAFF sergeant broke into my locked desk drawer that contained personal belongings.

When I questioned his actions I was told he had every right to do this because the drawer wasn't my property, it was the MoD's.

If that's the case, what's to stop him breaking into my Service accommodation? – [Name and address supplied](#)

**Col Richard Allen, Assistant Head of Discipline and Administrative Law, replies:** Powers of entry, search and seizure are governed by part three, chapter three of the Armed Forces Act 2006.

The law places strict conditions on the circumstances in which such actions can take place and defines which persons are authorised to carry them out lawfully.

Without knowing the full situation of your case, it would appear that it may have been an unlawful search.

If property was damaged or stolen, you may report the matter to the military police. If you consider yourself to have been wronged you may make a Service complaint.







# THE MINI CLUBMAN.

BMW Group is proud to offer unbeatable rates throughout the BMW and MINI ranges to all current and previously serving members of the Military and Emergency Services.



MINI Select Representative example for a MINI Cooper S Clubman with optional metallic paint, Chili Pack and Sports Automatic Transmission.

Term of agreement	36 months	Total amount of credit	£22,514.36
35 monthly payments	£299.00	Option to purchase fee	£0.00
On the road cash price*	£29,918.01	Optional final payment <sup>^</sup>	£13,613.19
Customer deposit	£299.00	Amount payable	£24,377.19
ISSD Discount	£7,104.65	Rate of interest	2.9% fixed
<b>Total deposit</b>	<b>£7,403.65</b>		<b>Representative 2.9% APR</b>

For more information on the scheme, eligibility or this offer contact our dedicated team on:

020 7514 8606



[www.forcescarsdirect.com/bmw](http://www.forcescarsdirect.com/bmw)



[ukforces@bmw.co.uk](mailto:ukforces@bmw.co.uk)

BMW UK FORCES  
56 Park Lane, London, W1K 1QB



Park Lane Limited is a credit broker.

Representative example is for a MINI Select agreement for a MINI Cooper S Clubman with optional metallic paint, Chili Pack and Sports Automatic Transmission, with a contract mileage of 50,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 7.01p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1 June and 30 September 2018 and registered by 31 December 2018, (subject to availability). Eligible ISSD customers only. \*On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year MINI Retailer Warranty, MINI Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Optional final payment not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. 'MINI Select' is a form of hire-purchase agreement provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0PB. Park Lane Ltd is part of BMW Group. Park Lane Ltd, commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including MINI Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice.





Regular perk: Shouldn't all Reservists enjoy concessionary travel?



Picture: Sgt Neil Bryden, RAF

## Reservists grounded by inequality

I AM in the Reserve and unable to access so-called “indulgence flights” unless I am on operations.

Only full-time soldiers and civil servants can take advantage of this fabulous concession at any time.

We are all meant to be serving in one Army so why do these restrictions exist? – Name and address supplied

**Lt Col Grant Renton, Defence Logistics Policy, replies:**

Concessionary travel on applicable routes is potentially available to Regulars and Reserves, their families – where eligible – and certain other categories of personnel to travel in spare seats on Royal Air Force and other MoD chartered aircraft.

However, this is a privilege and not a right.

A charge is levied against each individual in order to recoup the costs incurred to defence, including administration, meals, extra fuel required and any taxes due.

The risk for the traveller is that no seat is guaranteed because of the requirement to maximise use of this air transport for duty passengers and freight, or to help facilitate last-minute evacuations and other operational demands.

This also means passengers can be offloaded at any point in their journey if the circumstances dictate.

There are a number of categories listed in JSP 800, volume 2, part 2, that define which Reserve personnel are entitled to apply for concessionary travel.

These are full-time Reserve service troops, including non-Regular permanent staff but excluding

additional duties commitment, and volunteer Reserves (VR) excluding sponsored Reservists.

Please note that VRs become eligible during a period of mobilised service that exceeds three months. Eligibility stops once the period of mobilisation ceases.

There are other eligible categories and these should be investigated by potential applicants.

Having presented you with the stock answer, quoting the JSP, I acknowledge the policy is fairly restrictive and in light of the “one Army” concept could be seen as anything but inclusive.

We intend to look at broadening eligibility for Reserve personnel to ensure we chime with expectations.

These changes will need to be staffed correctly before any amendment to the policy can be released but, rest assured, it is work in progress.

“We are all meant to be one Army”

## FITNESS FEEDBACK

● AS A former member of the Royal Army Physical Training Corps I was pleased to read about changes to the way Servicemen and women approach fitness (*Soldier*, May).

The new methods will, I am sure, help eliminate the setbacks some people experience later on in life as a result of military training.

I know from talking to fellow veterans how many of us are now suffering because of injuries that might have been avoided.

At 70 I am waiting for a total knee and hip replacement brought on, I believe, by many of the punishing exercises we did.

This new initiative is a significant step forward.

– Ken Carter, Vancouver



On the move: One of the Army's new foundation exercises, the rotation

Picture: Sgt Jonathan Lee van Zyl, RLC

## THE WARTIME MIRACLE THAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED

● THE two blockbuster films *Dunkirk* and *Darkest Hour* have created great interest in wartime events, but one major fact is not mentioned in either of them.

In 1940 the situation was so bleak, with defeat to the Germans seemingly inevitable, that King George VI made a broadcast calling for a national day of prayer on May 26.

Thousands of services were held across the country and millions of people poured into churches.

Two significant events immediately followed. A violent storm hit Dunkirk, grounding the Luftwaffe which had been killing thousands on the beaches. Then a great calm descended on the English Channel, the like of which hadn't occurred for a generation, enabling hundreds of tiny boats to rescue 338,000 soldiers in all.

The timing of these events led people to speak of “the miracle of Dunkirk” and Sunday, June 9 was made a day of national thanksgiving. After the tide of the war turned in 1942, Churchill was moved to say: “I sometimes have a feeling... that some guiding hand has interfered.”

In the light of these two films, a leaflet about various wartime miracles is being posted to thousands of churches across the UK. – Rev Jonathan Willans, Reigate



BPFD TAX FREE SHOPPING



£84.95

C.A.D.G Genuine MTP IRR  
Patrol Harness MKII



**DROPZONE**  
SUPPLIES

Visit us in store or call  
**08456 44 50 60**

WITNEY OX29 0YG



TIDWORTH SP9 7PS



CATTERICK DL9 3EN



[www.army-surplus.co.uk](http://www.army-surplus.co.uk)



£139.95

Camelbak Motherlode



£18.95

"Commando" Navy Berets



£19.95

Mechanix Speciality Vent Gloves



£214.95

JayJays Commanders Webbing



### Your WelCome account card...

A **WelCome account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit: [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**Lost your account card?** No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelCome account number and a password to reset your PIN.

# WELFARE

WelCome Customer Contact Centre  
[customer.support@mywelcome.co.uk](mailto:customer.support@mywelcome.co.uk) | [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**WelCome**  
Welfare Communications Everywhere





**Medal worthy:** Riflemen teach weapons handling to Iraqi border guards

Picture: Cpl Timothy Jones, RLC

## Decision needed on Shader medals

**I**N SEPTEMBER 2017 the then defence secretary, Michael Fallon, announced the decision to award Iraq and Syria operational service medals.

He also stated his intention to reward those who directly supported Op Shader but were based in locations deemed outside the risk and rigour zones that had been used to establish eligibility for similar awards in the past.

However, we also need to examine how to provide medallic recognition for those based outside the battlespace who are making a vital contribution to this operation, from Reaper pilots taking life-and-death decisions to those ensuring our planes can strike Daesh targets.

The DIN detailing the release of this medal ([2017DIN09-15](#)) made no reference to personnel based outside Iraq and Syria.

Has a decision been made on how such individuals are to be acknowledged?

Those who do not qualify not only miss out on a decoration but in many cases operational allowance and days towards their Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) as well, despite contributing significantly to missions for six to nine months.

During Op Herrick those who supported tours, such as ground crews and decompression staff based in secure locations, received the Afghanistan Operational Service Medal less a rosette and days towards their ACSM. Surely Op Shader warrants similar treatment.

There are also disparities in how the operational allowance is awarded, with personnel in headquarters in Kuwait and Qatar deemed eligible while others in Turkey and Jordan are not, even though they are at significantly higher risk from green-on-blue incidents while providing training to Syrian militias. – **Name and address supplied**

“Those who don’t qualify miss out”

**Lt Col (ret) Kestrel Simson, Ceremonial, Operational and Service Awards, replies:** The Operational Service Medal is awarded when the majority of individuals are at sufficient risk from enemy action and are in a rigorous and austere environment for prolonged periods.

While it has been deemed that those serving in Iraq and Syria meet these criteria, those outside these boundaries and air space do not.

It has, however, been recognised that the nature of warfare is changing and there are more individuals outside the theatre of operations making significant contributions to the success of Op Shader than inside it.

There is work in progress to look at how we can reward those who fall into that category – not only for this deployment but for other current and future operations – without being divisive or devaluing the prestige and integrity of existing medals.

There are many elements to be considered and it is too early to prejudge the outcome of this work.

With regard to the operational allowance, for Op Shader this is paid to those Service personnel serving within the geographical boundaries of Iraq and Syria.

It is financial recognition of the increased and enduring nature of the danger over and above that compensated for within the X-factor.

The perils can include non-combat situations such as disease, kidnapping or road traffic accidents, and therefore while most who qualify for a campaign medal will receive the extra cash, there are others in particularly dangerous areas who do not qualify for an award but do receive the money.

## LACK OF FUNDS BECOMES HOT POINT OF CONTENTION

● I LIVE in a mess and pay the full accommodation charge, which totals £195 per month.

I have paid these fees since joining the Army 25 years ago.

I’m aware of the financial strains on Service life, but why is it so difficult to get white goods replaced when the guarantee has run out, particularly washing machines?

There is, supposedly, a contract in place, yet I’ve been told our device can’t be swapped for a new one because there is no funding available. – **Name and address supplied**

**Maj Gen Duncan Capps, General Officer Commanding, Regional Command, replies:** Thank you for highlighting a really important issue.

Last year the Army had planned to support the replacement of white goods but the funding was removed during budget cuts.

This year we have found alternative funding for an ongoing replacement programme, the performance of which will be closely monitored by the SO1 soft facilities management in Headquarters Regional Command.







### COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winners:** Trudy Pask, Keighley, West Yorkshire

**National Watersports Festival tickets:** Sgt Joseph Subba, Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley

**Journey's End DVD:** Andy Williams, Cumbria; David Clarkson, Wiltshire; Glyn Coney, Shaftesbury; John Card, Beacon Barracks, Beaconside, Stafford; David Woolmer, Whitehaven



### DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:**  
020 7901 8900;  
[www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)

**Armed Forces Buddhist Society:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3411;  
[www.afbs-uk.org](http://www.afbs-uk.org)

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

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3252;  
[www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Services Advice Project:**  
0808 800 1007;  
[www.adviceasap.org.uk](http://www.adviceasap.org.uk)

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

**Army LGBT Forum:**  
[www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk);  
[chair@armylgbt.org.uk](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

**Army Libraries:** 01252 340094

**Army Ornithological Society:**  
[www.armybirding.org.uk](http://www.armybirding.org.uk)

**Army Welfare Service:**  
01904 882053;  
[www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

**Big White Wall:**  
[www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com)

**Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:**  
020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

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

**Care After Combat:**  
[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:**  
020 7469 6661

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

**Combat Stress:**

01372 841600;  
[www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)

**Defence Humanists:**  
[www.defencehumanists.org.uk](http://www.defencehumanists.org.uk)

**Erskine:**  
0141 814 4569;  
[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

**Family Escort Service:**  
020 7463 9249

**Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:**  
07713 752901;  
[www.felixfund.org.uk](http://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](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Heroes Welcome:**  
[www.heroeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

**HighGround:**  
[www.highground-uk.org.uk](http://www.highground-uk.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01252 787574

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

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

**National Ex-Services Association:**  
[www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

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

**Poppyscotland:**  
0131 557 2782;  
[www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

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

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

**Royal British Legion:**  
0808 802 8080;  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion Scotland:**  
0131 550 1583;  
[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

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

**Scottish Veterans' Residences:**  
0131 556 0091;  
[www.svronline.org](http://www.svronline.org)

**Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services:**  
01748 833797;  
[www.spaces.org.uk](http://www.spaces.org.uk)

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

**Stoll:**  
020 7385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk);  
[www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

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

**The Poppy Factory:**  
020 8940 3305;  
[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**  
020 8481 7676;  
[www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**The Veterans Charity:**  
01753 653772;  
[info@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@veteranscharity.org.uk)

**Troop Aid:**  
0121 711 7215 or 07734 384260

**uk4u Thanks!:**  
01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)

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



### INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 52/18:** Army travel tool

**ABN 51/18:** Land environment fleet optimisation plan

**ABN 50/18:** Resilience margin policy

**ABN 49/18:** Armed Forces continuous attitude survey 2018, results

**ABN 48/18:** The data protection laws are changing

**ABN 47/18:** Notification of new land doctrine – *Army Field Manual Warfighting Tactics*

**ABN 46/18:** Army external placements – academic and leadership development courses and fellowships

**DIB 06/18:** Functional knowledge, skills and experience career management tools

**DIB 05/18:** Armed Forces continuous attitude survey 2018, results

**DIN 2018DIN01-086:** Information and Digital Excellence Awards 2018

**DIN 2018DIN01-085:** Civil service senior leaders scheme, future leaders scheme, which incorporates Meta and the MoD high potential development programme

**DIN 2018DIN01-084:** MoD police annual pay award

**DIN 2018DIN01-083:** Women in Defence Awards 2018

**DIN 2018DIN01-082:** Army officer terms of service – late entry officer conversion to direct entry officer seniority

**DIN 2018DIN01-080:** MoD firefighters 2017 pay award

**DIN 2018DIN01-079:** Defence Fire and Rescue Service fire officers and brigade managers 2017 pay award

**DIN 2018DIN01-077:** The formalisation of the Army Medical Services command and staff cadre

**DIN 2018DIN01-076:** Operational welfare communications – Welcome

**DIN 2018DIN01-075:** Promotion rules for Regular Royal Army Medical Corps allied health professionals

**DIN 2018DIN01-073:** Armed Forces Act 2006 – higher authorities for joint units and organisations and Service personnel in non-operational posts overseas

**DIN 2018DIN02-006:** Guidance to MoD project staff on the cyber security model – enforcing Defcon 658 (cyber)

**DIN 2018DIN03-015:** Updated JSP 800, Vol 5, Pt 2, Leaflet 45, *Managing Driver Behaviour*

**DIN 2018DIN04-105:** Batcis declaration of obsolescence – various NSNs from DMC Z99, Z99BOW, BMN, Z1, Z42, Y3 and Y1

**DIN 2018DIN04-101:** Batcis declaration of obsolete: power 156 cable NSN 5995-99-617-2915

**DIN 2018DIN04-100:** Package labelling – requirement to use PDF 417 format bar codes

**DIN 2018DIN04-099:** Initial issue of AP216B-0900-123 – emergency personal locator beacon

**DIN 2018DIN04-098:** Batcis declaration of obsolete: TCIS/Bowman miscellaneous items from DMC Y3

**DIN 2018DIN04-097:** Notice of general purpose test and measurement equipment (W115, W116, 3V7 and Z4) items made obsolete

**DIN 2018DIN04-096:** Notification of the removal of Virtus helmet minirail

Continued on page 54



# A Staff Sergeant with a Pension Sharing Order in place asked us to check the accuracy of his pension forecast



FIGHTING FOR THE FORCES  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

*"I am grateful to benefit from your diligence and knowledge. I have been advised, on recommendation, to join the Society because people like you look after people like me who are pretty naïve about pensions, divorce and entitlements, etc."*

## PENSION HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

We deal with hundreds of such pension enquiries every month from our Members, helping them through the AFPS pension maze. Join us and see how we can help you. Or simply become a Member for the peace of mind of knowing we're here to help when you need us.

## VALUABLE MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

Our Members also have access to exclusive offers with significant discounts from trusted Affiliates including our exclusive no-age-limit Annual Travel Insurance Plan.



FPS Health



FPS Travel



FPS Motoring



FPS Legal  
& Financial



FPS Personal  
& Home

## INDEPENDENT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT

At the Forces Pension Society, we value our independence. It enables us to serve the interests of our Members (more than 50,000) as the Armed Forces Pension watchdog. We hold governments to account, arguing for better pensions and campaigning against unfairness in the schemes. For example, our campaign won the right in 2015 for **all** future widows to retain their pension on remarriage.

## JOIN ONLINE NOW AND RECEIVE A FREE £150 RAMBLING & ADVENTURE HOLIDAY VOUCHER

Visit our website at [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org) quoting Promo Code **SOR2018**

(T's & C's apply). **Annual Membership for you and your partner costs just £38.**



# JOIN US AND GET MORE FROM YOUR PENSION

## Forces Pension Society

68 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL

Tel: 020 7820 9988 - email: [memsec@forpen.co.uk](mailto:memsec@forpen.co.uk) - [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org)



A member of  
Cobseo  
The Confederation  
of Service Charities



## Intelligence continued

**DIN 2018DIN04-095:** Declaration of obsolete – Falcon analogue basic phone pack 5 user

**DIN 2018DIN04-094:** Batcis declaration of obsolete: various types of tape from DMC Z42

**DIN 2018DIN04-093:** Declaration of obsolete – Falcon analogue terminal adaptor

**DIN 2018DIN04-092:** Batcis declaration of obsolete: various types of tape from DMC Z42

**DIN 2018DIN04-091:** Revised procedure for demanding timber products

**DIN 2018DIN04-090:** Cessation of Miscellaneous Connectivity Service's low bandwidth circuits

**DIN 2018DIN04-089:** Tactical masts antenna

**DIN 2018DIN05-020:** Cessation of high grade messaging via restricted email

**DIN 2018DIN05-019:** Corrective lens ordering process for general service respirator

**DIN 2018DIN05-018:** Data protection rights – how to recognise and process data subject rights including the right to erasure

**DIN 2018DIN05-017:** Declaration of initial operating capability for Joint Force Cyber Group cyber vulnerability investigations operations cell

**DIN 2018DIN05-016:** Data protection rights – how to recognise and process subject access requests

**DIN 2018DIN05-015:** The process and priorities for the provision of A4 Air Combat Service Support Unit assistance

**DIN 2018DIN05-014:** Data protection impact assessment requirement for screening

**DIN 2018DIN06-020:** Amendment to JSP 800 vol 4a *Dangerous Goods by Air Regulations* version 4 and associated dangerous goods forms

**DIN 2018DIN07-070:** Notice of cancellation for continued provision of contractor delivered GOLDesp training within DE&S Hels

**DIN 2018DIN07-069:** Tactical Medical Wing course schedule training year 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-068:** Qualified weapons instructor intelligence surveillance reconnaissance course

**DIN 2018DIN07-066:** Rodet training policy

**DIN 2018DIN07-065:** The provision of simulated media support

**DIN 2018DIN10-022:** Army Martial Arts Association WT taekwondo

training course

**DIN 2018DIN10-021:** Travel at public expense for Army sport

**DIN 2018DIN10-020:** Combined Services Chess Championship 2018



## REUNIONS

**Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association annual Veterans' Day reunion** at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on July 14. Attendance is open to all past and present Riflemen and their partners. Contact Maj (Retd) Roy Stanger on 01962 887916 or [roy.stanger787@mod.uk](mailto:roy.stanger787@mod.uk)

**16 Regiment RA Old Comrades Association reunion** – including two-course meal and entertainment – at the Wortley House Hotel, Rowland Road, Scunthorpe on July 28 from 1900. Cost £25 per head. Payment must be made in advance, either directly to the HSBC 16 Regt OCA bank account or by sending a cheque to association treasurer Guss Goodall at 18 Dunstan Hill, Kirton in Lindsey, DN22 4DU.

**Patrol Base 5, Nahr-e Saraj South reunion (Herrick 13, the winter of 2010/11)** at the Holiday Inn Express, Leeds from August 3 to 5. For more details call 0113 3804400 or email [danburton@ekit.com](mailto:danburton@ekit.com)

**Annual reunion of Association of Harrogate Apprentices**, October

5-6 at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. Further details from Len Morland on 01892 523987 or [secretary@aoha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aoha.org.uk)

**23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance and Parachute Regimental Association reunion**, October 5-7, at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. For details contact Roy Hatch at [royhatchbem48@gmail.com](mailto:royhatchbem48@gmail.com) or via 07730 977 989.

**116 Coy, RASC; 18 Coy (Amphibious), RASC and 18 (AMPH) Sqn, RCT ex-Fremington Camp reunion** at the Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple, Devon on October 13. All former members of these units, including attached arms and widows, are welcome. For details contact [don.turner1@talktalk.net](mailto:don.turner1@talktalk.net)

**8 Regiment RASC/RCT/RLC 17th anniversary reunion** weekend and dinner, October 19-20. For details email [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com)



## ROADSHOWS

**The Army Engagement Group** wants to hear from members of the public who would like an invitation to one of its roadshows. For more information call 01276 412880 or visit [www.army.mod.uk/engagement](http://www.army.mod.uk/engagement)

**July:** 4, Lincoln; 17, Hounslow; 19, Greenwich

## NO. 920 JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

TEN details have been changed in this picture of the All-Arms and International Pace Sticking Competition at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Circle all the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 920, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot,

Hampshire GU11 2DU with your contact details, including email address, no later than July 31.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing

# WIN

**Jetboil MicroMo Stove**  
- worth £150

[www.cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com)



date will win a Jetboil MicroMo Stove for cooking in the outdoors.

The winner's name will be published in the September 2018 issue. Usual rules apply.

**May's winner:** Sgt Joseph Subba, QDG, Robertson Barracks.







**YOU TAKE CARE OF US.  
WE TAKE CARE OF YOU.  
TOGETHER WE GO FURTHER.**

CURRENT OR FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL  
CAN SAVE UP TO **20%\*** ON A NEW FORD.



FORD KUGA ST-LINE SHOWN AVAILABLE WITH  
**15%** CUSTOMER SAVING.

**TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [FORD.CO.UK/MILITARYSALES](http://ford.co.uk/militarysales)**

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Kuga ST-Line range: urban 30.1-57.6 (9.4-4.9), extra urban 44.8-67.3 (6.3-4.2), combined 37.7-64.2 (7.5-4.4). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 173-115g/km.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

\*Military Saving programme available to current and ex-Service Personnel, including veterans and retired members of the UK Armed Forces. Customer savings of 4% to 20% off the Recommended On The Road price available across the Ford range (excluding KA+ and Focus RS) on vehicles contracted between 26th January 2018 and 31st December 2018 and registered between 26th January 2018 and 30th June 2019. Retail customers only. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with other manufacturer promotions or incentives. At participating Ford dealers – for terms and conditions, including the eligibility criteria, eligible models and customer savings visit: [www.ford.co.uk/militarysales](http://www.ford.co.uk/militarysales)





### Attention

Due to family within the Army, we have supplied diamond engagement and wedding rings to Service personnel on a word-of-mouth and recommendation basis for several years. We are a manufacturing/wholesale jewellery company based in Hatton Garden, London.

If you are getting engaged or married and would like to buy direct at **trade prices** (not available to the general public), then contact Philip on 0207 404 0912 or email philip@rajaveer.com with your requirements.

Testimonials are available on request.

Tel: 0207 404 0912 email: philip@rajaveer.com www.rajaveer.co.uk

## Fine military tailoring from Goodalls Tailors OFFICER & NCO MESS DRESS



- ✓ Priority Service
- ✓ Dress Accessories
- ✓ Badges & Buttons
- ✓ Miniature Medals
- ✓ Mounting Services
- ✓ Buy Online

0% FINANCE AVAILABLE  
ON ALL 3 PIECE MESS DRESS

WWW.GOODALLSTAILORS.CO.UK

Yorkshire • England • Tel: 0113 2889944

## VISTA TIES THE BESPOKE TIE SPECIALIST

Bespoke  
Regimental Ties  
Made In Britain  
For 35 Years

Order your Ties & Cumberbunds early for regimental events

silk to polyester ties, bow ties, clip on ties, skinny ties, standard ties & cumberbunds

FREE DESIGN SERVICE

our ties are woven & hand finished in the UK in your regimental design & colours

email your details & design to info@vista-ties.co.uk

01903 266883

vista-ties.co.uk

info@tolleybadges.co.uk  
(01384) 878550  
tolleybadges.co.uk



★ Embroidered, Woven, Printed and Metal Badges Epaulettes and Sliders

★ Woven & Printed labels

★ Metal Key rings & Medals / Coins



5 ★ RATING

"Always a first class service; great communication, quick turnaround, speedy delivery and competitive pricing!" - Ian March 2017

To advertise in *Soldier*  
call: 01252 787106



### NEED TO ORGANISE A FUNCTION ?

At The Theming Company we specialise in providing outstanding themes for your Summer and Christmas Mess Ball, Families Open Day etc.

We can also provide a whole lot more:

■ DANCE FLOORS ■ CHAIRS AND TABLES  
■ CAPRI MARQUEES and so much more

We have over 30 years Army service & 6 years running the company behind us, so we know what works for you.

For a non obligation quote call Gary on: 07954 402896

or email: info@thethemingcompany.com  
www.thethemingcompany.com

Quote SM1 for 10% Forces Discount

### Notice to readers

The publishers of *Soldier* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally-binding agreement.



Made to Measure  
**MESS DRESS**  
Especially for you



- ☑ Made in the UK
- ☑ 14 day Make or 48hr EXPRESS
- ☑ Lowest prices
- ☑ Best Fit
- ☑ Highest quality
- ☑ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

01449 614602  
www.suitUK.com

As our customers say  
The service is simply unbeatable

5 Tono Business Park STORMARKET Salford IP14 5EP

## Navigation Training

### Doing Selection?

Intensive 2-day courses in Map and Compass work. Theory and Practical Small Groups (4/5) or Individuals. Ex-Mil Instructor. Accom incl.

Contact Andy  
07787 122436  
brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk





**Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd**  
Specialists in Orders Decorations and Medals

Full Size and Miniature Medals supplied and mounted for wear or display to the highest standards.

**MoD Licensed Medals**  
(License No. D11PR00/E/0019/02)  
Available from stock including

- Telic
- Afghanistan
- Golden Jubilee
- NATO, EU and UN
- Long Service awards
- Complete range of gallantry awards

We offer a complete engraving service and supply fine handmade storage cases, display cases and wallets for your awards.

Whatever your requirements our helpful staff will be pleased to help with your enquiry by telephone, email or fax.

Visit our secure online shop  
[www.worcmedals.com](http://www.worcmedals.com)

Unit bulk enquiries welcome



56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375  
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: [wms@worcmedals.com](mailto:wms@worcmedals.com)

SHOPPING SATISFACTION ★★★★★

[www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk](http://www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk)  
+44 (0) 1874 610036



Webbing Systems  
Yoke Systems  
Daysacks / Bergans  
Bergan Modification  
Molle Pouches  
Windproof SAS Smocks



And so much more...

Finance Available - If you can't pop in - please call or Email for details.

 **JAY JAYS**

Vision | Innovation | Performance

*Military Marketing International*

Suppliers of commemorative plaques and presentation pieces



Let us design your Regiment and Operational plaques  
(minimum quantity 25)  
PLAQUES: £12.95 each  
SHIELD/CLOCKS: £24.00 each

for a full colour brochure contact:

82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. B18 7AF  
Telephone / fax: 0121 454 5393  
Email: [mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk](mailto:mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk)  
Website: [www.militarymarketing.co.uk](http://www.militarymarketing.co.uk)

**SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!**



**Subscription Rates**  
**United Kingdom**  
12 Issues .....£23  
24 Issues .....£40  
**Overseas**  
12 Issues .....£47  
**British Forces Post Office**  
12 Issues .....£13.80

Start my subscription with the ..... issue  
I would like to subscribe for  One year  Two years

**Your details**

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....  
..... Postcode: .....  
Telephone: .....

Return to *SOLDIER*, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU

**Order hotline: 01252 787107**  
**Email: [subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk)**



# because you're there for us



Our team of lawyers have many years of experience providing specialist legal advice to forces personnel. Our military law experts will not only advise you on issues arising from the line of duty but with your home life as well.

There for you supporting the forces

**wilkin chapman llp**  
inc. gilbert blades  
solicitors

Contact: **01522 512345** or visit [wilkinchapman.co.uk](http://wilkinchapman.co.uk)  
Out of hours for Military Discipline Matters only, contact Gordon Holt on **07973 667869**

Suppliers of high quality embroidered and printed sports and leisurewear to the Armed Forces

# motif8

ltd

TOUR T-SHIRTS  
SPORTSWEAR  
SWEATSHIRTS  
POLOSHIRTS  
HOODIES  
JACKETS  
AND MUCH MORE

tel: 01642 601501  
sales@motif8.co.uk  
www.motif8.co.uk

**Motif8 Will Beat Any Price - Guaranteed**



## branded notebooks

[www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army](http://www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army)  
[branding@bureaudirect.co.uk](mailto:branding@bureaudirect.co.uk)  
0240 806 4556

**M** **MICHAEL JAY**  
**TAILORING**

*Your Tailored Suit  
Made to Measure  
Especially for you*

- Made in the UK
- 14 day Make or
- 48hr EXPRESS
- Lowest prices
- Best Fit
- Highest quality
- Best payment terms

Local agent to measure  
in most areas

**01449 614602**  
[www.suitUK.com](http://www.suitUK.com)

*As our customers say  
The service is simply unbeatable*

5 Toms Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP

**FOCX**

Respace British Underwear [focx.co.uk](http://focx.co.uk)

**nowzad dogs**  
Rescuing stray & abandoned animals  
in Afghanistan

**www.nowzad.com**

Nowzad Dogs, PO Box 39  
Plymouth, PL2 9AU, UK  
Registered Charity: 1119185

follow us on:



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## SERVICES

**Finding homes for military personnel.** We organise your mortgage, search for your ideal property, manage the complete purchase, arrange the letting if required and pay all your professional and legal fees.  
[www.forceshomes.co.uk](http://www.forceshomes.co.uk)

## FOR SALE


**Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia.** Send £2 for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU.  
 Tel: 01723 513287  
[george.cairnrxson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:george.cairnrxson@hotmail.co.uk)

## BOOKS

**Military history books.** Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.  
[www.militaryhistorybooks.com](http://www.militaryhistorybooks.com)



**THE BESPOKE TIE COMPANY**  
 Specialists in Regimental Accessories  
 0845 257 5710  
[sales@bespoketies.com](mailto:sales@bespoketies.com)



**SMART TURNOUT LONDON**  
 LUXURY REGIMENTAL ACCESSORIES  
 MADE TO ORDER  
 WHOLESALE@SMARTTURNOUT.COM  
 020 7501 1029



**The Regimental Shop**  
 Giving those who serve their country  
[regimentalshop.com](http://regimentalshop.com)  
 Ties, accessories, gifts and much more  
[sales@regimentalshop.com](mailto:sales@regimentalshop.com) 0845 459 1964

To advertise please call  
**01252 787106** or email  
[advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY

### 28 April 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Capt M Thaibsyah, Trg Regt, DEMS, Bicester.  
 2nd Prize (£5,000): SSgt D Owen, 617 Sqn, 7 Regt RLC, Cottesmore.  
 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl A McGonagle, 1 MI Bn, Chilwell.  
 4th Prize (£3,000): Sgt J Goode, 56 Sqn, 24 Cdo Engr Regt, Barnstable.  
 5th Prize (£2,000): Maj L Shannahan, PRU W & W Donnington, Telford.  
 6th Prize (£1,000): Cpl A Dufton, 321 EOD Sqn RLC, BFPO 808.  
 Consolation prizes (£500): Sgt J Joel, 31 Sqn, 1 Med Regt, BFPO 16; Pte M Spragg, 9 Sqn, 7 Regt RLC, Cottesmore.  
 Consolation prizes (£200): Cpl M Magar, JFLU HQ Falklands, BFPO 655; CSgt T Heale, HQ Lon Central Garrison; Capt S Humphries, 529 STRE, 20 Wks Gp RE, Peterborough; SSgt A Gurung, 4 (Mil Trg) Sqn, RSS, Blandford Forum; Sgt B Felix, HQ 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp, Nottingham; WO2 D Baikie, CSES, HQ RSA, Salisbury; Cpl C McLaren, 48 Sqn, 39 Eng Regt Wksp, Moray; Capt D Morizet, Batt, Kenya, BFPO 10; LCpl M Malaney, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Capt J Ash, PEW, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; LCpl A Mendez, Sp Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Stafford; Sig N Wright, 22 Signal Regt, Beaconside; Lt Col

A Fryatt, HQ HC, Aldershot; Sgt P Chapman, 125 Sqn, 159 Regt RLC, Stoke-on-Trent; SSgt M Atherton, JFD, Swindon; Cpl S Rai, 248 Sqn, 22 Signal Regt, Beaconside; WO2 K Mitchell, PRU Londist, London; Cpl T Winter, HQ Coy, 2 PWRR, Cottesmore; Bdr C Higgins, 1 Bty, 7 Para RHA, Colchester; LCpl D Palmer, A Sqn, QDG, Dereham; Pte D McCartney, 1 Scots, BFPO 806; LCpl M Wilson-Bent, 23 Bty, 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth; Gnr E Jones, 159 Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Spr A Train, 24 Trg Sqn, Chatham; Pte K Byrne, 2 Sqn, RSS, Blandford Forum.

### 5 May 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Pte S Thapa, HQ BFAI, BFPO 655.  
 2nd Prize (£5,000): LCpl M Sherpa, 2 RGR, BFPO 11.  
 3rd Prize (£4,000): Cpl R Ferguson-Giles, MTM, Glasgow.  
 4th Prize (£3,000): Lt Col A Field, HQ CJTF, BFPO 747.  
 5th Prize (£2,000): WO2 R Martin, 50 Sqn, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney.  
 6th Prize (£1,000): Maj S Hickey, MoD, London.  
 Consolation prizes (£500): Gnr J Jones, 19 Regt RA, Tidworth; Rfn J Ferry, A Coy, 3 Rifles, Edinburgh.  
 Consolation prizes (£200): Capt J Wright, HQ 1 MI Bde, Andover; Capt M Fairweather, 3 Scots, Inverness; SSgt S Delaney, 3 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Name withheld, Hereford Garrison; Sgt I Pun, 1 ITB, ITC, Catterick Garrison; LCpl L Zalaiskalns, 400 Tp RLC, Catterick

Garrison; Cpl J Lomax, LIFC Fwd, RAF Wyton; Cpl D Benn, D Sqn, RDG, Catterick Garrison; Cpl D Jones, ATC (P), Woking; LCpl C Bowman, 16 MI Coy, Colchester; 2nd Lt M Francis, 1 AAC, Yeovilton; Sig D Tuckey, 11 (RSS) Signal Regt, Blandford Forum; Air Tpr C Franklin, 2 (Trg) Regt AAC, Stockbridge; WO2 C Scott-Baillie, 219 Sqn, 150 Regt RLC, Balby; SSgt A Delailomaloma, RSMS, Thatcham.  
 Consolation prizes (£100): WO2 A Lear, 11 Bty, 16 Regt RA, Emsworth; Sgt T Barnaby, 11 (RSS) Signal Regt, DSCIS, Blandford Forum; Capt H Owens, 23 (Para) Eng Regt, Ipswich; Sgt R Kasozi, DSHE, Lichfield; Capt J Harris, 5 Bn REME, Tidworth; LCpl J Hayes, 21 Sqn, 33 Engr Regt (EOD); Nr Saffron Walden; Lt H Doyle, 202 Sqn, 3(UK) Div, Salisbury; OCdt A Wiggins, Taurus Sqn, DA, Birmingham; Capt G Markham, 64 Sqn, 37 Signal Regt, Redditch; Cpl M Biscoombe, 8 Sqn, 27 Regt RLC, Aldershot.

### 12 May 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): LCpl J Poulter, 226 Sqn, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Haverfordwest.  
 2nd Prize (£5,000): Sgt B Davies, 3 RHA, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
 3rd Prize (£4,000): Gnr L McCauley, 32 Regt RA, Salisbury.  
 4th Prize (£3,000): Pte Z Mosley, Sp Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Stafford.  
 5th Prize (£2,000): Pte S Legge, B Coy, 3 Scots, Ardersier.  
 6th Prize

(£1,000): Sgt H Thomas, 170 Bty, 12 Regt RA, Emsworth.  
 Consolation prizes (£500): LSgt L Fitzpatrick, Sp Coy, 1 Coldm Gds, Windsor; Pte C Wonnacott, 12 Sqn, 3 Med Regt, Preston.  
 Consolation prizes (£200): Sgt C Stewart, 40 Cdo RM MPGS, Taunton; Capt L Rudd, IBS, Brecon; Capt R Smith, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Sgt J Dingley, F Bty, 7 Para RHA, Colchester; WO2 T Earl, 22 Signal Regt, Beaconside; Sgt A Mortley, 77 AES, 35 Engr Regt LAD, BFPO 22; LCpl A Kororua, 3 Rifles, Edinburgh; SSgt R Kitson, 215 MI Sect, 2 MI Bn, Shefford; Sgt G Selby, 521 STRE (WD), 62 Wks Gp RE, Chilwell; LCpl J Ager, 434 MI Sect, Salisbury; LCpl M Matthews, HQ Coy, 4 Scots, Catterick Garrison; Cpl L Dodd, 4 Med Regt, Aldershot; Pte H Love, HQ BFAI, BFPO 655; Lt G Pawson, RAC Trg Regt, Armour Ctr, Wareham; Lt W Dalton Hall, F Coy, SG, London.  
 Consolation prizes (£100): SSgt S Durdle, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport; Name withheld, Hereford Garrison; WO2 G Sheppard, 30 Sqn, 1 Med Regt, BFPO 16; WO2 W Mupesa, 13 Regt RLC, Colchester; Cpl J Rowe, Comms Sqn, 30 Cdo IX Gp RM, Plymouth; LCpl D Stephen, 29 EOD and Search Gp, Saffron Walden; Pte P Sheard, 53 Sqn, 17 P & M Regt RLC, Marchwood; Pte R Hills, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Lt Col P Jackson, Fd Army HQ, Andover; Cpl A Miller, DMRC, Epsom.



# BE BETTER EQUIPPED WITH AN OU DEGREE

Preparing for the move to civilian life? Get a qualification that matters. You'll find our qualifications are widely recognised in civvy street and come with the benefits of a practical approach to learning that's ideal while you're still in the forces and beyond.



Find out how we can help you develop your career path for civvy street visit [openuniversity.co.uk/soldier](https://openuniversity.co.uk/soldier)



The Open  
University



# REVIEWS

MOVIES

## IDEAL HOME

More on-screen class from Steve Coogan

AFTER a quarter of a century of Alan Partridge, it's probably a good thing that today's column inches are more focused on Steve Coogan's film appearances than his most famous comedy creation. Too much of a good thing, and all that. >>>

P64

MUSIC

P65

BOOKS

P66

GAMES



## MOVIES

But would I define *Ideal Home* – directed by **Andrew Fleming** and out this month in cinemas – as a good thing?

The honest answer is, I'm not 100 per cent sure.

I think I loved it – the touching storyline of an excessively materialistic gay couple who are forced to reassess life when a long-lost grandson turns up; **Paul Rudd's** class in the leading role alongside his British co-star; and Coogan's all-too-easy assimilation into the part of extravagant show-off.

But another part of me felt that the plot – a story of unorthodox parenting come good, love conquering all – was just a little bit, well, tired.

As the success of *Partridge* himself bears out, though, what is wrong with repeating a successful formula.

And I am not saying this film doesn't contain flashes of brilliance and originality. From score to cinematography, it does.

It just didn't really introduce anything by way of new twists or ideas.

Answering a question from chat show host **Alan Carr** about the process of "gaying-up", Coogan – whose serious acting skills were flagged for many in the 2013 hit *Philomena* – revealed how **Bruno Tonioli** from *Strictly* taught him to mince.

And despite being heavily cliché-driven, the result is an endearing and often hilarious character called Erasmus Brumble who is masterfully guided from frivolous and self-indulgent to selfless and – ultimately – heroic.

"Try to remember that everything in life is temporary," comes the movie's most powerful line at a particularly poignant moment in the plot.

It's the sort of soundbite that completely knocks you off your feet. And one that has continued to echo around my head ever since.

This movie might not be pushing too many boundaries, but it is well made and certainly worth cracking out when you want to be entertained.

Yet another fine example of Coogan's aptitude for comedy in all its diverse forms. ■

REVIEW: SARAH GOLDTHORPE, *SOLDIER*



**VERDICT:**  
A genuinely nice thing.  
Watch it.  
★★★★★





DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES



**The Dam Busters**

Out now

A FILM and subject matter that needs little introduction, this 4k restoration of the black and white 1955 classic uses modern digital techniques to provide an incredibly clean and crisp image. The sounds of the engines are as pounding and powerful as you might hope for. If you want a copy of the film for your collection, this release gives you the gold standard – with a

host of extras. Highly recommended.

**Maj Alex Janaway, RAMC**



**Fred: The Godfather of British Crime**

Out now

AS the last remaining British gangsters are dying off, this

documentary follows the life of Freddie Foreman from his early years in London during the Blitz to petty crime in the 1950s, rubbing shoulders with the Krays in the 1960s and eventual arrest and long-term incarceration in the 1980s. Freddie describes in detail the glamour and money, but disappointingly evades his part in the disposal of Jack McVitie. All of this has left the family man a lonely soul with nothing more than memories of what could have been. If anything can be learnt from this, it's simply that crime doesn't pay.

**Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**

WIN

● **FREDDIE** Foreman is the last living legend of the Krays' London underworld. A heavyweight villain with an unbelievably bloody past, this documentary tells his true story through interviews at his retirement home. *Soldier* has teamed up with Lionsgate to offer five lucky readers a copy of the title on DVD. To be in with a chance of winning, tell us how old Foreman is. Answers to the usual address or **comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk** by July 31.



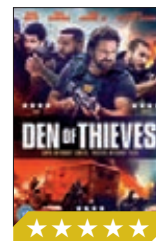
**Pacific Rim: Uprising**

Out now

THE sequel to **Guillermo del Toro's** original 2013 action adventure sees

the same dimension-hopping alien race return to try and destroy all human life on Earth. This time it's down to a motley crew of ne'er-do-wells to risk it all and save the planet. Unable to boast an A-list cast or cogent storyline, the title does deliver on excitement and action. For sci-fi fans who want to see giant robots fighting enormous alien lizards against the backdrop of some world-famous cities strap yourselves in – for everyone else, there are much better franchises out there.

**Maj Neil Johnson, AAC**



**Den of Thieves**

Out now

THIS title is more of a hard-hitting, explosive cops-and-robbers effort than your average title in this genre. The gritty

Los Angeles saga follows the intersecting lives of an elite unit of the LA County Sheriff's Department and the state's most successful bank robbery crew, all of whom are ex-military. A seemingly impossible heist on the Federal Reserve Bank is planned and what follows is an action-packed, electrifying cat-and-mouse thriller which will have you rivetted on the edge of your seat. A brilliant film from start to finish.

**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**



## MUSIC

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## REMEMBER

Choirs come together to mark centenary milestone

AS 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War, **The Military Wives Choirs** unite for their fourth album.

Featuring themes of remembrance, commemoration, patriotism and military life, it is showcased by the telling of a story from 1918 to now.

The female voices have created an offering inspired by fierce heroism, as women raised children alone, nursed the wounded and worked tirelessly despite the loss of husbands, sons, fathers, brothers and friends.

In collaboration with **The Band of the Household Cavalry** and the **Royal Marines Corps of Drums**, the collection was released on Armed Forces Day and perfectly sets the tone for the many poignant moments to come later in the year.

Opening track *The Poppy Red* is inspired by the 1918 poem *We Shall Keep The Faith* and is a tender expression and excellent composition produced by the award-winning composer **Owain Park**.

"There is a lot of very powerful music on the record and I'm thrilled that my song was released first," Park told *Soldier*.

"I think the strong theme of remembrance in this track is important, as well as the repetition of these words in the chorus: 'We caught the torch you threw and holding high, we keep the faith with those who died'.

"Pride, gratitude and respect were concepts that The Military Wives Choirs wanted to get across to their audience with this new album."

Five original songs by prestigious composers from the worlds of classical, pop and film music underpin the record and Park was one of the lucky few to

**VERDICT:**  
A rousing and powerful record

★★★★★

be involved.

"I wanted to bring together the best aspects of rousing hymn tunes and orchestrations while being respectful to the overall theme and content of the album," he explained.

"Ultimately, I was inspired by a response to the question, 'When you think of Remembrance Day, what single visual image springs to mind?'

"The answer was 'the poppy'. It grew on the battlefields covering over the devastation caused by man. It is the symbol used for the remembrance of conflict.

"I was a very small cog in an absolutely huge operation and it was a pleasure to be involved. I can't wait to hear live performances in the coming months and years." ■

INTERVIEW: ELLA SMITH, CIVVY

## MUSIC RELEASES



### Bad Contestant by Matt Maltese

APPARENTLY **Matt Maltese** is a big thing in the South London

music scene. In response to that I can only be thankful to the River Thames for preventing its overspill north of the water. With a less than unique version of mum rock fused with inoffensive lift music, this album will pass you by without even coming onto your radar...so much so I can't remember a single song that made any impression more than a "meh". Opening track *Greatest Comedian* is supposed to be Maltese's most surreal single. But the only enjoyable thing would be watching someone's face when listening to it, having parted with their hard-earned pennies. Instantly forgettable and not worth listening to.

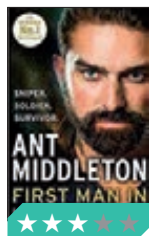
**Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**





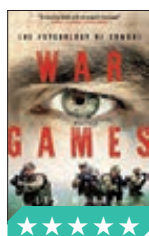
Picture: Rosie Powell

## BOOK RELEASES

**First Man In**  
by Ant Middleton

OVERALL, this effort from soldier-turned-TV personality Ant Middleton is rather disappointing. Although certain parts of the narrative are interesting – especially his time with the Royal Engineers and Royal Marines – this is not what you would call a comprehensive autobiography. Rather, it comprises his musings and reflections on leadership based on his life experiences, including his stint in prison. The author mostly glosses over the years he spent as an elite soldier, beyond a little bit about the selection process, which is unfortunate given that it was probably a major selling point for people buying this title.

**Capt Daniel Burke, Int Corps**

**War Games**  
by Leo Murray

HOW do you compel soldiers to do completely unnatural and unpleasant things in conflict? Generations of military leaders have grappled with the question. This book attempts to answer it through personal first-hand accounts of combat and the science of psychology. Filled with dark humour and fascinating facts from 300 years of history, the narrative is highly insightful and entertaining. However, what is worrying is the apparent lack of research and funding into proactive military psychology. Essentially, the author tries – and to a certain amount succeeds – to show what makes troops do the business under fire. This is an absolute must read for any aspiring leaders.

**Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**

**Freefall**  
by Robert Radcliffe

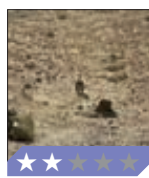
THIS is the second novel in a semi-fictional trilogy charting the formation of The Parachute Regiment through the eyes of a soldier in its 2nd Battalion, Theo Trickey. The book recounts his experiences in Tunisia and Sicily, largely in the first person. He is severely wounded at Arnhem but rescued by medical officer Capt Garland, who also takes up the narration. Fast-paced and well written, it is a good story about the early paratroopers, whose fighting qualities earned them the nickname “die Roten Teufel” (the Red Devils) from the Germans. I look forward to reading the final instalment.

**Andy Kay, ex-RS**

**Atlas of the European Campaign 1944-45**  
by Steven J Zaloga

THE publication of this comprehensive and glossy atlas was timely for me because I am preparing for a battlefield tour to Normandy. It features 127 full colour maps depicting the Allies’ advance through France and Europe in 1944-45, along with commentary on the major actions, including the D-Day landings, Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. Heavy on detail and beautifully presented, this volume will be of interest to anyone planning on visiting the battlefields or indeed any military history enthusiast. At £40, it’s on the pricey side but it’s well worth the investment if the Second World War is your bag.

**WO2 Mike Owens, RE**

**Noonday Dream**  
by Ben Howard

ACCLAIMED singer-songwriter **Ben Howard**

burst onto the scene with Mercury Prize nominated debut *Every Kingdom* in 2011. Further signs of his potential were witnessed on the follow-up, *I Forget Where We Were*, but his long-awaited third offering sees the musician take a disappointing backwards step. This selection is littered with slow-burning tracks that fail to ignite, while the prolonged instrumentals grow tiresome after a while. That said, there are some highlights, such as the upbeat *There’s Your Man*, but these are few and far between. On listening to the record it is hard to escape a sense of disappointment given Howard’s previous efforts and we can only hope for a return to form next time round.

**Richard Long, Soldier**

**Estocada**  
by Graham Hurley

THE author of this title is prolific and I find all of his books entertaining and absorbing. *Estocada* – referring to the final thrust of a matador’s sword – is no different. This adventure begins in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War and moves through to Germany’s mobilisation for conflict and the subsequent annexation of Czechoslovakia. An ace German pilot and a Royal Marine-turned-spy are the heroes on an inevitable collision course. Graham Hurley weaves fact and fiction seamlessly together in another excellent work of suspense and intrigue that kept me enthralled until the last page and shows why he is among the best thriller writers.

**Tony David, ex-RE**

Want to join our review team? Email [reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk)





State of Decay 2 for Xbox One and PC

PICK OF THE MONTH:

## STATE OF DECAY 2

### Hunt for supplies flaws zombie sequel

› THE previous chapter in this series was an interesting jaunt through the wilds of a post-apocalyptic zombie-fest.

The sequel, however, is somewhat less impactful and seems to forget its true purpose.

When *State of Decay 2* was initially launched it came with a series of disruptive bugs and glitches that often impeded gameplay and spoiled the immersion and experience. Luckily, the vast majority of these have been fixed via post-release updates.

As with the original, this instalment sees you in a zombie-filled environment where you have to gather supplies, weapons and find survivors – all of which is fairly straightforward.

Visually, it could do with some polish. It's not horrible to look at but there are definitely a few areas where it would have benefited from some additional attention.

I even get the feeling that it was rushed out somewhat, with fixes and updates intended as a means of dealing with issues.

That said, there are plenty of enjoyable and tense moments ranging from the highs of locating a bounty

of supplies to the lows of finding yourself cornered in a store as zombies stumble through the door like an odd assortment of angry shoppers.

As a game it's got plenty of promise – a wide-open environment you can explore and search, all while avoiding the undead.

But this backdrop also proves to be an unlikely obstacle by turning what is otherwise a decent release into a never-ending loot-fest.

Invariably, this means you'll spend most of your time driving around in cars with next to no fuel or raiding supermarkets and cafes with the hope of obtaining something useful. Unlike other loot-essential games such as *The Long Dark*, where items literally equate to survival, *State of Decay 2* makes the task somewhat monotonous.

Here, it becomes obvious that you're more interested in hunting treasure than you are with finding people, even though both have their uses.

In summary, this is a game with plenty of challenges and a large map to explore.

The downside is what you'll end up doing most of the time in that sprawling environment. ■

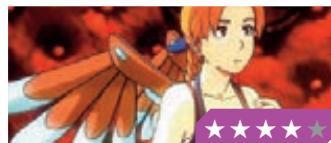
REVIEW: DAVID MCDOUGALL, CIVVY

VERDICT:

Greater attention to detail needed

★★★★★

GAMES RELEASES



### Forgotten Anne Xbox One, PS4 and PC

THERE are some rare gems in the gaming world and on the face of it *Forgotten Anne* seems to be one of them. The animation is distinct and subtle, while beautiful to look at. The story has weight and meaning and the gameplay is entertaining. You're Anne, an enforcer in a parallel universe where seemingly inanimate objects such as socks and shoes have a life of their own. It might sound ridiculous and fantastic but your choices in this setting really matter, even the seemingly mundane ones. Most of the gameplay is in the platform style, with puzzles and encounters throughout. But despite that, it's a wonderfully unique experience where your first decision while encountering a scarf has a mighty impact.

David McDougall, civvy



### Injustice League 2: Legendary Edition

Xbox One, PS4 and PC

THIS is one of the few genuinely entertaining fighting titles out there. *The Legendary Edition*, released nine months after the original, features all downloadable content, an improved tutorial system and some additional in-game currency. Other than that you have the great gameplay of the initial release, with stunning visuals, a decent storyline, a strong cast of characters and relatively simplistic controls. This isn't like *Street Fighter* of old, where a wealth of knowledge is required to pull off decent combinations. It's easier than that but still presents a challenge when facing tough opponents and varying combat styles. Choosing Superman won't guarantee victory as each hero has different strengths and, of course, weaknesses. Ultimately it's a lot of fun and well worth it.

David McDougall, civvy



**TODAY 7 LIVES  
WILL CHANGE.**

**DONATE NOW AND  
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**



**Join our fundraising forces and donate today via:  Text**

Every day, 7 people are medically discharged from the Armed Forces and their lives change forever. We urgently need your donations to help give our Heroes a second chance at life.

**Text 'OPPO10 £10' to 70070 to donate £10 this Armed Forces Day.**

** [helpforheroes.org.uk](http://helpforheroes.org.uk)**

Help for Heroes is a limited company registered in England (06363256), and a charity registered in England and Wales (1120920) and Scotland (SC044984).  
Registered Office: 14 Parkers Close, Downton Business Centre, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3RB. Telephone 0300 303 9888.  
Registered with Fundraising Regulator.

Standard message rates may also apply. 100% of the donation is paid to the charity.



# Say thank you to Stephen

Aged just 19, while serving in Iraq, a mortar bomb explosion left Stephen with brain damage. Stephen paid such a price for us and for his country, it's an honour to care for him. Our physiotherapists get to see the real Stephen, the man beneath the injuries. He's still so courageous and amazingly positive about the future.



As a resident of The Royal Star & Garter Homes, it's our privilege to give Stephen, and other veterans like him, the specialist care, comfort and comradeship their sacrifices deserve. The specialist care we give to veterans depends on your generosity. Please show you care by supporting us.

Please make a donation and read more of Stephen's story

[www.starandgarter.org/stephen](http://www.starandgarter.org/stephen) | 020 8481 7674

Quoting A18



**The Royal Star  
& Garter Homes**  
Caring for the nation's military family since 1906



The Royal Star & Garter Homes, 15 Castle Mews, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2NP  
Registered Charity No. 210119



## STAFFRIDE

### AN UNRIVALLED BATTLEFIELD STUDY EXPERIENCE

DELIVERED TO YOU BY AN EXPERT  
TEAM OF HISTORIANS & GUIDES

[www.staffride.co.uk](http://www.staffride.co.uk)

Find out more on our website or call us on +44 (0)1438 880 725

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @STAFFRIDEUK FOR THE LATEST TOUR NEWS AND UPDATES



Sports Editor: Richard Long  
Photographers: Graeme Main and Peter Davies

# SOLDIER SPORT



## WHEELS IN MOTION >>

THE Army enduro set-up welcomed its latest raft of new talent to the track during a comprehensive week-long training camp that focused on physical fitness as well as bike skills. Read about the sport's growing success on page 80...





# BLADES TOO SHARP FOR FORCES RIVALS

**T**HE Army Blades continued their dominance of the Inter-Services Ice Hockey Championships as back-to-back victories over their military challengers sealed a sixth successive title in Sheffield.

An early goal blitz saw the soldiers establish a 5-1 lead over the Royal Air Force in the first period of their opening fixture, but instead of building on an impressive start they were made to sweat after the break.

Ill discipline and a succession of penalties proved costly as the airmen reduced the deficit to 6-5 at the end of the second period.

However, three quick strikes shortly after play resumed settled the nerves and the defending champions held firm to win a difficult contest.

They then completed the job with a 4-2 triumph against the Royal Navy in the tournament's final match.

"We came here on a mission to

win that sixth title," Army player and UK Armed Forces secretary Capt Ross Walker (R Welsh) told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"We now have a solid core to our team but have also welcomed a lot of newcomers who have played the game at a semi-professional level.

"That has been a massive help. It has also benefited our development programmes as these guys are spread among the corps, which means novices are getting credible instruction from players who have competed at a high standard."

The week-long competition welcomed a record number of players to the ice but was not simply restricted to the action at Forces level.

Corps, station and representative teams from all three Services competed in two leagues, with the top sides then going head to head in plate and cup finals.

## INTER-SERVICES ICE HOCKEY

ARMY

4

NAVY

2



The growing popularity of the sport has been credited to Army ice hockey's increased presence on social media, which has directed a host of novices to training camps with various corps outfits.

And in a first for the competition, the Blades' match with the RAF was streamed live on Facebook and attracted more than 5,000 viewers.

"We've had everyone from total beginners to ex-professionals involved," Walker added.

"The gulf is huge and that means there has been some disparity in the results, but the newcomers will only get better by playing in these matches.

"Postings to Canada gives us a constant flow of new players but we have put a real emphasis on our social media platforms.

"People are accessing our Twitter, Facebook and YouTube pages and are getting pushed out to the corps set-ups from there;





the word of mouth is growing." Army goaltender and chairman of UK Armed Forces Ice Hockey Maj Robert Warrington (RE) believes the sport is a huge draw for Service personnel and said the standard of play is rapidly improving year on year.

The officer added: "The level is definitely going up and you can really notice the difference compared to what we saw four or five years ago.

"Now, the Inter-Services games are at the same standard as the national league and the corps teams are not far behind.

"This sport is something the military should really look at. It boasts speed, fitness, controlled aggression – all the things we look for in our soldiers, seamen and airmen."

The competition came on the back of a successful UK Armed Forces tour to Latvia, where the squad competed at the Riga Classic Cup.

"We finished eleventh out of 20 teams, which is a great achievement," Warrington added.

"It is one of the most competitive amateur tournaments in the world and features guys who have played in the Russian professional league.

"We were fifteenth last year so that is a big improvement.

"The key thing now is to get more people involved.

"The RAF Pumas ladies team, which featured players from the Army and Navy, have just had a match against a local Sheffield side and bringing that to this competition is great.

"There is some real talent there and we want to see that across the sport." ■



Pictures: Graeme Main and Bdr Murray Kerr, RA

## HOCKEY IN NUMBERS

PLAYERS ON THE ICE AT THE ANNUAL EVENT

250

TEAMS IN ACTION - A JOINT COMPETITION RECORD

14

SUCCESSIVE INTER-SERVICES TITLES WON BY THE ARMY BLADES - THE LONGEST WINNING STREAK IN THE CONTEST'S HISTORY

6

CHARITIES SUPPORTED DURING THE WEEK - HELP FOR HEROES AND A LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

2



## SHOOTER TURNS TENDER

IN MARCH 2015 the goal-shooting prowess of Maj Laura White (REME) helped fire the Army netball team to the Inter-Services title.

But a two-year posting to Canada saw the officer swap court battles for rink action as she took on a new role as an ice hockey goaltender.

White played a starring role as the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' A side won five out of six matches to top their group at this year's Forces championship.

She said her conversion was inevitable given the location of her career move.

"As soon as I got to Batus I knew I would play," she told *SoldierSport*. "In the winter it's the only thing you can do.

"The workshop team needed a goaltender so I thought I'd give it a go – I loved it.

"The Army set-up is really good. Each corps organises development camps where the Service's coaches come down to work with the players.

"The REME is also very strong. We are the only corps to bring two teams and we train every Wednesday. We'll have 25 to 30 players on the ice in each session and that has allowed us to build a strong squad.

"This is my first time here and having so much match time has helped me develop."

Another debutant at the Sheffield showdown was LCpl George Muir (R Signals).

He joined the newly formed Royal Signals outfit at a training camp in the build-up to the contest – when he took to the ice for the first time.

"I could hardly skate," he said. "I saw a post on Facebook and wanted to get into it.

"Most of my teammates are novices. The biggest test for us has been the standard of the opposition, so it has been a steep learning curve.

"This is something I thought I'd never do but when the corps formed a team it meant I got a chance to have a go." ■







# DEVASTATED AT LORD'S

## REDS SEE WINNING RUN COME TO AN END AS BATTING LINE-UP FAILS TO IGNITE IN TOURNAMENT FINALE

**T**HE Army's winning run at Lord's came crashing to a halt in this year's Inter-Services Twenty20 Championships as a stuttering batting display in the tournament-decider saw the trophy slip from their grasp.

Chasing 148 to beat the Royal Air Force and seal the silverware for a sixth successive season, the Reds quickly fell from contention as poor strike rotation and a failure to clear the boundary brought about their downfall.

After winning the toss and electing to field first, the soldiers restricted their rivals to a par total as some tight bowling in the middle overs kept the scoreboard in check.

Openers Cpl Ross Diver and SAC Tom Shorthouse made a lively start and they raced to 40 inside four overs before Cpl Denson Narayan (RLC) had the latter caught behind for 20.

The spinner struck again in the ninth over when he bowled Diver for 35 and the right-hander's dismissal coincided with the Army seemingly taking control of the game.

RAF skipper Flt Lt Adam Fisher was superbly run out as the score reached 74-3 and Pte Tade Carmichael (RLC) saw a miserly spell with the ball rewarded when he claimed the scalp of all-rounder Cpl Ash Watson for nine.

The pressure continued in the next over as Cpl Jay Boynton (REME) ran out SAC Scott Burdekin but the airmen staged a well executed counter-attack through the sixth-wicket pairing of Cpl Andy McGeorge and Cpl Sean McCabe.

The former showed particular intent and a brutal assault

on the bowling of Sgt Ross Dearden (RE) at the death, which included a huge leg-side six and two further boundaries, fired his side to 147-6 at the end of the innings.

In reply, the Army made a promising start as a four from Cpl Jordan Relph (R Signals) helped them to eight from the first over.

But accurate bowling from paceman Sgt Ian Sinclair and spinner Watson ensured further progress was difficult.

Watson struck a triple blow as he trapped Relph leg before for 12 and then ended a torturous knock from Bdr Graham Wiseman (RA) as the opener was bowled for just four runs from 20 deliveries.

Cfn Liam Fletcher (REME) suffered the same fate as Relph from the next delivery and the Reds found themselves in deep trouble as they reached 25-3 from seven overs.

The repair job fell to the senior pairing of Boynton and Carmichael and, although the duo posted a partnership of 58, it was the slow nature of the scoring that proved fatal.

By the seventeenth over the required rate had reached 17.5 and when Carmichael (pictured left) was bowled by the returning Sinclair for 35 the Army's faint hopes were ended.

Boynton followed soon after and player-of-the-tournament Watson then had Narayan stumped to claim his second four-wicket haul of the day as the RAF won by 41 runs.

"We backed ourselves to chase 148," skipper Boynton told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"But we failed to get that flying start and in the middle overs we just didn't rotate

INTER-SERVICES  
TWENTY20

RAF

147-6

ARMY

106-6



the strike enough or find the boundary when we needed to.

"In hindsight it may have been better to bat first and post a total.

"This is my first year as captain and we will learn from the result.

"We've got the 50-over competition to come, which is great, but we want to come to Lord's and win in front of crowds like this.

"I never thought we would lose and I'm devastated for the lads, coaching staff and management team."

Boynton cut a much happier figure as the Army eased past the Royal Navy in the opening match of the day.

A top score of 45 from Wiseman underpinned the innings and 38 brisk runs from Boynton, as well as an unbeaten 28 from Carmichael, saw the soldiers reach 145-4.

The Senior Service looked threatening in the early stages of the reply and four boundaries from ETME Ben Kohler-Cadmire off the first over gave them an ideal start.

But Maj Steve Booth (RA) caught the hard-hitter off the bowling of Sgt Uri Hill (RLC) for 17 and when the spinner snared fellow opener ETME Jack Harris in his next over the Reds ruthlessly took control.

Boynton ripped through the middle order to post impressive figures of 4-24 – including a first Inter-Services Twenty20 hat-trick – and with Carmichael claiming two further wickets the Navy finished on 103-9. ■





Also available in  
BLACK & SAGE



# BLACK EAGLE® ATHLETIC 2.0 V GTX

mid / coyote

- > Durable mesh lightweight boot
- > GORE-TEX waterproof and breathable lining
- > Dual density PU midsole
- > Sporty and flexible

High quality functional footwear for  
**WORK & LEISURE!**

Available from your **dealer** and  
at the HAIx® webshop [www.haix.uk](http://www.haix.uk)



[www.haix.com](http://www.haix.com)



## trek for troops 3 volcanoes italy



Take on three of Italy's iconic volcanoes on this **five-day trek** in support of a military or veteran charity of your choice. Start in **Pompeii** with a climb up **Mt Vesuvius**, then on to tackle the island volcano of **Stromboli** and top it off by summitting **Mt Etna** at 3,345m

22 – 27 April 2019 | 6 days

For more information and to register online:

[www.dream-challenges.com](http://www.dream-challenges.com)



### Dream Challenges

Please call us on **01590 646410** or  
email: [events@dream-challenges.com](mailto:events@dream-challenges.com)







## WINDSOR WINNERS

THE Royal Artillery equestrian team claimed a famous win at the Royal Windsor Horse Show as they beat a host of military rivals to lift the Queen's Plate.

A total of 18 outfits from the Armed Forces, police and cadet force took part in the showjumping contest, which saw teams of three riders jump a course of 12 fences with penalties applied for mistakes along the way.

Capt Amelia Parkinson, SSgt Peter Pagan-Skelley and LBdr Ceilidh Bramble led the Gunners' charge and, after progressing from the first round in style, they went on to beat the Royal Logistic Corps by less than a second to secure the victory.

"This was a significant result as the team beat the Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and police – all of whom compete at tri-Service level," said secretary Capt Fran Sykes. "The other unique factor about our set-up is the fact that two of the three riders were mounted on saddle club horses, rather than their own.

"This is a cracking example of the opportunities that the Army can offer soldiers interested in equestrian sport."



Picture: Amanda-Jane Smith



# MEDICS CLAIM EARLY HONOURS

DEFENCE  
MEDICAL  
SERVICES  
FOOTBALL

ARMY

1

NAVY

0



THE Army secured further bragging rights on the football field as they took the honours in the inaugural Defence Medical Inter-Services Championship.

Goals from Cpl Anthony Wood, Pte Jacob Halls and Pte Craig Conn fired the soldiers to a comfortable 3-0 win over their Royal Air Force counterparts in the tournament's opening fixture in Lichfield.

A solitary strike from Pte Ethan Zimmerman was enough to defeat the Royal Navy in the tournament final, making the Army Medical Services the first team to have their name added to the Colonel Boreham Cup.

"We were always in control against the RAF," coach Capt Matt Spruce told *SoldierSport*.

"They had some technical players who were good on the ball but we could have scored more goals.

"Our clash with the Navy was much closer. We hit the bar and post and they had a shot cleared off the line.

"If the match was a draw they would have won the cup on goal difference but we managed to go

out and get the job done."

Pte Aaron Clarke, Cpl Ryan Booth and Cpl Lee Cook all caught the eye for the AMS, who have gone from strength to strength in recent times and showed some impressive form in last season's Massey Cup.

"We are now as strong as we've been in almost 20 years," Spruce added.

"This tournament was an opportunity for us to showcase what we can do as a team and recruit new players from the Regulars and Reserves.

"It was also a chance to lift some silverware.

"When we face bigger corps like the Royal Engineers and Royal Logistic Corps that can be unlikely, so this was an opportunity to really compete."

Fixtures between the AMS and their Navy rivals have become commonplace in recent times and when the RAF formed a team at the start of last season the competition was born.

It is hoped the tournament will now become a regular fixture and organisers plan to launch a similar event for the Services' women's teams next season. ■





## STARS OF THE RING

ARMY boxers completed a busy month of action at tournaments on home soil and abroad.

Spr Ebonie Jones (RE, pictured above) was part of the Team GB squad that travelled to Bulgaria to take part in the European Women's Boxing Championships.

The bantamweight star, who won the European under-22 title earlier in the season, progressed to the quarter finals but was defeated by eventual gold medalist Stoyka Petrova.

Gnr Karriss Artingstall (RA) represented England at the same tournament but lost in the first round of the featherweight draw.

Elsewhere, LCpl John Marvin (PWRR) continued his progress with the Philippines national squad by fighting at the President's Cup in Kazakhstan.

And there were wins for Cpl Steph Wroe (REME, pictured below) and Gnr Tori-Ellis Willetts (RA) at the GB Elite Three Nations Championships, where Cfn Shanice James (REME) claimed silver and LCpl Natty Ngwenya (Gren Gds) bronze.

Willetts attended a Team GB assessment camp as this issue went to press.



# HUDSON SEALS SPRINT TITLE



**R**ISING star LCpl Ieuan Hudson (REME) showcased his growing potential in the sport of triathlon by topping the podium at the Army Sprint Championships.

Victory capped a phenomenal turnaround for the soldier, who six years earlier was categorised as obese after weighing in at more than 100kg.

The 24-year-old clocked a time of 55min 30sec to claim gold in the discipline's shorter event and was eyeing further glory at the Army Standard Distance Championships as this issue went to press.

A sterner test looms later this month when he faces the might of Royal Air Force sensation and full-time athlete Luke Pollard at the annual Inter-Services showdown.

"I'm quite shocked by it all," Hudson told *SoldierSport*. "When I was at my heaviest if someone said I would go to the sprint championships and win I'd never have believed them."

"If the races go well this year I will be looking to get my elite licence, which means I can go to high-level competitions and test myself against professional athletes."

"That will be completely different. These guys are posting times in the forties and low fifties over the sprint distances but given the amount I've improved in the past three to four months, anything is possible."

"My next goal is the Inter-Services and I'm quietly confident I can give the champion, Luke Pollard, a real run for his money."

Hudson's success has been aided by expert tuition from ex-soldier and triathlon coach Mark Livesey, who started working with the newcomer earlier this year.

"He just needed some tweaking and a steer in the right direction," the former Royal Army Physical Training Corps warrant officer explained.

"He is good at all three disciplines and has the appetite to do well."

"Having served in the Forces I understand some of the challenges he faces. He had to miss the duathlon championships due to a career course but he just gets on with it."

"If the Army gives him a couple of years to develop what he has got he can go a long way in the sport." ■





CRYE PRECISION



**TAILORED FOR COMBAT**  
INCREASED MOBILITY AND COMFORT



**UNIQUE FEATURES**  
PADDED WAISTBAND, HIGH MOBILITY,  
STRETCH PANELS AT THE KNEE & BACK



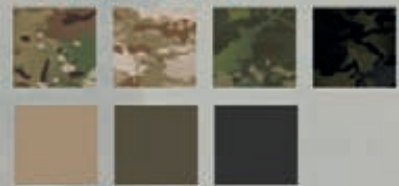
**FRONT THIGH POCKETS**  
EASY VEHICULAR ACCESS



**AIRFLEX™ COMBAT KNEE PADS**  
COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT  
LIGHTWEIGHT, COMFORTABLE, PROTECTIVE



**MULTICAM® COLOURS**



## COMBAT TROUSERS

CRYE PRECISION Combat Trousers are designed as a no-compromise assault uniform. These trousers are aggressively cut for maximum mobility. These combat-proven trousers are sized in 2" waist increments and multiple lengths for a perfect fit. They feature a unique padded waistband and hi-mobility stretch panels at the knee and lower back. 10 pockets.

Designed for use with their patented removable AirFlex™ Combat Knee Pads. Base fabric is Mil-Spec 50/50 NYCO ripstop with durable 4-way stretch-woven accents. Zip fly with Velcro® closure. Unique low-profile adjustable waist feature.

LPA provide Police and MoD specialist users, including military aircrews, with the world's finest combat equipment, providing the best to the best. LPA supply equipment to UK MoD, Police and other government departments via a variety of contracts. Please email for more information: [info@levelpeaks.com](mailto:info@levelpeaks.com)

**LEVEL  
PEAKS**  
ASSOCIATES

[WWW.LEVELPEAKS.COM](http://WWW.LEVELPEAKS.COM)

Note that British Army personnel can only wear non-standard equipment when specifically authorised by the chain of command\*



# SPORT SHORTS



## Individuals claim honours

**A TOTAL of 17 titles were up for grabs at the annual Army Individual Boxing Championships in Aldershot.**

The competition saw a host of development and elite-level fighters enter the ring, with many looking to catch the eye of the Service's coaches ahead of the new season.

And there were some familiar names among the winners during the three-day competition, with Reds squad members LCpl Kyle Morrison (RLC) and LCpl Ben Rees-Davies (R Welsh) claiming the 56kg and 64kg elite titles respectively.



## Start your engines

**THE 2018 British Army track day will be held at Donington Park on Tuesday, August 28.**

Staged for riders of all levels, the event is aimed at improving road skills and confidence on the bike and the Army race teams will be in attendance to offer tuition and support.

Personnel and veterans can enjoy a reduced price of £165 by quoting the code "Army 2808" while booking through No Limits Track Days on 01525 877087. For more details email [armytrackday@outlook.com](mailto:armytrackday@outlook.com)



Pictures: Cpl Tom Evans, RLC

# RACERS RENEW TRACK BATTLE



**"WE ARE PUSHING FOR TITLES ON THE TRACK"**

**T**HE Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers karting team have taken to the grid for the 2018 Inter-Services Championships.

After narrowly missing out on silverware last year the soldiers have already completed three rounds in their latest campaign, the highlight of which was a third-place finish in the second race of the season.

However, they endured a frustrating weekend last time out as reliability issues thwarted their hopes in Fulbeck, Lincolnshire – where twelfth proved to be the highest position among their four karts.

A total of 55 teams from across the three Services are involved this year, with the Army Air Corps and Royal Signals joining the REME in the paddock, alongside a full Service outfit.

Racers from RAF Marham proved difficult to beat in the most recent meeting as they claimed all three podium positions and the soldiers will be hoping for better luck as the competition progresses.

The sport is particularly relevant to those serving in the REME as the mechanical element develops their ability to work under pressure in a fun, but testing, environment.

"Last season we finished second in the championship, one point behind the eventual winners," said LCpl Ben White.

"We started back in 2013 with a box and a kart and had no idea of what we were doing.

"Now we are running a four-strong team with ten to 12 members – including mechanics and drivers – and are pushing for titles on the track." ■

● THE newly formed Tidworth and Bulford Athletics Club has opened its doors to aspiring track and field stars within the Army.

The venture is the brainchild of six serving soldiers, including Cpl Ben Jones (RE), and is aimed at personnel and their dependants who are based in the local garrisons.

"We want to develop our sport and bring in fresh new talent," Jones said. "The way to do that is to look at the grass-roots level."





# MONTH IN SPORT

## July's key fixtures...



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Athletics Championships  
**WHEN:** July 18  
**WHERE:** Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** A

dominant display on the track and in the field saw the Army win the men's and women's competitions last season. How will they fare in 2018?



**WHAT:** Rugby League Inter-Corps Lawson Cup final  
**WHEN:** July 25  
**WHERE:** Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The pinnacle of the corps season will be played out at the Army Rugby Stadium. The Royal Signals broke the Royal Engineers' stranglehold on the competition last season but who will lift the silverware this year?



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Women's T20 Cricket  
**WHEN:** July 26  
**WHERE:** Portsmouth  
**NEED TO KNOW:** Heavy rain scuppered the Army's chances

in 2017. With the longer format being played as this issue went to press it is too early to say who will be favourites for this year's T20 showdown

## RIDGE RUN IN NUMBERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE TWO-DAY EVENT

213

SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN COACHING SESSIONS AHEAD OF THE CONTEST

48

TROOPS SAMPLING THE DISCIPLINE, AND THE INTRICACIES OF ITS MAPS, FOR THE FIRST TIME

12

DATE, IN NOVEMBER, FOR THE FINAL BAOC FIXTURE OF THE 2018 CAMPAIGN

25



Picture: Shane Wilkinson

## UNITS RELISH RIDGE TEST

THE Army orienteering fraternity were out in force at the annual Inter-Unit Championships on Salisbury Plain.

More than 150 soldiers, as well as 60 civilians, took to the various courses on Bulford Ridge for the two-day competition, which also featured a morning of expert tuition and guidance for the discipline's novice athletes.

The team from Army Headquarters were victorious in the long class, while 14 Signal Regiment claimed the female prize.

MoD Abbey Wood won the short class and Headquarters Regional Command and Bristol UOTC took the respective masters and under-25 prizes.

"We were particularly pleased with the performance of the 14 Signal Regiment ladies team," Lt Col Chris Huthwaite (RA), chairman of the Army Orienteering Association, told *SoldierSport*.

"They could have competed

strongly in the short class had they entered.

"This is the one fixture where the focus is on the teams and we are already encouraging people to come and take part next year."

The competition was staged as part of World Orienteering Day and featured both Spanish score and Harris events.

The former was introduced to attract units with limited experience as participants run together in teams of four.

Orienteering is seen as a key Service activity as it develops many of the qualities that are essential in good soldiers, such as the ability to navigate over complex and rough terrain, cardiovascular fitness and making positive decisions under pressure.

The British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) holds events throughout the season and personnel are encouraged to take part.

For more information on how to get involved in the discipline visit [www.baoc.info](http://www.baoc.info)





Pictures: SBS Photography



## UKAF MARCH ON

A STRONG Army footballing contingent helped the UK Armed Forces to back-to-back wins from their summer programme.

Victories over the Irish Defence Force and the German Bundeswehr formed the ideal preparation for next season's Kentish Cup campaign, when the British personnel will be looking to lift the trophy for a fourth successive year.

SSgt Keith Emmerson (RAPTC) was among the scorers in a 3-0 win against the Irish and the match proved to be the perfect warm-up for a challenging second fixture on away soil.

A crowd of 4,500 attended the game in Rostock and the visitors were indebted to some inspired saves from goalkeeper LCpl Luke Cairney (RE).

Royal Navy star Mne Mark Drysdale opened the scoring when he fired home from distance and a superb lob from Spr Dan Stoneman (RE, pictured below) completed a hard-fought 2-0 win.

"We knew they were going to have massive spells of possession but it was about what we did when we had the ball and we hurt them," said skipper Cpl Rob Farkins (R Signals).



# TALENT QUEST PAYS OFF



**"IT IS A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT RIDING IN THE ARMY"**

**T**HE Army enduro set-up capitalised on the growing momentum within the sport by hosting a week-long training camp for novice riders.

More than 50 soldiers took part in the event at Pirbright, which featured a mixture of fitness and technical sessions before culminating in a three-hour race challenge.

A further test came at the impressive Rogers Hill Raceway in Dorset, where personnel were able to hone their skills at one of the premier facilities in South East England.

Organised by Army team manager WO2 Dean Hughes (WG), the initiative is now in its second year and aims to provide a conveyor belt of talent for the various corps outfits within the Service.

"This is for guys who already have an interest in the sport and is a chance for them to learn more about how they can go about riding in the Army," he told *SoldierSport*.

"We've got new corps teams

in the Royal Artillery and Royal Signals and that can only help the growth of enduro.

"The event was a massive success last season so we were keen to do it again this year.

"We will have guys who are not confident enough to compete at a British Championship race yet but they can come and offer their support in the pits to get an idea of the atmosphere and develop their skills; it is a great introduction to the sport."

Hughes was also keen to stress the importance of the fitness drills undertaken by riders, who were pushed in a series of cross-fit and gym-based challenges.

"It is a unique form of fitness and nothing else can really prepare you for it," the senior NCO added.

"People assume it is easy but it is only when they have ridden for a few hours that they realise the demands.

"For a lot of these guys the three-hour race was the hardest thing they have done." ■



# Alan Bick Ltd

DIAMOND JEWELLERY MANUFACTURERS

GOODS SHIPPED  
WORLDWIDE



VAT Refund  
available to  
personnel  
stationed  
abroad

**Now you can buy diamonds and jewellery at  
wholesale prices direct from the manufacturers**

We supply retail shops with a vast range of beautiful diamond  
engagement, wedding rings and diamond jewellery

We have been supplying members of the Met Police Force for  
the past 26 years and would like to extend our offer of  
trade prices for the Armed Forces and Civilian Staff

**Please contact us for a private appointment**

18ct gold diamond solitaire  
0.50ct (1/2) size  
Retail price £3,000  
**Wholesale price £1,250**

Platinum diamond solitaire  
0.75ct (3/4) size  
Retail price £5,750  
**Wholesale price £2,450**

[www.alanbick.co.uk](http://www.alanbick.co.uk) ~ 0207 242 5831 ~ [sales@alanbick.co.uk](mailto:sales@alanbick.co.uk)

Suite 207, 100 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8NX



Think carefully about your kit – some people bring all sorts but you should only take what you can realistically carry.

Cpl Sarah Langholz, RAMC



I like to have photographs of my family with me. Other than that, it's important for any team to have a kettle and teabags between them.

Maj Jo Horn, RAMC



Listen, take in the information and, if you're not sure of something, ask. Then you'll know for next time, and one day you'll be the person passing on your experience.

LCpl Levi Coyne, QRH



Bring caffeine to keep you going and some sweets for morale. When you're feeling a bit down you can crack open the Haribo and cheer your crew up.

Tpr Robert Clemmens, QRH



It's not about making life easier on yourself – you have to operate as a team. On a tank crew we have to work together to get everything done, whether it's putting a bivvy up or sorting any issues on the tank. You can't do it on your own.

Tpr Robert Dyson, QRH



Don't overestimate how comfortable conditions are going to be and just carry the essentials. On my last exercise we found out we had decent bunks and mattresses in our accommodation when we arrived, but I still had my rollmat with me – it is a crucial piece of equipment.

WO2 Tina Dunn, RAMC

## Fieldcraft

Troops give their top tips for making life more comfortable on exercise

I always take home comforts with me, like a bed sheet, pillow and a proper blanket.

LCpl Richard Robinson, QRH







VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

# JOIN LONDON'S BEST KEPT MILITARY SECRET



We are proud to offer:

Former serving membership for Army, Royal Navy,  
Royal Marines and Royal Air Forces Personnel

Modern club located in London's Marble Arch

Competitive bedroom rates with free WiFi

Modern Restaurant, Coffee Bar and Lounge Bar

| Delicious food and drink | Victory Ale £3 a pint |

Exclusive member events

[www.vsc.co.uk](http://www.vsc.co.uk)





Europe's Largest Military & Diplomatic New Car Dealer



# CALLING ALL Serving Military Personnel Military Veterans Reserve Forces MOD Employees

With genuinely exclusive military discounts and special finance options (some with direct salary deductions), we lead the way in military car sales across the UK & Europe.

With a National programme and local dealer participation we are your one stop shop to a discounted new car.

**No Hidden Fees**

**No Hard Sell**

**Just a genuine discount  
and a better service**

New Honda Civic  
VTEC Turbo SR Hatch  
UK List Price £20,755

**Our Military Price £17,255 OTR**

**You Save You Save £3,500  
(£12,295 Tax Free for Export)**



With 18 manufacturers, we have the right car or motorbike for your needs and budget, and with class leading finance we'll put you in your ideal vehicle for less than you probably thought. With rates from just 4.9% APR on HP or PCP, we lead the way in the military new car sales market. **Apply today for a free, no obligation, finance quotation.**



**WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM**

**UK Head Office: 01273 574000**

German Freephone: 08001 800 560





# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



AUGUST 2018

£3.50



## Attack of the drones

The robots set to change combat...



## EXCLUSIVE

'My Thai cave rescue story'

# 10

PAGES OF ACTION-PACKED SPORT

# FUTURE FIGHTERS

The world of basic training and beyond

CLAYTON, MOLL, SOALL, TAHEENY







# SAVE UP TO £3,200

## ON A SUZUKI SWIFT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES\*



**FIND OUT MORE**  
[cars.suzuki.co.uk/publicsector](https://cars.suzuki.co.uk/publicsector)

Model shown: Swift 1.0 Boosterjet HYBRID SZ5 petrol manual including optional accessory pack (£479) and metallic paint (£485) available at £16,463 on the road. Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 58.8 (4.8), Extra Urban from 65.7 (4.3) to 76.3 (3.7), Combined from 56.5 (5.0) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 114g/km to 97g/km. Fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*Model shown with optional extras available at extra cost. Saving based on Swift 1.0 Boosterjet SZ5 Auto at £16,849 on the road, Public Sector price £13,583.89, saving £3,265.11. T&C's apply.



# ARE YOU A DUTY TRAVELLER?

The Army has issued new travel guidance and is now booking duty travel through the Army Travel Tool (ATT)

<https://isuite4.hrgworldwide.com/att>



**Do you need to travel?**  
Can virtual ways of working be used, i.e. VTC or Skype for Business

**Who actually needs to attend?**  
Minimise the number of people attending meetings or events



**Book early** to get cheaper economy fares and **avoid changing travel plans** unless absolutely necessary

Follow the **ARMY TRAVEL GUIDANCE**



*'Every £1 we save on duty travel is another £1 available for training and equipment' – DCGS*

**THE ARMY TRAVEL SHAREPOINT SITE CONTAINS LINKS TO ALL ARMY TRAVEL INFORMATION**

<https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/teams/12157/sitepages/home.aspx>

If you experience any issues with the ATT, please email the Army Travel Team on [ArmyRes-ArmyTravelTeam-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArmyRes-ArmyTravelTeam-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk) or telephone 030 6770 1154





## CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 28 **Last hurrah**  
A fond farewell to the RWMIK
- 32 **Sound of thunder**  
Gunners raise the decibel levels
- 36 **The making of a soldier**  
Pirbright pushes new recruits
- 42 **Industrial revolution**  
Robotics experts aid the Army cause

COVER STORY

## REGULARS

- 7 **The Informer**  
Top stories from across the Service
- 22 **Need to Know**  
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 47 **Talkback**  
Ruminations from the ranks
- 53 **Bullet Points**  
Troops' intelligence assets
- 61 **Reviews**  
Movies, music, books and games to fill your downtime
- 82 **Final Word**  
Recollections from recruit training

## SOLDIERSPORT

- 70 **Athletics**  
Track stars seal double crown
- 72 **Wakeboarding**  
Social media helps sport's boom
- 75 **Cricket**  
Reds dominate Forces showdown
- 76 **Mountain biking**  
Riders tested in championship race
- 78 **Sailing**  
Crews prepare for Cowes quest
- 79 **Rugby league**  
Students prove too strong
- 80 **Cricket**  
REME triumph in thrilling finale



“  
We performed above expectations and recorded a lot of personal bests  
”

Double delight for track and field stars – page 70





19



42



28



“

We could not have done much better

Ruthless Reds back on top – page 75

”

## Buddy system



FRESH-FACED recruits at Pirbright may be well prepared for the next stage of their careers this month (page 36),

but a significant part of soldiering they have yet to experience is the boost that comes from having a lifelong mate by your side on a dangerous operation.

That feeling, of course, can never be understood by people like me.

And this was brought home recently when an author got in touch to ask for some background information on “friendships in the British Army”.

What could I tell her? Well, remarkably little.

I mean, how can you put into any sort of formal feedback the fact that, in the British Army, the person who served you up the dodgiest practical joke yesterday could be willing to die for you in battle tomorrow?

If you are one of the many troops mourning the loss of a colleague this month, the *Soldier* team’s thoughts remain with you.

Death always leaves a scar on loved ones, but when those people were comrades that represents something altogether different.

The pain is the price of the bond.

Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

### Where to find *Soldier*

#### > Printed copies

THESE 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 latest magazine at [www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine](http://www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine) and on Twitter (@soldiermagazine).

#### > Online

DIGITAL versions of current and past editions are available on the Army website at [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) Just click on the “read it now” tab.

#### > 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](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk) (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).



# THE LEGENDARY PILGRIM GTX® COMBAT FG M




THE NEW COMBAT BOOT  
CHOSEN BY THE UK MILITARY  
ACROSS THEIR SERVICES



BREATHABILITY

GRIP Vibram®

STABILITY

 WATERPROOFNESS  
BREATHABILITY  
QUICK DRY FUNCTIONALITY

AKU PILGRIM GTX® is the new UK COMBAT BOOT. A comfy and versatile boot offering support and stability for demanding use in the field. The GORE-TEX® Extended Comfort membrane provides excellent breathability, waterproofness and quick dry functionality. An iconic boot from AKU, a brand dedicated to the legendary tradition of Italian workmanship.  
[akutactical.com](http://akutactical.com)

Stockist info: ARDBLAIR SPORTS importers ltd - [www.ardblairsports.com](http://www.ardblairsports.com) - 01250 873863





Picture: Graeme Main



# Women will make us better

## Field Army chief sets out his vision ahead of females entering ground close combat

THE Infantry must undergo a significant cultural shift if it is to integrate women into ground close combat roles, the head of the Field Army has told a select group of Infantry officers and NCOs.

Speaking in Tidworth, Lt Gen Patrick Sanders (pictured below right) said bringing junior leaders on-board with the move was crucial as the Service is due to start accepting female front-line soldiers later this year.

During the special event, which followed a similar session at Catterick and was live-streamed to Germany, Northern Ireland, Brunei and Cyprus, he added: "The Infantry exists in an environment that celebrates male behaviour as something that bonds us, and we have to change that."

"We know that cultural change is really hard and it requires leadership to get it done.

"But we need to think about where the leadership is that matters – for me it sits in the sergeants' and corporals' messes, and also with young officers.

"That's the group we need to persuade and lead if necessary.

"If you don't have those personnel with you then you won't drive change through the organisation.

"Some of the dinosaurs will need to be persuaded but if they can't be then too bad, these are orders."

Lt Gen Sanders also moved to quash rumours that set numbers of females would be recruited to front-line roles due to political correctness.

"There is no quota," he insisted.

"This decision wasn't made by politicians – it was made by an SAS

officer (Chief of the General Staff, Gen Mark Carleton-Smith), a Para (Lt Gen James Bashall) and two Riflemen (Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Sir Nicholas Carter and Lt Gen Sanders) so don't tell me we don't know what we're talking about.

"We've spent more time in the Infantry than just about anyone else serving in it and a lot of that time on operations, so there is a lot of credibility behind the decision."

He emphasised that the case for change was about enhancing the Army's performance.

"Evidence from almost every walk of professional life shows that diverse organisations are more effective and competitive than those that are narrowly represented," he said.

"All of the other reasons against having women in the Infantry cited in the past, such as lack of cohesion, pregnancy, lack of aggression – you name it – they just don't apply.

"They have been addressed by women serving in other parts of the British Army."

Lt Gen Sanders also tackled the concerns of those who believe physical standards will be dropped for females.

"We have been hypocritical about this in the Infantry," he continued.

"Each of the battalions I have visited probably have a few overweight personnel who couldn't pass the existing tests, so you can't complain when you've got male soldiers who fail the fitness criteria.

"The incoming physical employment standards, which are being refined now, are harder not easier, so we are not lowering the bar." ■

“We have been hypocritical”



## SOLDIER

**Editor** Sarah Goldthorpe  
01252 787096 (mil 94222 7096)  
sgoldthorpe@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Sports Editor** Richard Long  
01252 787098 (94222 7098)  
rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Becky Clark  
01252 787099 (94222 7099)  
rclark@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Cliff Caswell  
01252 787097 (94222 7097)  
ccaswell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Art Editor** Tudor Morgan  
01252 787100 (94222 7100)  
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Designer** Maddie Marchment  
01252 787101 (94222 7101)  
mmarchment@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Graeme Main  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Peter Davies  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
pdavies@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Advertising** Heather Shekyls  
01252 787106 (94222 7106)  
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Subscriptions**  
01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Managing Editor** Steven Muncey  
01252 787095 (94222 7095)  
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk



SOLDIER – Magazine of the British Army  
Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,  
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

All enquiries: 01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
Fax: 01252 787110 (94222 7110)  
Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk  
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Wyndeham (Roche) Ltd.  
Print contract managed by CDS.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.



Facebook: facebook.com/soldiermagazine  
Twitter: @soldiermagazine  
Instagram: @soldier\_magazine





# GLOBAL SITREP

## 1. USA

### TRANS-CONTINENTAL TREK

A JOINT group of British and US veterans are trekking 1,000 miles across America to raise money for Service personnel on both sides of the Atlantic.

The six ex-soldiers started their adventure in Los Angeles at the beginning of June.

They had just passed the halfway point en route to Ground Zero in New York as this issue went to press.

As well as raising cash, those undertaking the Walk of America trek, organised by military charity Walking with the Wounded, are hoping the initiative will encourage a wider conversation around mental health.



## 2. CANADA

## 1. USA

In numbers:  
**£1.1m**



Cost of a new Cessna 208 Caravan that has taken to the skies over Cyprus. The Combined Services Parachute Club bought the aircraft to allow more troops to get into the sport on the island

“It disgusts me how we don't show loyalty”

Deported to Nepal – page 49

## 2. CANADA

### WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

SOLDIERS from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment swapped Cyprus for Alberta, where they completed a month-long training package alongside Canadian and American troops.

Exercise Maple Resolve was aimed at building relationships, while exposing troops to a joint working environment and unfamiliar equipment.

“Training against a peer opposition provided a valuable opportunity in terms

of understanding the armoured threat and electronic warfare,” said Capt Will Pickering.

“It really forced the soldiers and commanders to think about their decisions and any impact they may have on the ground.”

Five days of rest and relaxation in Banff and Calgary capped off the visit (below).



## 3. CZECH REPUBLIC

### CHEMISTRY LESSON

TROOPS from Britain's Nato headquarters have been honing their response to a range of non-conventional threats as part of a multinational exercise.

The soldiers, from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, were put through their paces in reacting to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents – all while exercising command of the battlefield.

Held near the central city of Liberec, the weeklong package of manoeuvres saw personnel operate alongside colleagues from five partner nations.

These included decontamination teams and deployable laboratories from the Czech Army's 31st CBRN Defence Regiment.



## 4. MALI

### UPLIFT TO AFRICAN MISSION

AROUND 40 British troops have deployed to Mali to boost the UK's support to counter-terrorism operations in the country.

The personnel from 39 Engineer Regiment arrived in West Africa alongside three Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters and will assist with logistical and troop movements.



Picture: FreePik

Picture: Sgt John Bevan, RLC



## INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?

Brief the team now:



Email: [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/soldiermagazine](https://facebook.com/soldiermagazine)  
Twitter: @soldiermagazine  
Instagram: @soldier\_magazine

7. FRANCE 3. CZECH REPUBLIC 6. HIMALAYAS

4. MALI

5. UGANDA

“  
It was  
make or  
break  
”

Inside the Thai cave  
rescue – page 22

### 7. FRANCE CENTENARY STUDY

GUNNERS learned valuable lessons from comrades past as they embarked on a battlefield tour focused on the concluding four months of the First World War.

The soldiers from 1st Artillery Brigade, together with Australian and French colleagues, visited areas such as Amiens and Thiepval, where they examined how artillery, air power and other assets were integrated in battle.

Event organiser Lt Col Rob Alston – commanding officer of 4 Regiment Royal Artillery – said: “We gained a useful overview of the fighting from a combined arms perspective.”

### 5. UGANDA TRAINING EFFORT PRAISED

BRITISH troops serving in Uganda received personal thanks from the top when Armed Forces Minister Mark Lancaster dropped by during an official visit.

Soldiers training counterparts in the country were among those who spoke to the politician, who pledged continued British backing to peace efforts in East Africa.

Each year the UK is instructing some 6,000 personnel from the Ugandan People's Defence Force destined for deployment to the African Union mission in Somalia.

The minister singled out Reservists making up the majority of the British contingent for praise, adding: “They have bravely volunteered to make a difference to one of the most impoverished and dangerous countries on the planet.”

### 6. HIMALAYAS VERTICAL LIMIT

A DETERMINED Army Reservist has joined the exclusive club of climbers who have reached the summit of the world's second highest mountain.

Capt Jake Meyer (RWXY) took on K2 in the Himalayas, becoming just the tenth Briton to accomplish the feat and admitting that it had “required more than almost anything else in my life”.

It was the officer's third attempt on the 28,251ft mountain – a notoriously difficult challenge. Already a veteran of Mount Everest, he completed his endeavour in a five-day climb from base camp.

The 34-year-old said in his blog: “Everything was worth it for those 45 minutes on the summit.”



Pictures: Jake Meyer



# KEEP COMMS OPEN

Addiction. Debt. Family problems.  
Don't keep quiet.

**Forcesline** is a free, independent helpline, that's outside of the chain of command for the Armed Forces and their families. We'll listen and help get you back on track.

**0800 731 4880**

Open weekdays, 9am to 5.30pm

Or get in touch online at [ssafa.org.uk/forcesline](https://ssafa.org.uk/forcesline)

**ssafa** | the  
Armed Forces  
charity





# Infantry soldiers step up

## 4 battalions gear up for new global training tasks

Pictures: Graeme Main

**F**IRE-UP troops have told *Soldier* they are relishing the "intense" experience of preparing for global missions as part of four new Specialised Infantry Battalions.

Their work will see them pass on skills to their peers in Middle Eastern and African countries, who are focused on tackling terrorism and building stability.

Three formations – 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and 4th Battalion, The Rifles – are signed off as ready to deploy.

Members of 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will follow early in 2019.

Brig James Roddis, commander of the Specialised Infantry Group, said the capability was a way of giving structure to the mentoring role that British troops have excelled in for years.

He said that 2 PWRR and 1 Scots would be focusing on sub-Saharan Africa while the other two battalions would work in the Middle East.

The officer added: "Those working in the role need to be experienced, with excellent basic skills, and adaptable enough to work with a partner force in austere conditions.

"They also need to be self reliant – able to see problems and get on and

deal with them."

The new role has seen battalion numbers slimmed down significantly – by up to half, in some cases – with departing soldiers moving to other infantry outfits.

While most officers and NCOs have been retained, Brig Roddis said this didn't mean departing troops were in any way worse.

He explained: "The new role requires experience, and is simply different."

Anyone aspiring to the specialised role must complete a two-week assessment cadre, with skills such as foreign languages, essay writing and physical robustness all tested.

Personnel from 2 PWRR admitted the process had been tough.

But they were confident the move would present a raft of new opportunities and allow them to rack up deployment time.

"The two weeks was intense but it's great to be part of something new," said LCpl Owen Clough. "I'm hoping the experience will set me up for my future career – I think Specialised Infantry will also be popular with the next generation."

Sgt Gareth Smith added: "I've been in the Army 13 years and have been to Iraq and Afghanistan – it will be good to work with people from different countries and cultures again."

### IN NUMBERS:

# 1,080

Soldiers being trained in the specialised infantry role

“It's great to be part of something new”



## Q&A

*Soldier* quizzed Brig Roddis on the Specialised Infantry capability...



### How have troops taken to the role?

People are really enthusiastic – it's what they join the Army for. If you are in a Specialised Infantry Battalion you are definitely going to get away and build experience.

### Are you looking for particular qualities in the soldiers?

The process is, to a large extent, about working with people as they are and looking at whether they are appropriate for the task. Mutual trust is important too. I need to be able to empower small teams deployed in other countries, so I personally interview each team commander and their 2iC.

### How important are language skills?

We are looking for those who have the ability to learn. With the geographic divide between the battalions, 2 PWRR and 1 Scots will be focused on French while the other two will look at Arabic.

### What about those leaving Specialised Infantry Battalions?

As we have downsized, they will continue their Army service elsewhere, and this is done in consultation with the individual. Soldiers can express a preference over where they go.

### How do you see your role developing?

It has been fascinating to be involved at the start of something new – the journey from 2016 has been very satisfying. I see my role as giving my successor, and theirs, a project they can continue taking forward.

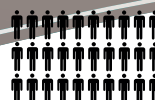
**SPEC INF:**  
the story  
so far

**2015:** Idea flagged in Strategic Defence and Security Review



**2016:** Defence Secretary Michael Fallon confirms 1 Scots and 4 Rifles will pioneer the initiative. Brig Roddis begins leading the process

**2017:** Both battalions are ready to deploy



**2018:** Troops from 2 PWRR take on their new duties



**2019:** 2 Lincs due to follow as final Specialised Infantry Battalion







A personal view from Sara Baade, Chief Executive of the Army Families Federation...

## WORK, LIFE AND WHATSAPP...

A RECENT survey found that 81 per cent of families are considering whether to continue following the flag because of their soldier's lack of work/life balance.

This is concerning, but not surprising given the feedback we have received about work tempo, difficulties carrying out childcare duties, and feeling pressured to always be on call.

The most sought after change is better tolerance of unforeseen domestic emergencies, such as when a child is sick.

Families also want their soldiers to have time off in lieu and work less rigidly, which the flexible engagement system coming into play next year will hopefully achieve.

But with many feeling the pace of work increasing, how easy will this be?

I believe that a cultural shift is needed.

Those who took our survey said that their soldier's work/life balance had worsened in the last two years, mostly due to short-notice tasks, increased time away from family and not being able to switch off.

They told us some of this is linked to an increased use of *WhatsApp*, which has essentially made them available around the clock. This is making life even more difficult for families

who are already struggling to find quality time and take holidays.

We will continue to push for change that works for both sides.



[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)



Picture: Graeme Main

## Virtus upgrade imminent

Input from Infantry soldiers improves latest version of the combat gear

THANKS to a wealth of user feedback the Virtus protective equipment and load carriage system has been upgraded to better meet soldiers' needs.

It will be rolled out to a limited number of units later this year.

The new kit will be fielded on a priority basis, firstly to troops on operations or to those stood at very high readiness.

Over the past two years personnel have been giving their opinions on Virtus to the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) and the project team at Defence Equipment and Support, and this led to a number of modifications.

"Selected designs were rapidly prototyped and trialled through the ITDU and will be brought into service

via a responsive support contract," Maj David Robertson (Scots) of the Ground Manoeuvre Capability Directorate at Army HQ told *Soldier*.

"The entire process from receiving feedback, informing the developer, trialling prototypes, manufacture and then fielding takes 12 months on average, demonstrating a step change in support to front-line soldiers."

Although these modifications have now been implemented, the project team say they are determined to keep making improvements so continued user input is vital.

Service personnel are strongly encouraged to carry on reporting any issues with Virtus through MoD form 1197 or by contacting the project team directly via [deslestsp-dcc-ilsmgr@mod.gov.uk](mailto:deslestsp-dcc-ilsmgr@mod.gov.uk)

“ Selected designs were rapidly prototyped ”

### KIT ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDE...



An improved webbing yoke and belt



An upgraded 90-litre Bergan with 7.5-litre side pouches and a new top-flap to enable flexible load carriage.

A new 17-litre lightweight assault pack that can attach to the new yoke or stand alone



Quick-release magazine pouches

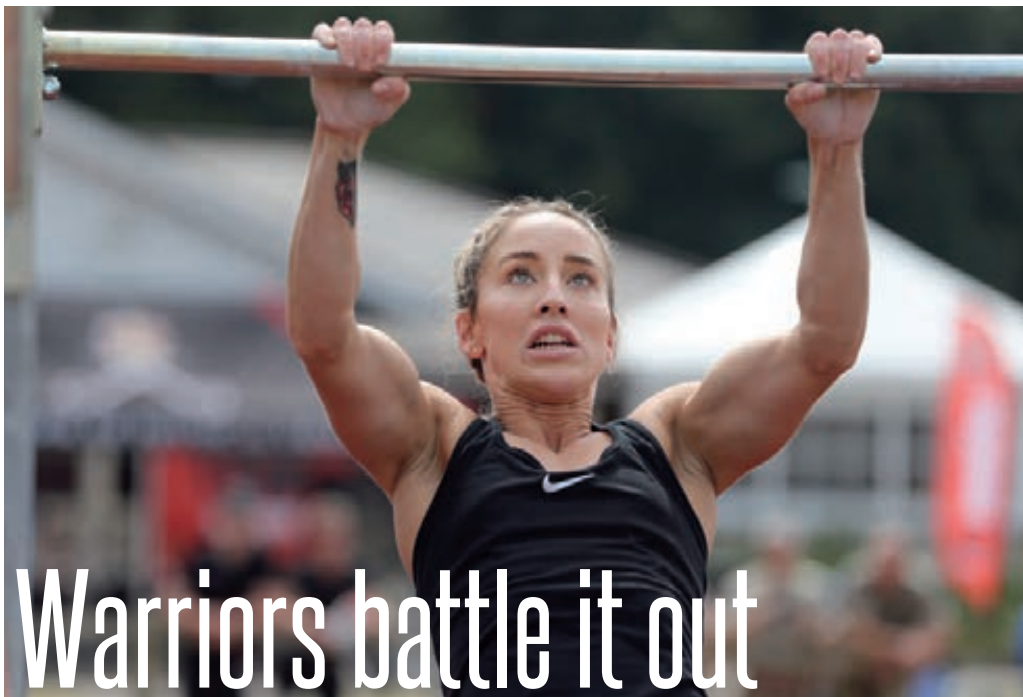


A removable helmet cover





Pictures: Graeme Main



# Warriors battle it out

**T**ROOPS battled it out in a fierce test of muscle at the British Army Warrior Fitness finals.

Staged at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the competition showcased the latest physical training techniques and saw 20 male and female teams battle for supremacy.

Its events included presses with weights, rowing and aerobic tests.

Service personnel from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment walked away with the men's prize, while Army Training Centre Pirbright scooped the women's crown.

Many movements used in the showdown – for example, powerbag lifts – mimic the activities that soldiers face in their day job. Keeping PT focused on operational requirements in this way is what the Royal Army Physical Training Corp's new standards are all about (*Soldier*, May 2018).

Lt Col Ian Phillips (RAPTC), chair of British Army Warrior Fitness, said the overhauled system had been finding favour with entrants.

He added: "This competition is for troops that want to take their PT to another level.

"Those taking part are the fittest in the Army – and this event gives them the chance to compete against each other with exercises related to what we do on operations."

The final was the culmination of four previous legs held across the UK and overseas, with the top three teams from each gaining a place in the Sandhurst showdown.

Servicemen and women said the disciplines had been demanding.

But chef LCpl James Rocke (RLC), who was competing with 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, said it had helped to promote all-round fitness by including a combination of exercises.

"That is much better than doing single events," he added.

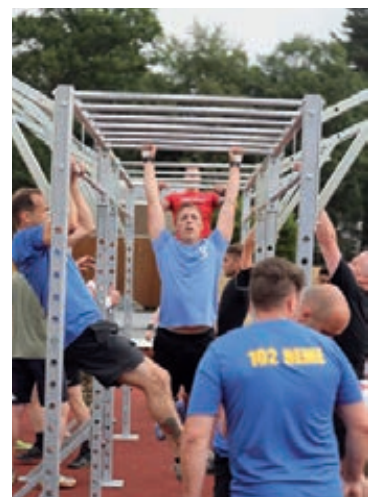
Pte Mahad Kader (AGC (SPS)) from the 4th Battalion, The Rifles women's team said: "We work hard in our PT – this way of doing fitness really helps to build you up."

“  
It really  
helps to  
build you up  
”



## FITNESS FINALS IN NUMBERS:

**14** Male squads in the competition  
.....  
**six** Female teams  
.....  
**4** Legs that were staged



## THE WRONG TROUSERS?

■ **MILITARY** chiefs are pulling the plug on barrack dress trousers and skirts. They say troops have been ditching them in favour of their combats. Calling time on the garments will save the Army money – although slacks will remain in stores for women who need them. Instead, soldiers must now wear Number 2 trousers and skirts with the issued long sleeved shirt for barrack dress order. They can get a second pair of the clothes too. Lt Col (retd) Kestrel Simson, who heads up the Service's ceremonial policy and plans desk, said the barrack dress items had been rolled out a decade ago. But he told *Soldier*: "Most personnel continue to wear their combat dress in barracks, so we have stock that is costing us a lot of money to keep."



## DVD WORTH A WATCH

■ A VARIED showcase of current and future military kit will be on show at the forthcoming Defence Vehicle Dynamics show.

The two-day exhibition, which takes place every two years, will feature around 250 industry suppliers and be staged from September 19 to 20 at Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire.

Entry to the event – sponsored by Defence Equipment and Support and Army Land Equipment – is free to MoD personnel. For more details visit [www.theevent.co.uk](http://www.theevent.co.uk)



Last hurrah  
page 28

## INNOVATION STATION

■ THE Royal Signals held a *Dragon's Den*-style competition to encourage innovation across the corps.

Around 40 ideas were submitted, from which the judges chose nine to present to a panel in the style of the popular TV show.

A team from Hereford Garrison bagged first prize and £300 with their winning pitch, which focused on using methanol fuel cells and hybrid solar technology to provide a more efficient method of charging batteries.

Praising the quality and range of the entries, organiser Lt Col Paul Sutcliffe said: "Every proposal in the final was worthy of further consideration and Army HQ will now look to exploit any quick wins from these novel ideas."



Picture: Edinburgh Fringe Society

## FROLICKS AT THE FRINGE

■ SERVICE life is once again taking centre stage at this month's Edinburgh Fringe.

Among the venues putting on military-inspired acts is the Army Reserve Centre at Hepburn House in New Town.

It is the second time the military has held its own event as part of the festival and this year's line-up features works on female empowerment, LGBT issues, mental health and Commonwealth troops.

To book tickets visit [www.summerhall.co.uk/venue/army-the-fringe](http://www.summerhall.co.uk/venue/army-the-fringe)



Picture: Steve Dock

# Road move to remember for troops

“  
It will show  
we can deploy  
with allies  
”

HUNDREDS of Army vehicles and crews are poised for an epic journey through continental Europe – driving to Scandinavia for a huge Nato exercise.

Troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment are leading the charge that will take soldiers from Catterick to Norway to join the multinational Trident Juncture this autumn.

They will tow equipment in trailers in a test of the Strike concept of rapid reinforcement – designed to avoid any sophisticated missile defences aimed at allied aircraft.

Crossing five countries, the troops will join around 40,000 allied counterparts – from Europe, America and Canada – where they will face conventional warfighting serials.

Confirmation of the road move came after Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Sir Nicholas Carter said Brits had to be able to deploy by road or rail over 2,000km distances.

German troops had used trailers on

their front-line vehicles in the Second World War, he said. And speaking shortly before his promotion the senior officer added: "These old fashioned lessons, brought forward, are improving our ability to deploy."

Some 2,000 Brits are taking part in the exercise. The Royal Irish Regiment will form the UK battlegroup supported by a Light Dragoons Squadron and a Danish contingent. HQ 4th Infantry Brigade and a raft of support elements complete the line-up.

It is also hoped that around 150 members of the Army Reserve will be joining their Regular counterparts.

Maj Josh Badger (Scots), who is helping plan the UK involvement in the exercise with 1 (United Kingdom) Division, said the road move would be an impressive demonstration.

"It will show that we can move out to north-west Europe and deploy alongside our allies to meet any potential aggression," the officer explained to *Soldier*.

Blazing squad – page 25

## Mercury mithers Army training missions

SOARING temperatures played havoc with the Army's summer exercise schedule after serials were cancelled due to fire risk.

The MoD confirmed there was "significant" disruption to the programme during the heatwave, with ammunition, including high explosives and tracer, banned.

All artillery firing on Salisbury

Plain Training Area was also halted as the conditions sparked more blazes than normal.

An MoD spokeswoman told *Soldier* that fires in impact areas have to be left to burn out for safety reasons so the department had been reviewing the risks every 12 hours in conjunction with the operational need for training.







## Tattoos with tales

■ A LOOK at soldiers' body art through the ages is the topic of a new exhibition at the REME museum in Lyneham, Wiltshire.

*Military Ink* tells tales behind a selection of tattoos and the Service personnel who got them done.

Examples range from regimental crests to tributes to fallen comrades and others with personal meanings.

Curator Jennifer Allison said the showcase, which runs until December 8, had produced some "great stories".



www.rememuseum.org.uk

## FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



On a mission:  
the SSAFA team

### Full throttle ahead

A ROAD trip in memory of troops lost on operations and to raise money for those still in need was due to head off for a ten-day continental trek as this issue was published. The 60 vehicles involved in the Rally for Heroes project will set out from London's Horse Guards Parade on August 2, cross the Channel at Dover and cover 3,000 miles in Europe – five for every fallen Serviceman or woman since the start of the Afghanistan campaign. Bringing together troops, veterans and civilians, the biennial event covers Italy, France, Switzerland, Croatia, Bosnia and Germany.

Target funds:  
**£100k**  
For: SSAFA



“  
It's all about  
getting the  
basics right  
”

## Best shots in Service...

**M**ARKSMEN from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have been celebrating a bumper trophy haul at the Army Operational Shooting Competition.

The Brunei-based outfit won 13 matches and cups, either as a team or on an individual basis, including the Major Unit Championship and the Queen's Medal, awarded to the best shot in the Service.

Cpl Bishal Rai (pictured below right) claimed this prestigious honour, while three of the eight shooters from the squad finished in the top ten.

"It's all about getting the basics right," Cpl Rai said. "And it is important to have confidence in yourself and your weapon; that comes with experience."

"I have only been able to implement the principles of marksmanship after years of practice."

"Training and knowing the match conditions are also vital."

Winning the event was one of the unit's key goals for 2018 and competition for places on the team proved to be fierce.

"Selection was probably the most difficult part of all," said Capt Vijay Limbu, the officer in charge of 2 RGR shooting. "We had to ensure we picked the right people, not just based on past records but on their current form and performance."



### Braving the rapids

THE chief of staff at HQ Royal Armoured Corps joined forces with a senior businessman to brave a Scottish waterway. Lt Col Nick Woolger (RL) and Jamie MacLeod kayaked 100 miles of the River Tweed raising cash for less fortunate Armed Forces veterans.

Money raised:  
**£50k**  
For: Veterans Aid



## PAY AWARD ANNOUNCED

■ **SOLDIERS** will see their wages rise by two per cent under the latest Armed Forces pay award.

Personnel will also receive a 0.9 per cent non-pensionable lump sum.

The core-pay award will be backdated to April 1, 2018 and will be in pay packets on September 30.

When this issue went to press it had yet to be announced how and when the lump sum would be paid, but an Army briefing note will contain more details.



## ANT LENDS A HAND

■ **FORMER** Special Forces soldier Ant Middleton, star of Channel 4's hit TV show *SAS Who Dares Wins*, has teamed up with military charity SSAFA to launch a new initiative helping veterans to get back on their feet as they return to civilian life.

Middleton turned to SSAFA for support when he struggled to adjust after leaving so he has set up the Ant Middleton Fund as a way to give back to the organisation.

The money raised will help it provide a range of support including its face-to-face mentoring service and welfare, housing and practical help for ex-Servicemen and women and their loved ones.

Donate to the Ant Middleton Fund by visiting [www.ssafa.org.uk/AMF](http://www.ssafa.org.uk/AMF)

## COULD YOU SAVE A LIFE?

■ **A CALL** to action has gone out to soldiers after a Royal Navy colleague was taken ill.

Troops are being asked to register as potential stem cell donors to help Vaughan Scott (pictured right), who needs lifesaving assistance after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia.

His family have called on troops aged between 17 and 55 to come forward and see if they can offer a match.

Scott has been treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham since he was diagnosed in early April.

Potential donors are being asked to contact charity DKMS for a kit to take a swab from their mouths with a view to being placed on the UK stem cell registry.

See [www.dkms.org.uk/en/register-now](http://www.dkms.org.uk/en/register-now) for more information.



## CHANGING TRUCKS



■ **LOGISTICS** supply will be given a boost when 382 15-tonne trucks are converted into vehicles that can quickly transport ammunition, water, food and bulk medical supplies into theatre.

The enhanced palletised load system will be fitted to the 8x6 load carriers over the next three years. The technology allows up to 15 tonnes of supplies on pallets or in ISO containers to be moved on or off the vehicle in less than 90 seconds.

The first 40 platforms are due to arrive in early 2019, with final deliveries in March 2021.

Picture: Cpl Pete Brown, RLCC

## How to grab some star gear

**A**N EXTENSIVE collection of surveillance and target acquisition kit is available for units to borrow to enhance their training and operations.

The kit includes various night vision systems, thermal imaging gear and laser range-finders.

Some of the items that can be borrowed are listed below but this is not the complete range available.

"A large loan pool was established on which all entitled units, including Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force, may draw," Maj Alex Cramphorn (AAC) of the Army Equipment Directorate told *Soldier*.

"The maximum benefit for defence and soldiers will only be delivered if the



kit is in the hands of the user."

Quartermasters should contact the Army HQ fleet manager by email at [rosina.bellis880@mod.gov.uk](mailto:rosina.bellis880@mod.gov.uk) for the complete inventory and to action any loan requests.

“Items are there to be used”

### KIT FOR LOAN

- Maxikite weapon mounted night sight
- CWS night vision scope
- Laser light module
- Lucie helmet-mounted night vision goggles
- Pocket laser range-finder
- HWTS night vision thermal night sight
- Lightweight thermal imager
- Commander's target locator
- Magnum universal night sight
- Head-mounted night vision system





# Out with the old for infantry weapons

THREE significant infantry weapons are to be removed from service.

The L86A2 Light Support Weapon, L110A3 Light Machine Gun and M6-640 60mm mortar are to be phased out by April 2019 following a review by Army Headquarters.

"This is not a financially-driven cull but a review of our capability to ensure that we have a battle-winning, optimised set of systems in users' hands," commented Maj Mark Whitehouse (Rifles) of the Ground Manoeuvre Capability directorate.

The Light Support Weapon variant of the SA80 A2 rifle was found to offer few benefits over the standard model when fitted with the in-service quadrail, downgrip and bipod.

First introduced in the early 1990s, it will be removed from service this summer with the 7.62mm Sharpshooter filling the gap.

"The Sharpshooter has been proven to provide effective precision fire beyond the range of other platoon weapons – to at least 600m – thus enhancing the capability of the dismantled close combat section in all roles," commented Maj Jon Anthistle (REME) of the Equipment Directorate at Army Headquarters.

More Sharpshooters will be purchased in the near future to fulfil defence-wide needs.

The Light Machine Gun (LMG), introduced as an urgent operational requirement in 2003, is being withdrawn after studies showed that



Picture: Shay Woods, MBDA

the it did not offer any significant advantage over the SA80.

"Despite the popular view, it is far heavier but less lethal and effective," added Maj Anthistle.

"While some Joint Force Command users will retain the weapon, it is rarely employed in favour of the 7.62mm equivalent."

Meanwhile, the M6-640 60mm mortar (pictured above) that was also purchased initially as an urgent operational requirement, is to be removed after it was found that its high weight and relative inaccuracy resulted in a lack of use across the Army, despite the advantages it appeared to offer on paper.

It will be removed from service in early 2019 and various options to replace this particular piece of kit are still being evaluated.

SPINE LINE COMPETITION



**WIN**  
£200-worth of combat boots

OUR spine line clues for July fitted with one of the prominent themes of the issue.

(Edward) Jenner, (Rick) Jolly, (Joseph) Lister and (Mary) Seacole are all connected by the medical profession, their contributions benefitting troops in conflict.

This month *Soldier* has teamed up with AKU ([www.aku.it/en](http://www.aku.it/en)) to offer two readers a pair of £200 Pilgrim GTX Combat FG boots – the Army's new general issue combat high liability footwear.

To be in with a chance of getting your hands on this impressive kit, simply tell us what links the words on the side of this issue.

Send your answer, plus shoe size, to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by August 31.

“  
It's to  
ensure we  
have battle-  
winning  
systems  
”

## BRIEFING TEAM BECKONS

■ UNITS are being encouraged to contact the CGS Briefing Team if they want to have their voices heard.

Chief of the General Staff, Gen Mark Carleton-Smith, recently welcomed the set-up's newest members (below) and they will be increasing the tempo of their visits in the last three months of 2018.

The sessions consist of a brief on current Army activity and existing and new policies, plus a feedback session.

These views are then delivered direct to the top brass by the team.

To arrange a visit contact WO2 Aidan O'Brien on [aidan.obrien343@mod.gov.uk](mailto:aidan.obrien343@mod.gov.uk) or military dial 94393 7732.



## Welcome to your kit's new hue

■ THE Infantry's weapons fleet is to change colour to blend better with the multi-terrain pattern personal clothing system.

After a review by the dismantled close combat team at Army Headquarters it was decided the weapons should be resprayed in Cerakote dark earth brown.

"The SA80 A3 was the first weapon to be painted with this – it is hard wearing and resistant to the elements," Maj John Anthistle (REME), of the Equipment Directorate said. "As a result, it will enhance durability and the user's camouflage as the black bodies stand out significantly against the PCS background."

He added: "They will be painted this year but the size of the fleet is so



vast users will see a mix of black and brown weapons for a number of years to come."



## SHADER MEDAL EXPANDED

■ MORE troops are being made eligible for the new Op Shader campaign medal.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said the decoration would soon be presented to those making a major contribution to the deployment outside of Syria and Iraq.

Drone pilots in the UK "taking life or death decisions" would be among those to benefit. But troops who have served in theatre will be distinguished by the addition of a clasp.

## TANK TRAGEDY DECISION

■ A TANK explosion that killed two soldiers was caused by a design flaw, a coroner has found.

Royal Tank Regiment corporals Matthew Hatfield, 27, and Darren Neilson, 31, died during a live-firing exercise at Castlemartin Range in Pembrokeshire in June 2017.

Two other soldiers, WO2 Stuart Lawson and Tpr Michael Warren (both RTR), were also injured but survived.

At the inquest Louise Hunt, senior coroner for Birmingham and Solihull, said the main cause was the manufacturer failing to spot that the tank's gun could fire when a key safety component, the bolt vent axial which forms an airtight seal blocking hot gases escaping into the crew turret, was missing.

She also heard personnel give evidence that charges were sometimes stored out of heatproof storage bins within the turret.

The coroner has sent a report to the MoD and the gun designers to prevent future deaths. The Army said it had already improved training, drills and procedures.



## DEEPCUT APOLOGY

■ THE head of Army Personnel Services Group has apologised to the family of a young soldier who fatally shot himself at Deepcut two decades ago.

Speaking after a new inquest into the 1995 death of Pte Sean Benton, Brig Christopher Coles said the Army "deeply regretted" what had happened, adding that the Service had long moved to address significant shortcomings at the base.

Action had also been taken in how troops were trained and cared for.

A coroner in Woking concurred with the first inquest's suicide verdict, but raised several concerns, including the poor quality of the original investigation and the support given to Pte Benton.



Picture: Cpl Ben Beale, RLC

■ COMMANDERS have spoken of their satisfaction after junior soldiers turned their hand to instructing European counterparts during a support weapons cadre on Salisbury Plain. Troops from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment's machine gun platoon worked with a contingent from the French Foreign Legion during the manoeuvres, which saw the two sides exchange important information in weapons systems.

# Tax reprieve north of border

SERVICE personnel hit by income tax hikes in Scotland are to receive a cash windfall.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson announced that "mitigation payments" of between £12 and £1,500 would be made to ensure soldiers were not left out of pocket as a result of the rises.

The move would see Armed Forces personnel paying the same bill wherever they were deployed – ensuring that troops were treated "fairly and equally," he added.

The cash will be made to all personnel paying into the Scottish system, wherever they are deployed in the world, for the 2018/19 tax year.

The case for the money will be reviewed annually.

As previously reported (*Soldier*, June), the rises meant troops earning more than £26,000 would pay more tax compared to colleagues serving



Picture: Mark Owens

elsewhere in the UK.

Personnel had voiced their concern that the hikes could make Scotland a less attractive posting.

In March the defence secretary asked officials to look at how the rises could be mitigated.

He told reporters: "We have taken urgent action to see that our troops are treated equally and fairly, and not left hundreds of pounds out of pocket."

“  
Our troops  
will not be  
left out of  
pocket  
”



MEANWHILE, Forces families posted to Scotland can now access a dedicated website to help them make choices about their child's schooling and education.

The portal is designed to help parents understand the Scottish education system.

It enables them to search for schools by location and branch of Service, and includes guidance and teaching materials for education professionals. Visit [www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk](http://www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk)





Picture: Sgt Donald Todd, RLC



# Infantry troops in the hot zone

**V**ERSATILE troops downed weapons to join a more conventional firefight as they helped tackle an inferno devastating parts of northern England.

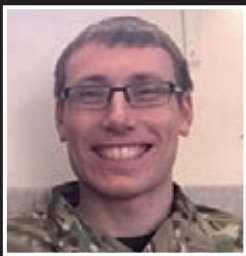
The soldiers from 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland deployed from Catterick and operated out of an Army training centre to deal with the blaze on Saddleworth Moor.

Working alongside a Chinook from

RAF Odiham, the personnel assisted with tasks including the management of water lines, beating flames and general support such as driving.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson paid tribute to the professionalism of the troops in backing the operation, which was led by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

On a mission with a difference? Email [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



**PTE REECE MILLER (29)**  
1ST BATTALION,  
THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT  
DIED JUNE 30 – ESTONIA

AN EXPERIENCED soldier who showed deep care for his colleagues was killed from a gunshot wound, believed to be self-inflicted, a coroner has said.

Pte Reece Miller, of 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, died in Estonia. An inquest was opened and adjourned until December.

Oxfordshire's Coroner's Office stressed the circumstances around the death are still being investigated.

Described as a determined infantryman with a bright future, Pte Miller joined the Army nine years ago and had seen service on operations in Afghanistan.

The 29-year-old, who served in the battalion's fire support company, recently completed his drummers' course and had been aspiring to promotion and leadership.

Fronting the tributes, commanding officer Lt Col James Kennedy described the Serviceman as "the very epitome of the Yorkshire soldier and just the sort of bloke you would want in your regiment".

He added: "He was one of those unsung heroes whose maturity allowed him to mentor the men who he cared for deeply – he was one of the company's gentlemen."

"The loss of Pte Miller has been a terrible shock to all of us in the battalion; we are truly devastated."

"Our thoughts are with his comrades in Estonia, but most of all with his family and wife who, like us, will be struggling to come to terms with his loss."

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BACK ON TOP**



Army women regain Services crown – page 75

## 4 THINGS 4 SCOTS LEARNT FROM THE MOOR FIRE MISSION



### 1 Terrain can make or break you

"It's tricky on the moors, with open grassland and lots of hills. Digging trenches and running hoses around was demanding; the bottoms of our boots got hot."

**Hldr John O'Neill**



### 2 It's a good feeling to help out

"As a Sikh I'm making my community, and my regiment, proud. Everybody was working hard but feeling great."

**Hldr Baltaj Singh Maan**

### 3 Operating around fire is difficult

"Some parts were quite physically challenging, but as soldiers we are fit and that helps."

**LCpl Rory Wood**

### 4 You can't expect to know who you'll work with next on a job

"You could be alongside the Army one day and police the next. This operation has shown me that."

**Hldr Keith Wodzinski**





---

# THE BIG PICTURE

Royal Military School of Music, Twickenham

---

## Lighting up the stage

A FIREWORK spectacular rounded off a notable evening at Kneller Hall as the curtain came down on the Corps of Army Music's summer concert programme. The bands of the Coldstream Guards and The Royal Irish Regiment delivered the Last Night of the Proms event, with the playlist featuring favourites such as *Pomp and Circumstance No 1* and *Jerusalem*. Youngsters from Youth Brass 2000 – an outfit renowned for producing new generations of world-class musicians – were among those joining the Army's finest on stage.

Picture: Cpl Daniel Wiepen, RLC









NEED TO

KNOW

EXPERIENCE | SKILLS & DRILLS | RULES & REGS | MENTAL HEALTH | HEALTH

“It was going to



The inside story of the rescue mission that gripped the world

- ▶ WHEN LCpl Connor Roe (REME) started cave diving in 2012, he had little idea that his skills would one day be called upon to help save a group of Thai schoolchildren trapped deep in an underground system. This is his account of the international operation to get them out:



# take a miracle to get them out”

“FOR me the appeal of cave diving is exploring places where no one has ever set foot or shone a torch before.

That raw sense of adventure – like Scott or Shackleton – is hard to find these days.

I'd obviously been following the boys' story closely on TV. As time ticked on and they were trapped somewhere without food or clean water, the chances of a rescue were dropping.

Then, when they were found, it became clear it was going to take something close to a miracle to get them out.

The concept of leaving them in there for months was unmanageable. The oxygen levels in the cave were dropping and supplying them with enough food was going to be a big problem.

It was make or break time.

The cave diving community is small. We all know each other. I'd actually been assisting one of the other British divers involved in the rescue operation before he flew out and helping to organise equipment.

I was brought in to assist with the final extraction phase.

On the Friday afternoon I got the phone call from the British Cave Rescue Council: “Hi, yeah we need you to go to Thailand and you're flying tomorrow.”

So I went home and packed.

I arrived on site on the Sunday at 1000 and was in the cave by 1400.

With another guy who was flown out we were put about halfway into the system in what was known as chamber five.

There were four primary carers, who would swim to the boys' location with the

doctor, sort them out and get them ready.

Then there were two groups staged within the cave at various sections to allow for air changes, check the casualties and give the primary carers a break.

They were at maximum concentration throughout the two-hour exit, which is exhausting, so we were there to help ease that stress and help guide the kids through a large section.

I would take the child, check their air and breathing, and ensure the primary carer was okay and hadn't accidentally neglected himself through focusing on the casualty.

Then I would surface swim the child for about 400m to the next significant section, make sure the primary carer was happy again and off they would go.

On that first day we managed to rescue four children, then another four on the Monday and five on the Tuesday.

The feelings varied day to day. On day one we thought we'd do well to rescue one, and when we rescued four it was amazing – there was lots of clapping and handshaking going on.

On day two we knew we had to stay focused and by day three the stress levels were so much higher. Everyone thought it was a done deal but the conditions were still very dangerous.

Visibility-wise you couldn't see your hand in front of your face during the dive sections. You'd follow your guideline through, feeling your way through tight spaces – if you let go you'd be in real trouble.

The death of Thai Navy diver Saman Kunan, which happened the day I got the call, underlined just how treacherous it was.

I have so much respect for what those guys did: they are military divers but not trained cave divers.

They were told what they had to do and went and did it. That is serious bravery.

When the boys were out and it was all over there was instant relief.

I thought, ‘we've done it – they are going to go off and lead full lives’.

I met some of the parents and you could see the impact you'd had.

When you were in the cave you had to disconnect yourself emotionally but seeing how elated the families were brought it home that these were young children with mums, dads, brothers, sisters, aunties and uncles – we had just changed their lives forever.

Looking back it was awesome to be part of it and assist in such a great outcome.

It could easily have been very different. ■





# Going underground

Flooding, rockfalls and injuries are just a few of the hazards facing cavers. So what can you do to reduce the risks?

► WHEN it goes wrong deep beneath the earth, the consequences can be serious – as the emergency with the trapped youngsters in Thailand showed.

We asked experienced caver WO2 Gary Chekansky (RAPTC) of the Joint Service Training Wing in Ripon for some tips on staying safe and keeping a cool head...

## If in doubt, stay out

This is very simple, and really important. Make sure you are happy before you start. If you have concerns, err on the side of caution and keep away.

## Know the ground

You must do an assessment before you start. Understand the cave you are going into, the type of ground you will encounter, where there is water and other details. Pay close attention to the weather and check the recent forecasts.

## Work with your team

Caving tests you physically and psychologically. You'll be going through tight spaces and working in cold and demanding conditions, so look out for each other.

## Provide a heads-up

Have a formal procedure for letting others know where you are going – leave your details with someone trustworthy who is contactable and tell them when you expect to start and finish. You should also give them a call out time for cave rescue to be alerted.

## Stick together

Never go caving alone – ideally there should be at least three of you – and make sure your team are fully fit. Even something like a cold can cause you problems and slow you down. Make sure you all have the right qualifications and kit too.



# Blazing Squad

Do your bit to prevent training area fires...

▶ THE searing summer heat might be fun if you're on the beach during leave but it has made life difficult for those on exercise. With the likes of Salisbury Plain tinder dry, defence chiefs have halted all pyrotechnics plus tracer and illumination rounds, as well as putting fire watch initiatives in place (page 14). But there are also steps individuals can take to lower the risks.

## Keep calm in a crisis

There are numerous hazards underground and injuries such as limb breaks and serious cuts are a possibility. If a team member is injured start your evacuation processes. This may mean one of you exiting to call cave rescue teams via 999.

## Be prepared to wait it out

A rescue may take some time so your team should have equipment to keep you comfortable including blankets, food and a group shelter. Candles and waterproof matches are important in case you start losing light from your torches.



### Know your enemy

Wildfires are tough to put out in hot conditions. They put the lives of those caught up in them on the line and are often devastating for the environment.



### Don't be left cooking

If you're out on a training area make sure your clear-up drills are top notch. Ensure you clear the ground thoroughly when cooking so that flammable material doesn't come into contact with any open flames.



### Watch your fags

If you're a smoker, make sure any cigarettes you discard are not left smouldering – the last thing you want is for your recklessness to disrupt training, or worse, cost lives.



### Get on comms

If you see a blaze, don't try to fight it yourself. Contact range control and the fire service straight away.



# Separation anxiety

## How to get a handle on homesickness

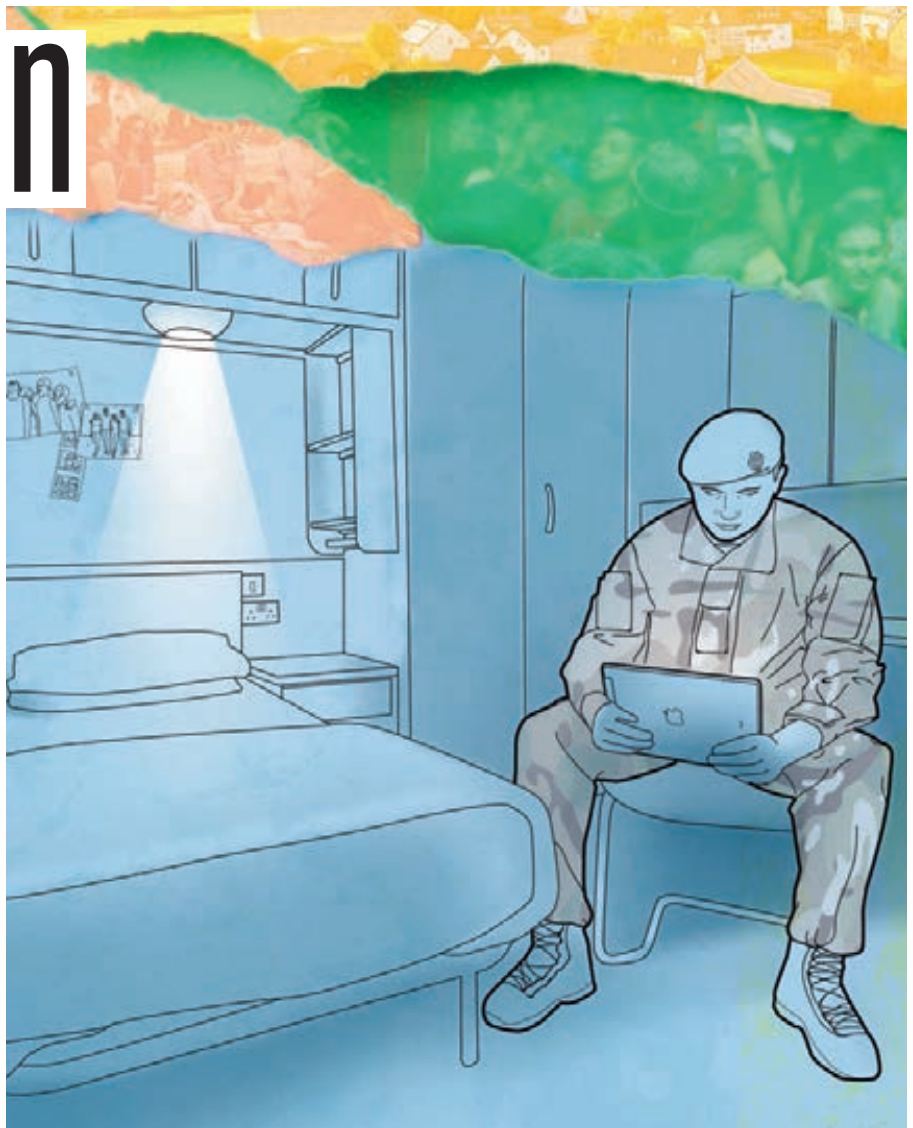
► JOINING the Army is a big step for young recruits.

Learning different skills and fitting in with a new group of friends, all while being away from home for the first time, can be overwhelming.

But help is at hand if homesickness is getting you down.

The organisation WRVS Services Welfare provides emotional and practical support to single and unaccompanied troops, and is strictly confidential.

Operations support manager Anna Ashley has this advice for those taking their first steps as soldiers...



### Remember homesickness is normal

You miss your family, start questioning what you have done and wonder what the future will hold – these are perfectly natural feelings to go through. Think back to the past and ask yourself why you made the decision to join the Army. Recognise the positives, and focus on what is good.

### Don't bottle it up

**Make sure you reach out to somebody if you are feeling low. You can always go to WRVS Services Welfare for a chat and talk about life in general. Your unit padre is also on hand to listen.**

### Embrace a new life

There is a temptation to call your friends and family as often as you can, particularly when you feel like you are facing the unknown. But it is important to make new friends and integrate fully into a new way of life. Other recruits will be in the same place as you and experiencing the same feelings.

### Be social

**Make sure you get out and about – you can go to WRVS centres, play pool, watch TV and meet others. There are opportunities to sit and read too.**

### Look ahead

Try to recognise that the feelings will pass. You are at a time in life where you are experiencing new emotions for the first time – the Army will not feel so unfamiliar forever.







# Sugar wars

After a diabetes scare this soldier called time on his sweet tooth

▶ WHEN SSgt Matthew Johnson (RAMC) discovered that he had pre-diabetic blood sugar levels during a routine check-up, it dawned on him that lifestyle changes were needed.

Admitting the news was a wake-up call, the senior NCO – who is currently serving in Germany – sat down with a dietician for advice. And simple amendments to his routine soon paid dividends.

Now six stone lighter and no longer in the pre-diabetic bracket, he shares his five top tips for staying out of the risk zone.

1

## Focus on fitness

Being active is important in all this, so step up to the challenge and try to increase your PT levels. If you have an injury, do as much as is permitted.

2

## Mornings matters

I made the mistake of skipping meals in the day and eating massive portions in the evening.

Don't do this – having just a slice of wholemeal or brown bread early on will help kick-start your metabolism. Likewise, salad, soup or fresh fruit for lunch will keep you going.

3

## Kick the cravings

Make sure you amend your snacking patterns to cut chocolate and fizzy drinks out of your life – in short, try to avoid as much sugar as you possibly can.

4

## Fresh is best

Shun microwave meals and have a decent freshly cooked dish.

Enjoy a piece of meat with vegetables as well as a salad – just make sure you avoid the dressing. Greek yogurts in the early evening – 1900 or 2000 – will round off your menu.

5

## Stay a step ahead

Remaining healthy can be fun so keep it up in your spare time by enjoying leisure activities with friends and family. Walks and bike rides are a good bet.





**C**ONSTANT change is a given for those who follow the flag, but that doesn't always make things easy – especially if you're talking about giving up a much-loved piece of battlefield kit.

But with hundreds of new projects buzzing around Army HQ at any one time, and the digital age reshaping combat as we know it, flexibility is the name of the game for soldiers in 2018.

For members of the Queen's Own Yeomanry, this has meant bidding a fond farewell to their beloved RWMIK Land Rovers – protected patrol vehicles that represent a million front-line memories for elder members of the unit, and some colourful recce training experiences for younger ones.

"Many of our guys love the RWMIK; it's iconic really," Capt Chris Seaton told *Soldier* as his squadron completed what is expected to be their last round of annual training with the platform.

As well as giving his troops valuable hours rehearsing their light cavalry role, Exercise Wessex Storm saw them get to grips with vehicle upkeep and maintenance tasks on Salisbury Plain.

And such expertise will be vital in the coming months when they take delivery of RWMIK's replacement vehicle, the Jackal 2, which is already being used by Regular soldiers from the QOY's partner unit, The Light Dragoons.

"It's been good for recruiting," the 2iC said of the existing workhorse, which first arrived with his troops in 2013 after they converted from the CVR(T).

"And with links to the Gulf War's 'pink panthers' there is just so much history there.

"But we are looking forward to getting our hands on the Jackal; it's bigger and more aggressive-looking.

"Our main focus is on arranging courses to retrain troops; we want to get effective with the new kit as soon as possible.

"Wessex Storm showed we are capable of that, and able to do our job really well."

It was a view echoed by others lower down the chain of command.

Tpr Harry Sharrock – a huge Land Rover enthusiast who admits he was first attracted to signing up by the RWMIK – said he learnt a "hell of a lot" from what was his first major training package.

The 20-year-old driver has some reservations about using a bigger vehicle for recce work, but is nevertheless excited about getting his hands on Jackal.

"There will be space for a lot more →



“  
**WE ARE  
LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
GETTING OUR  
HANDS ON  
THE JACKAL**  
”

Report: Sarah Goldthorpe Pictures: Peter Davies





# LAST HURRAH

Cavalry troops tear it up for final time in the RWMIK





equipment,” the soldier admitted. “And it will be good to have on-board radio systems as opposed to using manpacks.”

A civvy street student studying war and security, the Reservist is also happy to update his driver training.

“I’ve been told I will need to do a two-week changeover course, but the off-road elements of Wessex Storm will help me do that,” he added.

Capt Seaton agreed that the annual exercise had come at a good time.

“To be out there doing our core role properly was important,” the officer said.

“Many of the soldiers didn’t have any experience beyond their driving or commanding course, so to be in the field for two weeks, and having the time and space to manoeuvre and bond was important for us.

“The seniors got to do some low-key mentoring as well, which all helps us improve.”

He continued: “We know we can do the job, we just need to transfer those skills over to the new vehicle now.

“We’ve spent a lot of time getting to know the RWMIK and the way it handles as much as the technical stuff.

“So even when we get the courses done it’s going to take us some time to understand how to use the Jackal.

“But overall, this is the right thing to do.

“It will bring us a new capability that we can integrate with our paired unit; on future exercises you won’t be able to tell whether it’s Regular or Reserve soldiers you are looking at.”

Change may sometimes come with a trace of sadness. But for these troops, it will be a price worth paying if they can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their full-time colleagues while deployed on future operations. ■



# ALL CHANGE

How the protected mobility vehicles differ

## RWMIK

Lightly armoured, usually carrying a GPMG for the commander and an HMG for the gunner on top. This means troops have better visibility and mobility

Length: **4.55m**

Height: **2.4m**

Width: **1.79m**

Max speed: **80kph**

Crew: **3**

The vehicles are **small**, with **not much space for kit or extra people** such as interpreters or specialists

**No boiling vessel for brews** so it's down to jet boils

Individual **motors are now pretty old** and **need a lot of maintenance**





Eyes on: Reserves from the Queen's Own Yeomanry were put through their paces on Salisbury Plain during Exercise Wessex Storm. Bringing Jackal on-board in future will give the part-time troops the same punch as their Regular colleagues



## JACKAL 2

**A unique air suspension system with adjustable ride height is the main improvement with this vehicle, allowing it to take on some seriously varied terrain**

Length: **5.39m**

Height: **1.97m**

Width: **2m**

Max speed: **80kph**

Crew: **2 + 1**

**Armed with GPMG and HMG** (or grenade machine gun) as with the older vehicles

**Used by light cavalry regiments and a range of other units across the British Army**





# SOUND OF



Report: Cliff Caswell Pictures: Peter Davies and Steve Dock

**T**HERE are all the ingredients of an almighty storm brewing on this sticky summer's day. The air on Salisbury Plain is motionless and heavy with expectation. Excited insects dart beneath the trees and a heat haze shimmers over a parched landscape stretching to the horizon.

And then there is a sound of thunder.

Through ear defenders the roar is muffled but the shock tears through the teeth and skull; the troops around this 105mm L118 light gun are enveloped in smoke as the weapon responds to its commanders.

In the ensuing quiet, there is the receding, rocket-like hiss of the round on its journey skywards. The smell of cordite appears and hangs heavy in the village.

The fire mission has only just begun for members of 79 (Kirkee) Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The rain has come – and in a display of deadly choreography two other guns now erupt amid the buildings in Copehill Down.

Across the countryside where Exercise Green Cannon is taking place, the weapons of UK, American and European allies hurl high explosive ammunition onto unseen targets.

And silence returns, suddenly. Smoke is rising from somewhere in the distance...



# THUNDER

Artillery rains on the plain





## STATESIDE SET-UP

AT THE US Marine Corps lines in the countryside there is elation at the success of the mission.

They have fired scores of rounds from their M777 guns – a monster of a weapon that hurls 155mm of death each time it is discharged (pictured right).

“Since starting in the first week we have gradually been working up to these larger missions,” 1st Lt Zachary Liskay (USMC) tells *Soldier*.

“Now we’re putting a ton of rounds downrange, which is great.

“Working together with so many European partners has also been a good opportunity – and the Brits have been coordinating everything we do.”

...SITREP 1430...

...SITREP 1510...

...SITREP 1600...

## RETURNING RAIN

PERSONNEL of 29 Commando are leading Green Cannon – a three-week package of artillery excellence involving counterparts from the USA, Sweden, France and Holland. Each brings a formidable array of guns and mortars. Troops at 8 (Alma) Battery, 29 Commando have concealed their three guns in a treeline. Soldiers adjust their weapons. Somewhere beyond the line of sight are fire support teams – three- or four-strong groups of observers who single out targets for a hammering.

“Working in a multinational environment means communications and Nato standing orders are important for these teams,” says battery captain Capt Ken Carter (RA). “We must be able to direct allies’ guns, and they need to know how to fire ours.”



## PREPARE TO DEFEND

THE fire mission has paused but the troops remain on their guard. The package is a rehearsal for war fighting against a well-equipped opposition, and the allies’ guns as well as their operators are prime targets on the enemy grid. “We had our own position assaulted yesterday and we had to defend it with our rifles,” says Lt Sam Wellings (RA, pictured below), a gun position officer with 79 Battery. He is well aware of the potency of the mock troops his soldiers are fighting. “You are facing a near-peer force, meaning you are vulnerable to attacks from unmanned aerial vehicles and other threats – you have to keep the guns dispersed.”







# IN NUMBERS: GREEN CANNON

Troops deployed

**720**

Nationalities  
on the  
exercise

**5**

Weeks  
on  
training  
area

**3**

British guns  
involved

**6**

## ...SITREP 1645...

### AMERICAN AGGRESSION

WITH new firing orders received, the US commanders are in a huddle for their briefing. The delivery is terse and to the point and the personnel are rapidly back with their guns.

It is an impressive display of precision; the crews are well drilled. Ammunition is unpacked, the large rounds loaded and the attack begins in anger.

Nearby, the British weapons are sounding off as they play their part in the assault symphony.

"There are some differences when it comes to how we do fire missions compared to the Brits," remarks Sgt Chris Malacaso (USMC). "But there has been a lot of learning from each other, and it has been great checking out all of the different weapon systems."



## ...SITREP 1730...

### EXERCISE HEART



SOLDIERS in the Brigade Joint Fires Cell – the allies' nerve centre at Rollestone Camp – are satisfied at the day's activity and impressed with increasingly smooth joint working.

The exercise is now approaching its conclusion with just a day left.

"We currently have several fire units from five different nationalities," Capt Alex Cann (RA, pictured below), one of those overseeing the coordination, tells *Soldier*.

"Procedures vary between us and them and there are obviously different languages, which can make life tricky.

"But we are in a better place compared with when we started.

"A lot has worked, and a lot hasn't – but this is where you learn your lessons."



## SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER

The exercise encompassed:



US Marine Corps



French artillery

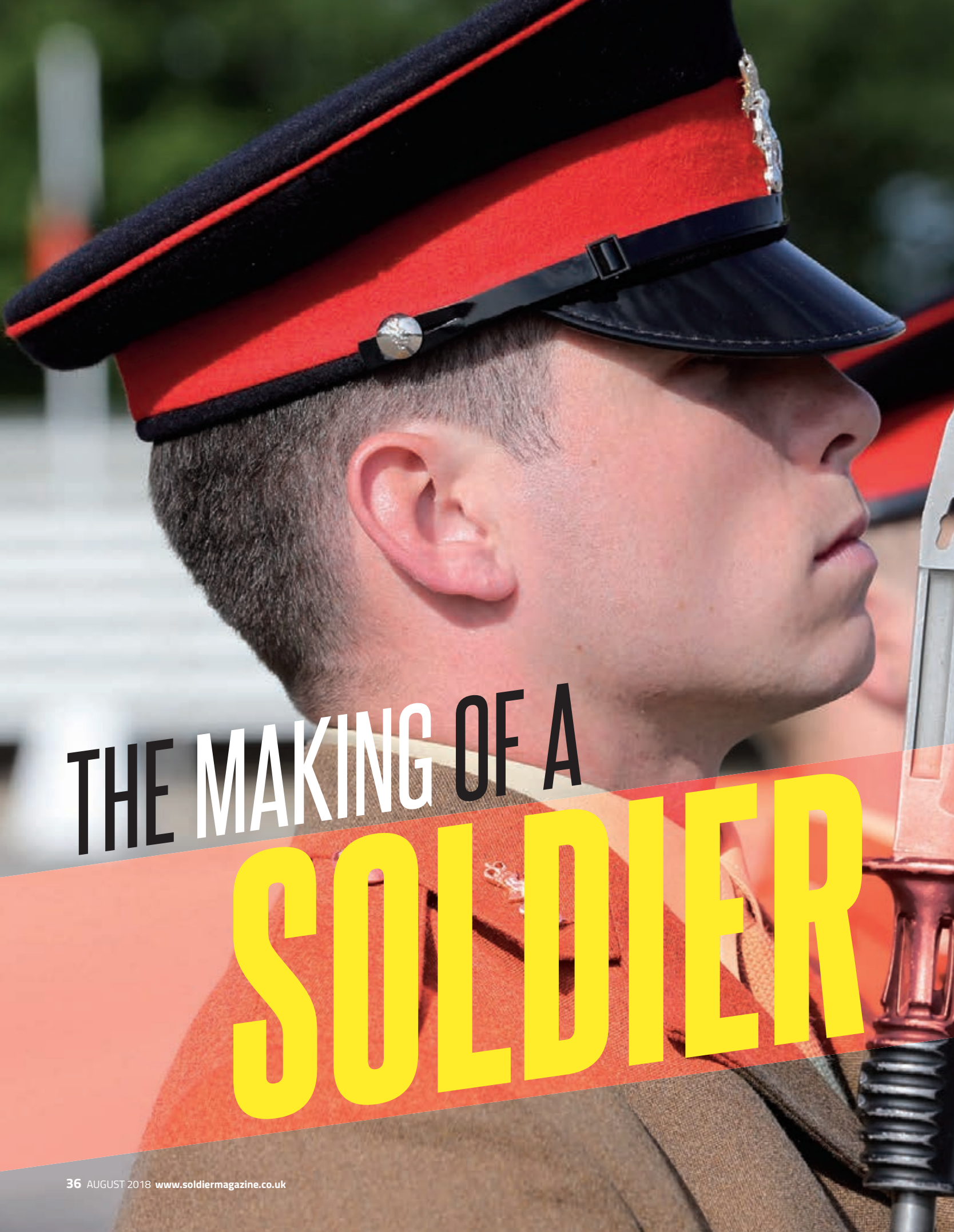


Dutch army and marines



Swedish marines






THE MAKING OF A

# SOLDIER





Take one civvy, add a shot of Army **discipline**, a dash of **confidence** and **shake well...** how basic training turns out the next generation of Service personnel

Report: Becky Clark Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**'S early morning on Pirbright ranges and a troop of weary recruits are readying themselves for the last serial of their phase one training.

Thirteen weeks ago they didn't know one end of an SA80 from the other.

But now the hard graft is almost over.

Once they have stormed a final enemy position and evacuated a casualty – all uphill, naturally – their transformation from civvies to soldiers will be all but complete.

**T** Elsewhere on camp, other youngsters are preparing to take part in their passing out parade as proud family members look on, while some are practising skill-at-arms and yet another group are getting their very first taste of life in the field.

It's all part of a well-oiled machine that last year churned out 3,871 new Regular and Reserve personnel.

But while the centre runs with conveyor belt-like efficiency, this isn't just about producing ranks of identikit soldiers who can handle a weapon, march in time and meet the Service's exacting fitness standards.

Back in the woods, 18-year-old Edward Hoskins is munching on a well-earned bacon roll after the exertions of the course's final attack and reflecting on how the past three months have changed him – mentally as well as physically.

"A lot of it is to do with self-confidence," he says.

"I was quite socially awkward when I first arrived. I was the guy sitting in the corner and letting everyone else talk and now, having been with my troop, I've seen how you can make friends with everyone and in the Army those friends are for life.

"A year ago I honestly couldn't see myself doing this.

"The last week has been one of the hardest of my life – being awake for so long and doing physical tasks that are tiring.

"But it's pushed my boundaries and been a real eye-opener in terms of what I can achieve."

Permanent staff at Pirbright call this becoming "smaller on the outside, bigger on the inside". In other words, recruits emerge from this course leaner in body, but stronger in character.

Brig Alex Potts, commander of Initial Training Group, says seeing this transformation is one of the most rewarding parts of his job.

"Basic training gives them some military skills but it's fundamentally about developing the qualities of individuals," he tells *Soldier*.

"It makes them into team players with a common set of standards and that gives them some real advantages.

"They'll be better people because of the training they've done – whether they stay for three years or 30."

The senior officer concedes that while he and his staff are passionate about the benefits of an Army career, recruiting figures show the target demographic remains unconvinced.

"It's frustrating because we all fundamentally believe in this way of life and this job," he continues.

"It is the right answer for many more young people than are currently coming forward, so we need to communicate that to them better."

Could it be that "generation snowflake" simply isn't up for the challenge?







“I don’t like that term,” replies Brig Potts.

“I think it’s idle and unprofessional to criticise a group, and I don’t think any of the people you’ll see here deserve that label,”

“Do I believe they benefit from being taught mental resilience and coping strategies? Absolutely.

“That’s what we’re doing – giving them techniques to help them. And they’re responding really well.”

According to Tpr Paul Bell (pictured below left), who is heading for phase two training with the Royal Armoured Corps, there are several reasons why civilians aren’t answering the call – and it isn’t just down to a lack of understanding about the Army.

“I don’t think many people care about what’s bigger than them,” he tells *Soldier* as his troop prepares to step off on their passing out parade.

“

It’s something we need to inspire in the youth again

”







“In my family there’s always been at least one male in every generation in the Armed Forces and I wanted to carry that on.

“I consider myself a patriot so I decided to do something greater for society.

“But where I come from there is a lack of civic thought; it’s something we need to inspire in the youth again.”

As Tpr Bell and his colleagues scurry off to get suited and booted for the occasion, friends and families are gathering in the welfare centre, ready to cheer them on.

Among them is Beckie Simmons, who beams with pride as she describes how her son, Tpr Jacob Simmons, has completely changed his attitude since she dropped him off at the gates 14 weeks ago.

“He’s a different person,” she says.

“He was a bit of a loose cannon – defensive and aggressive. He didn’t stop to listen or think.

“Even on his first weekend home I could see the change in him – you could have a proper conversation with him.

“If you’ve lost your way I think the Army will do you good. It teaches you values like self-sacrifice and it’s important that teenagers learn those things.”

It is clearly a proud day for everyone involved, not least the instructors who have worked hard to ensure the recruits make the grade.

The pass rate at Pirbright is currently 85 per cent – a reflection, say staff, not of lowered standards but of a greater emphasis on coaching and mentoring.

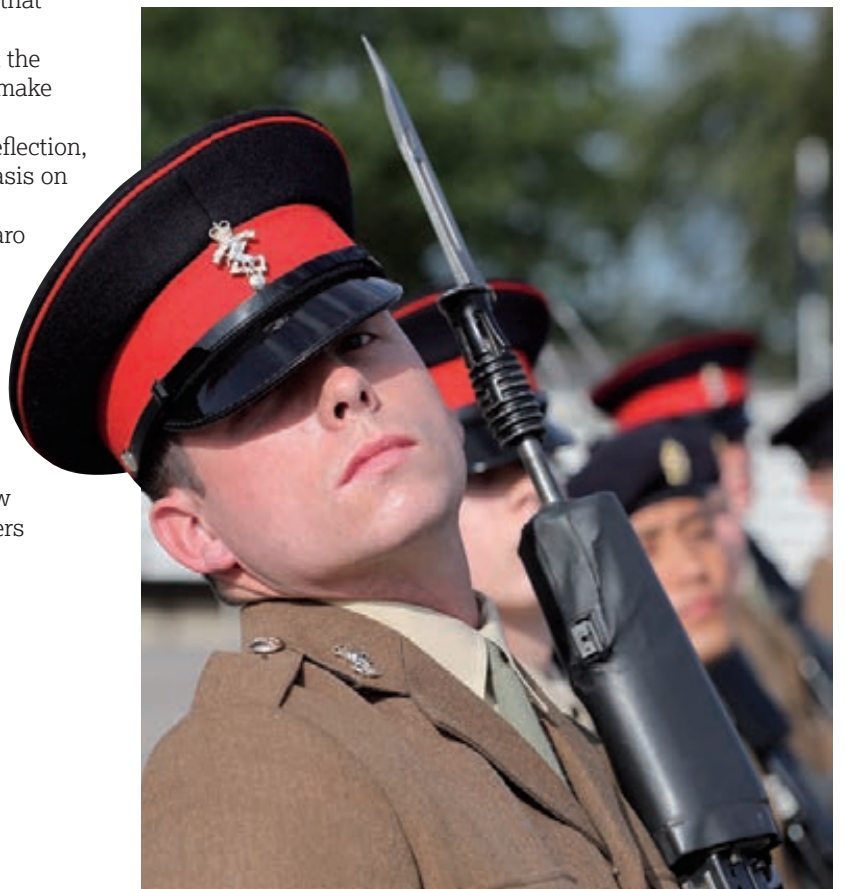
“We have to accept times are changing,” says Sgt Mufaro Tagarisa (Yorks).

“Some of them arrive having had everything done for them by mum and dad and they might need more help than others.

“When they start they have no clue what the Army is all about but by the time they leave you’ve given them that confidence to go out and be professional soldiers.

“That’s extremely satisfying.

“You may never see them again but you do wonder how far they’ll go – there might be future Victoria Cross winners among them.” ■





# EVERY DAY'S A SCHOOL DAY

Instructors from 2 Army Training Regiment reveal what teaching recruits has done for them...

**“I’ve learnt not to judge a book by its cover.**

We do get challenging recruits from time to time, but it just requires more work to get them up to speed.

Even if someone drops out, if you can hold your head up and say you gave it your best shot then there’s nothing more you can do.”

Cpl Richard Robinson, RE







“You have to take into account people’s **different backgrounds**. Some come from rough council estates and some from wealthier families, so the mix is quite complicated and there’s a fine balance in how you manage that.

Being Infantry **I’d also never dealt with female troops** – so that was a challenge for me.”

Sgt Mufaro Tagarisa, Yorks



**Interested in instructing?**  
Talk to your RCMO



“**Being an instructor is a huge responsibility**. You have to remember the recruits aren’t trained soldiers – they’ve never been in a military environment.

**They won’t have handled a weapon system or been expected to get up and make their beds and polish their boots.** Some of the younger ones have never even had to do their own laundry. It’s really important to have patience.”

Sgt Joe Reardon, RLC

# RECRUIT CHECKLIST

**Do you know someone headed for basic training?** It may be a while since you walked through the gates, so make sure they follow these tips...

**Read the joining instructions.**

They contain lots of useful information, including details of the “get you in” pack, which can save you money on personal kit such as thermos flasks and torches.

**Learn how to iron a shirt, polish your shoes and sew on a button** – it

will make life easier if you can master these basic skills before you arrive.

**Maintain your fitness** if there is a

delay between passing the assessment centre and beginning training. You don’t need to be super-fit but you don’t want to turn up overweight and out of shape. Download the *100% Army Fit* app to help you stay on track.

**Work on your swimming.** You will

be taught this during training but if you can already swim well when you arrive it will free up time to focus on other things.

**Follow your chosen cap badge on social media** to stay in touch with

what’s going on.

**Don’t listen to myths and rumours** about basic training – they are

almost never true.

**Remember, basic training is doable.** All soldiers have gone through

it. The Army will make sure you pass as long as you’re committed.



# Industrial revolution

How the Army is keeping pace with mind-blowing advancements in robotics

**W**ITH cutting-edge battlefield technologies taking off at an exponential rate, the Army is now well adept at working with the commercial world to ensure it is at the forefront of the latest wizardry.

The recent fruits of this joint approach will be showcased in this year's Army Warfighting Experiment (AWE), when robotic and autonomous systems (RAS) will be the headline act during a pioneering four-week test on Salisbury Plain.

Known as Autonomous Warrior, the exercise will feature a host of products – from UAVs to unmanned resupply vehicles – that have been designed to revolutionise the way in which the UK's Armed Forces operate.

The military no longer leads research and development in this field, so by taking problems to industry it is hoped that more innovative and exciting solutions can be found.

The exercise will deliver obvious benefits as soldiers trial kit that could provide a decisive edge in future conflicts.

At the same time, partnering companies will gain a greater insight into how the Service works and the extreme wear and tear its work puts on equipment.

"The Army understood a certain amount about RAS but it did not realise the exact benefit this area could bring," Lt Col Richard Craig (R Signals), one of the Service's RAS experts, told *Soldier*.

"So we have dedicated resources to go after the capability in a rapid manner.

"As part of that we need to work more closely with industry.

"This sector didn't really understand our requirements and how we do business and they feel they can deliver better solutions if we have greater collaboration with them."

The AWE will feature participants from the US Army, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force Regiment, with international observers from a host of countries including France, Germany and Denmark.

It will see RAS tested in a number of key areas such as breaking into or defending an urban environment, surveillance and targeting and improving the effectiveness of combat service and support.

Another major focus will be on the last mile resupply and how automated systems can be used to reduce the risk to troops.

The process began last year when the Army approached

outside companies to say it was interested in all things RAS and asked if they could suggest potential products.

After an initial sift, 103 ideas went forward to a *Dragons' Den*-style event where representatives pitched to an expert panel from Army Headquarters and various trials and development units.

The Service is now running tests and demonstrations on 72 systems from 46 different industry partners ahead of the major field exercise in November, when personnel from 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade will get their hands on the equipment.

The troops will work on a series of manoeuvres with ordinary kit and then repeat the process with RAS, using different tactics and techniques.

In some cases they will complete tasks quicker or use less ammunition, for example, and in the third week they will be asked how they would potentially deploy the technology on the battlefield.

"Some of these companies have never worked with the military before," Lt Col Craig explained. "They have been developing products at breathtaking speed and by the time the exercise comes round they will be at an advanced stage.

"We are engaging with them at a point where it is not expensive to change the way they go about their business.

"In the past it has cost a fortune to modify things once they have been delivered but in this process we are able to talk to industry along the way and tell them if they have misinterpreted what we are looking for.

"That is really beneficial. They need to speak to the end users and this gives them that opportunity – there are some really imaginative ideas out there.

"The Army wants to work more collaboratively with industry and we will see that more in future." ■





# STARS OF THE SHOW

*Soldier* shines a light on some of the kit that is set to feature in Autonomous Warrior...

## Throwbot 2 Micro-Robot

**Function:** This system is designed to give dismounted troops better situational awareness on close-combat missions. Its small size makes it easy to carry, throw, drop or drive into place to provide video and audio reconnaissance.

**Tech talk:** The kit includes a colour camera and microphone and it can withstand a nine-metre vertical drop onto concrete. Batteries can be recharged via a USB point and it has a maximum range of 91 metres

## Nippo-X Modular UCS

**Function:** This fully autonomous platform can transport additional weapons, ammunition, food, water and other supplies to the front line. It can also be used for evacuation of casualties.

**Tech talk:** Using waypoint navigation it can travel off-road and has an obstacle avoidance system. Can be operated via a laptop function and X-box-style controller.

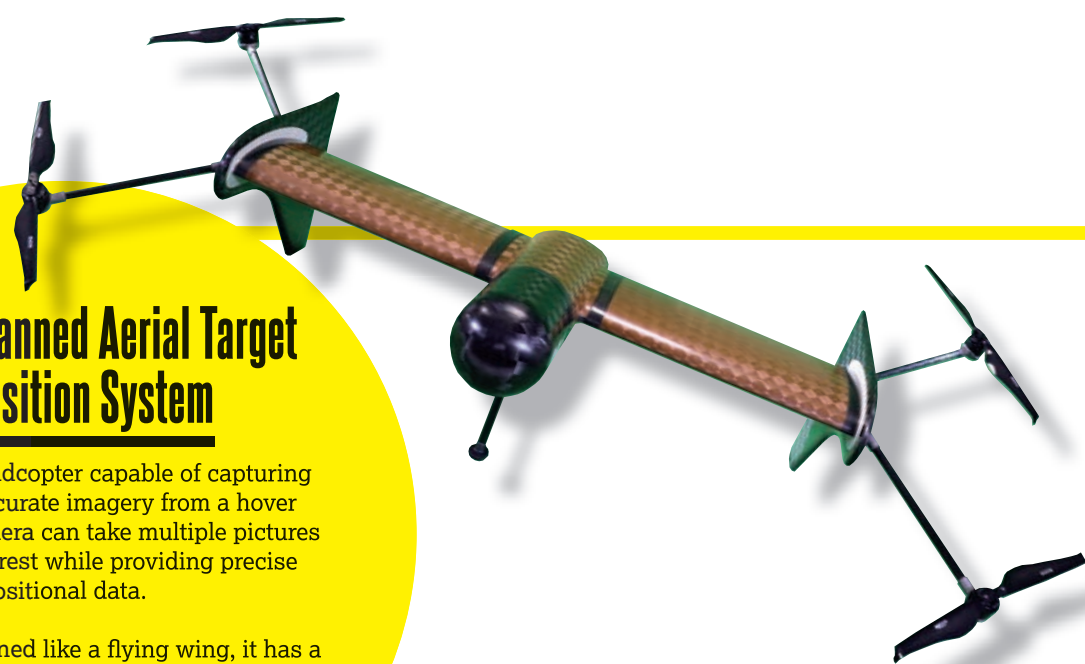




## Small Unmanned Aerial Target Acquisition System

**Function:** A quadcopter capable of capturing detailed and accurate imagery from a hover position. The camera can take multiple pictures of points of interest while providing precise positional data.

**Tech talk:** Designed like a flying wing, it has a rotor in each corner. It can launch and recover like a helicopter and hover to capture imagery. But the rotors move into a position similar to an airplane when flying from A to B.



## Rakka 3000 Multipurpose Platform

**Function:** An autonomous vehicle that can support the forward logistics effort and be used for hazardous scene assessments. Ancillary parts such as forks and an excavator arm can be added depending on the task.

**Tech talk:** Four-wheeled drive with a payload capability of 3,000kg, the autonomy kit includes obstacle detection and avoidance, path planning capability and follow me function.







## Chilbolton UXO Drone Detection System

**Function:** An unmanned aerial system that uses the latest magnetic sensor technology to identify mines and IEDs.

**Tech talk:** Can be preprogrammed to fly at a set altitude ensuring optimum accuracy for the sensors. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) can be detected down to four metres below ground level.



“The companies we are working with are really enthusiastic. Some are only small enterprises but they are coming up with creative solutions. They may not have much experience of the military so it is down to us to be open and find compromises but they are keen to deliver.”

SSgt Matt Gardner, RE

## PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Personnel from the Army's trials and development units give their thoughts on uniting with industry...

“This is the way forward. In the past the TDUs have got a lot of equipment too far down the line, when decisions have already been made. You then look at it from a soldier's perspective and start to find problems. The sooner we get involved the better.”

WO1 Diana Kelly, RLC



“Equipment procurement tends to be behind the curve, but the AWE means we are on the cusp of things. These are the newest products on the market and the manufacturers are bringing them to us for testing.”

SSgt Mark Horsfall, REME





# Queen Ethelburga's



*"To be the best that I can with the gifts that I have"*

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2017/18 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2018/19 Forces families will pay just £955 per term, per child.

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on:

Tel: 01423 33 33 30 Email: [admissions@qe.org](mailto:admissions@qe.org)

Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | [www.qe.org](http://www.qe.org)





Picture: Shutterstock

## Boxed in by moving policy

I AM currently serving in Germany and have just gone through the Forces Help to Buy scheme to purchase a house in the UK.

My wife has had a major operation and wishes to return home early to settle into our new property and establish her ongoing medical and physiotherapy treatment schedules.

With support from our family we have agreed that I will continue my current assignment, which has 15 months remaining, unaccompanied.

I cannot apply for the over-37 package to help fund her move because when my wife decided to return I'd already been in my current post for nine months – and that was mainly down to the extended nature of her medical treatment.

I can't use the final tour of duty package either as I'm not yet on my last posting and I've looked at other options in JSP 752 but none fit the bill.

I have tried the welfare support route through the Pay and Allowances Casework and Complaints Cell (PACCC) but we will only receive help if they decide to support our case after a review.

Ironically, there would be no problem if my personal status category had changed because, for example, my wife had left me.

Surely the policy needs to change to reduce the stress on people who are in a similar predicament to me and who can easily prove that their overseas posting is not working for the family. – **WO2 Edward Wood, SASC**

**Col John Oldroyd, Army Pay Colonel,**

**Remuneration Policy, Personnel Directorate, responds:** The provision of movement and storage of personal effects (MSPE) and disturbance expenses (DE) supports personnel at public cost when moving on assignment.

Additionally, there are several conditions that allow a mid-assignment move, including when it is required because of compelling welfare, medical or compassionate reasons (JSP 752, section three, chapter seven).

To ensure fairness and impartiality, the PACCC must authorise any of the above allowances in circumstances not explicit in policy.

Currently, there is no delegated authority at a local level to sanction moves for public expense relocations from Service family accommodation mid-assignment.

I note that you have followed the policy guidance and applied to PACCC for requisite authority, which I understand has now been granted.

Please note that defence is currently conducting a relocation review where the appropriateness of current policy for MSPE and DE will be tested to ensure it meets the needs of the modern family.

Thank you for highlighting your frustrations, which we will ensure are fed into the review.

I wish you good luck in your forthcoming move.

# TALKBACK

“  
There'd be  
no problem  
if my wife  
left me  
”

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas... but please be brief. Emails 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.

✉ [mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
 🐦 @soldiermagazine



LAND ROVER MILITARY SALES

# EXCLUSIVE MILITARY SAVINGS, WHEREVER YOU ARE. HOME OR AWAY.



ABOVE & BEYOND



## YOU MAY BE OUT, BUT TO US YOU ARE STILL IN. UP TO 20% OFF A NEW LAND ROVER AT MARSHALL

Marshall Military Sales are now able to provide full military savings to all previous full-time serving Her Majesty's Forces.

### Marshall Military Sales UK benefits include:

- Savings of up to 20% off a new Land Rover ✓
- Dedicated experienced military sales support ✓
- Tax Free / Tax Paid pricing option ✓
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts<sup>†</sup> ✓

### Marshall Military Sales UK

Jaguar Land Rover House, Mallory Road, Peterborough, PE1 5AU

Find out more online at:

[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk)

## NEW DEDICATED GERMANY DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

The team at Grant and Green are dedicated to constantly reviewing our BFG Land Rover prices to make sure that we're the most competitive on the market.

### Jaguar Land Rover Germany benefits include:

- NEW Dedicated local market military pricing ✓
- Local agent customer support and showrooms in Germany ✓
- BFG registration paperwork and Vehicle Test customer support staff ✓
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts<sup>†</sup> ✓

### Jaguar Land Rover Germany

Jaguar Land Rover Germany GmbH, Campus Kronberg 7, 61476 Kronberg im Taunus

Find out more online at:

[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe)

<sup>†</sup>We can now extend the entire military saving to all retired or previous full-time serving H.M. armed forces members.  
<sup>†</sup>Finance is subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Prices and savings correct at time of going to press.







**Uphill climb:** The sister of a Gurkha officer is fighting deportation to Nepal

Picture: Steve Dock

## ‘We should show loyalty’

**I** READ in the newspapers that the Home Office was sending the 75-year-old sister of a retired Gurkha major who had served for 31 years with the British Army back to Nepal.

She came to Britain to live with her brother after her home was destroyed by an earthquake.

He pays for her health insurance, so she is no drain on the NHS.

I am disappointed that it appears no support was offered by the Army for a member of the most loyal nation to the UK over the past 200 years.

These people are usually among the first in when this country has a squabble with an enemy.

It disgusts me how often we don't show the same loyalty to others who help us in times of need. – **Ernie Ford, ex-REME**

**Mike Roberts, Personnel Capability and lead for Gurkha Affairs at Army Headquarters, replies:** Thank you for your letter regarding the possible deportation of Maj Udaibahadar Gurung's sister, Lal.

At the risk of sounding like hiding behind policy, I'm afraid we are unable to provide an answer on this occasion. Visas and residency in the UK are issues for the Home Office.

Although Maj Gurung is a veteran, Lal is not a dependant relative, therefore the MoD has no power of persuasion on his behalf.

We are unable to get an update on the case, as this is a private matter between Maj Gurung, Lal and the Home Office, and we could not comment on personal matters without the consent of the individual.

## MEDAL 'MISTAKE'

● WHILE I appreciate the importance of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and the effort that goes into what they do, I have to disagree with the medals they are given.

I have served for 23 years in the British Army and have completed many tours, risking my life and saving others as well.

Giving a cadet instructor a medal for working with children in uniform makes a mockery of those personnel who have put everything on the line during active service – never forgetting, of course, those who did not come home.

Our medals represent our achievements in and out of wartime.

Those who work in the ACF are hardly risking their necks or, indeed, living in arduous conditions for six months or more. – **Name and address supplied**

**Lt Col (retd) Kestrel Simson, Ceremonial and Operational and Service Awards, Army Headquarters, responds:**

You are to be thanked and commended for your service on many operational tours, which will have been recognised by the award of campaign medals and possibly the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal.

If you have served for 23 years, you may also have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal or the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal.

These recognise long and efficient service of 15 and ten years respectively in the Regular Army and Reserves.

The Cadet Forces Medal acknowledges similar long and efficient service for adult volunteers and is awarded after 12 years of largely unremunerated service with any of the MoD cadet forces.

These people give up evenings and weekends throughout the year to challenge, develop and inspire our youth.

Doing this continuously over a 12-year period is deserving of recognition alongside the contribution that our Regular and Army Reserve officers and soldiers make.

“They are hardly risking their lives”

## THE WRONG SIGNAL

● I THOUGHT the article in June's edition of *Soldier* on the developing world of cyber warfare (Keyboard Clashes, page 44) made very interesting reading.

However, I was a little surprised there was no mention of the equally important role played by members of the Intelligence Corps who work intimately with our Royal Signals brethren. Just for clarity, the Intelligence Corps employs more than 70 personnel on a range of cyber-related tasks, spread across five separate units, in posts ranging in rank from lance corporal to major.

We also play a critical role in providing intelligence support to cyber operations and are actively recruiting individuals with the appropriate skill sets.

Anyone who is interested in opportunities such as these is encouraged to contact SO2 Selection (military 94649 2735) to discuss how they could work in this highly challenging but very rewarding environment. – **Lt Col John Dee, Intelligence Corps Chief of Staff, Chicksands**





#ADVENTUROUSTRAINING



# DEVELOPING LEADERS & INSTRUCTORS



WE WILL TRAIN YOU TO BE A LEADER  
OR INSTRUCTOR, QUALIFYING YOU TO  
DELIVER EXPEDITIONS WORLDWIDE.



[WWW.ATGA.MOD.UK](http://WWW.ATGA.MOD.UK)

## JOINT SERVICE MOUNTAIN TRAINING CENTRE

ENGLAND | SCOTLAND | WALES | NORTHERN IRELAND | BAVARIA  
CANOEING & KAYAKING | CAVING | MOUNTAINEERING & CLIMBING | MOUNTAIN BIKING | PARAGLIDING | ALPINE & NORDIC SKIING





## Tracking drop in driving ability

**A**S A former Army driving instructor I have to question the need for the black box tracking devices installed in Service vehicles.

I live in Catterick and see all types of military vehicles driving around with L plates fitted but can only assume that the standard of driving instruction supplied these days is relatively poor.

Is having these devices fitted anything to do with the quality of tuition that's being supplied by private contractors?

Surely, if high levels of teaching and testing were maintained there would be no requirement for these gadgets, which must be employed by the MoD at considerable cost. – **Fred Townson, Catterick**

**Alison Hopkins, Transport, Logistic Support, Army Headquarters, replies:** The MoD continues to train and use both defence licence acquisition

instructors (DLAIs) and defence driving instructors, including in the Catterick Garrison area.

These individuals are trained to Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) criteria, with DLAI's being required to undertake minimum training levels each year to maintain their ability to instruct.

The MoD also uses approved driving instructors, who are qualified civilian teachers, and DVSA driving examiners when necessary.

There are a number of telematics devices fitted to administrative (white) fleet and they are used to assess overall performance, including reducing emissions and fuel costs, and to improve road safety through the collection of driver behaviour data.

Basic test vehicles do not have vehicle telematics fitted.

“The quality is relatively poor”

## ‘I don’t want tainted food’

● I WANT to know if the food I am eating is in line with my beliefs?

How do I know if I am eating halal or non-halal meat? I am a Christian and don't want to eat food that, in my opinion, has been religiously tainted.

I do not force my religion on others and do not want to consume something that has been killed in a manner to placate a religious requirement for a minority in a multicultural society.

– **Name and address supplied**

**Clive Dunlop, Catering Services Policy, Army Headquarters, replies:** All food supplied to the MoD, as

well as all commercial outlets, must comply with strict European Union regulations on food labelling.

The MoD recruits its personnel from a multicultural society and so sources halal and kosher foods, labelled as such, to cater for those who follow these religions.

The resulting cooked dishes are easily identifiable on a server as they will be labelled accordingly.

We note your concern but the lead on food labelling is the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and, therefore, you may wish to redirect your question to them.

## TERMINATE THIS TAX

● THE new landlord tax rules haven't been thought through.

They are unfairly penalising Servicemen and women with the result that many are not declaring their now taxable rental incomes and are therefore breaking the law.

This undermines defence's efforts to allow people to buy their own home and the intentions of the Armed Forces Covenant. This is a promise by the nation to ensure those who serve, or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

I have approached Army Headquarters, the minister for Armed Forces and my local member of parliament twice about this and have not received a satisfactory response.

I think the X Factor is being used as a magic wand to make the problem go away, but that still doesn't hide the fact these tax rules are not in the spirit of the Armed Forces Covenant.

– **Name and address supplied**

**David Adams, Service Personnel Support Covenant Team, replies:** Soldiers are subject to UK tax laws like any other citizen.

Measures under the Covenant are already in place to reduce the financial burden on Service families with regards to mobility, with some mortgage providers agreeing to waive fees as well as the requirement to change to higher rate buy-to-let loans.

We consider that these measures provide effective mitigation to any financial disadvantage that Service families face with this.

For more details please visit [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/businesses-helping-deliver-armed-forces-covenant](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/businesses-helping-deliver-armed-forces-covenant)



Picture: Shutterstock





# Think London, Think Union Jack Club

**YOUR MILITARY ID IS ALL YOU NEED!**



**020 7928 4814**  
**www.ujclub.co.uk**

[www.ujclub.co.uk/serving-members-sign-up/](http://www.ujclub.co.uk/serving-members-sign-up/)



## Your WelComE account card...

A **WelComE account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit: [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**Lost your account card?** No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelComE account number and a password to reset your PIN.

# WELFARE

WelComE Customer Contact Centre  
customer.support@mywelcome.co.uk | [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**WelComE**  
Welfare Communications Everywhere





### COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winner:** SSgt Taff Watkins, BGS CCF, Bangor.

**Remember by The Military**

**Wives Choirs:** David Clarkson, Chippenham, Wiltshire; William Smith, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire; Jayne Hawkes, Hereford Garrison, Herefordshire.

**Classic war film goody bag:** Wendy Husband, Aldershot, Hampshire; Iain McCallum, Rockfield, Monmouthshire; Pete Rendall, 105 Bn REME, Keynsham.



### DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:**  
020 7901 8900;  
[www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)

**Armed Forces Buddhist Society:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3411;  
[www.afbs-uk.org](http://www.afbs-uk.org)

**Armed Forces Christian Union:**  
01793 783123;  
[www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3252;  
[www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Services Advice Project:**  
0808 800 1007;  
[www.adviceasap.org.uk](http://www.adviceasap.org.uk)

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

**Army LGBT Forum:**  
[www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk);  
[chair@armylgbt.org.uk](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

**Army Libraries:** 01252 340094

**Army Ornithological Society:**  
[www.armybirding.org.uk](http://www.armybirding.org.uk)

**Army Welfare Service:**  
01904 882053;  
[www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

**Big White Wall:**  
[www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com)

**Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:**  
020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

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

**Care After Combat:**  
[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:**  
020 7469 6661

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

**Combat Stress:**  
01372 841600;  
[www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)

**Defence Humanists:**  
[www.defencehumanists.org.uk](http://www.defencehumanists.org.uk)

**Erskine:**  
0141 814 4569;  
[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

**Family Escort Service:**  
020 7463 9249

**Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:**  
07713 752901;  
[www.felixfund.org.uk](http://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](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Heroes Welcome:**  
[www.heroeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

**HighGround:**  
[www.highground-uk.org.uk](http://www.highground-uk.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01252 787574

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

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

**National Ex-Services Association:**  
[www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

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

**Poppyscotland:**  
0131 557 2782;  
[www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

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

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

**Royal British Legion:**  
0808 802 8080;  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion Scotland:**  
0131 550 1583;  
[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

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

**Scottish Veterans' Residences:**  
0131 556 0091;  
[www.svronline.org](http://www.svronline.org)

**Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services:**  
01748 833797;  
[www.spaces.org.uk](http://www.spaces.org.uk)

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

**Stoll:**  
020 7385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk);  
[www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

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

**The Poppy Factory:**  
020 8940 3305;  
[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**  
020 8481 7676;  
[www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**The Veterans Charity:**  
01753 653772;  
[info@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@veteranscharity.org.uk)

**Troop Aid:**  
0121 711 7215 or 07734 384260

**uk4u Thanks!:**  
01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)

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



### INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 64/18:** All arms and Services applications for conversion to a Regular commission for direct entry and late entry officers

**ABN 63/18:** Successfully leading through change – the Centre for Army Leadership – November 8, 2018 conference

**ABN 62/18:** Ex Trident Juncture 2018 – Reserves opportunity

**ABN 61/18:** Army marksmanship badges

**ABN 60/18:** Climate assessment team member application

**ABN 59/18:** Withdrawal of items of barrack dress uniform

**ABN 58/18:** Defence Vehicle Dynamics 2018

**ABN 57/18:** Recruiter selection event

**ABN 56/18:** Army Reserve findings – Reserves continuous attitude survey 2018

**ABN 55/18:** Army Mediation Service awareness sessions

**ABN 54/18:** Notification of new land doctrine – planning and execution handbook and staff officers' handbook

**ABN 53/18:** Changes to appraisal reporting – JSP 757 parts one and two, dated May 18

**DIB 08/18:** Scottish income tax

**DIB 07/18:** Tri-Service Reserves continuous attitude survey

**DIB 06/18:** Functional knowledge, skills and experience career management tools

**DIN 2018DIN01-093:** Reserves travelling, working and residing abroad

**DIN 2018DIN01-092:** Army Reserve group D specialists – special terms of service

**DIN 2018DIN01-091:** Tri-Service arrangements for the administration of Service wills

**DIN 2018DIN01-090:** Pension tax – lifetime allowance and annual allowance

**DIN 2018DIN01-089:** Revised arrangements for officiating chaplains to the military

**DIN 2018DIN01-088:** Armed Forces continuity of education allowance (CEA) – increase in rates for the guardians scheme and reduction to the CEA personal contribution for state boarding schools

**DIN 2018DIN03-018:** UK-Israel and occupied Palestinian territories travel

**DIN 2018DIN03-017:** The Army policy for audit and inspection

**DIN 2018DIN03-016:** The United Kingdom Naval Support Facility in Bahrain

**DIN 2018DIN04-118:** Declaration of obsolescence items for Project Calculate

**DIN 2018DIN04-117:** Declaration of obsolescence items for Project Calculate

**DIN 2018DIN04-116:** Head-mounted night vision goggle helmet mount assembly

**DIN 2018DIN04-115:** The Estate Technical Authority's direction to utilise the definitive establishment list

**DIN 2018DIN04-113:** Amended supply procedure for serviceable and unserviceable cylinders

Continued on page 54



## Intelligence continued

**DIN 2018DIN04-111:** Suspension trainer in the deployed medical modules

**DIN 2018DIN04-110:** Movement of foreign military partners and other government departments freight utilising UK strategic assets

**DIN 2018DIN04-109:** Provision of a multimodal UK and worldwide commercial surface movements service

**DIN 2018DIN04-108:** Extension of out-of-service date of VBTL and all associated spares

**DIN 2018DIN04-107:** BATCIS declaration of obsolete: various NSNs from DMC Z99, Z99BOW, BMN, Z1, Y3, Z42 and AN117F

**DIN 2018DIN04-106:** Management of security monitoring device

**DIN 2018DIN06-018:** Patient data and the national data opt-out programme

**DIN 2018DIN07-088:** British Services mountaineering expedition to Pakistan 2020

**DIN 2018DIN07-086:** Troop insertion and extraction systems instructor training

**DIN 2018DIN07-085:** Declaration of obsolescence items for Project Calculate

**DIN 2018DIN07-084:** Qualified helicopter tactics instructor course

**DIN 2018DIN07-083:** Adventurous training in Canada – planning expeditions to Trail's End Camp in 2019

**DIN 2018DIN07-082:** 77 Brigade military psychological operations course and civil affairs course

**DIN 2018DIN07-081:** Army Alpine and Nordic exercises 2019

**DIN 2018DIN07-079:** The defence logistics management course – general outline and application process

**DIN 2018DIN07-078:** Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance foundation course

**DIN 2018DIN07-077:** Army European winter activity instruction 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-076:** Exercise Caribbean Express 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-075:** Exercise Canary Express 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN07-074:** Adventurous Training Group (Army) ski courses

**DIN 2018DIN07-073:** The defence logistics staff course – general outline and application process

**DIN 2018DIN08-005:** Budgetary and accounting responsibilities for property

matters on the defence estate

**DIN 2018DIN08-004:** Advice and guidance for top level budget holders on the delegation of infrastructure funding – effective from April 2018

**DIN 2018DIN08-003:** Food expenditure and income – changes to use of local project codes

**DIN 2018DIN08-002:** Insurance arrangements for unit-organised community engagement events, open days, families days and other functions

**DIN 2018DIN08-001:** Claims for loss of, or damage to, personal property (regulation claims)

**DIN 2018DIN09-011:** Minister (DP) Acquisition Awards 2018 – calling notice for nominations

**DIN 2018DIN09-009:** The Ruth Carter Prize for nurses and the Eliza Mackenzie Prize for student nurses

**DIN 2018DIN09-007:** The Oliver Sword 2018

**DIN 2018DIN09-005:** The Alan Hirst Memorial Prize

**DIN 2018DIN09-004:** The George Beeching Prize for Compassion

**DIN 2018DIN09-003:** The Professional Engineering Institution Churchill Medal Award 2017/18

**DIN 2018DIN09-002:** Armed Forces Day

**DIN 2018DIN10-025:** Army Ski and Snowboard Individual Slopestyle Championship 2018 – Ex Snow Method 2018

**DIN 2018DIN10-024:** Armed Forces Parachute Championship 2018



## REUNIONS

**Annual reunion of the Association of Harrogate Apprentices**, October 5-6 at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. Details from Len Morland on 01892 523987 or [secretary@aoha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aoha.org.uk)

**23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance and Parachute Regimental Association reunion**, October 5-7 at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. Contact Roy Hatch at [royhatchbem48@gmail.com](mailto:royhatchbem48@gmail.com) or via 07730 977 989.

**116 Coy, RASC; 18 Coy (Amphibious), RASC and 18 (Amph) Sqn, RCT ex-Fremington Camp reunion** at the Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple, Devon on October 13. All former members of these units, including attached arms and widows, are welcome. For details contact [don.turner1@talktalk.net](mailto:don.turner1@talktalk.net)

## NO. 921 JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

# WIN

**Jetboil MicroMo Stove**  
- worth £150

[www.cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com)



TEN details have been changed in this picture of a REME craftsman feeling the full force Darth Vader's unnatural Sith abilities.

Circle all the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 921, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot,

Hampshire GU11 2DU with your contact details, including email address, no later than August 31.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing

date wins a Jetboil MicroMo Stove for outdoor cooking.

The winner's name will be published in the October 2018 issue. Usual rules apply.

**June's winner:** C Story, Broughton, Chester.







**ARMY**  
SPORTS LOTTERY



*A Sporting  
Chance*

**ARMY**  
SPORT CONTROL BOARD  
FOUNDED 1918

## THE ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY IS CELEBRATING ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR

To mark our 25th year on 1 April 2018 we increased the weekly prize money from **£25,000** to **£30,000**. Every week members will have the opportunity to win the following prizes:

1st Prize	£10,000
2nd Prize	£5000
3rd Prize	£4000
4th Prize	£3000
5th Prize	£2000
6th Prize	£1000
Consolation Prizes	
2 x	£500
15 x	£200
10 x	£100



[gambleaware.co.uk](http://gambleaware.co.uk)  
GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

Since its creation in 1993 the **Army Sports Lottery** has:

- Raised **£45 million** in proceeds
- Given **£20 million** in cash prizes
- Awarded over **£23 million** in grants to Army personnel

In addition the time between visiting Zone 4/5 countries has been reduced so you can now go once every 2 years

The Army Sports Lottery is a non-profit making organisation that exists to support sport in the Army

For further details visit our web at:

[www.armysportslottery.com](http://www.armysportslottery.com)



**ARMY**



### CONTACT US

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY  
Fox Lines, Queen's Avenue,  
Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2LB

Tel: 01252 787065 / 94222 7065

Fax: 01252 787066 / 94222 7066

Email: [lottery@ascb.uk.com](mailto:lottery@ascb.uk.com)

DII: ASCB-ASL-Clerk

Web: [www.armysportslottery.com](http://www.armysportslottery.com)



info@tolleybadges.co.uk  
 (01384) 878550  
 toleybadges.co.uk



★ Embroidered, Woven, Printed and Metal Badges  
 Epaulettes and Sliders

★ Woven & Printed labels

★ Metal Key rings & Medals / Coins

5 ★ RATING

“Always a first class service; great communication, quick turnaround, speedy delivery and competitive pricing!” - Ian March 2017

Fine military tailoring from Goodalls Tailors

## OFFICER & NCO MESS DRESS

- ✓ Priority Service
- ✓ Dress Accessories
- ✓ Badges & Buttons
- ✓ Miniature Medals
- ✓ Mounting Services
- ✓ Buy Online

0% FINANCE AVAILABLE  
 ON ALL 3 PIECE MESS DRESS

[WWW.GOODALLTAILORS.CO.UK](http://WWW.GOODALLTAILORS.CO.UK)  
 Yorkshire • England • Tel: 0113 2889944

### Notice to readers

The publishers of *Soldier* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally-binding agreement.

## VISTA TIES

THE BESPOKE TIE SPECIALIST

Bespoke Regimental Ties  
 Made In Britain  
 For 35 Years

Order your Ties & Cumberbunds early for regimental events


silk to polyester ties, bow ties, clip on ties, skinny ties, standard ties & cumberbunds

**FREE DESIGN SERVICE**

our ties are woven & hand finished in the UK in your regimental design & colours

email your details & design to [info@vista-ties.co.uk](mailto:info@vista-ties.co.uk)

01903 266883      [vista-ties.co.uk](http://vista-ties.co.uk)




## nowzad dogs

Rescuing stray & abandoned animals in Afghanistan



[www.nowzad.com](http://www.nowzad.com)

Nowzad Dogs, PO Box 39  
 Plymouth, PL2 9AU, UK  
 Registered Charity: 1119185

follow us on:  
 

# To advertise in *Soldier* call: 01252 787106



## MICHAEL JAY

CIVIL AND MILITARY TAILORS

Made to Measure MESS DRESS Especially for you

- ☑ Made in the UK
- ☑ 14 day Make or 48hr EXPRESS
- ☑ Lowest prices
- ☑ Best Fit
- ☑ Highest quality
- ☑ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

01449 614602  
[www.suitUK.com](http://www.suitUK.com)

As our customers say  
 The service is simply unbeatable

5 Tano Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP

## Navigation Training

### Doing Selection?

Intensive 2-day courses in Map and Compass work. Theory and Practical Small Groups (4/5) or Individuals. Ex-Mil Instructor. Accom incl.

Contact Andy  
 07787 122436  
[brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk)





**Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd**  
Specialists in Orders Decorations and Medals

Full Size and Miniature Medals supplied and mounted for wear or display to the highest standards.

**MoD Licensed Medals**  
(License No. D1PFR0X/E/0019/02)  
Available from stock including

- Telic
- Afghanistan
- Golden Jubilee
- NATO, EU and UN
- Long Service awards
- Complete range of gallantry awards

We offer a complete engraving service and supply fine handmade storage cases, display cases and wallets for your awards.

Whatever your requirements our helpful staff will be pleased to help with your enquiry by telephone, email or fax.

Visit our secure online shop  
[www.worcmedals.com](http://www.worcmedals.com)

Unit bulk enquiries welcome



56 Broad Street, Sidemore, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375  
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: [wms@worcmedals.com](mailto:wms@worcmedals.com)



SHOPPING SATISFACTION ★★★★★

[www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk](http://www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk)  
+44 (0) 1874 610036

Webbing Systems  
Yoke Systems  
Daysacks / Bergans  
Bergan Modification  
Molle Pouches  
Windproof SAS Smocks



And so much more...

Finance Available - If you can't pop in - please call or Email for details.

 **JAY JAYS**

Vision | Innovation | Performance

*Military Marketing International*

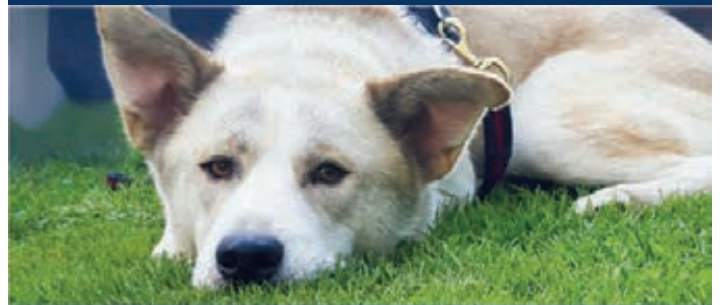
Suppliers of commemorative plaques and presentation pieces



Let us design your Regiment and Operational plaques  
(minimum quantity 25)  
PLAQUES: £12.95 each  
SHIELD/CLOCKS: £24.00 each

for a full colour brochure contact:

82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. B18 7AF  
Telephone / fax: 0121 454 5393  
Email: [mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk](mailto:mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk)  
Website: [www.militarymarketing.co.uk](http://www.militarymarketing.co.uk)



ARE YOU A **VETERAN**  
STRUGGLING WITH **PTSD**?  
find out about our **PTSD Assistance Dog Programme** visit [www.ServiceDogsUK.org](http://www.ServiceDogsUK.org)

**Service Dogs UK** trains & provides assistance dogs, mainly from rescue, for veterans with post traumatic stress disorder of the Armed Forces, Emergency Services, Coast Guard and RNLI.

Service Dogs UK is a registered Charity in England & Wales - no: 1165409





because you're  
there for us



Our team of lawyers have many years of experience providing specialist legal advice to forces personnel. Our military law experts will not only advise you on issues arising from the line of duty but with your home life as well.

There for you supporting the forces

**wilkin chapman llp**  
inc. gilbert blades  
solicitors

Contact: **01522 512345** or visit [wilkinchapman.co.uk](http://wilkinchapman.co.uk)  
Out of hours for Military Discipline Matters only, contact  
Gordon Holt on **07973 667869**

Suppliers of high quality embroidered and  
printed sports and leisurewear to the  
Armed Forces

**motif8**  
Ltd



tel: **01642 601501**  
sales@motif8.co.uk  
www.motif8.co.uk

**Motif8 Will Beat Any Price - Guaranteed**



Your crest here

branded notebooks

[www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army](http://www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army)  
[branding@bureaudirect.co.uk](mailto:branding@bureaudirect.co.uk)  
0845 505 4555

**MICHAEL JAY TAILORING**

*Your Tailored Suit  
Made to Measure  
Especially for you*

- Made in the UK
- 14 day Make or
- 48hr EXPRESS
- Lowest prices
- Best Fit
- Highest quality
- Best payment terms

Local agent to measure  
in most areas

**01449 614602**  
[www.suitUK.com](http://www.suitUK.com)

*As our customers say  
The service is simply unbeatable*

5 Toms Business Park, STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP

**FOCX**

Respoke British Underwear [focx.co.uk](http://focx.co.uk)

Always on your mind?



Do you want to try and trace  
your birth family?

We can also help you:

- find out more about searching
- meet other people in similar circumstances
- have the chance to talk about what it means to be adopted and what it could mean to search

Call our ActionLine free on:

**0800 0 568 578**

[www.afteradoption.org.uk/reunite](http://www.afteradoption.org.uk/reunite)



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## SERVICES

**Finding homes for military personnel.** We organise your mortgage, search for your ideal property, manage the complete purchase, arrange the letting if required and pay all your professional and legal fees.  
[www.forceshomes.co.uk](http://www.forceshomes.co.uk)

## FOR SALE

**Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia.** Send £2 for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU.  
 Tel: 01723 513287  
[george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk)

## BOOKS

**Military history books.** Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.  
[www.militaryhistorybooks.com](http://www.militaryhistorybooks.com)

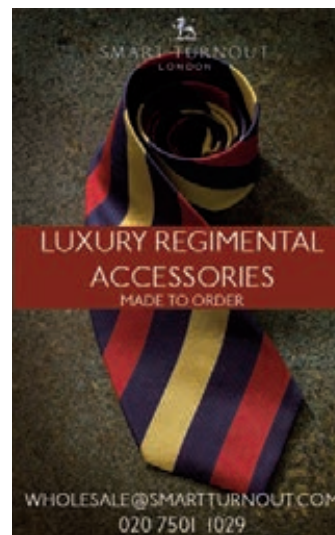


**THE BESPOKE TIE COMPANY**

Specialists in Regimental Accessories

0845 257 5710

[sales@bespoketies.com](mailto:sales@bespoketies.com)



**SMART TURNOUT LONDON**

LUXURY REGIMENTAL ACCESSORIES  
MADE TO ORDER

WHOLESALE@SMARTTURNOUT.COM  
020 7501 1029



**The Regimental Shop**  
Carving those who serve their country

[regimentalshop.com](http://regimentalshop.com)

Ties, accessories, gifts and much more

[sales@regimentalshop.com](mailto:sales@regimentalshop.com) 0845 459 1964

To advertise please call  
**01252 787106** or email  
[advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY

### 19 May 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Pte W Tutchings, 51 Sqn, 17 P&M Regt, Marchwood. 2nd Prize (£5,000): LCpl J Smith, Sp Coy, 1 Mercian, Catterick. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl M Alexander, Den Ctr, Shape, BFPO 26. 4th Prize (£3,000): Name withheld, Hereford Garrison. 5th Prize (£2,000): Pte P Cocker, 9 Sqn, 7 TLR RLC, Cottesmore. 6th Prize (£1,000): SSgt S Rafemoyo, MAS(A), D Res, Andover. Consolation prizes (£500): Sgt K Deacon, HQ Fd Army, Andover; LCpl H Devey, Sp Sqn, 21 Signal Regt, Chippenham. Consolation prizes (£200): WO1 A Howell, SPCB, Fareham; WO2 R Lawson, 7 Regt RLC, Cottesmore; Cpl R Wightman, LAD REME, 3 Rifles, Edinburgh; Maj A Brannigan, ICSC(L), Shrivenham; Cpl V Kandi, DPHC RRU, RAF St Athan; Spr R Evenden, 16 Sqn, 42 Engr Regt, RAF Wyton; LCpl J Boyce, LAD, 2 Rifles, BFPO 801; LBdr D Smith, 21 Bty, 32 Regt RA; Tpr F Charles, B Sqn, LD, Catterick Garrison; Rfn R Pearce. C Coy, 5 Rifles, Salisbury; Pte G Baylis, A Coy, SPSTS, Winchester; Lt Col J Howard, Defence Academy Shrivenham; SSgt L Buist, 3 Scots, Ardersier; Sgt S Saving, ATC(P), Woking; Lt J Hain, LAD, 7 Sqn, 5 Med Regt. Consolation prizes

(£100): LCpl Y Kirantee, Cdo Log Regt, RM, Barnstaple; WO2 L Pearce, 2 R Anglian, Cottesmore; Sgt A Heppell, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; Sgt A Mortley, LAD, 77 AES, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 22; LCpl T Aylett, 17 Coy, 4 Bn REME, Tidworth; Gnr N Greathead, T Bty, 12 Regt RA, Emsworth; Pte L Milne, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; Pte A Marles, 4 Sqn, 4 Regt RLC, Abingdon; LCpl M Reveley, 228 Sqn, 3 Signal Regt, Bulford Camp; Pte L Lindsey, Sp Coy, 2 Para, Colchester.

### 26 May 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Cpl K Collins, Sp Bn, ITC, Catterick Garrison. 2nd Prize (£5,000): WO2 R Kimsey, ATFC (W), Winchester. 3rd Prize (£4,000): Pte A Bull, 13 Fd Coy, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth. 4th Prize (£3,000): LBdr C Stevens, F Bty, 7 Para RHA, Colchester. 5th Prize (£2,000): Cpl S Saizi, Batuk, BFPO 680. 6th Prize (£1,000): LBdr K Davies, 13 Bty, 19 Regt RA, Tidworth. Consolation prizes (£500): Capt C Peuple, DES CoM JE Hels Apache, Yeovil; Cpl I Bobo, A Sqn, QRH, BFPO 16. Consolation prizes (£200): Maj B Subba, HQ ARRC, Gloucester; WO2 R Muir, HQ Coy, 1 Mercian, Bulford; Cpl R O'Brien, JADTEU, AWC, Carterton; Pte A McConnachie, 31 Sqn, 3 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt G Venables, 11 Signal Regt, RSS, Blandford Forum; LCpl A Kilawekana, 68 Sqn, 7 Regt RLC,

Cottesmore; Pte J Parsons, 47 Sqn, 13 AASp Regt RLC, Carterton; Cpl G Walker, Sp Coy, 3 Para, Colchester; LCpl M Hearne, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; LCpl P Farley, ARRC Sp Bn, Gloucester; Pte J Williams, 47 Sqn, 13 AASp Regt RLC, Carterton; Pte O Langdale-Stancliffe, 9 Sqn, 7 Regt RLC, Cottesmore; Gdsm I Grant, F Coy, SG, London; Gnr J Gilbert-Buften, 7 Para RHA, Colchester; Maj L Jones, SPA (UK), Ruislip. Consolation prizes (£100): SSgt D Norbury, 42 Bty, 12 Regt RA, Emsworth; SSgt M Bird, 11 Signal Regt, RSS, Blandford Forum; Cpl D Sullivan, Falcon Sqn, 22 Engr Regt, Warminster; Maj M Maguire, JFC, Northwood; LCpl D Hope, 2 Coy, 5 Bn REME, BFPO 39; LCpl G Beattie-Nash, 1 SG, Aldershot; Cpl K Asare-Attrams, 1 PWRR, BFPO 22; LCpl D Morgan, 60 Sqn, 4 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Lt Col N Calvert, DSA MAA, Bristol; Lt Col M Bosworth, DEFAC, Swindon.

### 2 June 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): Cpl H McQueen, LAD REME, 3 Scots, Ardersier. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Cfn L Hughes, LAD, 255 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt, Stafford. 3rd Prize (£4,000): Cpl D Kennedy, HQ Coy, SDG, St Andrews. 4th Prize (£3,000): Sgt C Wynn, HQ 29 EOD & S GSU Wksp, Saffron Walden. 5th Prize (£2,000): Pte C Adams, Sp Coy, 2 Mercian, Chester. 6th Prize (£1,000): Sgt P

Boyhan, 212 MI Section, Abingdon. Consolation prizes (£500): Cfn S Reader, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; 2nd Lt J Wilkinson, Inf Battle School, Powys. Consolation prizes (£200): WO2 R Brown, 272 Bty, 105 Regt RA, Livingston; SSgt A Biggin, 4 RMP, Aldershot; WO2 D Gallagher, 46 Bty, 32 Regt RA, Salisbury; SSgt G Scott, 201 (Northern) Fd Hosp, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; SSgt J Canning, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot; Sgt J Keen, 5 Bn REME, BFPO 39; Sgt A Scott, SDG, St Andrews; Maj S Pearson-Burton, 65 Log Sp Sqn RLC, Colchester; Pte J Eggby, 63 Sqn, 13 AASp Regt RLC, Colchester; LCpl F Slimene, C Coy, 2 Yorks, Catterick; Lt K Chadwick, BSU, RCDM, Edgbaston; LCpl S Dillon, 162 MI Sect, Colchester; Gnr C Macleod, 57 Bty, 32 Regt RA, Salisbury; Pte L Sheriki, RG, BFPO 52; Maj S Burn, 23 Sqn, 16 Med Regt, Colchester. Consolation prizes (£100): WO2 A Bonner, 103 Bn REME, Northampton; WO2 P Lindsay, HQ DSPA, Winchester; Sgt B Morris, Nato CIS Gp, S1 SA, BFPO 105; Cpl A Paley, RLC Band, Deepcut; SSgt A Anderson, D Sqn, QRH, BFPO 16; Pte C Tucker, 23 Sqn, 1 Regt RLC, Bicester; LSgt S Galvin, 1 Gren Gds, Aldershot; LCpl T Gurung, LAD, Fuel & GT Sqn, 10 QOGLR, Aldershot; Pte G Stevens, 105 Sqn, 1 MWD Regt, Oakham; Col D Madden, DCDS Pers TESRR, London.



What do we have here?



# BEST VALUE FURNITURE For Bars, Restaurants and Pubs

Choose this furniture for your living room



Call our expert, friendly sales team to request a floor plan of your venue on 01295 758536

Or try these popular alternatives



Prices are subject to availability, delivery and VAT



Quality | Trusted | Experienced

sales@pubstuff.co.uk      pubstuff.co.uk      01295 758536



# REVIEWS

**P63**

MUSIC

**P64**

BOOKS

**P66**

GAMES

MOVIES

## BAD SAMARITAN

Psycho plays cat-and-mouse with thief

AN OPPORTUNIST burglar believes he has hit the jackpot when he breaks into a luxurious home, but soon discovers it is not what he was expecting.

Inside, he finds a severely beaten and distressed woman being held captive: robbing this property will be the worst decision he ever made.





## MOVIES



Directed by **Dean Devlin** (*Independence Day*), thriller *Bad Samaritan* tells the tale of Sean Falco (**Robert Sheehan**), a photographer struggling to make ends meet.

He lives a double life, turning to home burglary while working a night job as a valet.

A world away from *Doctor Who*, **David Tennant** gives a dark and convincing performance as a wealthy man hiding terrible secrets – his cunning character managing to evade any suspicions from the police.

Falco, however, will stop at nothing to get to the truth of what he has found. And his likeable character has you rooting for him from the start, as a bad guy trying to do good.

Be prepared to jump out of your seat during some heart-stopping moments in this film.

They are perfectly timed to a brilliantly atmospheric accompanying soundtrack composed by **Joseph LoDuca**, who is best known for his work on the *Evil Dead* titles and *Xena* television series.

It isn't all horror: the audience does get to enjoy a couple of light-hearted moments as well.

In an early scene Falco's partner in crime, Derek (**Carlito Olivero**), creates a memorable moment when he breaks into a family home and finds himself under attack by the pet dog. Touches like this add some humour to proceedings.

Overall *Bad Samaritan* is a good watch, showing a different side to the life of a serial killer.

Tennant is a class act, who keeps the audience engaged with the terrifying and chilling way that he pursues his victims. Throughout the 110 minutes my nerves were constantly on edge, waiting for the next cold and calculated move.

However, there are some definite misses with the title.

The backstory of Tennant's character is hardly believable, and an abrupt ending leaves viewers with several unanswered questions that are crying out for some sort of explanation at the close of the credits.

But perhaps this leaves just enough potential for a sequel.

Overall, *Bad Samaritan* is an enjoyable watch.

Okay, it isn't a *Silence of the Lambs* spectacular, but it's still worth your time – especially on the big screen where you can fully appreciate the great visual and audio effects.

Catch it in cinemas later this month. ■

REVIEW: BDR JULIAN PERREIRA, RA

### VERDICT:

Unspectacular, but worth a watch nevertheless

★★★★★



## WIN

LCPL GEORGIE Lane has returned to screens in season three of the BBC One drama *Our Girl*.



The show follows the medic as she serves in various countries including Nigeria, and is out now on DVD. To mark its release, *Soldier* has three box sets of the latest series to give away. For a chance to scoop one of them, tell us the name of the actress who followed in **Lacey Turner's** footsteps to take the starring role.

Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by August 31.



## DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES


**Genesis**  
Out now

THIS British-made movie mixes a classic apocalyptic survivors-in-a-bunker scenario with an awakening-AI-who-doesn't-like-humans plot. Sadly, it suffers from a lack of budget, an unengaging and often incoherent storyline, and is populated by mostly paper-thin and unlikeable characters. The only standout element is **John Hannah**, but he cannot carry this movie alone. This is not a terrible effort but, ultimately, it feels like a pilot for a television show – one that will never get to see the light of day.

Maj **Alex Janaway**, RAMC


**Traffik**  
Out now

THIS title sees investigative journalist heroine Brea and her boyfriend go away for a weekend and before you know it, she's up to her eyeballs with a violent people-trafficking biker gang led by 1980s musical heart-throb **Luke Goss** (ask your mum). The pace of the storytelling ramps up as events escalate inconceivably, and the predictable plot twist is resolved far too conveniently. To call this offering a B movie would be overrating it.

Cpl **Scott Roberts**, Rifles


**211**  
Out now

IF you want a film with **Nicholas Cage** as the hero and lots of automatic gunfire to boot, this is without doubt the title for you. But when it comes basic tactics, techniques and procedures, if you watch this with even a slightly critical eye you are likely to be disappointed. The ex-special forces baddies are trying to get a million dollars from a US bank, but it all goes very wrong. Allegedly based on the 1997 Hollywood robbery – if you stretch imagination and credibility to extremes – this is an unconvincing story with a predictably saccharine ending.

CSgt **Colin Tester**, PWRR



## PICK OF THE MONTH:

## PROGRESS REPORT

**Reservist plans studio return after debut track drops**

▶ WITH debut single *Then You're Listening* garnering positive reaction from the music press, rock outfit

**Everlasting Glowworms** are looking to build on their growing momentum.

Spearheaded by Reservist **Pte Stacie Smith (AGC (SPS))**, the three-piece return to the studio this month to start recording follow-up EP *Less Than I Was Before* and tentative plans are in place for a full album next year.

But this progress hasn't happened overnight. Vocalist and guitarist Smith started writing with bandmate **Dan Severs** in 2013 and their first offering was produced independently, without the added pressure of a record deal.

"It has been an interesting experience," the Serviceman told *Soldier*. "Once the song was officially released we had messages from BBC Introducing, as well as *Kerrang* and Absolute Radio.

"There has been interest in the past but, like anything, it takes time to grow.

"We are now in the position where we have so much material that we can get back in the studio and start work on the EP.

"We have the passion and love for it so we really want to make this work."

The band was able to call upon an impressive supporting cast for their debut project.

**Nick Brine**, who has worked with the likes of **Oasis** and **The Darkness**, assumed producing responsibilities and the track was mastered by **Pete**

Visit [www.everlastingglowworms.co.uk](http://www.everlastingglowworms.co.uk) for links to the band's debut single

**Maher**, whose previous clients include **U2**, **Jack White** and **The Killers**.

"It is unbelievable really," Smith added. "I've been playing since I was 15 and when you go to different studios you bump into people in the industry, and they of course know other people.

"So that's how it came about. It has been slow progress but we are definitely heading in the right direction.

"We've drawn a lot of influences from jazz, blues and classic rock 'n' roll. We have a commercial sound that is similar to the likes of **Feeder** and the **Manic Street Preachers**.

"Nick was working on the Manics' album at the same time so that's where the comparisons may come from."

Smith joined the Reserves in 2009 and combines his military commitments with 94 Signal Squadron with his music ambitions and day job as a shop owner in Windsor.

"I'll go to the barracks in the morning, open the shop at around 1100 and then head to rehearsals in the evening," the 28-year-old explained.

"It can be a bit much but it's enjoyable. Finally getting our music out there proved to be quite tedious at times; playing live and writing is what we do best." ■

INTERVIEW: RICHARD LONG, *SOLDIER*





## MUSIC RELEASES CONTINUED



### Our Country Americana Act II by Ray Davies



THIS is the second part of former **Kinks** frontman **Ray Davies'** *Americana* project, which documents his lifelong relationship with the USA. The album is a mixture of spoken word, country, rock and blues tracks. While this may be too much for the casual listener, there's plenty to explore for the more adventurous. *Back in the Day* is a bouncy boogie song with an infectious vocal line, *A Street Called Hope* is stroked with French swing influence and *March of the Zombies* is a meaty, heavy blues number that ends in a crescendo of brass and weirdness. There's no doubt that Davies is one of the best songwriters this country has produced and this second instalment, as well as news that a Kinks album is also on the way, just reaffirms that.

**Damian Hern, ex-AGC (SPS)**

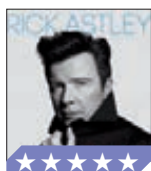


### The Now Now by Gorillaz



IN A break from the norm, virtual act **Gorillaz** called on surprisingly few collaborators during the recording of their latest album, *The Now Now*. Jazz guitarist **George Benson** supplies the slick riffs on single *Humility*, while **Snoop Dogg** and **Jamie Principle** offer guest vocals elsewhere. But that's it. Frontman **Damon Albarn** performs the bulk of the singing duties and the result is an offering that is more streamlined than its predecessor, *Humanz*. *Idaho* and *One Per Cent* embody the stripped-back feel, while *Kansas* and *Fireflies* provide more reflective moments. By condensing the track list to just 11 songs the band have delivered a spritely pop offering that is full of verve and energy and serves as an almost polar opposite to the bloated nature of their efforts last time out.

**Richard Long, Soldier**



### Beautiful Life by Rick Astley



WELL it certainly seems as if **Rick Astley** isn't going to give us up, let us down and certainly is nowhere near finished pumping out albums. This is the follow-up to his surprise comeback *50* and, given its success, the star has kept to the same formula of writing, producing, singing and playing all the songs himself, while having a bit of fun along the way. And it works. The record is a bit here-and-there in terms of styles but there is a definite soul undertone throughout. That is where Astley seems to be aiming these days and he's certainly got it nailed. *Beautiful Life* is easy listening and while it is nothing to get over excited about, you'll easily find yourself humming along. He may be a bit like Marmite, but if you love him you will love this album.

**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**

Want to join our review team?

Email [reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:reviews@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## BOOKS

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## PUNCTUATION WITHOUT TEARS



### Reservist pens guide to stress-free writing

► GRAMMAR may not be the sexiest of subjects but it is an important skill to master for those wanting to climb the promotion ladder.

If your written work comes back from the boss covered in red pen, this handy little guide could become your new best friend.

*Punctuation Without Tears* by journalist and Reservist Capt Dominic Selwood (GSC, pictured above) approaches the topic in a humorous, easy-to-digest way.

A columnist for the *Daily Telegraph* in his day job, the 47-year-old joined 77 Brigade's Information Operations branch in 2015.

As a professional wordsmith, he knows a thing or two about grammar,





but he told *Soldier* everyone can – and should – get to grips with the basics.

“Most people get stressed by punctuation,” he said.

“But if you can strip and reassemble an SA80 in the dark, you can totally master a few simple rules, and do it well.

“If your writing was a band, punctuation would be your rhythm section. It’s not glamorous, but without it everything else falls apart.

“It is there to make your words clearer. Messing it up not only does a disservice to the reader, it confuses the message you’re trying to give.”

For those who tend to roll their eyes at grammar pedantry, consider the recent case of an American dairy producer in Maine, who lost a £3.8m lawsuit due to a misplaced comma in the state’s legislation on overtime.

It’s conceivable that ambiguity in military writing could have similarly dire consequences.

But as long as you’re not responsible for drafting employment law or Nato’s rules of engagement, Capt Selwood believes it is possible to have fun with punctuation and use it creatively.

Accordingly, each grammar point is illustrated with colourful examples that take readers into a world of Ewoks wearing mankinis and Cinderella arranging fragmentation grenades.

It sounds unlikely, but there is method to the madness.

As the author explained, he was keen to avoid the standard format of grammar textbooks.

“They are usually dull and technical and put you to sleep in the first ten minutes,” he said.

“No one – including me – wants to read that kind of thing so I decided to keep the tone jokey.”

The officer also thinks that as language has evolved, punctuation too has become less prescribed – all the more reason not to get hung up on syntax when putting pen to paper.

“Writing has become much less formal,” he said.

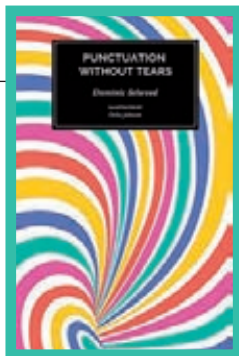
“My one tip would be: learn the handful of really basic rules, forget the rest, and have fun with punctuating simply, confidently and well.” ■

INTERVIEW: BECKY CLARK, *SOLDIER*

**VERDICT:**

Takes the angst out of apostrophes and the horror out of hyphens

★★★★★



*Punctuation Without Tears* by Dominic Selwood is out now, priced £7.99

**BOOKS**

**BOOK RELEASES**



**Big Week**  
by James Holland

CHARTING the early fighting between the US Eighth Air Force and Luftwaffe through to a pulverising series of

Allied raids in preparation for D-Day, this examination of the Second World War air conflict over Europe makes for compelling reading. In a mix of historical analysis and human stories from both sides, it paints the picture of an increasingly capable American force squaring up to an opponent ground down by inept political masters and mounting losses. Yet it was potent until the last through the courage and sacrifice of its fighter pilots. As well as a solid piece of research, the book is a tribute to all who fought in history’s most brutal airborne confrontation.

Cliff Caswell, *Soldier*



**The Revised Art of War**  
by Keiran Proffer

SUN Tzu’s famous collection of warfare advice has been revised

and reproduced in this fine pocket-sized edition. The main sayings have been collated and matched with contemporary explanations – resulting in a book appropriate for aspiring commanders at all levels. While many of the phrases are well known, the interpretation of their meaning and how the guidance can be implemented are an excellent combination. The preface and introduction are also insightful, which makes this offering much more readable and useful. All in all this is a good reference work that is well worth keeping to hand.

Andy Kay, ex-RS



**War Stories**  
by Peter Snow and Ann MacMillan

DRAWING together the tales of 34 ordinary people thrust into situations most of us will

only ever read about, this collection of true stories leaves a lasting impression. Spanning a time period of three centuries, the collection includes the notable stories of Edward Seager, who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava as well as American Civil War turncoat Benedict Arnold. But all are compelling. Snow and MacMillan have done their research well. The format is also particularly suited to the retelling of these acts of courage as you can pick up and put down the book whenever you like.

Tony David, ex-RE



**Capture or Kill**  
by Tom Marcus

AGAINST the ever-increasing threat of terrorism, main character, MI5 operative Matt Logan, has to

track down and stop two of the biggest criminal masterminds the UK has ever seen. However, he is given an offer to work outside of the rules and, having received some disastrous news about his family, Logan becomes a man possessed. Although this plot may seem exciting and gripping, it isn’t. It’s predictable from the start and by the end of the third chapter anyone with half a brain cell would be able to work out what comes next and when. Overall, this had the potential to be the *Da Vinci Code* for the espionage genre, but it falls far short.

Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles



## GAMES



### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## THE CREW 2

Ubisoft put the pedal to the metal in racing sequel

► THERE are quite a few driving-related games on the market and they all relish in the opportunity to throw powerful cars into big open spaces.

But *The Crew 2* goes about things somewhat differently.

On the face of it, this release comes across as an alternative to the successful *Forza Horizon* series.

Both place the emphasis on being popular, getting support and tearing up the tarmac with a roaring V8.

However, what really separates the *Crew* titles from their main rival is the means of exploration.

While *Horizon* boasts a plethora of cars to choose from, this offers exactly the same but also caters for fans of boats and aircraft.

It allows you to screech through the countryside, reach a winding river and change to a powerboat, aerobatic prop aircraft or even a Spitfire.

The aim is very simple: drive fast, become popular and get more things that make you even faster. Your fans don't really care, and neither should you. Just floor it and enjoy.

If there is one slight disappointment it is in the visuals.

**VERDICT:**  
Rough round the edges but still finds top gear  
★★★★★

*The Crew 2*  
for PS4, Xbox One and PC



Ubisoft are notorious for creating stunning-looking titles and *The Crew 2* is nowhere near as pretty.

I suspect the reason for that is the sheer size of the map and the fact you're expected to be driving past everything in a speed-induced blur, but it's still noticeable.

That's not to say this is an ugly game and it's way ahead of many others. It just could be so much better.

Thankfully, the gameplay is easy to master and enjoyable.

Whether you prefer to do things at your own speed or rush through challenges as quickly as possible, it's all catered for here.

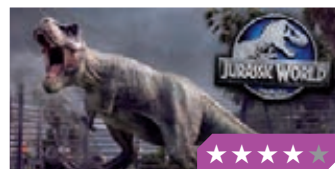
And there's plenty to do.

The only other downside is the lack of fellow players online, which could be attributed to the release being more popular in the US.

To summarise, *The Crew 2* is a fun game that would benefit from additional polish and maybe some unexpected surprises. After all, it's got to keep you hooked until *Forza Horizon 4* arrives in October. ■

REVIEW: DAVID MCDUGALL, CIVVY

## GAMES RELEASES



**Jurassic World Evolution**  
Xbox One, PS4 and PC

IT'S been a while since we've seen a decent *Tycoon*-style title come along. And *Jurassic World Evolution* is more than welcome to stick around. For those unfamiliar with the business of simulator-type games, this release puts you in charge of a *Jurassic Park* where you are responsible for everything from refreshment stands to the number of dinosaurs your eager visitors can gawk at. It's ideal for those who like to control everything, or who love unleashing chaos upon their customers. Research is key here, as it gives you new types of dinosaurs to add to your attraction, and the game also features voiceovers from the films' casts. Despite the business theme there is a lot of fun to be had, it is great to look at and will captivate you in the long-term.

David McDougall, civvy



**Sea of Thieves**  
Xbox One and PC

FIRST off, *Sea of Thieves* is a release for those of a teamwork disposition. And it's a lot of fun. From mastering sailing and battling other pirates to finding treasure and fighting skeletons, there is plenty to do. The title looks great, sounds great and allows you to customise your preferred ship or boat. The downside is the endgame, as there isn't one. There's no campaign as such, no end boss, no finish. But then it's an evolving and constantly-online experience. Thankfully there isn't an ever-present arms race like in *Destiny* and anything you earn only provides aesthetic changes. The other problem is the squad limit and even the galleons only allow for four players. So if you have more than that you're stuffed, at least for now.

David McDougall, civvy





**YOU TAKE CARE OF US.  
WE TAKE CARE OF YOU.  
TOGETHER WE GO FURTHER.**

CURRENT OR FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL  
CAN SAVE UP TO **20%\*** ON A NEW FORD.



FORD KUGA ST-LINE SHOWN AVAILABLE WITH  
**15%** CUSTOMER SAVING.

**TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [FORD.CO.UK/MILITARYSALES](http://ford.co.uk/militarysales)**

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Kuga ST-Line range: urban 30.1-57.6 (9.4-4.9), extra urban 44.8-67.3 (6.3-4.2), combined 37.7-64.2 (7.5-4.4). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 173-115g/km.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

\*Military Saving programme available to current and ex-Service Personnel, including veterans and retired members of the UK Armed Forces. Customer savings of 4% to 20% off the Recommended On The Road price available across the Ford range (excluding KA+ and Focus RS) on vehicles contracted between 26th January 2018 and 31st December 2018 and registered between 26th January 2018 and 30th June 2019. Retail customers only. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with other manufacturer promotions or incentives. At participating Ford dealers – for terms and conditions, including the eligibility criteria, eligible models and customer savings visit: [www.ford.co.uk/militarysales](http://www.ford.co.uk/militarysales)



# Let's go *Somewhere*

**15% discount** for **Armed Forces Personnel, Veterans and Cadets** in-store and online.




We're rewarding your service with ours.  
Receive an exclusive 15% discount when you present your Military ID in-store or use a valid discount code online.

You can also use your discount with:

**SNOW  
ROCK**

**runnersneed**  
the running specialists

 **CycleSurgery**

Proud to support



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. 10% discount only on bikes. Only valid on production of your Military ID in-store or use of valid discount code online. Offer expires 31.12.16.

**Trusted by our partners since 1974**  
Stores nationwide | [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)

  
**COTSWOLD**  
outdoor



# SOLDIER SPORT



## « HIGH FLIERS

STARS of wakeboarding and waterskiing enjoyed a week of adrenalin-fuelled action at the Army Championships. The sports have used social media to boost their numbers and are now riding the crest of a wave. Read about their success on pages 72-73...





# DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR TRACK AND FIELD STARS

**A** CHAMPIONSHIP record for Cpl Dani Hodgkinson (QARANC) in the women's 5,000 metres was the headline act of another Army double at the Inter-Services athletics showdown.

The distance runner, who finished tenth in the same event at this year's British Championships, clocked a personal best time of 16min 14sec to take gold and break the previous record set in 2016.

Her efforts helped the women's team to a dominant victory over their rivals as they claimed a fourth successive title but it was a tense day for the men, who overcame a stern examination from a resurgent Royal Air Force outfit to take the honours.

"My aim was to come here and set a record as I knew I had been running quite well," Hodgkinson (pictured right) told *SoldierSport*.

"I was going to set off quite slowly but I started at a good

pace and kept that going.

"This season I have set personal bests in the 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000 metres. I trained hard over the winter and feel relaxed, and that has allowed me to be more consistent."

While Hodgkinson proved to be the only record-breaker on the day there were a number of standout performers for the women's squad, who finished 30 points clear of the RAF in second.

Newcomer Gnr Alice Miell (RA) proved to be a welcome addition as she won the shot put, long jump and javelin and took bronze in the 200 metres. She was also part of the victorious 4x100-metre relay team.

The Army emerged as the dominant force in the field disciplines – dropping just one point in six events.

Cpl Clare Jones (RAMC) and Capt Laura Simpson (QARANC) secured a one-two in the discus, a feat repeated by Pte Kewe King

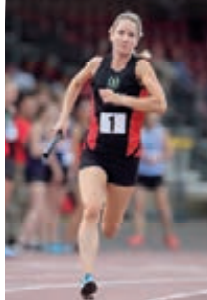
INTER-SERVICES  
ATHLETICS

MEN

165

WOMEN

143



(QARANC) and LCpl Maralyn Messam (RAMC) in the triple jump and Cpl Lydia Morley (AGC (SPS)) and King in the high jump.

There were also silver medals for Cpl Nansai Ravai (AGC (SPS)) in the shot put and LCpl Peta-Gaye Irving (RADC) in the long jump.

Elsewhere, the team celebrated gold and silver in the 100-metre hurdles courtesy of LCpl Fern Davies (RLC) and Capt Lauren Barr (REME).

"I'm very pleased," said team manager Maj Lucy Rann (AGC (ETS)). "We've got a real mix of the old guard and fresh faces and it has been a good balance."

"There were some fantastic performances and Alice Miell proved to be a great find. She competed in four events, as well as the relay, and having someone like her brings an extra bit of reassurance as she can fill any gaps on the day."

"We performed above





expectations and recorded a lot of personal bests."

The men's squad made hard work of their title defence in the early stages as the RAF found their form in the field.

But victories for Cpl Ben Jones (RE) and LCpl Cyprian Onderi (AGC (SPS), pictured left) in the hammer and javelin added welcome points and there was further success for SSgt Myro Rush (RAPTC) in the triple jump.

However, there were no such struggles on the track as Sig Kyle Wilkinson (R Signals) defended his 100 metres crown in 11.52sec and Pte Alhagie Drammeh (RLC) took gold in the 400 metres.

Cpl Michael Major (Para) won the 800 metres and Pte David Westbury and Maj Ady Whitwam (both RLC) delivered another one-two in the steeplechase.

As in previous years, the Reds were indebted to the efforts of decathlon star Gdsm Peter Moreno (Coldm Gds) who won the 110-metre hurdles, 200 metres and long jump, as well as silver in pole vault and bronze in the high jump. He added further points in the shot put.

The competition came at a busy time for the athlete, who is due to represent Nigeria at this month's African Championships.

"It was quite tight early on, which was a surprise as we are normally strong in the field," said men's manager Capt Steve Chappell (RAPTC).

"But our depth eventually came to the fore and we finished with a comfortable victory.

"Peter Moreno had a tremendous day and having that multi-eventer in the team helped us cement the win." ■



Pictures: Graeme Main and Alligin Photography

## ATHLETICS IN NUMBERS

POINT WINNING MARGIN FOR THE MEN'S TEAM

15

SUCCESSIVE TITLES FOR THE WOMEN

4

SECONDS TAKEN OFF THE PREVIOUS WOMEN'S 5,000 METRES

RECORD BY CPL DANI HODGKINSON

52

POINTS WON BY NEWCOMER GNR ALICE MIELL FROM FOUR EVENTS

22

NEW CAPS IN THE MEN'S SQUAD THIS SEASON

6



## HALL PLOTS CAREER PATH

**V**ICTORY in the women's 1,500 metres represented a welcome return to Inter-Services action for Capt Lauren Hall (REME) after an absence of 18 months.

The distance runner clocked a time of 4min 44.38sec to win the race and is now eagerly awaiting news on her bid to join Sport England's talented athlete scholarship scheme.

A verdict on her application was expected as this issue went to press and the officer was obviously hoping for a positive outcome to boost her progress in the sport.

"In the past I've perhaps thought that I didn't have the potential but since coming back from a posting to Canada earlier this year I have felt fitter than ever before," Capt Hall told *SoldierSport*.

"I'm so nervous about the results but if it's good news and I'm included it will be a huge benefit in areas such as strength and conditioning, nutrition and psychology.

"That would have been a help today. I've not done an Inter-Services race in so long and if I'd had that support over the past few weeks it would have been a real boost."

Hall's upcoming commitments range from 800-metre races on the track to the ten-kilometre Great Scottish Run, which will be broadcast live on the BBC.

She sees her future as a three-kilometre steeplechase runner but will also focus on cross country during the winter months.

"You have to push yourself outside of the comfort zone," the athlete added. "That's what I did today."

"It was a difficult build-up and I was slightly apprehensive coming into the race. As soon as the gun was fired I just went for it, so I was really happy with the result.

"I will take the same approach with the 800 metres. It is hard right now but it will help me in the future." ■









# SOCIAL MEDIA MOGULS

## FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PROFILES DRIVE NEW STARS TO THE ARMY WAKEBOARDING SCENE

**T**HE power of social media has played a key role in boosting numbers within the Army's wakeboard and waterski fraternity.

An increased presence on platforms such as Instagram – where the sports have more than 2,000 followers – and Facebook has attracted a host of newcomers to the fold and that effort paid off at the recent Service championships, when 50 soldiers took to the water.

The event, at Bedford's Box End Park, featured three days of training ahead of cable and boat competitions, with athletes ranging from novice to advanced standard.

Maj Ade Clayton (Lancs) claimed the men's overall wakeboard title, with Capt Becky Moll (QARANC) sealing the women's equivalent.

And in the waterskiing, there were wins for Capt Kieran Taheny (AAC) and LCpl Laura Soall (CAMUS).

Another crucial factor in the expansion has been the introduction of taster days for personnel who are keen to try the disciplines.

Once they register an interest, the Army Wakeboard and Waterski Association will run a subsidised session with all the necessary kit.

"We have really invested in our grass roots training and social media," chairman Clayton told *SoldierSport*.

"If anyone is interested they should get in touch as we can organise that opportunity.

"This is a new focus for us and we are keen to introduce more soldiers year on year.

"There are water parks all around the UK and we have Army riders based across the

country, so it is easy to do.

"The good thing about this sport is that it can be done all year round and that gives us an advantage over similar events such as snowboarding."

And the set-up has some inspirational figures for others to follow.

SSgt Dale Crossley (RE) is the current world masters champion, while Capt Charlie Hay (AAC) and Capt Sam Blackshaw (R Signals) have both been involved with the Great Britain squad.

Achieving similar success is a realistic aim for those starting out as skills can be quickly mastered and then built upon.

"Those guys are an example of where you can get to," Clayton added. "Anyone can come and have a go.

"I took up wakeboarding through the Army. I did my first version of this competition and a year later I was representing the Service team. It is something you can soon get very good at.

"Wakeboarding is a progressive sport and there is always something else to learn.

"You might arrive at a lake with the aim of standing on a board. Then it will be to get round a corner, ride switch, perform an Ollie or hit a kicker.

"You always want to get to the next level."

With numbers on the rise and a greater focus on training it was no surprise to see a series of highly competitive championship rounds on the Bedfordshire waters.

The pick of the talent will go on to represent the Army at next month's Inter-Services showdown, when the team will look to break the dominance of



**"IT IS A  
SPORT  
THAT  
YOU CAN  
SOON  
GET  
VERY  
GOOD  
AT"**

the Royal Air Force.

"This is the biggest championship we have ever run," Clayton added. "Now we are getting bigger the standard is on the rise.

"We've also had people coming across from other sports and there are a lot of transferable skills from disciplines such as snowboarding and kitesurfing.

"For the Inter-Services it all comes down to who we can get out there on the day.

"Last year we were missing Dale Crossley, who is a world champion, but we only lost by a few points. I think we have a good chance this season."

The recruitment drive has delivered benefits to both the men's and women's teams.

Of the 50 soldiers taking part, 15 were female – a figure that represents a significant rise compared to recent times.

And the association has delivered further appeal by reigniting its overseas tours. The squad travelled to Turkey earlier this year and plans are in place for another European adventure in the future.

"The number of women taking part is a real success story," Clayton said. "They have been excellent and are now looking to run some female-only training camps to really push things along.

"The tours are important. They give us the chance to get together for a week of concentrated training at a totally different park. They deliver huge benefits." ■





## Leading the whey...

- ✓ 20g protein
- ✓ 2g leucine
- ✓ Supports muscle growth and recovery
- ✓ Added vitamins for improved absorption
- ✓ Unflavoured for versatility
- ✓ FREE great tasting flavour drops
- ✓ FREE UK delivery



**£5 OFF**

TRIAL PRICE\*  
£24.99 NOW  
£19.99

[healthspanelite.co.uk/protein](http://healthspanelite.co.uk/protein) Offer code **ESOFJY**

\*Quote code ESOFJY when ordering at checkout. Please allow up to five working days for delivery. Free delivery on all Healthspan Elite® orders delivered to UK addresses. Single use only. Voucher valid until 31.10.18 at [www.healthspanelite.co.uk](http://www.healthspanelite.co.uk) and only when purchasing Healthspan Elite® products.





AT THE DOUBLE: THE WOMEN'S TEAM WERE PUSHING FOR FURTHER HONOURS AT THE INTER-SERVICES T20 AS THIS ISSUE WENT TO PRESS



## A STAR IS BORN

NEWCOMER Pte Kim Healey (RAMC, pictured above) proved to be one of the Army's star performers as she scored 134 runs across both Forces fixtures – finishing unbeaten in each.

The opener made her competitive debut in the match with the Royal Air Force – when she also claimed 2-17 with the ball – and her display points at an encouraging future.

The team has been keen to recruit fresh talent and welcomed several new faces to the fold during a period of winter training.

Skipper Capt Lauren Harden (RE) was delighted to see Healey make the most of her opportunity and is looking for more players to follow suit.

"She has been great for us and it was nice to have a secret weapon," the officer said.

"We've had new players come in this season and they have definitely improved the side.

"As a squad it is something we have always done. They are introduced to the group and after three or four years they really start to make their mark."



# RUTHLESS REDS BACK ON TOP

INTER-SERVICES  
WOMEN'S  
CRICKET

NAVY

201-4

ARMY

202-1



THE Army women enjoyed an emphatic return to form as two comprehensive victories over their Forces rivals saw them reclaim the Inter-Services 40-over title.

A disappointing loss to the Royal Navy saw the Reds miss out in last year's final but there were no such struggles this season as a combination of tight bowling and explosive batting steered the side to glory.

The soldiers signalled their intent with a ruthless display in their opening clash with the Royal Air Force, who batted first and posted a lowly total of 101-9 in the blazing Uxbridge heat.

Economical spells from the bowlers kept the scoring in check and Maj Mel Vaggers (AGC (SPS)), Pte Kim Healey (RAMC) and Sgt Amanda Potgieter (REME) all claimed two wickets apiece as the Army seized control.

The run chase proved to be a formality as the champions-elect reached their target inside ten overs without losing a wicket. Healey blasted eight fours and a six to top score with 55, while Vaggers finished 35 not out.

With the Navy also triumphing

against the RAF it was winner takes all in the final fixture and when the Reds fielded first it was the bowlers who were able to exert pressure early on.

While wickets were in short supply it was the economy rate that proved decisive as the Senior Service posted 201-4, with skipper Lt Cdr Hazelle Garton anchoring the innings with an unbeaten 85.

The Army made a brisk start in reply as Vaggers struck three boundaries in the first two overs before eventually being bowled by Worsfold for 13.

But further success failed to materialise as Potgieter (83 not out, pictured above) and Healey (79 not out) enjoyed a 171-run stand as the soldiers reached their target in the 29th over.

"We could not have done much better," victorious skipper Capt Lauren Harden (RE) told *SoldierSport*. "We knew 202 was well within our grasp; it was about being patient and seeing the job through.

"The weather played a part last season and it is never nice to lose, so we really wanted to come here and win." ■



## SPORT SHORTS



### Loggies face cup test

UNIT teams from across the Royal Logistic Corps took to the hockey pitch for the formation's annual Bari Cup.

The event is the biggest Army competition outside of the Inter-Corps showdown and attracted 14 sides and more than 150 players.

The overall honours were claimed by 20 Transport Squadron, with 9 Regiment winning the Kirby Bowl and 3 Regiment the Festival Shield.

"We use the Bari Cup to select our corps team for the new season," said RLC hockey secretary Capt Lily Thompson. "We had two training regiments in action so there was plenty of new talent on show."



### Forces look to the future

THE UK Armed Forces women's hockey team claimed a fourth-place finish in a tough invitational tournament featuring international opposition and rivals from the British Police and Civil Service.

Back-to-back defeats at the hands of age group sides from England and Wales ensured the military outfit made a difficult start but they bounced back with two victories – the second of which saw them thrash the civil servants 5-0.

"UK Armed Forces hockey is in a good place after this tournament and should continue to develop over the coming years," skipper Sgt Annabel Lamb (CAMUS) said afterwards.



Pictures: Cpl Mark Lerner, RLC

# TITLE GOES TO THE WIRE



**"WE WANT TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO RACE"**

MOUNTAIN bike ace Maj Simon Richards (RAMC) recorded a dramatic victory at the Army Cross Country Championships as he finished two seconds clear of his nearest rival to seal the title.

The officer raced wheel to wheel with Cpl Daniel Preece (RE) across the Tidworth course before a decisive burst in the final sprint section saw him claim a narrow win.

The event proved to be another successful chapter in the discipline's season as more than 100 soldiers took to the start line for the race.

Pte Charlie Troman (RAVC) edged past OCdt Dan Sharpland to take the men's junior title, while Maj Angela Laycock (RE, pictured left) and WO2 Stacey Welden (AGC (RMP)) finished first and second in the women's race.

The day also included successes for WO1 Jason Marriott (Rifles, pictured above) in the masters' category and Capt Simon Hale (R Anglian) in the grand masters.

"The course was set over an eight-kilometre loop and had a great combination of twisting tracks, open fire roads and downhill sections," race secretary WO1 James Cooper (REME) told *SoldierSport*.

"Simon Richards and Danny Preece were involved in a real battle and were within seconds of each other all the way round.

"We want to inspire people to race. Riders from different units and cap badges will find those who are posting similar times and they become the competition from one event to the next."

The championships followed on from the Army Cross Country Mountain Bike Series, which was staged over five rounds, and both competitions have proved to be a hunting ground for talent ahead of next month's Inter-Services.

Cooper added: "The team manager will use the results as a starting point for selection. The series has been a springboard for those looking to progress in the sport." ■





**ROSNEFT**

GENERAL SPONSOR



**Mid & East  
Antrim**  
Borough Council

# **THE V PRESIDENT'S CUP**

*INTERNATIONAL SAMBO TOURNAMENT*

**SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2018**

*AT SEVEN TOWERS LEISURE*

*CENTRE BALLYMENA, NORTHERN IRELAND*



### SPORT SAMBO TOURNAMENT

8 NATIONS TO COMPETE IN THE V PRESIDENT'S CUP TOURNAMENT, INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, USA, CANADA, RUSSIA AND OTHERS.

COME AND SEE FAMOUS WORLD CHAMPION SAMBO FIGHTERS DEMONSTRATE SAMBO, THE ORIGINAL MIXED MARTIAL ART, AND FIGHT FOR THE GLORY OF THEIR NATION.

- SPORT SAMBO TEAM TOURNAMENT
- COMBAT SAMBO INDIVIDUAL KNOCK-OUT
- MULTIPLE WEIGHT CATEGORIES

### COMBAT SAMBO TOURNAMENT

TOP COMBAT SAMBO ATHLETES TO COMPETE FOR THE CHAMPION BELTS IN 4 WEIGHT CATEGORIES



## SPORT SHORTS



### Gowin gets GB call

**SHARPSHOOTER** Sgt Sam Gowin (RA) has been named in the Great Britain pistol and shotgun squad that will compete at next month's World Championships in South Korea.

The soldier has enjoyed a meteoric rise in the sport and fired his way to a bronze medal while representing England at the Commonwealth Games in April.

He will compete in the 25-metre rapid-fire pistol event and is part of a 34-strong squad that will travel to Changwon for the contest, which gets under way on August 31.

Gowin's selection comes on the back of his nomination in the "star of the year" category for the 2018 Sport England Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme Stars Awards.



### Infantry's court date

**SQUASH** players are being invited to the court for the annual Infantry Championships in Aldershot.

The tournament features individual, major and minor unit competitions and will be held at the Garrison Sports Centre from October 2 to 4.

For more details on the event email [michael.hay208@mod.gov.uk](mailto:michael.hay208@mod.gov.uk) or [5rifles-mt-mtwo@mod.uk](mailto:5rifles-mt-mtwo@mod.uk)



# CREWS SET FOR COWES QUEST



**"THERE WAS SOME REALLY GOOD SAILING"**

**A** RMY sailors will take to the water for one of the biggest tests in their sporting calendar this month – Cowes Week.

The competition features up to 40 daily events for around 1,000 boats and the soldiers' participation follows recent entries in the Round Ireland and Round the Island Races.

Preparations for this hectic schedule began at the Army Sailing Association Offshore Regatta, when a number of corps crews were tested during a week-long exercise on The Solent.

The Royal Engineers claimed the overall title but Phil Brown, the Service's chief instructor, said the contest offered valuable experience for all involved.

"There was some really good

sailing," the former captain, who served in the Army Air Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, told *SoldierSport* afterwards.

"We started with short passage races and then went for a longer, late-night sail.

"We also had some windward/leeward legs so there was really good variety.

"It is all about giving people different opportunities.

"If we just did short-course competitions the skippers could control everything but in a longer race they have to get their head down at some point, which provides a test for the mate and other crew members."

For more information on the opportunities available visit

[www.sailarmy.co.uk](http://www.sailarmy.co.uk)

● ARMY boxer Gnr Karriss Artingstall (RA) has been officially named in Team GB's podium potential squad.

The call caps a fantastic season for the 57kg fighter, who won an English elite title in April and went on to compete at the European Championships earlier this summer.

She joins teammate Spr Ebonie Jones (RE), who has been promoted to the full podium squad, in the national set-up.



Picture: Georgie Kerr



# MONTH IN SPORT

## August's key fixtures...



**WHAT:** UK Armed Forces women v Wales  
**WHEN:** August 4  
**WHERE:** Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The focus of the

women's cricket season switches to the UK Armed Forces. This is the third of five matches to be played by the side during a busy month of action



**WHAT:** Army v Leuchars Station  
**WHEN:** August 9  
**WHERE:** St Andrews Golf Club  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The men's team take to one of the country's most prestigious courses as preparations for this season's Inter-Services competition continue. The women's side test themselves in a match with Tynley Park Golf Club on the same day



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Cricket  
**WHEN:** August 28 to 31  
**WHERE:** Vine Lane, Uxbridge  
**NEED TO KNOW:** Having suffered defeat in this season's

Twenty20 competition at Lord's the Reds will be looking to retain their 50-over trophy as they focus on success in the longer form of the game

## LEAGUE IN NUMBERS

**ARMY PLAYERS IN THE UK ARMED FORCES SQUAD THAT FACED THE STUDENTS**

**7**

**POINTS SCORED BY THE ROYAL ENGINEERS IN THEIR LAWSON CUP SEMI-FINAL WIN OVER THE ROYAL SIGNALS**

**54**

**TRAFALGAR CUP WINS, IN 16 MATCHES, FOR THE ROYAL MARINES**

**10**

**DATE, IN SEPTEMBER, OF THE ARMY'S OPENING INTER-SERVICES CLASH WITH THE NAVY**

**7**



Picture: SBS Photography

## STUDENTS ACE FORCES TEST

**T**HE UK Armed Forces rugby league side completed their 2018 campaign with a disappointing defeat to England Universities in the President's Cup.

After three early tries from the opposition the Servicemen found themselves trailing 18-0 but they restored parity early in the second half.

Army star Pte Micky Hoyle (RLC) reduced the arrears when he finished a well-worked team try, with Cfn Jamie Laing (REME) kicking the extras.

Two further scores brought UKAF back into contention but a series of mistakes and mounting pressure from the students saw the game slip from their grasp as they suffered a 40-22 defeat.

Elsewhere in the sport, the Army women's team bowed out of the Challenge Cup at the hands of a well-drilled Leeds Rhinos outfit.

The soldiers offered a stern test for their table-topping rivals but eventually slipped to

a 46-10 defeat in a contest the opposition coach described as "the hardest game of the year".

There was also disappointment for the Army academy team as they suffered a 40-12 loss at the hands of the the Royal Marines.

The victors celebrated further success against the Service when they defeated The Parachute Regiment in the teams' annual Trafalgar Cup fixture in Taunton.

There were just two points between the sides at the interval as the Paras trailed 20-18 but a second-half try blitz saw their rivals retain the trophy in style as the match ended 54-18.

The final of the Lawson Cup, featuring last year's beaten finalists the Royal Engineers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was being staged as this issue went to press. Once complete thoughts will turn to this season's Inter-Services campaign, which gets under way in September. ■





## GAME BRIEF

**DATE:** July 11, 2018  
**COMPETITION:** REME v RE  
 Power Cup final  
**VENUE:** Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot  
**REME 163-9:** Fletcher 49, Boynton 34, Beal 2-26, Dearden 2-29, Johnson 2-34  
**RE 163 ALL OUT:** Parton 31, Reed 26, Lester 3-24, Nash 2-10, Fletcher 2-24

**VICTORY** for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the Power Cup made up for a disappointing defeat in this season's Inter-Corps Twenty20 final – when they were cruelly beaten on the last delivery of the day.

A total of 163-9 from 50 overs looked to be below par but skipper LCpl Tom Lester (pictured below) had full faith in his side's bowling attack.

"On that track it was definitely defendable," he told *SoldierSport*. "Batting was difficult for both teams and we took to the field with a good score on the board.

"I've never played in a game as close as that and the fact we lost less wickets got us over the line.

"This is my first year as captain. We lost on the last ball in the Twenty20 final so to come here and win is a great feeling."



# SAPPERS MADE TO SUFFER

**POWER CUP FINAL**

**REME**

---

**163-9**

**RE**

---

**163**

**T**HERE was high drama in cricket's Power Cup final as the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

Chasing 164 to win, the Royal Engineers looked destined to lift the silverware as they matched their rivals' total with a wicket in hand.

But with just one run needed to seal the title the REME struck a decisive blow as SSgt Stan Pugh dismissed last man Spr Ned McClelland to complete a stunning turnaround.

Such tension seemed a remote possibility as the champions-elect made hard work of batting first.

The Sappers struck an early blow as opener Cpl Tommy Jones fell from the second ball of the day and they were two down when Cpl Craig Watts was caught off the bowling of Spr Jack Richards.

Army duo Cfn Liam Fletcher and Cpl Jay Boynton (pictured) anchored the innings with a partnership of 81 but the slow nature of the scoring meant an imposing total was unlikely.

Spinner Spr Leo Beal halted the duo's progress as he dismissed Boynton for 34 and the challengers appeared to take control when Sgt Ross Dearden bowled Fletcher for 49.

Skipper LCpl Tom Lester added 20 to the score but a lack of meaningful contributions down the order saw the REME finish on 163-9.

In reply, the Engineers made steady progress with the bat and an opening stand of 43 set a solid platform.

However, the loss of Spr Connor Reed represented a change in fortunes and the pressure mounted.

Maj Mike Parton top scored with 31 but runs were at a premium elsewhere as the REME bowlers found their form.

Two wickets in two balls from Sgt Gary Nash put them on the brink of glory, although McClelland had other ideas.

The right-hander found the boundary to bring the scores level but when he was caught off the next delivery the REME celebrated a remarkable win courtesy of the fact they lost fewer wickets on the day. ■



# Alan Bick Ltd

DIAMOND JEWELLERY MANUFACTURERS

GOODS SHIPPED  
WORLDWIDE

VAT Refund  
available to  
personnel  
stationed  
abroad



**Now you can buy diamonds and jewellery at  
wholesale prices direct from the manufacturers**

We supply retail shops with a vast range of beautiful diamond  
engagement, wedding rings and diamond jewellery

We have been supplying members of the Met Police Force for  
the past 26 years and would like to extend our offer of  
trade prices for the Armed Forces and Civilian Staff

**Please contact us for a private appointment**

18ct gold diamond solitaire  
0.50ct (1/2) size  
Retail price £3,000  
**Wholesale price £1,250**

Platinum diamond solitaire  
0.75ct (3/4) size  
Retail price £5,750  
**Wholesale price £2,450**

[www.alanbick.co.uk](http://www.alanbick.co.uk) ~ 0207 242 5831 ~ [sales@alanbick.co.uk](mailto:sales@alanbick.co.uk)

Suite 207, 100 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8NX





The massive highs and massive lows. One minute you can be running through the mud with your mates left and right of you, thinking "this is awesome", the next you're sitting in a ditch on stag at four in the morning wondering why you're there.

**Maj Hannah Hawkins, RE**



I'd been in the TA in the 1980s but in terms of my training as a chaplain I remember it because I was 40 and doing fitness tests I thought only 18-year-olds should do.

**Fr Stephen Sharkey, RACHd**



**You always remember your instructors. My colour sergeant at officer training was a big scary figure but he was firm, fair and professional. You knew you could trust him implicitly. That's something I tell my staff now – think how you would want to be remembered.**

**Lt Col Justin Barry, Scots**



I didn't enjoy it. You always remember the way you were treated by staff and for me it was an example of how not to be a leader. I try to be more personable and build a rapport with recruits.

**Capt Luke Edwards, RLC**



Long, cold, wet nights on Catterick Training Area and lots of snow. Some memories are good, some are bad. But that's the same throughout your career.

**LSgt Dale Wilshire, Cldm Gds**



Forming new friendships – you're thrown in together with a bunch of people you've never met before and you have to gel with them and learn how to work together.

**Sgt Joe Reardon, RLC**

## Memory lane

What do initial training staff recall from their own days as raw recruits?

You learn to derive entertainment from the most demanding of situations and develop that black humour soldiers have.

**Brig Alex Potts**







CRYE PRECISION



**TAILORED FOR COMBAT**  
INCREASED MOBILITY AND COMFORT



**FRONT THIGH POCKETS**  
EASY VEHICULAR ACCESS



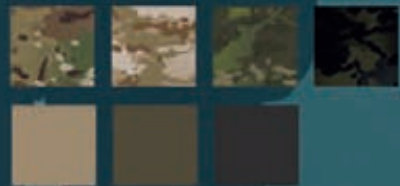
**AIRFLEX™ COMBAT KNEE PADS**  
COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT  
LIGHTWEIGHT, COMFORTABLE, PROTECTIVE



**UNIQUE FEATURES**  
PADDED WAISTBAND, HIGH MOBILITY  
STRETCH PANELS AT THE KNEE & BACK



**MULTICAM® COLOURS**



## COMBAT TROUSERS

CRYE PRECISION Combat Trousers are designed as a no-compromise assault uniform. These trousers are aggressively cut for maximum mobility. The combat-proven trousers are sized in 2" waist increments and multiple lengths for a perfect fit. They feature a unique padded waistband and hi-mobility stretch panels at the knee and lower back. 10 pockets.

Designed for use with their patented removable AirFlex™ Combat Knee Pads. Base fabric is Mil-Spec 50/50 NYCO ripstop with durable 4-way stretch-woven accents. Zip fly with Velcro® closure. Unique low-profile adjustable waist feature

LPA provide Police and MoD specialist users, including military aircrews, with the world's finest combat equipment, providing the best to the best. LPA supply equipment to UK MoD, Police and other government departments via a variety of contracts. Please email for more information: [info@levelpeaks.com](mailto:info@levelpeaks.com)

**LEVEL  
PEAKS**  
ASSOCIATES



# CALLING ALL Serving Military Personnel Military Veterans Reserve Forces MOD Employees



## New Audi A4 150ps TSi Sport Saloon

UK List Price £29,565

**Our UK Military Price  
£22,995 OTR**

**You Save £6,570**

*Call for tax free pricing*

With genuinely exclusive military discounts and special finance options (some with direct salary deductions), we lead the way in military car sales across the UK & Europe.

With a National programme and local dealer participation we are your one-stop-shop to a discounted new car.

**No Hidden Fees**

**No Hard Sell**

**Just a genuine discount  
and a better service**



With 18 manufacturers, we have the right car or motorbike for your needs and budget, and with class leading finance we'll put you in your ideal vehicle for less than you probably thought. With rates from just 4.9% APR on HP or PCP, we lead the way in the military new car sales market. Apply today for a free, no obligation, finance quotation.



**GRIFFIN**  
Military & Diplomatic  
Europe's Largest Military  
& Diplomatic New Car Dealer

[WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM](http://WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM)

UK Head Office: 01273 574000

German Freephone: 08001 800 560





# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



**THE MANY FACES OF**

# ENGINEERING

**Troops lift lid on Army's most varied trade**

ARCHIBALD, DAWSON, RAYMOND, WRIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2018



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

## The Army's National Charity

**We provide a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families.**

Each year, we support a wide range of front line charities and specialist organisations, such as SSAFA, Combat Stress, Royal Star & Garter and the NSPCC, which deliver help on our behalf. We also make direct grants to thousands of individuals, ranging in age from two to 106 years old. Through our network of support, our work touches the lives of around 70,000 people worldwide, every year.

It is because of the generosity of people like you that we are able to do this vital work - today and in the future.

Donate online or get involved in fundraising at [www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)



ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (039189)  
Registered Office: Mountbarrow House, 12 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB  
Tel: 020 7901 8900, Email: [fundraising@soldierscharity.org](mailto:fundraising@soldierscharity.org)



Left to right: Siobhan Weller, Les Fryatt, Kenneth Kwogyenga - Charity beneficiaries



# JOIN THE DISCUSSION

# ARMY LGBT+ FORUM

## THE ARMY'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY NETWORK

A forum for discussion, support and advice to serving personnel and Commanders, around the world, on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity inclusion.

Supporting inclusive leadership and encouraging 'Respect for Others' to enhance Operational Effectiveness.

ENGAGE INSPIRE ADVANCE

🔍 Search 'ARMY LGBT' on **Defence Connect** and **Twitter**

✉️ [Army-LGBT-Network-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Army-LGBT-Network-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

🌐 [armylgbt.org.uk](http://armylgbt.org.uk)

Photography by Dte Leon Nance, PWRR Tigerc Free Fall Team



**ARMY**  
BE THE BEST



## CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 28 **Weapons of choice**  
Troops test new infantry toolkit
- 33 **Soldiers at sea**  
Ocean wave adventure on offer
- 36 **Earning commission**  
On the road to officer selection
- 40 **Time to shine**  
Engineering excellence celebrated
- 45 **Fighting talk**  
Sapper tales now and then

COVER  
STORY

## REGULARS

- 7 **The Informer**  
Top stories from across the Service
- 22 **Need to Know**  
Essential tips for today's personnel
- 49 **Talkback**  
Ruminations from the ranks
- 53 **Bullet Points**  
Troops' intelligence assets
- 61 **Reviews**  
Movies, music, books and games to fill your downtime
- 82 **Final Word**  
Troops reflect on Army engineering

## SOLDIERSPORT

- 70 **Triathlon**  
Reds defend team titles
- 72 **Motorsport**  
Racers offered grid place
- 76 **Cricket**  
Soldiers seal Services double
- 78 **Cycling**  
Gunners celebrate corps crown
- 79 **Elite sport**  
Scholars strive for athletic excellence
- 80 **Rugby league**  
REME edge cup final thriller

“Troops are being given a toolkit to use as they wish”

Weapons of choice – pages 28-31





“Everyone has come together for the good of the team”

Tries galore in cup final – page 80

# Cheers engineers



YOUNG people in the UK are shunning technical careers – that’s why the government is giving the sector a boost by

declaring 2018 the Year of Engineering.

But as we find out this month, there is no shortage of innovation across the Army’s specialist cap badges.

From scavenging vital spare parts in the wake of a hurricane to blazing a trail in the world of cyber (pages 40-43), there are some remarkably talented Servicemen and women out there.

“You can’t just wait for opportunities to come to you,” is one soldier’s advice for finding your niche.

If you think that commissioning as an officer is the right route for you, turn to page 36 to find out how to maximise your chances of passing the selection board – red cords and mustard pullovers optional.

Whatever your ambitions, a life in uniform offers the kind of adventurous training experiences the average civvy can only dream of (pages 24 and 33).

A sapper I know likens his career to a brick wall – the daily grind might knock a few bricks out here and there, but the chance to deploy on a challenging exped always puts them back.

Becky Clark • Assistant Editor

## Where to find *Soldier*

### > Printed copies

THESE 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 latest magazine at [www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine](http://www.facebook.com/soldiermagazine) and on Twitter (@soldiermagazine).

### > Online

A DIGITAL version of the current edition is available on the Army website at [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) Just click on the “read it now” tab.

### > 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](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk) (£23 for 12 issues in the UK).



# THE LEGENDARY PILGRIM GTX® COMBAT FG M




THE NEW COMBAT BOOT  
CHOSEN BY THE UK MILITARY  
ACROSS THEIR SERVICES



GRIP 

BREATHABILITY

STABILITY

 WATERPROOFNESS  
BREATHABILITY  
QUICK DRY FUNCTIONALITY

AKU PILGRIM GTX® is the new UK COMBAT BOOT. A comfy and versatile boot offering support and stability for demanding use in the field. The GORE-TEX® Extended Comfort membrane provides excellent breathability, waterproofness and quick dry functionality. An iconic boot from AKU, a brand dedicated to the legendary tradition of Italian workmanship.  
[akutactical.com](http://akutactical.com)



Stockist info: ARDBLAIR SPORTS importers ltd - [www.ardblairsports.com](http://www.ardblairsports.com) - 01250 873863





Picture: Graeme Main

## Pay rise joy tempered by price hikes

**T**ROOPS will notice the difference in their wage packets from the end of the month following the largest salary rise for the Armed Forces in nearly a decade.

Army Pay Colonel Philip Bassingham-Searle predicted the 2.9 per cent award would be welcomed – providing a healthy boost to earnings despite escalating living costs.

He said soldiers will see a hike in their next wage slips, adding: “The figure compares favourably with wider UK wage growth and against the current rate of inflation.”

The pay award is being made through a combination of a two per cent rise, backdated to April 1, 2018, which personnel will receive at the end of this month.

A 0.9 per cent non-pensionable lump sum will follow – which should be worth more than £170 to most troops above the rank of corporal. But further details on the timing of the payment had not been released as this issue went to press.

It has also been confirmed that the X-factor rates and structure will remain unchanged. There is a rise of just under three per cent to compensatory allowances – including Reserve bounties – along with most recruitment and retention payments.

Although costs for single living accommodation and Service family accommodation are rising by up to 0.6 per cent, Col Bassingham-Searle said most soldiers will pay less than £20 a year extra.

But some were concerned that these rises, along with an 18p

increase in the daily food charge to £4.97 as well as a “proportionate” hike in the pay-as-you-dine core meal price, could have an impact on the pay award.

The troops, who wanted to remain anonymous, highlighted that the changes could particularly impact single soldiers living on base.

A corporal in the Royal Signals said: “Don’t get me wrong – people are happy that they are getting more money. But will we notice the difference with cost of living rises?”

A Royal Logistic Corps colleague added: “It is always good to have something extra. But I feel increases in costs could potentially hit the pay rise benefits.”

“Will we notice the difference?”

### Soldier asked Col Bassingham-Searle about the pay award's finer points...

#### How significant is the hike?

It is the largest pay rise for Armed Forces personnel since 2009.

#### Will it help recruitment and retention issues?

Financial remuneration is only part of the total offer. Non-contributory pensions, subsidised accommodation and medical provision are important. Professional and personal development, challenge and job satisfaction are arguably why most join and stay in the Army.

#### Will soldiers notice a difference in monthly pay?

All of us will enjoy an increase in

September with the decision to backdate the pay award. For most personnel the two per cent rise will equate to more than £200 after income tax and National Insurance. The amount that will be routinely noticed will depend on rank, increment level and circumstances.

#### Will there be another pay rise next year?

The expectation is that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body will not be constrained by a government-imposed cap. However, the affordability challenge will almost certainly mean the financial impact of any proposed increase would have to be carefully weighed up.

## SOLDIER

**Editor** Sarah Goldthorpe  
01252 787096 (mil 94222 7096)  
sgoldthorpe@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Sports Editor** Richard Long  
01252 787098 (94222 7098)  
rlong@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Becky Clark  
01252 787099 (94222 7099)  
rclark@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Assistant Editor** Cliff Caswell  
01252 787097 (94222 7097)  
ccaswell@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Art Editor** Tudor Morgan  
01252 787100 (94222 7100)  
tmorgan@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Designer** Maddie Marchment  
01252 787101 (94222 7101)  
mmarchment@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Graeme Main  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
gmain@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Photographer** Peter Davies  
01252 787103 (94222 7103)  
pdavies@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Advertising** Heather Shekyls  
01252 787106 (94222 7106)  
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Subscriptions**  
01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk

**Managing Editor** Steven Muncey  
01252 787095 (94222 7095)  
smuncey@soldiermagazine.co.uk



SOLDIER – Magazine of the British Army  
Ordnance Barracks, Government Road,  
Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

All enquiries: 01252 787107 (94222 7107)  
Fax: 01252 787110 (94222 7110)  
Email: news@soldiermagazine.co.uk  
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Wyndeham (Roche) Ltd.  
Print contract managed by CDS.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Army or the Ministry of Defence.



**Facebook:** facebook.com/soldiermagazine  
**Twitter:** @soldiermagazine  
**Instagram:** @soldier\_magazine





# GLOBAL SITREP



## 1. RHODE ISLAND

### TARGET PRACTICE

SOLDIERS from 216 (Parachute) Signal Squadron led a 45-strong team from across 16 Air Assault Brigade to take part in the Leapfest international military parachuting competition in the USA.

Organised by the Rhode Island Army National Guard, the contest aimed to foster camaraderie between airborne units from nine nations.

Participants were judged on accuracy and speed while jumping onto a designated mark under a US Army MC-6 canopy from a CH-47 Chinook flying at 1,500 feet.



Picture: US Army

## 2. CARIBBEAN

### READY FOR THE STORM

TROOPS will be on standby to help during the forthcoming hurricane season, confirmed Armed Forces minister Mark Lancaster.

Speaking during a visit to Barbados, Antigua and Montserrat, he said that RFA *Mounts Bay* would provide the hub for the UK's response to any crisis.

The MP added: "We may not be able to prevent natural disasters but our world-class military have been planning to ensure lives are protected and damage is kept to a minimum."

In September last year British



Picture: L'Phot. Joel Rouse, RN

citizens were killed and homes were destroyed when two of the most powerful hurricanes for decades struck the Caribbean.

● **Mechanic recalls hurricane relief effort – page 42**

## 3. WYOMING

### EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE

BRITISH Reservists teamed up with American colleagues from the 1-175th Maryland National Guard for a two-week exercise.

LCpl Michael Hall and 2nd Lt Michael Mubiru from the Fulham-based Royal Yeomanry headed to Guernsey, Wyoming, where they worked alongside snipers, engineers and mortar sections during the manoeuvres.

The opportunity was part of the Military Reserve Exchange Programme and LCpl Hall urged others to find out more about the tri-Service initiative via their chain of command.

He added: "The training value was immense – the US soldiers were motivated, while NCOs and officers were knowledgeable."



“Do you remember the Berlin Wall?”

Sappers compare career highs – page 45

## 4. CANADA

### PRAIRIE PUTS RESERVISTS TO TEST

A CONTINGENT of Royal Wessex Yeomanry Reservists and attached cap badges recently returned from conducting annual training at British Army Training Unit Suffield.

Exercise Warrior's Craft saw the soldiers integrated with Regular colleagues from the Royal Tank Regiment Battlegroup in a variety of roles, including Challenger 2 crewmen, medics and chefs, while others acted as a dismounted opposing force alongside the Household Cavalry Regiment.

Later this year a number of the formation's Reservists will deploy to Oman to take part in Exercise Saif Sareea.





## INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ATLAS?

Brief the team now:



Email: [news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/soldiermagazine](https://facebook.com/soldiermagazine)  
 Twitter: [@soldiermagazine](https://twitter.com/soldiermagazine)  
 Instagram: [@soldier\\_magazine](https://instagram.com/soldier_magazine)

### 8. FRANCE HONOURING THE PAST

TROOPS from units whose antecedent regiments fought at the Battle of Amiens took part in a ceremony to mark its centenary.

Some 75 Army personnel were among 2,000 people to attend a service in the town's cathedral, with soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment providing a guard of honour.

The Duke of Cambridge and Prime Minister Theresa May were also in attendance.

The battle in August 1918 heralded the start of the Hundred Days Offensive, which brought the First World War to an end.

### 7. NEW ZEALAND

#### 7. NEW ZEALAND PLUCKY PENSIONER

AN 83-year-old wounded veteran is taking on the world's highest assisted parachute jump in aid of limbless veterans charity Blesma.

David Bland, who lost his left eye while serving with the Wiltshire Regiment, will complete an 18,000ft tandem skydive at New Zealand's Franz Josef Glacier on September 4.

To boost his fundraising efforts visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-bland6](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-bland6)



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh are recuperating after a 2,900-mile bike ride from Estonia, where they were serving on Op Cabrit, back to their base in Tidworth. The group took in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Holland, Belgium and France en route.

### 6. CHANNEL ISLANDS

#### 4. BELGIUM

#### 8. FRANCE

#### 5. GEORGIA

### 6. CHANNEL ISLANDS ENEMIES TO ALLIES

BRITISH and German troops from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps joined forces to restore Second World War graves in Guernsey.

The project to clean and repair headstones at Fort George cemetery marked the first time that German personnel had returned to the island in uniform since the Nazi occupation.

Bundeswehr captain Sebastian Kühne said: "I feel very touched to work on the graveyard and see the names of the British and German soldiers who died here because they are very young, most younger than me."



Picture: Sgt Jon Bevan, RLC

### 5. GEORGIA A NOBLE CAUSE

MEMBERS of 1st Battalion, The Rifles deployed to the Black Sea region for a multinational manoeuvre involving 3,000 personnel.

Exercise Noble Partner included a total of 13 nations and saw the soldiers from A Company conducting live firing and urban drills before joining up with Georgian, Ukrainian and Azerbaijani troops for the final test phase.

The Georgian personnel also benefited from anti-tank training with 1 Rifles' Javelin section during the two-week package.





# EXCLUSIVE NEW MILITARY SAVINGS, WHEREVER YOU ARE. HOME OR AWAY.



## JAGUAR F-PACE SVR, UP TO 15% MARSHALL MILITARY SAVINGS

Marshall Military Sales are now able to provide full military savings to all previous full-time serving Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

### Impressive and exclusive Military benefits include:

- Savings of up to 32% off a new Jaguar
- Dedicated experienced military sales support
- Tax Free / Tax Paid pricing option
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts\*

### Marshall Military Sales UK

Jaguar Land Rover House, Mallory Road, Peterborough, PE1 5AU

Find out more online at:  
[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk)



## JAGUAR F-TYPE SVR WITH 24% TAX FREE SAVINGS IN GERMANY

The team at Grant and Green are dedicated to constantly reviewing our BFG Jaguar prices to make sure that we're the most competitive on the market

### Impressive and exclusive Military benefits include:

- **NEW** Dedicated local market military pricing
- Local agent customer support and showrooms in Germany
- BFG registration paperwork and Vehicle Test customer support staff
- New Former Military Personnel Discounts\*

### Jaguar Land Rover Germany

Jaguar Land Rover Germany GmbH, Campus Kronberg 7, 61476 Kronberg im Taunus

Find out more online at:  
[jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe](http://jaguarlandrovermilitarysales.co.uk/Europe)

THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

\*We can now extend the entire military saving to all retired or previous full-time serving H.M. Armed Forces members.  
\*Finance is subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Savings correct at time of going to press.







Picture: The Tank Museum

## 'Extraordinary bravery'

**P**ROUD relatives of four First World War Victoria Cross recipients converged on the Tank Museum in Dorset to see their ancestors' decorations displayed together for the first time.

Capt Richard Wain, Capt Clement Robertson, Lt Cecil Sewell and Lt Col Richard West received the highest award for bravery posthumously for their actions during the later stages of the conflict.

The Tank Corps medal quartet can now be seen in the *Victoria Cross Exhibition: Men of Extraordinary Bravery*, running at Bovington until the Armistice centenary on November 11.

During the showcase's opening ceremony, the descendants heard more about the lives of the four young officers – and their courage and sacrifice during the fighting of 1917-18.

The soldiers' citations were read out by serving personnel from the Royal Tank Regiment.

Capt Robertson, 26, received his VC after leading armour

into battle at Passchendale on foot to avoid the vehicles being bogged down. He lost his life in the action on October 4, 1917.

Capt Wain was fatally wounded as he pressed home an attack in the Battle of Cambrai later on November 20. Despite serious injuries the 20-year-old picked up a Lewis gun and engaged the enemy.

Lt Sewell – who was 23 – helped a crew escape from a burning tank disabled in a shell crater before giving his life attempting to save a wounded comrade on August 29, 1918.

Among other courageous acts, Lt Col West was recognised for inspiring his men to hold the line in the wake of an enemy attack on September 2. The 23-year-old lost his life but the assault was defeated.

Tank Museum curator David Willey said the medals reflected both courage and self-sacrifice.

"We are proud to have all four VCs here," he added. "It means a little more having them at Bovington as it is a working Army base."

### RELATIVES REFLECT

**"I'm deeply proud to wear his replica medals"**

**Ian Robertson:** Great nephew of Capt Clement Robertson

**"He could have saved himself but picked up a rifle to continue shooting at the enemy"**

**Peter Harbinson:** Great nephew of Capt Richard Wain

**"He was only 23 when he died – these men had no thought for themselves"**

**Wendy Shaw:** Great niece of Lt Cecil Sewell

**"It is very emotional and I'm very proud. He was a professional soldier"**

**Kitty Morris:** Great granddaughter of Lt Col Richard West

“  
That could  
have been me  
200 years  
ago  
”



Picture: Waterloo Uncovered

### TIME TEAM RETURNS

MILITARY personnel have returned to Belgium as part of the Waterloo Uncovered excavation project.

Now in its third year, the initiative sees serving and former soldiers working with archaeologists and academics around Hougomont farm, a key position defended by British troops during the famous battle in 1815.

Over two weeks the 80-strong team unearthed a range of artefacts and the traces of original structures.

Reflecting on the process Gdsm Sylvain Robert-Malbete (Cldm Gds, pictured) said: "That could have been me 200 years ago – in a way, the past that we are digging up here is part of a story that I and my mates still live every day at work."

### LEAGUE LEADERS



**REME triumph in Lawson Cup thriller – page 80**

### MEDAL MAKER ANNOUNCED

A COMPANY in the West Midlands has been named as the supplier for medals to the MoD.

The department confirmed that Worcestershire Medal Service will be making current and future decorations, excluding the Victoria Cross, for at least the next two years.

The firm's pedigree includes producing the Elizabeth Cross – presented to the next of kin of personnel killed on operations.



### MAPPING REMEMBRANCE

VISITORS to the National Memorial Arboretum are being invited to contribute to a giant outdoor art installation to mark the centenary of Armistice Day.

The *Flags for the Fallen* project will create a map of the UK, Ireland and Commonwealth countries out of flags decorated by members of the public.



## MEDICS MARK MILESTONE

■ A GROUP of 11 soldiers from 16 Medical Regiment cycled 100km across Essex to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

As well as raising awareness of the work of the Royal British Legion, the cyclists stopped along the way to lay wreaths at war memorials around the county.

Organiser LCpl Laud Afam-Adjei (RAMC) said: "It was a very hot day, but no one complained. What's a little bit of sweat compared to what soldiers suffered in the trenches?"



## COMRADES REMEMBERED

■ THE courage and sacrifice of troops from the Small Arms School Corps are being remembered with a new monument at the National Memorial Arboretum.

A service to mark the unveiling was due to be held as this issue went to press.

The SASC has its roots in the School of Musketry – which was formed in 1853 – and is responsible for maintaining troops' proficiency in small arms, support weapons and range management.

Corps Sergeant Major WO1 Alan Blair said: "This will be a place where we will be able to remember our comrades, and their service over the years."

## FURTHER TRIBUTES NEEDED

■ THE Royal British Legion has reissued a call for the public to leave online tributes to the 984,000 soldiers who died serving with the Army in the First World War.

So far 358,000 messages have been submitted to the charity's Every One Remembered website, leaving around 626,000 with no acknowledgement of their sacrifice.

Catherine Davies, the organisation's Head of Remembrance said: "We would love to see each and every one of these men and women individually commemorated."

Visit [www.everyoneremembered.org](http://www.everyoneremembered.org) to leave your tribute.



## SERVICE LAUNCHES AMBASSADOR SEARCH



Picture: Steve Dock

■ THE Army is looking to increase its pool of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) ambassadors. Open to all ranks, the role sees troops working with secondary school children to develop their knowledge through hands-on activities, as well as broadening their understanding of the opportunities a military career could offer them. Regular and Reserve personnel are eligible to apply and training can be done via a one-hour online module or in-house instruction delivered at units. For further information email [ArmyManning-CriticalSkills-SO2@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArmyManning-CriticalSkills-SO2@mod.gov.uk) or dial military 94393 6721.

“  
We want  
to develop  
critical soft  
skills  
”



Picture: Cpl Paul Shaw, RLC

## Signaller sign-up required

THE Royal Signals is calling on its female personnel to get involved in the second annual Inspiring Women in Technology event.

Due to take place at Shrivenham's Defence Academy on November 13, the forum aims to provide Servicewomen with opportunities to network and share ideas.

Organiser Maj Vanessa Freestone (R Signals), one of the Army's STEM leads, hopes to build on last year's event, which attracted more than a quarter of the corps' female soldiers and was

aimed at inspiring them to achieve their full potential within various technical fields.

Explaining the format of the day the officer said: "We will be putting on practical workshops to encourage technical curiosity and develop critical soft skills, as well as centralised presentations and briefings to inspire and inform."

To register your interest and for more information on the event contact Maj Freestone via email on [vanessa.freestone177@mod.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.freestone177@mod.gov.uk)





## Tactical advantage

■ JUNIOR commanders can get up to speed with the latest tactics for different combat situations with an updated publication penned by experienced infantrymen.

The new incarnation of the Brecon Battlebook, which has just been released, provides standard operating procedures for combat in an array of environments – including woods and urban settings.

Troops can download it onto a smartphone through the Army Knowledge Exchange on Defence Gateway – a booklet version is also available.



Weapons of choice – pages 28-31

## FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



### Dinner delivers

NEARLY 200 guests set their sights on raising a healthy sum for a good cause as they turned out for a meal at the Royal Artillery Officers' Mess in Larkhill.

A combination of military VIPs and business leaders joined forces for the Sodexo Defence Charitable Dinner – to help serving personnel, veterans and families in need.

The event included a table raffle and auction led by ex-rugby player Matt Dawson.

Money raised:  
**£57k**  
For: SSAFA



“  
The soldiers  
have the same  
hunger as  
their Regular  
counterparts  
”

## Typhoon test ticked off

RESERVISTS have been showing their mettle on a tough exercise in Norfolk.

The personnel from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment – known as the Steelbacks – took to the Stanford Training Area for an intensive rehearsal of core warfighting tactics.

In the weekend manoeuvres package, troops took on an enemy force made up of their peers in serials, which included a forest attack and company assault.

Maj Rob Pitt (Rifles), attached to the battalion as officer commanding Number 1 Company, was pleased with

the troops' performance.

The test – dubbed Exercise Steelback Typhoon – would be a useful starting point to a further package in Italy in the coming month, he said.

Maj Pitt added: “The weekend showed the soldiers have the same hunger as their Regular counterparts – they were operating in some difficult conditions.

“Their contribution is all the more impressive given the fact they do not do soldiering on a 24/7 basis – they have a limited time in which to prepare themselves.”



### Kilimanjaro quest

A KENYA-based sapper refused to put his feet up during his downtime – opting instead to embark on an ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro.

LCpl Jakob Hartley-Bate (RE) decided to take up the challenge rather than travel back to the UK for leave.

“As I was so close to the mountain, I thought this was a good opportunity and it also meant that I could raise some money for charity on the way,” he said.

Money raised:  
**£1,278**  
For: Help for Heroes



# RIFT

**MyRIFT**  
Tax refunds as mobile as you.

£56 million won  
back for the  
Armed Forces...

...ask **RIFT** for  
your share.

ABP

THE SOLDIERS

CHARITY

The Army's National Charity

ServiceMark



TRUSTPILOT



9 out of 10: May 2018

[RIFTrefunds.co.uk/soldier](http://RIFTrefunds.co.uk/soldier)

Call us on **01233 623004**



# RIFT and the Armed Forces Covenant



RIFT's Head Armed Forces Liaison Officer Shaun Micallef-Green discusses what that the Armed Forces Covenant's Silver status means for the company.

## What does RIFT's AFC commitment mean to you personally?

As an Armed Forces Veteran, I've been impressed by how hard RIFT work to tailor their service to meet the specific needs of the military. Across the company, staff work hard to ensure they understand the military community, and go above and beyond to provide a quality and flexible service. It's also great to work in a company where they recognise the value employees with a military background offer.

## Is RIFT different from other companies you have worked in?

RIFT are the first company I have worked at since leaving the Forces where they readily embrace the spirit of the Corporate Covenant, and actively seek to create opportunities to demonstrate their support. Their commitment is evident throughout the company, ranging from creating dedicated job roles for military Veterans, working closely with the Soldiers' Charity (ABF) as a corporate sponsor and encouraging staff fund raising, and developing dedicated teams to support military clients.

The key difference between RIFT and some of the other companies I have worked for since leaving the Army is their approach towards cultivating their staff's interest in the military, regularly promoting awareness and encouraging participation in unit events.

## Why did RIFT pledge support to the Armed Forces Covenant?

RIFT are very well aligned with the military in terms of their values and working ethos. Making the pledge was a logical step welcomed by the board as part of confirming their unfailing commitment to the community and towards fair treatment and respect for current and potential work colleagues and clients.

## What changes did the company make internally to achieve Silver status?

Armed Forces Reservists now get additional paid holiday for training or mobilisation. We've added extra leave for military spouses before and after their partners are deployed and we offer flexible working hours Reservists and Cadet Adult Volunteers. Our team of Veterans is strengthening our military relationships, and we've established a new Service leaver role providing financial briefings to unit personnel.

## Where does the company go from here?

Our dedicated team of MOD Tax Specialists have already claimed over £56 million for our Armed Forces customers and are proud to support ABF the Soldiers' Charity. Our market research shows there are still many military personnel who do not make claims to which they are entitled, so there is still a lot of support to provide. RIFT hopes to grow our team of military Reservists and Veterans in the future, but extend it to more roles across the whole company, working with CTP where possible to recruit to the right roles.

We aim to set the bar even higher as part of our commitment to UK's Armed Forces, and have set our sights firmly on the ERS Gold Award

## Get Started Now

Claiming with RIFT means:

- ✓ **No charge to find out what you're owed.**
- ✓ **No up-front charges.**
- ✓ **No refund, no fee.**

[RIFTrefunds.co.uk/soldier](http://RIFTrefunds.co.uk/soldier)  
Call us on **01233 623004**





# 5 TOP TIPS ...ON FAST-ROPING

by CSgt Arron Harris,  
2 Para air cell senior NCO

1. Make sure every piece of kit is secured correctly so it doesn't interfere with hands.
2. There should be at least five feet of rope on the ground before you exit.
3. Step off the airframe positively before turning 180 degrees to avoid catching.
4. When descending, look down to check you are landing in a suitable area.
5. Maintain a safe and controlled rate of descent throughout, using only the taught techniques.

## NOMINATE A LEGEND

■ ENTRIES are open for the 2019 Soldiering On Awards, which recognise outstanding contributions to the military community.

This year's 12 categories include sporting excellence, lifetime achievement and family values.

Visit [www.soldieringon.org](http://www.soldieringon.org) before September 30 to put someone forward for the event in April.



Pictures: Cpl Ben Beale, RLC

# Paras perfect Wildcat descents

**F**ORWARD reconnaissance personnel have been learning to fast-rope from the latest addition to the Army's helicopter fleet.

Around 35 troops from 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment honed their skills during a specialist training package at RAF Brize Norton.

"When rural or urban terrain is complex and dense you can't always land a helicopter," said Capt Jack Maughan, officer commanding 3 Para's Patrols Platoon.

"So inserting a small reconnaissance group through fast-rope or abseil allows commanders to get more situational understanding."

Participant LCpl James Lindsay said he had enjoyed testing himself.

"You start off quite slow and steady, and then it's a big push out of the door and you're straight into it," he added.

"It's good training with plenty of



adrenalin – you always get a few shaky ones but everybody got out of the door and did their job."

Fast-roping is a method deployed by various units including the Royal Marines, who can use the technique to access ships at sea.

It was first used in combat during the Falklands War, and sees troops descend with their feet on the rope, before moving them shoulder-width apart five feet above terra firma.

“It’s a big push out of the door”

**IN NUMBERS**

**40m** value of housing support, in pounds, provided by...

**SEVENTY EIGHT** Service charities to at least **11,600** beneficiaries every year, according to recent research by the Directory of Social Change





# More call-outs on the cards

**M**ORE mobilisation tests are being planned for Regular Reserves and details will be announced soon, a senior officer has told *Soldier*.

Deputy Commander Field Army and joint head of the Reserve, Maj Gen Bill O'Leary, was unable to give precise time frames but suggested events would be held within the next 18 months.

The Regular Reserve is a body of former full-time troops who can be summoned for service at times of national need.

While the Army Reserve remains first in line to support operations, Maj Gen O'Leary (pictured right) explained it was important to make sure procedures for this cohort work.

He added: "They will be given basic checks and an examination of JPA records before being paid for attendance and



Pictures: Graeme Main

returning home.

"This will be a pilot: although we are still mobilising small numbers of ex-Regulars, we have not had a full mobilisation of this particular capability for some time."

The tests follow a similar activation exercise in October last year (pictured above), where 1,500 former

Service personnel were asked to turn up to one of five locations across England, Wales and Scotland.



“ They will be given basic checks ”

SPINE LINE COMPETITION

**WIN**  
a year of FREE coach travel!



national express



OUR spine line clues for August would have been familiar to watersports fans.

(Maj Ade) Clayton, (Capt Becky) Moll, (LCpl Laura) Soall and (Capt Kieran) Taheny were all winners in this year's Army Wakeboard and Waterski Championships.

This month *Soldier* has teamed up with National Express ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) to offer a year of free travel on the coach company's UK network.

With more than 900 destinations – including all major towns, cities and airports – and a 60 per cent discount available to Service personnel via the Defence Discount Service, National Express is a great value option for travelling troops.

Its state-of-the-art vehicles include leather seats, USB sockets, air conditioning and use of free entertainment app *Vuer*.

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

Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 28. Good luck!



ROCKED TO THE CORE...

Picture: Jon Nazca

■ THIS haunting silhouette of a First World War Tommy stopped Gibraltar residents in their tracks when it was projected onto the territory's Rock.

Part of the fundraising campaign *There But Not There*, the 1,000ft image is one of many figures to have sprung up across the globe to commemorate the Great War centenary.

"Gibraltarians are very aware of the sacrifices made by our forebears," said Fabian Picardo, chief minister of Gibraltar. "We live our lives surrounded by stark reminders of Britain's military history and we honour those who sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom."

To hold your own installation visit [www.therebutnotthere.org.uk](http://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk)





A personal view from Sara Baade, Chief Executive of the Army Families Federation...

## PAY REVIEW HITS MARK

I AM pleased to see the latest recommendations of the Armed Forces pay review body (AFPRB), which signal a small but welcome salary rise for troops (page 7).

Its report raises concerns over soldiers' perception of "the offer", and this chimes with findings from our 2017 survey.

We found that many families feel they are being asked to do more for less, with compensations for their mobile lifestyle, such as good pension and guaranteed housing, gradually being removed.

Workload concerns also emerge as a common finding from the two organisations, with long periods of high readiness becoming increasingly unmanageable for some.

I wrote in detail about this in my last column, and it's encouraging that so much of what we said about tempo, flexibility and the ability to plan family leave is also reflected in the AFPRB report.

One of the AFF's priorities is to ensure families' views are heard, so I am glad to see a recommendation that the MoD listens and responds to feedback from families about changes that affect them.

I also welcome a project recently launched by the Army to improve its internal communications, and the AFF will continue to press the need for families to have policy, rules and guidelines presented accessibly.



[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)



Crucial contribution: Medical Reservists perfect their drills in Poland

# Shouldering the burden

Picture: Graeme Main

## Report praises Reservists' professionalism

RESERVISTS are continuing to punch above their weight as they become an increasingly important resource for the Army, a series of studies has found.

Research funded by the MoD and led by the University of Edinburgh revealed the troops were highly committed and willing to make sacrifices for the Service.

But academics also maintained that changes would be needed in future to ensure civvy street pressures on part-time personnel were recognised and addressed.

In the findings of the Future Reserves Research Programme – carried out by four universities and backed by the Economic Social Research Council – they suggest the Armed Forces Covenant should be revisited to better reflect the demands on these troops.

They also recommend that commanders should do more to help soldiers with busy lives, better communicating Army commitments to employers and family.

Elsewhere, the academics argue

that Reservists should have greater predictability in their lives – with training schedules less tailored to Regular timeframes. And they suggest entry requirements and age limits could be relaxed for some roles.

Zoe Morrison of the University of Greenwich – a researcher on one of the projects – believes changes will be needed as greater reliance is placed on Reservists.

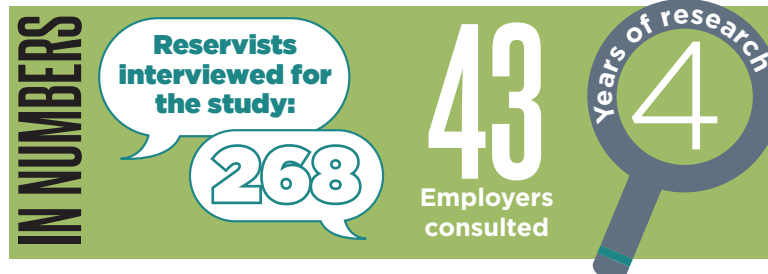
Morrison told *Soldier*: "They are making a major contribution right across defence, and that requires us to have the right support systems."

"Their level of professionalism is outstanding – our research clearly evidences this."

She went on to suggest that issues such as the pressures on Reservists' personal and professional lives, and communication with families needed careful consideration.

And with fewer demands on these personnel to deploy abroad compared to a few years ago, moves to better integrate part-time soldiers could be more easily implemented now, Morrison concluded.

“ They are making a major contribution ”





# This FPS Member asked us about his tax-free lump sum, the process of applying for his pension and what pension and lump sum his wife would receive on his early demise.



FIGHTING FOR THE FORCES  
AND THEIR FAMILIES



*"How refreshing it is to receive such a comprehensive, succinct and clear answer to what I thought was quite a complex question... it has completely relaxed us in this pension minefield".*

Simon Lloyd, FPS Member

## PENSION HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

We respond to hundreds of such pension enquiries from our Members every month, helping them through the AFPS pension maze. Our Pension team has doubled in size to respond to the growing need for independent support. Join us and see how we can help you. Or simply become a Member for the peace of mind of knowing we're here to help when you need us.

## VALUABLE MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

As a Member you will also have access to a growing number of exclusive offers from trusted Affiliates – including our hugely popular no-age-limit Travel Insurance Plan.



FPS Health



FPS Travel



FPS Motoring



FPS Legal  
& Financial



FPS Personal  
& Home

## INDEPENDENT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Our independence enables us to serve the interests of our growing number of Members – now more than 52,000 – as the Armed Forces Pension Watchdog. We are vigilant, holding governments to account, campaigning wherever we spot an injustice or an inaccuracy in the system. Fighting for the Forces and their Families is in our DNA.

## JOIN US NOW

Whether you have a pension enquiry or you want to keep in touch with the latest pension developments through our e-newsletters and Pennant magazine, visit [forcespensionsociety.org](http://forcespensionsociety.org) and join online today. **Annual membership for you and your Partner costs just £38.**

## FREE £150 HOLIDAY VOUCHER

When you join us online, quote **Promo Code SOR 2018** and we'll send you a free voucher worth £150 off a Rambling and Adventure holiday.



# JOIN US AND GET MORE FROM YOUR PENSION

## Forces Pension Society

68 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL

Tel: 020 7820 9988 - email: [memsec@forpen.co.uk](mailto:memsec@forpen.co.uk) - [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org)





---

# THE BIG PICTURE

Edinburgh, Scotland

---

## Out in front

THE traditional Pipes and Drums, as well as The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, led the way at this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which involved around 800 musicians, 400 other performers and more than 40 instrument types. The Scots Guards, The Queen's Royal Hussars and The Royal Dragoon Guards were also on hand to provide a series of world class performances alongside fellow musicians from the Royal Air Force. In addition, the Royal Cavalry of the Sultanate of Oman's Pipers on horseback took part for the first time, along with the Central Band of the Czech Armed Forces.

Picture: Cpl Ben Maher, RLC









NEED TO

# KNOW

FITNESS / SKILLS & DRILLS / RULES & REGS / EXPERIENCE / MENTAL HEALTH





# From sofa to *sprint king*

Athlete beats obesity and shapes up on way to sporting glory

► SIX years ago Army triathlon star Cpl Ieuan Hudson (REME) weighed in at around 100kg and was drinking between six and eight litres of cola a day.

The 24-year-old was categorised as obese and his soft drink habit fuelled a repetitive lifestyle of waking up and spending hour after hour playing online games.

But after seeing an Army recruiting advert he sought to challenge himself in a new way.

His weight issues and poor fitness levels proved a hindrance at first but after finally making the grade he has not looked back – and the demanding sport of triathlon has played a pivotal role in his remarkable turnaround.

“Basically, I was on video games all day,” Hudson explained.

“I wasn’t really eating that much but I was drinking so much Coke.

“When I saw that advert I decided to join up. Initially, they told me I was too big to be in the military but I took that as a motivation.

“I started running to lose weight and then I got nudged towards triathlon. I did my first race and loved it and then got invited onto the Army development team.”

In his first military personal fitness assessment Hudson clocked a time of 13min 17sec for the one-and-a-half mile

run. His personal best now stands at 6min 56sec.

Such form has been replicated in his new sport, a fact that was underlined with victory at the Army Sprint and Standard-Distance Championships earlier this summer.

“Being involved with the Army triathlon set-up has really helped,” he added. “I got a coach and was shown how to train and prepare properly.

“Before that I was just beasting myself every day.”

Hudson has since joined forces with ex-soldier and full-time triathlon coach Mark Livesey, and his progress has continued apace.

He finished fourth at this season’s Inter-Services and hopes to make a name for himself at the sport’s elite level.

“I get my competitive spirit from online gaming,” the soldier added. “I would like to be considered for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

“Wales did not have an elite male athlete at the last event so I would like to think I could be put forward.

“If not, the aim is to be winning professional triathlons in two to three years’ time.” ■

Army secures team triathlon crowns – pages 70-71

## IN NUMBERS

2

Army triathlon titles won in 2018

2:00:07

Time clocked at this season’s Inter-Services

SIX years ago Hudson weighed in at more than 100kg

Triathlon consists of:



1.5km Open water swim



40km Bike stage



10km Run



# Spirit of adventure

## Mastering AT admin helps keep soldiers' morale high

► A SOLID adventurous training package is worth its weight in gold – these opportunities are one of the reasons people join, and stay, in the Army.

But the amount of paperwork involved in arranging a stint away can be off-putting.

Taking the trouble to work through the process, though, will eventually reap rewards.

Here, experienced AT instructor WO1 Terry Gorbitt (RE) provides some top tips on getting the admin squared away – and the all important business case approved...

**1 You are not the first person to have ever planned a trip.**  
The chances are there are people you are serving alongside who have been on this road before – so seek them out. Find out who your unit adventurous training officer is and read **JSP 419** – covering AT – too.

**2 Look carefully at the sort of package you offer.** Aim to deliver distributed training – meaning soldiers get a qualification out of it. This sells better on business cases too.

**3 Start early** and make sure you submit the joint Service adventurous training formal application (JSATFA) as soon as possible. Pay attention to details such as safety arrangements. If you're going abroad, think about diplomatic clearances and ensuring troops have the right driving qualifications. You should submit the document to the AT systems page on the intranet.

**4 Think outside of the box when seeking finances.**  
In most cases you will need a percentage of cash drawn from non-public funding, so think of sources such as trusts and associations. That way you will not have to ask soldiers to fork out as much either.

**5 Be proactive in saving money** when putting your business case together. If you can show you've done your homework, you are more likely to have it signed off. Be aware that some more costly trips may need to be examined by a senior officer.

**6** If the process seems frustrating at times, **remember that AT is important.** It is a key retention tool and keeps morale high. Expeds help develop soldiers by taking them out of their comfort zones in a controlled environment, which prepares them for operations too.

► THE likes of Facebook and Twitter provide a great way to keep regiments, families and wider communities connected. They can also be a good recruitment tool.

But there are some downsides too – running accounts takes up a lot of resources, for example – and there may be existing channels you could make use of first.

So read this guidance before setting up a new page for your unit...

### Step one - register

All unit social media accounts need to be registered with the Army Media and Communications digital team. Contact details can be found on their intranet page.



### Stay secure

Familiarise yourself with the security settings for each social media account you are using. Change passwords regularly and be aware of what information you may inadvertently be revealing when you tag or share something, especially when it comes to location services and geo-tagging.





# Pause before you post

What to know when creating a regimental social media page

## Think before you share

Posting is permanent. Remember, anything you publish could be re-shared or screen-grabbed. Take a moment to check that your post falls in line with your unit's social media objectives – and never share anything that could breach operational or personal security.

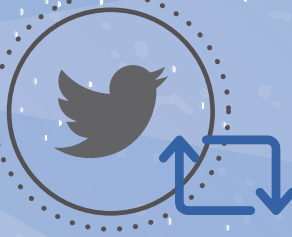


### Consider other options first

Defence Connect can be used to spread messages to internal audiences. For external communications the British Army website and the Service's other main social media channels offer effective existing platforms.

## A picture is worth a thousand words

Try to use high-quality photos and videos wherever possible. For example, tweets with images are 150 per cent more likely to be retweeted. Remember, 85 per cent of people watch video without sound. Captions or subtitles should be simple, clear, jargon-free and with no acronyms.



## Don't fire and forget

Check responses and comments and be prepared to answer and moderate them as quickly as possible. But be accurate – if you don't know the answer to a question, find out. Most importantly, do not get drawn into an online confrontation.

## Get permission

This is a complex topic but some of the basic rules to follow include: make sure you have the relevant permissions to share any music or imagery that is copyrighted; obtain consent from recognisable individuals included in video or photography and don't publish details about third parties (including colleagues) without their authorisation. If in doubt, consult your chain of command.



## Want to know more?

Further guidance on operating different media channels effectively is available. Go to the Army internal communications page on Defence Connect. You can also visit [www.gov.uk/publications/online-engagement-guidelines](http://www.gov.uk/publications/online-engagement-guidelines)





# “I’ve looked depression in the eye”

Former major Rob Shenton (ex-REME) on how he went to the ends of the Earth – literally – to tackle his mental health issues

I’VE suffered from depression for 18 years and in September 2016 I was medically discharged from the Army.

It came as a shock but you have to face the reality at some point that you might not be fit for military service.

I started running at a serious level when my father was dying of lung cancer in 2008, originally because I just wanted to get out of the house and have time to think.

But, for me, it’s important to have something to focus on, so I decided to run the Marathon des Sables, which I did in 2011, and that gave me the idea of completing a trio of events.

Having done a tough race, I said I would also do a high one; the Everest Marathon – and the last would be a cold one; the North Pole Marathon.

But it wasn’t until I was going through the Army Recovery Capability for wounded, injured and sick soldiers before leaving the Service that I thought





● Throughout his journey Rob was supported by Help for Heroes and is now an ambassador for the charity. He also gives presentations to troops about mental illness. To boost his fundraising efforts or invite him to speak to your unit visit [www.runningrob.com](http://www.runningrob.com)



seriously about taking on these new challenges.

You can't just rock up and do an ultra race – it takes preparation. In military terms you not only need a plan, but a contingency plan too.

When I ran the Marathon des Sables I knew there would come a point when I would want to quit, so I planned for such a moment.

Before that race I emailed all of my close friends and asked them to give me one reason why I would succeed, and I printed them all out on a piece of paper to look at if I needed a boost.

I never opened it but years later when I was at my lowest point and considering taking my own life I remembered I had that note and reading it effectively stopped me from doing something stupid.

I spent a week in a psychiatric hospital but I was alive.

For me, physical and mental health are massively interlinked.

I try to run or jog every day and I'm up to about 700 days now. You always get that release of endorphins and I believe it can stop me having to go down the route of taking medication.

During my treatment the doctors helped me to see that if I can prepare for a seemingly impossible event like the Marathon des Sables or the Everest and North Pole marathons, why can't I apply it to looking after my mental health?

I finished the North Pole race earlier this year and despite all my training it was surprisingly difficult.

The temperature went as low as -36 degrees Celsius and sometimes I was knee deep in snow.

When I crossed the finishing line I had no feeling of achievement, no elation – I just felt flat. But my thoughts turned to the journey, and why I set myself the challenges – my father dying, my battle with depression, being medically discharged and then the fight to get a semblance of a normal civilian life – and there was a sense of calm.

That chapter of my life was over.

I don't know what's next but I've won at least one battle with depression.

I feel I can look it in the eye – and maybe even beat it one day. ■



## ▶ MENTAL HEALTH

# Support act

## How to help a friend or loved one who is depressed

▶ Journalist and author Matthew Green has written extensively about mental health issues, including his own battle with depression. This is his advice for supporting someone who is suffering...

### Don't judge

**They probably already feel ashamed, like a failure, or are worrying about what you think of them.**

### Show you care

They may find it hard to communicate or describe exactly how they are feeling, especially to those closest to them. Even if you're struggling to understand, be there to listen.

### Take them seriously

**Understand that depression is as real as a broken leg or cancer. It can be linked to imbalances in brain chemistry.**

### Be patient

Depression is different to feeling a bit down. They can't just snap out of it.

### Avoid trying to fix them

It's natural to want to help someone but it can make them feel worse or believe you don't understand what they're going through.

### Spend time with them

**You don't necessarily have to talk, just do an activity together, for example going for a walk. Getting out and about in nature can be beneficial.**

### Know when to seek help

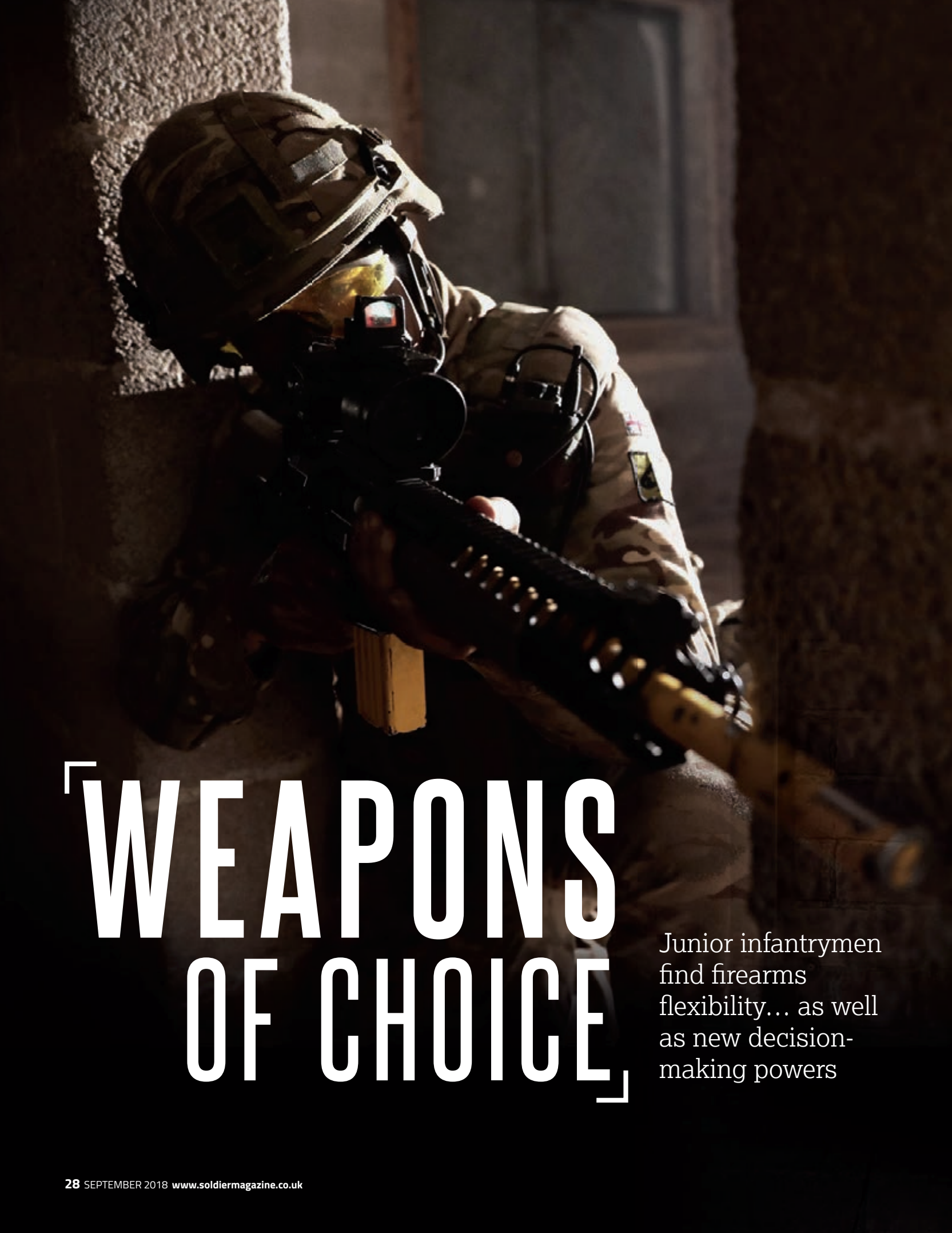
Sufferers of depression may be thinking about harming or killing themselves. If the person you're worried about expresses suicidal feelings, you or they should contact a GP or NHS 111.



● Matthew Green has reported from various war zones and his book, *Aftershock*, examines the impact of PTSD on soldiers and their families. He has also produced a series of videos describing what he learnt from his experiences with depression. Visit <https://deep-work.teachable.com> to find out more.







# WEAPONS OF CHOICE

Junior infantrymen find firearms flexibility... as well as new decision-making powers



**I**N A world where video games such as *Call of Duty* and *Rainbow Six* are king, generation Z have already become skilled in planning for virtual combat.

Online multiplayer mayhem sees them making split-second decisions and selecting the best kit – as well as learning to take advantage of team members' different skills.

But now, on real world battlefields, the Army's low-level tactical leaders are being given greater freedom to direct their troops and pick the right kit for the job.

Following recent changes to the infantry weapons line-up (*Soldier*, August), those at the sharp end are being given the discretion to mix their firearms formation as they see fit.

The change in protocol was tested on the latest 16-week section commanders' battle course, where lessons were set to be incorporated into a rewrite of traditional platoon-level tactics.

Maj Dave Crimmins (R Welsh), officer commanding Junior Division at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon, believes the new thinking marks a step change.

In an effort to simplify the armoury, the light machine gun and the light support weapon have been removed from the soldiers' toolkit.

Now a general purpose machine gun (GPMG), Sharpshooter and two underslung grenade-launcher assets provide the assault punch – underpinned by a backbone of six SA80 mainstays.

But section commanders can take the machine gun out of the mix and add in another rifle if needed – they can also place the weapons in any formation they see fit.

“Previously, personnel would have been handed a set line-up with the various firearms deployed in a fixed order,” Maj Crimmins explained.

“Now they will be able to make that assessment themselves.

“Effectively they are being given a toolkit to use as they wish and the troops have taken to this positively – even to the extent that they feel more valued.”

*Soldier* joined personnel in a series of mock contacts on the Sennybridge Training Area to discover how a new generation of commanders are getting to grips with the weapons mix...

## Level 1: Down and dirty



**COMMANDER'S TIP:**  
The GPMG is useful when you break into the trench system. It can then be used to deliver fire in depth during the clearance. Underslung grenade launchers can also provide direct fire at range, but are of no use in close combat.

» **FIGHTING through a trench system is a dangerous and deeply personal affair.**

Hurting along lethal alleyways, hallmarks of the First World War, is as claustrophobic as it is intensely physically demanding.

And the PlayStation generation must now get to grips with infantry tools that were first pioneered in a bygone age.

Using periscopes to peer around corners, the soldiers push forward, taking it in turns to assume the lead and lay down fire.

Behind, the rattle of the GPMG gives assurance that the enemy are at least keeping their heads down.

The troops have reached a crossroads flanked by bunkers and a decision is needed.

Hand grenades are the weapons

of choice to clear them but in these confines they can be just as deadly to the attackers as those defending. This is proven as a misthrow hits a wall before bouncing back into the assaulting soldier's path.

Game over.

In reality, this would have been a fatal mistake, but it is an opportunity to take stock, reflect on the weapons mix and think about improving on the next run.

CSgt Andy Harris (Rifles), an instructor overseeing the serial, says the GPMG can be valuable in inspiring confidence and contacting the enemy around the 500-metre trench.

But the Sharpshooter effectively becomes another rifle when it is employed in close combat.

LOADING





## Level 2: Breaking and entering



» SMOKE is building across the entrance to a set of buildings at the Cilieni fighting in built-up areas facility a few miles from the trenches – and a section uses it as cover to advance.

The threats are lethal in such a closed environment. A contact can come from any direction and soldiers can find themselves engaging at near point-blank range.

In an experiment to see whether troops can be made more agile, personnel in this serial are not equipped with the GPMG – and its absence has been noticed.

As an area weapon, the soldiers believe it inspires confidence in pressing home an attack, with its ability to lay down a volley of rounds in quick succession.

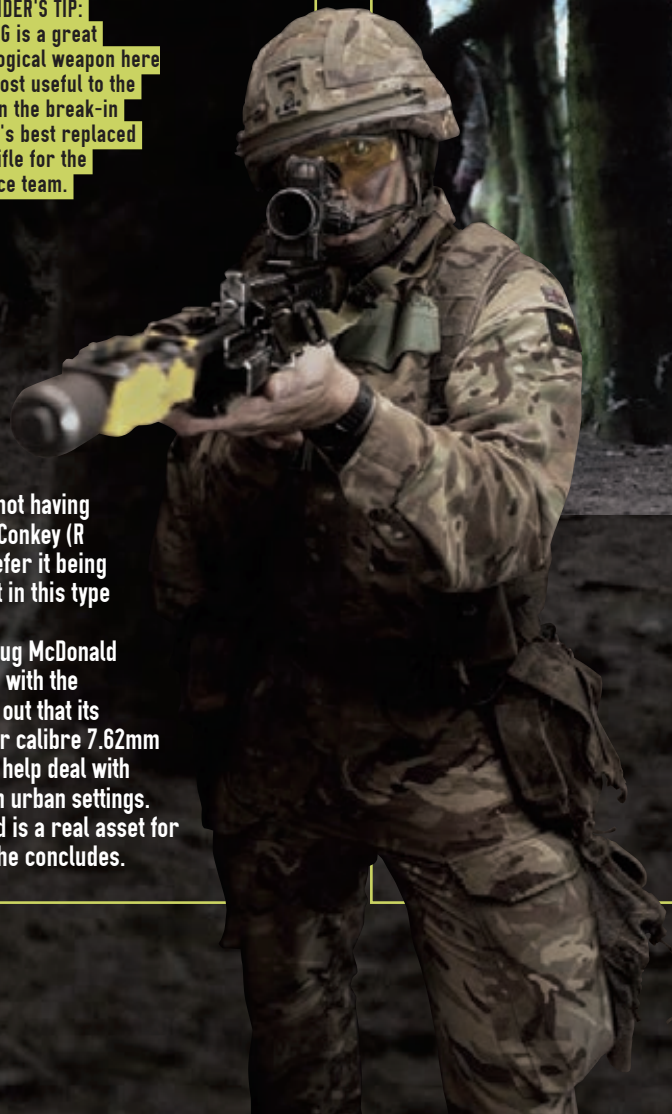
**COMMANDER'S TIP:** The GPMG is a great psychological weapon here – it is most useful to the troops in the break-in force. It's best replaced with a rifle for the clearance team.

"It doesn't feel great not having it," admits LCpl Ryan McConkey (R Anglian). "I certainly prefer it being around when you need it in this type of environment."

But fellow NCO LCpl Doug McDonald (R Anglian) is impressed with the Sharpshooter – pointing out that its combination of the higher calibre 7.62mm round and accuracy can help deal with enemy troops at range in urban settings.

"It is not too heavy and is a real asset for a section commander," he concludes.

**COMMANDER'S TIP:** Keeping the GPMG and Sharpshooter outside the woods is useful for preventing the enemy from mounting counter-attacks. Troops inside should stick with rifles – underslung grenade launchers have no value here.







## SECTION TOOLKIT

### Level 3: Forest fires



>>AN EERIE quiet descends as the soldiers advance to the forest – even the normally vocal sheep on the exercise area are quiet, plodding away in anticipation of an incoming storm.

As they step inside the wood, the dynamic of the world changes. The early evening sunlight and the rolling landscape of Brecon are gone – it is as if night has suddenly fallen.

In the moments the troops are adjusting to the new environment, the enemy swiftly takes the initiative and contacts them.

The disorientation is serious, there are shouts of casualties and there are fleeting shadows between the trees.

An acrid smell accompanies the rattle of discharging weapons.

Outside the forest, the section commander has deployed his GPMG and Sharpshooter in a bid to engage any counter-attacking enemy troops. But only sheep are visible – a well-concealed and elusive foe is exacting some damage.

Underslung grenade launchers are useless here – this is a battle where the rifle rules. Movement, good comms and accurate fire are the key to success.

## GPMG



x1

DAMAGE: ██████████ FIRE RATE: ██████████  
RANGE: ██████████ ACCURACY: ██████████

## Sharpshooter



x1

DAMAGE: ██████████ FIRE RATE: ██████████  
RANGE: ██████████ ACCURACY: ██████████

## Underslung grenade launcher



x2

DAMAGE: ██████████ FIRE RATE: ██████████  
RANGE: ██████████ ACCURACY: ██████████

## SA80 rifle



x6

DAMAGE: ██████████ FIRE RATE: ██████████  
RANGE: ██████████ ACCURACY: ██████████





# Alan Bick Ltd

DIAMOND JEWELLERY MANUFACTURERS

GOODS SHIPPED  
WORLDWIDE



VAT Refund  
available to  
personnel  
stationed  
abroad

**Now you can buy diamonds and jewellery at  
wholesale prices direct from the manufacturers**

We supply retail shops with a vast range of beautiful diamond  
engagement, wedding rings and diamond jewellery

We have been supplying members of the Met Police Force for  
the past 26 years and would like to extend our offer of  
trade prices for the Armed Forces and Civilian Staff

**Please contact us for a private appointment**

18ct gold diamond solitaire  
0.50ct (1/2) size  
Retail price £3,000  
**Wholesale price £1,250**

Platinum diamond solitaire  
0.75ct (3/4) size  
Retail price £5,750  
**Wholesale price £2,450**

[www.alanbick.co.uk](http://www.alanbick.co.uk) ~ 0207 242 5831 ~ [sales@alanbick.co.uk](mailto:sales@alanbick.co.uk)

Suite 207, 100 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8NX



# Soldiers AT SEA

**Troops line up for  
waterborne adventures...**

**Y**OU might not think of it as the activity of choice for those used to working on dry land, but it seems soldiers are first in the queue when it comes to sailing the world's oceans.

Every year thousands of personnel more accustomed to ops on terra firma take to the water, relishing adventurous training opportunities that push them outside their comfort zones.

Figures show more than three quarters of the 5,500 people signing up for courses at the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre are from the Army – well outnumbering the other two Armed Forces.

But the statistic comes as no surprise to the Gosport-based facility's project officer Maj Mike Barham (REME), who says sailing develops the kind of resilience and leadership skills that are key to soldiering.

It is also a great leveller – promoting cohesion between junior personnel and senior officers.

"Sailing is not rank orientated, so a private soldier could theoretically be the skipper in command of a 72ft yacht," adds the Reservist.

"It's all down to skill and ability.

"Once a novice leaves here they will be able to work effectively within a crew.

"Troops at sea in trying conditions will also learn to conquer their fears pretty quickly."

Despite the demands, Maj Barham believes those willing to apply themselves to the sport will reap the rewards.

"There is an independence in being at sea," the officer continues.

"You are out there, making decisions ranging from who is going to make the next brew to how to avoid a collision."

The variety on offer at the centre is certainly impressive.

With more than 35 yachts, seasoned instructors and numerous opportunities to crew on expeditions around the globe, troops can tailor their package to their adventurous training needs.





➔ Staff are made up of tri-Service personnel and civilians, including an experienced cohort that is responsible for maintaining the fleet vessels to the highest standards.

Among them is Cpl Damian MacManus (RLC), who is currently on a two-year posting from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment.

He said that being involved with the centre was a dream job.

“I get to do lots of varied work, including full engine rebuilds,” the NCO added.

“It is important that we get the boats back out to sea so soldiers can go sailing as quickly and safely as possible.

“I love being in the support team, giving everyone the chance to conduct quality AT.”

Capt Olivia Birch (pictured far right, RAMC), who was embarking on five days of sailing in the Solent, certainly appreciated the opportunities on offer.

“I am quite a novice to be honest,” she said. “But this is a very supportive environment and it is a great place to try sailing if you have never done it before.

“For me, this is about doing something a bit different.”

Taking to the waves is certainly proving to be the go-to adventurous training activity for soldiers, who have been proving their mettle when pitted against the elements.

With many rising through the sport’s hierarchy – and expeditions to far-flung places up for grabs – the Army’s presence on the ocean waves looks set to stay. ■

## Want to take to the high seas?

Visit the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre page on Facebook for more information.



## Yacht master

We caught up with Col Neil Wilson, commander of Adventurous Training Group (Army), when he visited the training centre...

### ➔ You love this sport – why does it appeal?

You are pushed outside your comfort zone in environments you are not used to. Sailing is about living in confined spaces with everyone taking on a shared risk. I am a qualified yacht master offshore, which means I can take a 72ft vessel more or less anywhere.

### ➔ Why do troops enjoy life at sea?

Everyone can benefit from it. It is no holiday but it opens soldiers’ eyes to places they have never been. They look out for each other too – every action you take on a boat will have a consequence for someone else.

### ➔ What do soldiers generally gain from AT?

It builds on their leadership, planning and personal resilience capabilities. The activities bring out various characteristics from our troops, allowing them to develop different skill sets. It also benefits recruitment and retention.







**IN NUMBERS:**

Joint Services Adventurous  
Sail Training Centre

**35**

Total vessels

**53**

Permanent staff posts

**5,500**

Personnel trained each year

**200**

Annual events

“

It is a great place  
to try sailing if you have  
never done it before

”







# EARNING COMMISSION

Magic is  
not required  
for a shot at  
officer life



**T**HERE is a sense of the world changing in the short journey through the gates of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst – a demarcation line between one dimension and another.

Outside the wire is a small Berkshire town bordered by the famous local concrete elephant statue and a predictable array of commuter belt houses, pubs, takeaways and burger bars.

But step across the divide and the reality is very different.

Like the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the academy has the feel of a hidden world of history, tradition and customs – a place where horses round off passing out parades by climbing stairs, captured Napoleonic cannon guard the entrances, and paintings and statues enrich an endless treasure trove of artefacts.

It is an amazing institution but, like the education venue in Harry Potter's fantastic world, it is often perceived as privileged, exclusive and even intimidating – off limits to Muggles.

But this is far from the case. Officers are drawn from all walks of life – including the backbone of the ranks – and anyone from private soldier upwards can set their sights on Sandhurst.

It does not need formal academic qualifications; to start the

journey troops simply need to demonstrate the right attributes to their chain of command.

If recommended by a commanding officer, they will then be assisted by instructors from the Education and Training Services branch of the Adjutant General's Corps. Like boarding the Hogwarts Express, the journey begins with a 12-week package called the potential officers' development programme.

"You find there is still a misplaced view among some people about the type of person that goes to Sandhurst," Maj Dec Lynn – who heads up the Army School of Education that runs the course – tells *Soldier*.

"But the reality is that if you have the potential, willingness and determination then you can have the opportunity to go forward for selection as an officer – and we can deepen your skills and experience to give you the best chance of being selected."

Being chosen for the programme does not guarantee a place at the academy and candidates must still pass the demanding selection process at Westbury in Wiltshire. But its lessons are designed to bring troops up to the exacting standards demanded – and they can expect to have minds and bodies tested during their three-month tenure.

In a tumbling mix of soldiering, academia and cultural activities, personnel will watch plays, analyse artwork, explore places of worship and sharpen their academic writing.

Even the physical training has a bizarre educational twist. Troops dealing with obstacle courses can suddenly find themselves beasted with maths problems, logic tasks or current affairs questions.







But Capt Ollie Porter – one of the instructors on the course – says that students often adapt to this steep learning curve and prove themselves highly capable.

The soldiers share the course with candidates who have already been selected for Sandhurst but have been asked to sharpen up some skills – meaning the two groups learn from each other.

“The idea is not to teach somebody to pass selection, but to put them in the best possible position to be able to do so,” Capt Porter explains. “The experience is focused on a number of areas they will be assessed on when they go forward to Westbury.

“The idea, for example, behind giving the soldiers cultural experience is to provide them with something unfamiliar – and the skills to critically analyse a painting or a play. Likewise, being in contact with different religions is also important.

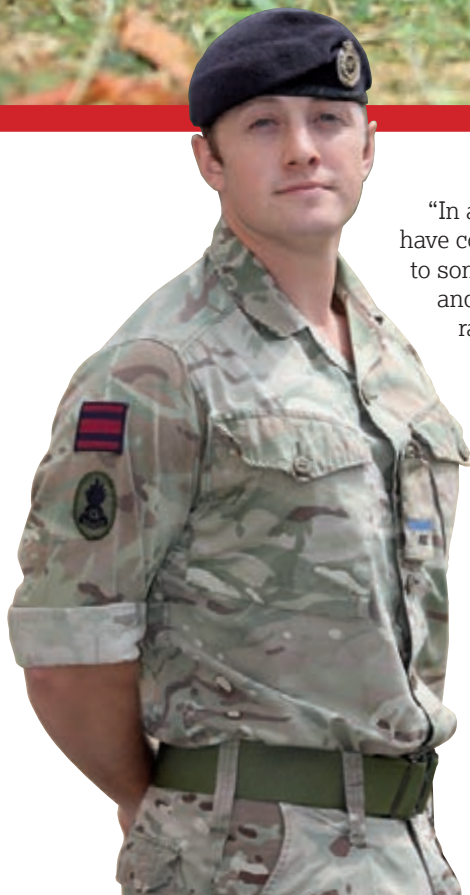


“  
IT GETS  
YOU INTO  
A NEW  
MINDSET  
”

POTENTIAL OFFICER  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
**THE DEAL**

- > No formal qualifications needed
- > You can change cap badge if commissioned
- > Speak to your adjutant for further details of how to apply
- > Keep an open mind – officer selection is tough





“In a year or so they might have commissioned, be deployed to somewhere hot and dusty and holding a shura – I would rather they have exposure to the relevant culture beforehand.”

Those approaching the end of the 12 weeks are confident the course will stand them in good stead – and help with promotion opportunities, even if they are not selected for Sandhurst.

“This has prepared me

really well for the next step in my career,” highlights LCpl Harry Millar (AGC (RMP)).

“I had initially applied to join the Army as an officer but dropped out of university, so this route was attractive – and there is nothing to lose as the worst-case scenario is going back to work.”

Spr Sam Pendlebury (RE, pictured left) is also confident that the course will help his future prospects. “It gets you into a new mindset and will make you a much better candidate for promotion,” he adds.

The future certainly promises to be challenging for these Service personnel. The selection process for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is tough, even for the best prepared of candidates.

But those who are unsuccessful will still have gained a valuable new perspective on life.

With critical analysis and academic skills, they will have sound prospects for their future careers. ■



# TIME TO SHINE

With 2018 marked out as the Year of Engineering, four soldiers from the technical cap badges reveal how they found their niche...

**Name:**  
WO2 Vinny Ng  
(RLC)  
**Unit:**  
621 Explosive  
Ordnance Disposal  
Squadron, RLC  
**Age:**  
34  
**Joined the Army:**  
2005







# LIFE'S A BLAST

Now the warrant officer of an improvised explosive device disposal tasking troop, one of WO2 Vinny Ng's recent roles was setting up an ammunition depot in Estonia. Working in a multinational environment was challenging, but thanks to his team, troops on Operation Cabrit are being kept well stocked with ordnance.

“ I had already completed two Herrick tours by the time Op Cabrit arrived. But the role in Estonia was very different – and demanded various skills.

As a senior technician in a team of five, my job was setting up an ammunition depot. Obviously it was far smaller than the likes of Afghanistan or Iraq. It was complex, however, given that our troops were going to be there for six to eight months at a time and the set-up was a true multinational endeavour.

There were certainly challenges. Firstly, you are dealing with millions of pounds worth of ordnance and each piece has a shelf life calculated from the climate in which you are operating. Our figures were based on the hot places we had previously been in – whereas Cabrit was far colder.

Once we had straightened these out we were saving a lot of money – our stock would later be used for training so waste was kept to a minimum.

Electrical storms are a higher risk in Estonia than the UK, so lightning protection was another must. Commercial solutions were really expensive but with the help of the Defence Ordnance Safety Group and colleagues from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, we were able to meet the standard for just €800.

Wherever we are working, we will turn to our own stringent licensing legislation if the local standards are lower and this was the case with the Estonian camp we were on in Tapa. While we were there, Nato also started building its own depot – and we took responsibility for our enclave in it.

Op Cabrit is also live in Poland, and our set up there was even more bizarre. Our ammunition was stored at a Polish depot within a US enclave – we had a sergeant embedded there, right at the sharp end of multinational working.

All in all it was an epic five months and different to anything I had done before. You can learn this stuff on courses but you really have to think on your feet when you are doing it for real – particularly in an environment with so many nationalities.

”

# TAKING ON THE HACKERS

As the Armed Forces adapt to the growing threat from hackers, opportunities are opening up for those with a knack for IT systems. LCpl Jamie Rohman was recently selected for the Royal Signals' cyber protection team.

“ My main trade is communications systems engineer and I was happy in that role.

But I wanted a new challenge and I've always enjoyed working with computers.

The only way you can gain these skills initially is in your own time. I was quite lucky to start learning when cyber was relatively new and progressed from there.

I had a server in my room and I'd have a pretend network.

There would be a vulnerable machine and an attacking machine, as well as a monitoring tool so you could start to understand what it looks like if someone hacked in.

**Name:**  
LCpl Jamie Rohman (R Signals)  
**Unit:**  
14 Signal Regiment  
**Age:**  
29  
**Joined the Army:**  
2014



Interviews: Cliff Caswell and Becky Clark Pictures: Peter Davies, Graeme Main, L(Phot) Joel Rouse (RN), FreePik





I put my paperwork in to be part of the cyber protection team and got told I'd passed through to the selection stage.

This involved a series of interviews and a technical assessment with both Windows and Linux operating system scenarios and what's known as a packet capture analysis – where you monitor network traffic to identify anything malicious.

It has to be a tough selection process as the team want to invest in the right people.

They want someone who has done some self-study to get up to a certain level. You need to have an understanding of networking – how all the pieces of the puzzle like routers, switches and servers fit together.

I also gathered further experience by taking part in some of the cyber exercises the Army runs.

You have to show you're putting yourself out there and not just waiting for opportunities to come to you.

Motivation and enthusiasm are important too, and you have to be able to work as part of a team.

I think there's lots of talent across the Army. People who are technically-minded but aren't necessarily aware of how to put themselves forward for cyber.

It's a growing industry – not just in the Services – so there are lots of opportunities.

And everything's constantly changing so you are always learning.



**Name:**  
Cpl Nathan  
Machon (REME)

**Unit:**  
24 Commando  
Regiment, Royal  
Engineers

**Age:**  
29

**Joined the Army:**  
2005





# HURRICANE SALVAGE HUNT

**When two massive hurricanes devastated parts of the Caribbean in September 2017, British personnel raced to the rescue – among them vehicle mechanic Cpl Nathan Machon. With little equipment at his disposal and an airport to rebuild, he had no choice but to improvise.**

“ WE were on a plane 15 hours after the call came in and landed on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands just as another hurricane was due to hit.

It actually missed the island but we spent the first night sheltering in the airport.

There was total devastation – houses written off, cars upside down, planes flipped on top of buildings – it looked like a movie scene.

Our first tasks were to make sure the runway was clear so aircraft could bring supplies in and out and to get the governor’s house functioning as a municipal building.

Because of weight limits we had to cut back on kit so when I landed I had nothing really with me apart from my Gerber. I quickly made a few contacts with the locals to allow us to borrow tools.

Most of my work was to repair generators.

One of them – the main system for the airport – was down. We had to use an aircraft jump pack as a temporary alternator. It produced a 24-volt steady output so we were able to merge it into the electronics of the generator itself and keep it running.

Another one that ran the main tower housing all the air traffic control systems wasn’t working either.

We couldn’t get any spare parts so we went down to the beach, scavenged some solar panels and batteries and wired them in so they could have comms.

We did something similar for the fuel filtration system for rotary wing aircraft.

When you have a skill set you can apply it to anything – it’s just about how good you are at thinking outside the box.

We were there for a total of three weeks. For years we joked that the Army never fights wars in nice places like the Caribbean.

Op Ruman sent us there, but obviously as a friendly force. The locals were so pleased to see us. It was great to be able to help people.



# SAPPER’S DELIGHT

**Cpl Sheona Macmillan received a Women in Defence Award after she deployed her skills and knowledge in environmental management to save millions of pounds for Project Anemoui in the Falkland Islands**

“ Project Anemoui was designed, resourced and constructed by 8 Engineer Brigade to provide modern accommodation on the Falklands. It is a £20m initiative and the most remote UK industry standard construction task undertaken by the Army in recent years.

I have a first class honours degree in international business and environmental sustainability so was employed for my niche skills on full-time Reserve service, full commitment.

The role involved setting up agreements, implementing environmental management policies and carrying out assurance audits to the remote construction sites, ensuring continual improvement.

I have now been to the Falklands six times. The marine wildlife is spectacular but the weather conditions can be very unpredictable. The strong glacial winds can sometimes grind all movement to a halt, which makes fulfilling a busy schedule challenging.

Nevertheless it is fantastic to be in a management role for such a large and important international project.

I have delivered environmental pre-deployment training and reconfigured the waste management process – this is projected to save several million pounds over the project’s lifecycle.

I love the opportunities in the Army.

Sports-wise I have competed in the Sapper Games in rock climbing, triathlon, volleyball, bouldering and badminton. I became the Army ladies’ Alpine ski champion and competed in this year’s Inter-Service championships.

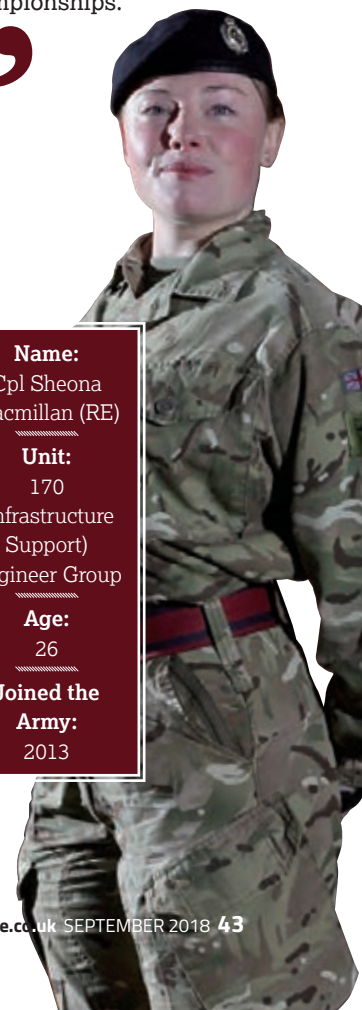


**Name:**  
Cpl Sheona Macmillan (RE)

**Unit:**  
170  
(Infrastructure Support)  
Engineer Group

**Age:**  
26

**Joined the Army:**  
2013







## CONNECTIONS MADE MORE REWARDING



### YOUR EXCLUSIVE NEW VOLVO V60 INSCRIPTION OFFER

The connections we make have the power to improve our lives. As a member of the British military, you can enjoy a £4,455 saving on our new V60 D3 Inscription FWD Manual – with class-leading load space, a striking new design and remote access via the Volvo On Call app. You'll also receive a range of unique benefits – each one designed to help you get the most from your Volvo car.

CALL **FORCES CARS DIRECT**  
ON **01522 814 010**



### New V60 D3 Inscription FWD Manual, Metallic Paint Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example\*

48 monthly payments	£269.00
Customer deposit	£6,145.00
Finance deposit contribution	£1,250.00
On the road price	£35,960.00
Member saving	£4,455.00
Revised on the road price	£31,505.00
Total amount of credit	£24,110.00
Interest charges	£2,201.77
Total amount payable	£33,706.77
Duration of agreement (months)	49
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	1.49%
Optional final payment	£13,400.00
Mileage per annum	10,000
Excess mileage charge	14.90p per mile
Representative APR	2.9%

**Available with three years\* complementary servicing when purchased on Volvo Advantage Personal Contract Purchase.**

Official fuel consumption for the new Volvo V60 D3 Inscription FWD Manual in MPG (l/100km): Urban 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

\*Finance subject to status. Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating retailers only on vehicles registered by 30th September 2018 on Personal Contract Purchase. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee may be required. Santander Consumer (UK) PLC trading as Volvo Car Financial Services, RH1 1SR. The complementary servicing offer is only available when purchasing on Volvo Advantage Personal Contract Purchase at participating retailers, on vehicles ordered between 01/07/2018 and 30/09/2018. Services must be carried out at a Volvo Authorised Repairer. Retail offer only. Excludes fleet operators and business users. See [volvocars.co.uk](http://volvocars.co.uk) for full terms and conditions.



# FIGHTING TALK

Sappers past and present talk shop in Year of Engineering celebration

**W**HEN Derek Flippance joined the Royal Engineers in 1962, the world was a very different place – and the corps was off limits to any would-be women entrants.

Serving when the prospect of Soviet tanks rolling westward was taken seriously and a decades-long brutal operation in Northern Ireland would soon be under way, there was no shortage of trouble.

Acting Cpl Lauren Toth was born exactly 20 years later during the Falklands War.

But with women an integral part of the sapper ranks by then, she was able to follow in the veteran's footsteps.

*Soldier caught up with Flippance – who is now a volunteer at the Royal Engineers Museum in Kent – and A/Cpl Toth as they compared their experiences...*







**Flippance:** How did you get involved in the Royal Engineers?

**Toth:** I had wanted to join the Army since I was a little girl – my dad had served, my uncles and cousins were in and I was born in Germany. But I did other things, including hair and beauty, for a while so didn't actually join until I was 28. All three of my choices on applying were the Royal Engineers – I really wanted to blow stuff up and build bridges.

**Flippance:** You joined at 28? It was later in life for you then. I had an apprenticeship at British Rail before I became a combat engineer. My big thing was bridging – there's no experience in the world like assembling a seven-tonne floating pontoon bridge across a German river at night, in combat conditions and bad weather.

**Toth:** In Afghanistan we had to upgrade a local bridge. We had Mastiff armoured vehicles all around for protection – I was crewing on one of them. Like your experience, it was in the middle of the night. Luckily we didn't come under contact.

**Flippance:** I'm very much a Cold War sapper, although I went to places where there was live ammunition. I did tours of Northern Ireland and Aden – we lost a couple of guys there.



**Toth:** What was Aden like? It was a volatile place, wasn't it?

**Flippance:** We had an IED issue but a vehicle called a Betty helped us to address it. The front part of this truck was filled with gravel and it also had a boiler on-board. You'd drive along, release gravel and then cover it with a black top. The beauty was that you could later easily see if the route had been disturbed. I know you also faced this type of threat in Afghanistan.

**Toth:** I was a Mastiff driver on Op Herrick, helping to clear routes for the Infantry or whoever was behind us. You would see scorch marks at the side of the road where devices had already gone off. You constantly had to be looking.

Fortunately we enjoyed the support of others.

**Flippance:** One of the things I wanted to ask you was, how did you get on with the guys? I admire any girl that joins the Army because they do a great job. But when I arrived there were no female sappers. When the idea of bringing in women was first raised a lot

“  
You definitely have to have a sense of humour in the Army – if you haven't forget it  
”

**Name:** Derek Flippance (ex-RE)

**Age:** 77

**About:** Having become a combat engineer in 1962, he went on to complete 22 years of Regular service in various outfits. His career included tours of Northern Ireland and Aden as well as postings to Germany at the height of the Cold War. A welder before joining the military, he concluded his Army tenure as a staff sergeant.





of people said we shouldn't allow it – among other things they asked where a woman would sleep and whether she would be strong enough to lift the girder of a heavy floating bridge.

**Toth:** To be honest I've come across the odd bloke who has said women shouldn't be in the Army. Before my first posting in Germany I was terrified because I knew I was going to be the only girl. I thought I was going to get a lot of stick from the men but they were absolutely brilliant.

**Flippance:** You have real determination then?

**Toth:** I have been a Combined Services champion powerlifter and I am strong enough to do what I need to do. A lot of the women I serve with have a similar sort of mindset.

**Flippance:** Do you get attached to infantry units?

**Toth:** Some of my friends have randomly been



attached. When you're on exercise in a place like Kenya a couple of us might join up with an infantry section and build the dens for them.

**Flippance:** As long as you are doing engineering tasks, that's the main thing. You don't want to be charging around a hill with a rifle.

**Toth:** I don't mind, as long as I get to blow something up at the end of it.

**Flippance:** Exercises were a major part of the Cold War – they were the bees' knees. On some you would be battling to put up a bridge when you would hear a rumbling sound and waves of Hercules aircraft would appear. The doors would open and 6,000 or more American paratroopers would fall out having flown into Germany from the USA.

**Toth:** It sounds impressive. I enjoy big exercises rather than just being with a squadron or regiment because you're working with infantry guys and other cap badges – everyone is doing what they would normally do.

**Flippance:** Some of the other things we did during the Cold War – practising in case the bloody Russians came across the border – were interesting.



You could do a tour in Berlin. I did a couple, four months at a time. And we had border patrols too, before the Berlin Wall finally came down in 1989. Do you remember The Berlin Wall?

**Toth:** Yes, although I was obviously very young at the time I remember seeing it on the telly.

**Flippance:** So how do you see your future now?

**Toth:** I didn't really think about what I wanted to do in the military after signing up but to be honest I'd like to do the full 22 years. All the places I've been to are not exactly holiday destinations but without exception I have enjoyed them all. The banter is really good too.

**Flippance:** You definitely have to have a sense of humour in the Army – if you haven't, forget it. When I was serving I think I had a similar outlook to you. I didn't mind about rank as long as I looked after my nearest and dearest, and enjoyed myself along the way. ■



**Name:** A/Cpl Lauren Toth (RE)

**Age:** 36

**About:** Born into an Army family in Germany, she became a combat engineer in 2011. She served on Op Herrick 19 soon after completing her training. A welder by trade and with several driving qualifications, she is currently part of the corps engagement team based in Minley.



NATIONAL  
**ARMY**  
MUSEUM

# Special Forces: In the Shadows

Extreme training, secret missions,  
total dedication. Explore the hidden  
world of the Special Forces.



Photo of Herbert Hasler courtesy of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

**Final weeks | Until 28 Oct**

📍 Sloane Square | [nam.ac.uk](http://nam.ac.uk) | [#SFexhib](https://twitter.com/SFexhib)





## Rocked by 'concealed' policy

I AM currently employed in a full-time Reserve service (home commitment) position that is due to end soon.

I applied to lengthen my time in the post via my regimental career management officer well within the guidance timelines for a five-year extension.

When my paperwork eventually came back from the Army Personnel Centre (APC) in Glasgow – with only two weeks left to serve on my commitment – the extension was granted but for only two years. I queried this but was informed it was current policy.

I have looked but can find no reference to this in either a defence instruction notice, Army briefing note or amendment to Army Reserve regulations.

Considering the impact it can have, surely it would have been common decency to communicate this policy change to the staff concerned so they know where they stand.

Strangely though, new entrants in these roles are being offered three-year commitments from the start so it only appears to affect incumbent personnel wishing to extend.

I'd like to know why this policy has been introduced and why wasn't it made public knowledge?

Also, is it a temporary measure or something more sinister for staff in this category to worry about?

And why does the relevant desk at Glasgow leave it so late to confirm an extension when they've had the paperwork for several months?

If something had gone wrong with my application I could have potentially found myself unemployed with just two weeks' notice. – **Name and address supplied**

**Lt Col Tracy Wright, Manning Directorate, Army Headquarters, responds:** Service personnel in these posts may extend for periods of up to five years up to the normal retirement age.

This policy is in Reserve Land Forces regulations, part one, chapter ten and has not changed.

Any decision to offer a shorter extension lies with the employing unit and the budget holder.

During the implementation of Army 2020 and the reduction in the size of the Service, full-time Reserve service posts were only authorised for two years to aid flexibility in adapting and changing the structure.

This was a temporary procedure rather than a policy change and the default position. Where an employer could justify a longer commitment, it was granted.

This measure is now under review.

Extensions are normally initiated when the APC FTRS desk writes to the individual and employer seven months before the engagement expiry date to allow time for the documentation to be administered and APC to update JPA.

There are many factors in the process that take time, including, for example, the document having to be signed by the individual, the employer and agreement with the top-level budget holder.

There can be delays at each stage and this reduces the time APC have to apply the JPA actions needed to confirm the extension commitment.

# TALKBACK

“ I could have found myself unemployed ”

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas... but please be brief. Emails 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 obtain an answer via your own chain of command.

✉ [mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
 🐦 [@soldiermagazine](https://twitter.com/soldiermagazine)



## CADET COMEBACKS

● IN response to the letter called ‘Medal mistake’ on page 49 of the August edition, I want to say that as an Army Cadet Force (ACF) instructor I really prize all the decorations I have been awarded to date.

I’ve earned them for operations as a Regular soldier – I served for 24 years, mostly in Northern Ireland – and for long service in the ACF, which I’ve been part of for 16 years.

However, they’re not what’s important to me.

Donating my spare time to working with the youth of today and seeing the end results, where young people go on to become fine soldiers and adults and make better lives for themselves, is one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done.

I even have a son who was a cadet and is now a colour sergeant in the Regular Army so the ACF did him a big favour by helping him on his career path. – **Capt Michael Pepper, 1st Northern Ireland Battalion, ACF**

● WITH regards to the letter in August’s edition, saying that adult volunteers in the cadet force should not be awarded medals, the veteran who wrote this must have little or no idea of what we do.

Many of us are ex-Service personnel who have chosen to pass on our experience and training to the youth of this country.

After serving for 25 years, I now work with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) alongside some colleagues who have no military service but simply want to provide opportunities to young people they wouldn’t otherwise have had.

We all go away to train, pass courses and revalidate qualifications while maintaining home lives and regular jobs.

Some of us might not have been deployed for six months on operations but we all give up our time, including weekends instead of being with our families.

To award these highly motivated staff a medal for 12 years’ service is, I believe, small thanks for all their hard work, effort and diligence and I’m very proud to wear my cadet force medal alongside my campaign awards. – **SSgt Taff Watkins, Bangor Grammar School CCF**



Out of Africa: Zimbabwe is now further away for one soldier

Picture: Shutterstock

## New passport leads to less travel

I AM a Zimbabwean national serving in Germany and used to claim my three Get You Home (Overseas) (GYH(O)) journeys at once every year to contribute to my air fare back to Africa.

However, after applying for naturalisation and subsequently obtaining a British passport with my own hard-earned money and receiving no help from the Army or the government, I find I no longer qualify for this, even though Zimbabwe allows dual nationality and I have no family in the UK.

I’m not entitled to domiciled collective leave (DOMCOL) either, but surely common sense should prevail. It’s not like I’m getting more money than anyone else or special treatment, I am just asking for the rules to be reconsidered as it is clearly not fair to the many Commonwealth soldiers serving in the British Army. – **Cpl James Katsande, REME**

**Col Philip Bassingham-Searle, Army Pay Colonel, Army Remuneration Policy, responds:** Thank you for your letter and I acknowledge your frustrations with the system.

Foreign and Commonwealth soldiers and officers bring considerable value to the Army and are held in high regard.

To recognise the specific nature of their employment, conditions of service include DOMCOL.

This allows soldiers who join the Armed Forces from outside of the UK or Irish Republic to return to their home country at public expense for specified periods of leave.

Also, they are entitled to a GYH(O) payment that can be put towards the cost of a flight home in a calendar year when they’re not taking advantage of this leave entitlement.

After five years’ residency, these personnel can apply to naturalise and become British citizens.

This is a personal decision that brings added benefits to the soldiers and their families.

Individuals pursuing this route acknowledge that, once naturalised, they are considered to be British, even if they retain dual nationality with their country of origin.

That means certain conditions of service associated with being a Commonwealth soldier, such as eligibility for DOMCOL, no longer apply. The GYH(O) provision can then only be used for travelling to the UK.

In this context, it is important to remember that a basic principle underpinning JSP 752 expense and allowance policy, and the associated rates, is that the UK is regarded as the home base for the soldiers and their families.

There is currently a tri-Service review considering allowance support to personnel based overseas.

This will likely increase flexibility in how certain travel is used for all soldiers serving overseas but with particular benefit for foreign and Commonwealth troops. However, this will not come into effect until 2020, after your assignment abroad has likely come to an end.

“The cadets did him a big favour”





## No room for housing equality

**W**ITH talk of a whole force approach to defence, why does entitlement to family accommodation differ from one Service to the next?

We have an Army warrant officer residing at a dislocated location from our Royal Air Force duty station.

While finding a local property for him, I was directed to JSP 464 which states that RAF warrant officers are entitled to type D (four-bedroom) accommodation, regardless of their family size.

Royal Navy and Army equivalents are only eligible for these if they have four or more children of any age, or three over the age of ten.

If they have smaller families they receive a three-bedroom house.

JSP 464 opens with: "People lie at the heart of operational capability; attracting and retaining... capable, motivated individuals... is critical". So how is this justifiable? – **Fred Townson, Catterick**

**Col Nathan Sempala-Ntege, Assistant Head Personal Services, replies:** Accommodation policy is tri-Service but there are a number of differences in respect of

entitlements or charges for housing.

This allows each Service to provide conditions that support the different ways their people live and operate, and fits their budgets.

Officers' entitlement to Service family accommodation (SFA) is based on rank while for non-commissioned personnel it is determined by the number of dependants.

Historically, the RAF have provided their warrant officers with a four-bedroom unit.

JSP 464 does stipulate that Navy and Army warrant officers (first class) with smaller or younger families should be given such accommodation where available.

Allocation is managed by Occupancy Services and they must assess where they are able to support the policy guidance for the Army and Navy and decide when those families who have an entitlement or need for four-bedrooms take priority.

Under the developing Future Accommodation Model, these subsidies will be based on the number of dependants and not rank.

“ It differs from one Service to the next ”

## Glum Gurkha

● WHEN I did my Foreman of Signals course in April 2002 there was a financial incentive of £10,000 to complete it.

While British troops received the money, two Gurkhas, including me, did not. There was no policy decision or plausible explanation given to us for this.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Gurkha Welfare published a report into a range of historic grievances held by Gurkha veterans in 2014, and it recommended support to ex-soldiers who had been wronged on various grounds.

As a result, I submitted a claim to be paid this sum but my application was rejected by the Pay and Allowances Casework and Complaints Cell (PACCC) because, they said, it was "out of time".

Refusing my claim for this reason shows a continuing lack of empathy towards a group of soldiers who serve the crown with distinction – **Name and address supplied**

**Col Philip Bassingham-Searle, Army Pay Colonel, Army Remuneration Policy, replies:** The scheme you refer to was initiated in 1999 as a response to a booming UK telecommunications industry, when significant numbers of Royal Signals soldiers were prematurely terminating their service to seek civilian employment.

Brigade of Gurkhas troops were not entitled to this as per the criteria within the Defence Council Instruction 154/1999, which states that only UK-trained adult personnel (UKTAP) were eligible.

This is because the Gurkhas have always been well-manned and prior to the 2006 review of their terms and conditions of service, these soldiers were unable to change from their specific engagement to serve in the British Army on UKTAP terms.

When this has been subject to legal challenges, the courts have always upheld the differences that existed between the two.

Serving Gurkhas also remain Nepalese citizens, which means they cannot pursue civilian employment in the UK, although those with more than four years' service can apply for indefinite leave to enter the country following their discharge in Nepal.

It is not clear if you have exhausted the PACCC process but when you have done so, and if you still believe you've been wronged while serving, submit a Service complaint to your commanding officer in accordance with the guidelines set out in JSP 831.

## THE DODGY POP HAS TO STOP FOR FIFTY-SOMETHING DAD

● THE Royal Army Physical Training Corps should be congratulated on its roll out of Project Thor and here at Bicester Garrison we have taken to the Service's new fitness drills with gusto under a team of great PTIs.

But, personally, I'm finding it an absolute horror – mainly because of the music I have to suffer that lurks within our soldiers' iTunes apps.

While Haddaway's *What is love* and Salt-n-Pepa's

*Pump It* are passable, the rest, quite frankly, don't deserve a mention.

I mean, where are Supertramp's *Breakfast in America* or Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* in the extensive playlist?

For some of us, there's nothing wrong with a bit of "dad rock". – **Lt Col Lyndon "Smokey" Robinson, RLC (aged 57)**



BPFO TAX FREE SHOPPING



£86.95

RARE "OLD SCHOOL" STYLE  
C.A.D.G  
MTP Lightweight  
SAS Windproof Smock



Visit us in store or call  
08456 44 50 60

WITNEY OX29 0YG



TIDWORTH SP9 7PS



CATTERICK DL9 3EN



www.army-surplus.co.uk



£139.95

Camelbak Motherlode Lite



£134.95

Disciple Commanders Webbing



£79.95

JetBoil Zip Cooker



£19.95

Mechanix Specialty Vent Gloves



## Your WelCome account card...

A **WelCome account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit: [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**Lost your account card?** No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelCome account number and a password to reset your PIN.

# WELFARE

WelCome Customer Contact Centre  
customer.support@mywelcome.co.uk | [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**WelCome**  
Welfare Communications Everywhere





### COMPETITIONS

**Spine line winner:** Frank Johnstone, Hallow, Worcester.

**Our Girl DVD:** Iain McCallum, MoD Abbey Wood, Bristol; William Smith, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire; Mike Booth, Arnold, Nottingham and John Dargavel, 116 Pro Coy, 3 RMP, Guylford House, Cannock, Staffs.



### DIARY

**September 30:** Steven Spielberg's *War Horse* screening at Screen Cinema Folkstone from 1700 in aid of the Shorncliffe Trust. Tickets £5 from [www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk](http://www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk)

**Until December 1:** *The Military Ink* exhibition at the REME museum in Lyneham, Wiltshire looks at troops' tattoos through the ages. See [www.rememuseum.org.uk/whatson](http://www.rememuseum.org.uk/whatson) for more information



### DIRECTORY

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:**  
020 7901 8900;  
[www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org)

**Armed Forces Buddhist Society:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3411;  
[www.afbs-uk.org](http://www.afbs-uk.org)

**Armed Forces Christian Union:**  
01793 783123;  
[www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:**  
Chaplain 020 7414 3252;  
[www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Armed Services Advice Project:**  
0808 800 1007;  
[www.advicesap.org.uk](http://www.advicesap.org.uk)

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

**Army LGBT Forum:**  
[www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk);  
[chair@armylgbt.org.uk](mailto:chair@armylgbt.org.uk)

**Army Libraries:** 01252 340094

**Army Ornithological Society:**  
[www.armybirding.org.uk](http://www.armybirding.org.uk)

**Army Welfare Service:**  
01904 882053;  
[www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support)

**Big White Wall:**  
[www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com)

**Blesma, The Limbless Veterans:**  
020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Blind Veterans UK:**  
(formerly St Dunstan's)

020 7723 5021;  
[www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk)

**Care After Combat:**  
[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:**  
020 7469 6661

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

**Combat Stress:**  
01372 841600;  
[www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)

**Defence Humanists:**  
[www.defencehumanists.org.uk](http://www.defencehumanists.org.uk)

**Erskine:**  
0141 814 4569;  
[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

**Family Escort Service:**  
020 7463 9249

**Felix Fund – the bomb disposal charity:**  
07713 752901;  
[www.felixfund.org.uk](http://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](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Heroes Welcome:**  
[www.heroeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

**HighGround:**  
[www.highground-uk.org.uk](http://www.highground-uk.org.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01252 787574

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

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

**National Ex-Services Association:**  
[www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

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

**Poppyscotland:**  
0131 557 2782;  
[www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

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

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

**Royal British Legion:**  
0808 802 8080;  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion Scotland:**  
0131 550 1583;  
[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

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

**Scottish Veterans' Residences:**  
0131 556 0091;  
[www.svronline.org](http://www.svronline.org)

**Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services:**  
01748 833797;  
[www.spaces.org.uk](http://www.spaces.org.uk)

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

**Stoll:**  
020 7385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk);  
[www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

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

**The Poppy Factory:**  
020 8940 3305;  
[www.poppysfactory.org](http://www.poppysfactory.org)

**The Royal Star and Garter Homes:**  
020 8481 7676;  
[www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**The Veterans Charity:**  
01753 653772;  
[info@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@veteranscharity.org.uk)

**Troop Aid:**  
0121 711 7215 or 07734 384260

**uk4u Thanks!:**  
01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)

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



### INTELLIGENCE

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

**ABN 73/18:** Notification of new land doctrine – *Army Field Manual Warfighting Tactics*

**ABN 72/18:** Equality and inclusion advisers' seminar: A Toolkit for Inclusion – September 19, 2018

**ABN 71/18:** Continuity of education allowance update and rates for academic year 2018/19

**ABN 70/18:** Compendium of mandated course trained personnel within an Army unit

**ABN 69/18:** Army families findings – families continuous attitude survey 2018

**ABN 68/18:** Army STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) ambassadors – JPA competency

**ABN 67/18:** 2018 Armed Forces' pay review body pay award

**ABN 66/18:** Addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past

**ABN 65/18:** Scottish income tax mitigation for tax year 2018/19

**DIB 11/18:** Update on ministerial appointments and private office contacts

**DIB 10/18:** FamCAS 2018 results

**DIB 09/18:** Armed Forces pay award 2018

**DIN 2018DIN04-129:** Change of General Service Respirator standard testing method from advanced respirator test system to respirator test system

**DIN 2018DIN04-128:** Declaration of obsolete – Vaisala metrological system

**DIN 2018DIN04-127:** Declaration of obsolete – Battlefield metrological system

**DIN 2018DIN04-126:** Declaration of obsolete – Osprey hip belt and yoke ensemble

**DIN 2018DIN04-125:** Requesting HQWE deployable rapid assembly shelter, James accounting, spares, repair and training

**DIN 2018DIN04-124:** Onboarding of a selection of manual direct supply contracts under the LCS(T) contract onto Team Leidos systems

**DIN 2018DIN04-122:** Removal from service of the 5.56mm L110A2 lightweight machine gun

**DIN 2018DIN04-121:** Removal from service of the L86A2 light support weapon

**DIN 2018DIN04-120:** Notification of obsolescence – aircraft ground power units

**DIN 2018DIN04-119:** BATCIS asset visibility register and impact tool

**DIN 2018DIN05-022:** Joint Medical Group senior leadership structure

**DIN 2018DIN06-025:** Sea King helicopter (all marks) MoD form 960 asbestos personal record annotation

Continued on page 54



## Intelligence continued

**DIN 2018DIN06-024:** Amendments to the dangerous goods manual version 1.1

**DIN 2018DIN06-023:** Health, safety and environmental protection in defence policy statement by the secretary of state for defence

**DIN 2018DIN06-022:** Publication of dangerous goods manual version 1.1

**DIN 2018DIN06-021:** Release of JSP 317, vol 6.2 – *Defence Fuels Policy, Organisation and Safety Regulations*

**DIN 2018DIN06-020:** Amendment to JSP 800, vol 4a – *Dangerous Goods by Air Regulations version 4* and associated dangerous goods forms

**DIN 2018DIN06-019:** Claims and insurance provisions for the use of MoD vehicles in the UK and overseas and confirmation of motor liability cover

**DIN 2018DIN07-095:** The General Service Medal 2008 with Gulf of Aden clasp

**DIN 2018DIN07-094:** Army Mountaineering Association expedition to Rjukan 2019

**DIN 2018DIN07-093:** Calling notice: Military gender and protection advisers course November 12-23, 2018

**DIN 2018DIN07-091:** The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst senior non-commissioned officer instructor selection cadre

**DIN 2018DIN07-090:** Joint Service Adventurous Training sub-aqua diving 2019 expedition dates for Cyprus and Gibraltar

**DIN 2018DIN07-089:** Training in management accountancy

**DIN 2018DIN08-006:** Non-entitled cash casual meal charge for financial year 2018/19

**DIN 2018DIN09-014:** HRH The Prince of Wales's award for services to defence engineering 2018 – calling notice for nominations

**DIN 2018DIN09-013:** The General Service Medal 2008 with Gulf of Aden clasp

**DIN 2018DIN10-031:** Exercise Telemark Titan 2019 – the British and single Services Telemark championships

**DIN 2018DIN10-030:** British Army Motorsports Association event – Mudmaster 2018

**DIN 2018DIN10-029:** British Army Motorsports Association event – Army Motorsports Day, incorporating training, annual meeting and dinner

**DIN 2018DIN10-028:** British Army Motorsports event – Autumn Leaves 2018

**DIN 2018DIN10-026:** Exercise Rothiemurchus Challenge 2018



## REUNIONS

**Annual reunion of Association of Harrogate Apprentices**, October 5-6 at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. Further details from Len Morland on 01892 523987.

**23/144 Parachute Field Ambulance Parachute Regimental Association reunion**, October 5-7, at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. For details contact Roy Hatch via [royhatchbem48@gmail.com](mailto:royhatchbem48@gmail.com) or 07730 977 989.

**116 Coy and 18 Coy (Amph), Royal Army Service Corps and 18 (Amph) Sqn, Royal Corps of Transport ex-Fremington Camp reunion** at the Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple, Devon on October 13. All former members of these units, including attached arms and widows, are welcome. For more details contact [don.turner1@talktalk.net](mailto:don.turner1@talktalk.net)

**8 Regiment RASC/RCT/RLC 17th anniversary reunion** weekend and dinner, October 19-20. Friday at the Army Reserve Centre, Wigan and Saturday at The Village on the Green Club, Aspull, Wigan. Events are open to any ex-member of 8 Regiment who

served between October 1962 and July 2012, along with their partner or guest. For further details on the event email [jimmyasp@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmyasp@hotmail.com)

**Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC alumni reunion** dinner, October 13 in the drill hall at 95 University Place, Glasgow, G12 8SU. Application forms available from Gail Scobie via [gail.scobie101@mod.gov.uk](mailto:gail.scobie101@mod.gov.uk) before September 17.



## SEARCHLINE

**Scott Irvine joined 243 Provost Company, Royal Military Police** in July 1989 after completing basic training at Browdown, Gosport. The former Reservist has lost his passing out photograph and is trying to track down a new copy. Anyone who can help with this matter is asked to call Mr Irvine on 07593 576463.



## ROADSHOWS

**The Army Engagement Group** wants to hear from members of the public who would like an invitation to one of its roadshows. For more information call 01276 412880 or visit [www.army.mod.uk/engagement](http://www.army.mod.uk/engagement)

**September:** 25, Barnstaple

**October:** 16, Bexley; 25, Telford; 30, Bridgwater

## NO. 922 JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

# WIN

**Jetboil MicroMo Stove**  
- worth £150

[www.cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com)



TEN details have been changed in this picture of musicians from the Band of The Royal Logistic Corps outside Buckingham Palace.

Circle all the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 922, Soldier**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot,

Hampshire GU11 2DU with your full contact details, including email address, no later than September 28.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing

date wins a Jetboil MicroMo Stove for outdoor cooking.

The winner's name will be published in the November 2018 issue. Usual rules apply.

**July's winner:** Sgt Nowaraj Gurung, Provost Barracks, Aldershot.





# Queen Ethelburga's



*“To be the best that I can with the gifts that I have”*

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2017/18 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2018/19 Forces families will pay just £955 per term, per child.

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on:

Tel: 01423 33 33 30 Email: [admissions@qe.org](mailto:admissions@qe.org)

Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | [www.qe.org](http://www.qe.org)





**bureaudirect**

Your crest here

**branded notebooks**

www.bureaubusiness.co.uk/army  
branding@bureaudirect.co.uk  
0845 505 4555

**MICHAEL JAY TAILORING**

*Your Tailored Suit Made to Measure Especially for you*

- ☑ Made in the UK
- ☑ 14 day Make or 48hr EXPRESS
- ☑ Lowest prices
- ☑ Best Fit
- ☑ Highest quality
- ☑ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

01449 614602  
www.suitUK.com

*As our customers say The service is simply unbeatable*

5 Toms Business Park STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 5EP

**PICTURE FRAMING**  
Expert Picture Framing Service, Trade & Retail

**You name it we frame it**

- Cheaper than High Street Framers
- DIY Medal Frames
- Frames For All Army Regiments
- Ranks, Medals, Badges, Caps,
- No need to send items. Best Prices
- Nationwide Delivery within 1-3 days



Buy Online or Phone:  
Tel: 01274 724411  
www.kwikpictureframing.co.uk  
E: kwikpictureframing@gmail.com

sales@custom-threads.co.uk  
**01256 841020**

**EMBROIDERY EXPERTS**  
**CUSTOM THREADS 2015 LTD**  
CLOTHING PRINTERS

Embroidered / Screen Printed  
Military clothing suppliers.  
Call for forces discounts.



*Always consider what you get for the price you pay!*

Fine military tailoring from Goodalls Tailors

**OFFICER & NCO MESS DRESS**

- ✓ Priority Service
- ✓ Dress Accessories
- ✓ Badges & Buttons
- ✓ Miniature Medals
- ✓ Mounting Services
- ✓ Buy Online



0% FINANCE AVAILABLE  
ON ALL 3 PIECE MESS DRESS

**WWW.GOODALLSTAILORS.CO.UK**  
Yorkshire • England • Tel: 0113 2889944

**SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!**



Subscription Rates  
United Kingdom  
12 Issues .....£23  
24 Issues .....£40  
Overseas  
12 Issues .....£47  
British Forces Post Office  
12 Issues .....£13.80

Start my subscription with the ..... issue

I would like to subscribe for  
 One year  Two years

**VISTA TIES**  
THE BESPOKE TIE SPECIALIST

Bespoke Regimental Ties  
Made In Britain  
For 35 Years

Order your Ties & Cumberbunds early for regimental events

silk to polyester ties,  
bow ties, clip on ties, skinny ties,  
standard ties & cumberbunds

**FREE DESIGN SERVICE**

our ties are woven & hand finished in the UK  
in your regimental design & colours

email your details & design to [info@vista-ties.co.uk](mailto:info@vista-ties.co.uk)

01903 266883 [vista-ties.co.uk](http://vista-ties.co.uk)

**Your details**

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....  
.....  
..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Return to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU

**Order hotline: 01252 787107**  
**Email: [subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:subs@soldiermagazine.co.uk)**





**Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd**  
Specialists in Orders Decorations and Medals

Full Size and Miniature Medals supplied and mounted for wear or display to the highest standards.

**MoD Licensed Medals**

(License No. D1PR/DX/E/0019/02)

Available from stock including

- Tellec
- Afghanistan
- Golden Jubilee
- NATO, EU and UN
- Long Service awards
- Complete range of gallantry awards

We offer a complete engraving service and supply fine handmade storage cases, display cases and wallets for your awards.

Whatever your requirements our helpful staff will be pleased to help with your enquiry by telephone, email or fax.

Visit our secure online shop  
[www.worcmedals.com](http://www.worcmedals.com)

Unit bulk enquiries welcome



56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL Tel: 01527 835375  
Fax: 01527 576798 eMail: [wms@worcmedals.com](mailto:wms@worcmedals.com)



**100  
YEARS  
100  
VETERANS  
100  
MILES**

**THE  
LONG  
WALK  
HOME**

**Come and be a part of The Long Walk Home!**

Join us from 6 to 11 November as one of 100 Veterans and serving personnel walking 100 miles from the Menin Gate in Ypres to the Cenotaph in Whitehall for the National Service of Remembrance and to honour, 100 years on, the many who gave their lives during World War One. You need to be able to undertake 25 miles a day for 4 consecutive days and commit to complete this.

**Take part!**

For more information and to APPLY

[www.tlwh.org.uk](http://www.tlwh.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 8685 5777

Serving personnel will undertake the Walk in a civilian capacity. You will be fully supported, accommodated, fed and watered throughout – but we also ask that you commit to fundraising towards a personal target. We also want hosts for pairs of Walkers across the 3 nights in Kent plus other volunteers.

*Military Marketing International*

Suppliers of commemorative plaques and presentation pieces



Let us design your Regiment and Operational plaques (minimum quantity 25)

PLAQUES: £12.95 each  
SHIELDCLOCKS: £24.00 each



for a full colour brochure contact:

82-84 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. B18 7AF  
Telephone / fax: 0121 454 5393  
Email: [mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk](mailto:mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk)  
Website: [www.militarymarketing.co.uk](http://www.militarymarketing.co.uk)



SHOPPING SATISFACTION ★★★★★

[www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk](http://www.jayjaysbrecon.co.uk)  
+44 (0) 1874 610036

Webbing Systems  
Yoke Systems  
Daysacks / Bergans  
Bergan Modification  
Molle Pouches  
Windproof SAS Smocks



And so much more...

Finance Available - If you can't pop in - please call or Email for details.



**JAY JAYS**

Vision | Innovation | Performance





because you're there for us

Our team of lawyers have many years of experience providing specialist legal advice to forces personnel. Our military law experts will not only advise you on issues arising from the line of duty but with your home life as well.

There for you supporting the forces


wilkin chapman llp  
inc. gilbert blades  
solicitors

Contact: **01522 512345** or visit [wilkinchapman.co.uk](http://wilkinchapman.co.uk)  
Out of hours for Military Discipline Matters only, contact Gordon Holt on **07973 667869**

Suppliers of high quality embroidered and printed sports and leisurewear to the Armed Forces

# motif8

ltd



tel: 01642 601501  
sales@motif8.co.uk  
www.motif8.co.uk

**Motif8 Will Beat Any Price - Guaranteed**

info@tolleybadges.co.uk  
(01384) 878550  
tolleybadges.co.uk




- ★ Embroidered, Woven, Printed and Metal Badges Epaulettes and Sliders
- ★ Woven & Printed labels
- ★ Metal Key rings & Medals / Coins

5 ★ RATING

"Always a first class service; great communication, quick turnaround, speedy delivery and competitive pricing!" - Ian March 2017

To advertise in *Soldier*  
call: 01252 787106

## Notice to readers

The publishers of *Soldier* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally-binding agreement.

**MICHAEL JAY**  
CIVIL AND MILITARY  
TAILORS

Made to Measure  
**MESS DRESS**  
Especially for you



- ☑ Made in the UK
- ☑ 14 day Make or 48hr EXPRESS
- ☑ Lowest prices
- ☑ Best Fit
- ☑ Highest quality
- ☑ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

01449 614602  
www.suitUK.com

As our customers say  
The service is simply unbeatable

5 Tano Business Park STORMARKET Salford IP14 5EP

## Navigation Training

Doing Selection?

Intensive 2-day courses in Map and Compass work. Theory and Practical Small Groups (4/5) or Individuals. Ex-Mil Instructor. Accom incl.

Contact Andy  
07787 122436  
brynderwen@tiscali.co.uk



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## SERVICES

**Finding homes for military personnel.** We organise your mortgage, search for your ideal property, manage the complete purchase, arrange the letting if required and pay all your professional and legal fees.  
[www.forceshomes.co.uk](http://www.forceshomes.co.uk)

## FOR SALE

**Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia.** Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9HU. Tel: 01723 513287  
[george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:george.cairnson@hotmail.co.uk)

## BOOKS

**Military history books.** Specialists in new and used military books. Visit our website or for a printed catalogue call 01303 246500.  
[www.militaryhistorybooks.com](http://www.militaryhistorybooks.com)

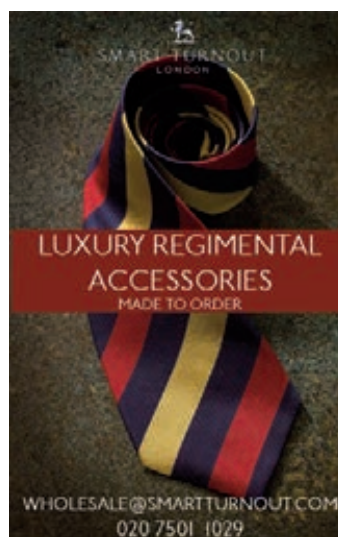


**THE BESPOKE TIE COMPANY**

Specialists in Regimental Accessories

0845 257 5710

[sales@bespoketies.com](mailto:sales@bespoketies.com)



**SMART TURNOUT LONDON**

LUXURY REGIMENTAL ACCESSORIES  
MADE TO ORDER

WHOLESALE@SMARTTURNOUT.COM  
020 7501 1029



**The Regimental Shop**  
Serving those who serve their country

[regimentalshop.com](http://regimentalshop.com)

Ties, accessories, gifts and much more

[sales@regimentalshop.com](mailto:sales@regimentalshop.com) 0845 459 1964

To advertise please call  
**01252 787106** or email  
[advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY

### 9 June 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): LCpl A Mason, 22 Engr Regt, 52 AES, Andover. 2nd Prize (£5,000): LBdr M Lloyd, 49 Bty, 16 Regt RA, Emsworth. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl D Pope, 251 (UK Ops) Sig Sqn, Aldershot. 4th Prize (£3,000): Sgt C Griffiths, 84 Sqn, 9 Regt RLC, Chippenham. 5th Prize (£2,000): LCpl P Hannigan, C Coy, 1 SG, Aldershot. 6th Prize (£1,000): Lt Col A James, BLO, Paris, France. Consolation prizes (£500): Lt T Morgan, 22 Engr Regt, 52 AES, Sheffield; Spr K Clubb, JFIG, DHU, Andover. Consolation prizes (£200): Sgt A Tamang, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; Maj G Lishman, HQ RE, Minley, Camberley; Sgt S McCrindle, NIGSU, BFPO 801; Pte S Nicholson, 30 Cdo IX Gp RM, Plymouth; Sgt L Grunsell, RMSM, Twickenham; LCpl M Lamont, 53 Sqn, 17 P&M Regt RLC, Marchwood; Pte S Alford, C Coy, 2 Yorks, Catterick; LCpl O Duthis-Thomas, A Sqn, QDG, Dereham; Gnr E Stephens, 10 Bty, 47 Regt RA, Larkhill; Pte J Cumper, 2 PWRR, Cottesmore; Lt A English, 64 Sqn, 6 Regt RLC, Thirsk; Cfn R Bolton, LAD REME, 5 Rifles, Salisbury; Tpr M Toroca, Armour Centre, Wareham; Pte T Dambrasukas, Defence Police College, Fareham;

WO2 S Peake, 1 MI Bn, Catterick Garrison. Consolation prizes (£100): SSgt L Welsh, Sp Sqn, 22 Signal Regt, Beaconside; Sgt L Martin, 617 Sqn, 7 Regt RLC, Cottesmore; Sgt A Harris-Hooton, DSPA, Winchester; Capt L Stoddart, H Bty, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Capt C Hoggard, 346 Bty, 2 Regt RA, Salisbury; Capt H Matuska, MoD AMD HQ, Camberley; LCpl B Dyson, BFPO 10, Batuk; Capt S Jefferies, 1 ITB, Catterick Garrison; LCpl J Fishwick, DPHC, North PRU, Preston; Pte J Brown, 1 PWRR, BFPO 22.

### 16 June 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): LCpl E Welburn, LD, Catterick Garrison. 2nd Prize (£5,000): Capt M Quance, 1 CS Bn REME, Catterick Garrison. 3rd Prize (£4,000): Pte J Norman, 82 Sqn, 13 Regt RLC, Colchester. 4th Prize (£3,000): Maj L Ord, R Mon RE, Monmouth. 5th Prize (£2,000): LCpl J Owen, SDG, St Andrews. 6th Prize (£1,000): Cpl C Watts, HQ ARRC, Gloucester. Consolation prizes (£500): SSgt C McDougall, 127 Sqn, 16 Med Regt, Colchester; Sgt P Sinclair, C Coy, 6 Scots, Glasgow. Consolation prizes (£200): Capt D Stevenson, 22 Signal Regt, Beaconside; LCpl I Bridge, A Coy, 2 Rifles, BFPO 801; SSgt B Torode, 94 Sqn, 39 Signal Regt, Windsor; SSgt W Wilkes, 200 Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Beaconside; Cpl D Gomez, DST, Beverley; SSgt A Griffiths, 56 Sqn, 24 Cdo Engr Regt,

Barnstaple; LCpl S Bennellick, 621 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Ruislip; Cpl R Palmer, 54 Sqn, 24 Cdo Engr Regt, Barnstaple; LCpl E Towersey-Veal, 255 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt, Stafford; LCpl M Adams, LAD REME, QDG, Dareham; Cpl P Nolan, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot; LCpl V Siddle, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham; LCpl M Burch, Den Ctr, Aldergrove, BFPO 808; Rfn C Hopcroft, C Coy, 1 Rifles, Chepstow; WO2 M Hamilton-Wright, DMS, Lichfield. Consolation prizes (£100): SSgt D Lane, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; Capt T Twining, 16 Med Regt, Colchester; Sgt N Watkin, 31 Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, Catterick; Sgt D Dowd, Sp Coy, 1 Coldm Gds, Windsor; Cpl L Allen, REM, APC, Glasgow; LBdr T Baldwin, King's Tp, RHA, London; Cpl L Jarjusey, Sp Coy, 2 Lincs, Preston; Sig K Rai, Sp Sqn, 16 Signal Regt, Beaconside; Tpr S Morrison, HQ Sqn, SDG, St Andrews; WO2 T Fleming, HQ 29 EOD & Search Gp, Saffron Walden.

### 23 June 2018

1st Prize (£10,000): LSgt J Williams, C Coy, 1 Gren Gds, Aldershot. 2nd Prize (£5,000): SSgt P Thurston, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport. 3rd Prize (£4,000): LCpl A Yusuff, 421 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot. 4th Prize (£3,000): Cfn W Matthews, LAD REME, 1 SG, Aldershot. 5th Prize (£2,000): OCdt J Brennan, RMA, Camberley. 6th Prize (£1,000): Sgt R Burwell, B Coy, 1

Scots. Consolation Prizes (£500): Sgt J Dolan, Batuk, BFPO 680; Cpl N Craven, LAD REME, 26 Engr Regt, Andover. Consolation Prizes (£200): Sgt M Galyer, MTMC, Nottingham; Sgt D Allen, QM Dept, 1 Bn REME, Catterick Garrison; WO2 L Whittaker, 662 Sqn, 3 Regt AAC, Ipswich; SSgt J Goldstraw, DES ComJE Lynx IPT, Yeovil; Bdr S Hodson, 79 Bty, 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth; Bdr K Tuinalele, Fleet Cap LLM & DRM Div, Portsmouth; Name withheld, HQ Hereford Garrison; Sgt N Frier, 17 Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Tpr H Chapple, C Sqn, HCR, Windsor; LCpl T McFarlane, 77 Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 22; Spr B Morris, 33 Sqn, 26 Engr Regt, Tidworth; Cfn K Welsh, 4 Coy, 1 Bn REME, Catterick Garrison; 2nd Lt T Green, REWW, 3 RSME, Camberley; Capt G Barraclough, 144 Sqn, 16 Med Regt, London; SSgt P Christie, 8 Bn REME, DSEME, Chippenham. Consolation prizes (£100): Sgt C Urwin, 34 CDDT, BFPO 806; WO2 R Finn, 26 Engr Regt, Tidworth; Cpl D Fletcher, 5 AAC, BFPO 808; Maj G Randall, UNMIS, BFPO 5313; LCpl A Cassidy, 211 Sqn, 1 Signal Regt, Stafford; LCpl O Danvers, HQ 170, (Infra Sp) Engr Gp, Nottingham; LCpl E Whitbread, 3 Rifles, Edinburgh; Pte T Pape, 4 Regt RLC, Abingdon; Lt G Hall, 8 Bty, 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth Hoe; LCpl R Moore, 255 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt, Beaconside.



# Welbeck

The Defence Sixth Form College



## The A level Pathway to STEM Careers in Defence

For potential engineers with drive, ambition and ability, Welbeck is where potential turns into bright futures as officers in the armed forces or civilian engineers with the civil service.



Science



Engineering



Technology



Maths

Students attain a minimum of three STEM A levels at Welbeck including Maths

Welbeck tuition funded by the Ministry of Defence with means-tested boarding fees

Choice of over 200 degree courses at 11 Partner Universities

Students receive £4000 per year bursary whilst at university

Starting training salary of circa £25,000 rising to £30,000 on completion of service training

Visit [www.dsfc.ac.uk](http://www.dsfc.ac.uk) to order or download a prospectus and book a place on one of our upcoming Open Days.

## WINTER PACKAGE

- 1 x Thermal T-Shirt
- 1 x Zipped Hoodie
- 2 x Embroidered logo's\* (One on each garment)
- 1 x Print (One on your choice of garment)

\*Embroidered logo's up to 12,000 stitches



**ONLY £24.99**

2018 VERBIER

0115 8284582  
price-buckland.co.uk

Price & Buckland

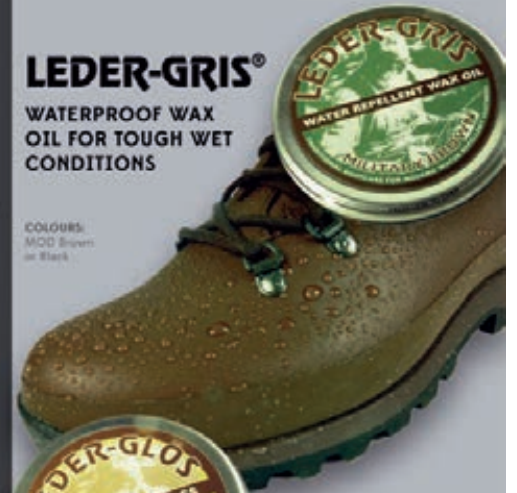
### STOCKISTS

- J Bull Catterick
- Silvermans London
- Base Camp Abroath
- Beckets Norwich
- Cadet Direct E.Sussex
- Allberg Yorkshire
- Camouflage Store Devon
- Dragon Supplies Colchester
- JJ Supplies Brecon
- Henry Dubora Aldershot
- Military Kit Manchester
- Taunton Leisure Exeter, Bristol, Taunton
- Soldier of Fortune North Wales
- Top of the Range Tadcaster
- Enforce Logic Windsor
- ATR Basingbourne Royston
- Adventure One Glasgow
- MOD Southwick Park Fareham
- RAF Halton Aylesbury
- Battlesbury Barracks Warrminster
- Hazelbrook Barracks Arborfield
- Bay Stores HMNS Clyde

### LEDER-GRIS®

WATERPROOF WAX OIL FOR TOUGH WET CONDITIONS

COLOURS: MOD Brown or Black



### LEDER-GLOS®

HIGH SHINE WAX FOR PARADE & BARRACK USE

COLOURS: MOD Brown or Black

ALSO AVAILABLE IN MOST SHOPS AND PRE'S IN CAMPS

[www.allberg.co.uk](http://www.allberg.co.uk)



# REVIEWS




MOVIES

## HURRICANE

War epic puts Polish fighters front and centre

THE Battle of Britain is one of history's "what if" moments. Had the Royal Air Force lost the fight for air supremacy in 1940 there would have been little standing in the way of Hitler's planned land invasion.

Instead, the desperate defence mounted by some 3,000 British and allied fighter pilots – "The Few" as Churchill later referred to them – dealt the Luftwaffe a blow from which it would never fully recover. 

**P63**

GAMES

**P64**

BOOKS

**P65**

MUSIC



## MOVIES



**Hurricane is in cinemas and on digital platforms on September 7**



Now a new film is paying tribute to the 145-strong Polish contingent whose invaluable contribution may have tipped the balance.

Out in cinemas this month, *Hurricane* tells the story of 303 Squadron, which became Fighter Command's top-scoring formation, with at least 126 enemy aircraft shot down.

**Iwan Rheon** (*Game of Thrones*, *Our Girl*) takes the lead as Polish-Swiss flying ace Jan Zumbach, whom the movie depicts stealing a plane in France to come to Britain.

As the top brass would discover, military discipline was not high on his list of priorities.

"He's a bit of a maverick character," Rheon told *Soldier*.

"He kind of imagines himself as being the very best pilot in the squadron.

"These guys were quite wild. They weren't interested in following protocol they just wanted to go out and shoot enemy planes down and if they got shot doing it they didn't care.

"That's the mentality they had. And I guess that came from having seen so many horrible things happening in their home country – they came for revenge and that's why they were such a successful squadron, because they had less to lose."

The Poles arrived on English soil itching to take the fight to the Germans but the chain of command were initially sceptical of their flying ability.

However, the rate of attrition among British pilots was such that they soon got the chance to prove themselves.

The film's breathtaking action sequences give a visceral sense of what it must have been like to fly a Hawker Hurricane in a dogfight – and see your comrades shot down in flames.

Back at base, the Servicemen cope with the pressure and exhaustion with alcohol and amphetamines.

Best known for his five-season run as Ramsay Bolton on HBO's *Game of Thrones*, Rheon channels a similar steely-eyed intensity in his portrayal of Zumbach – albeit with less of the deranged psychopath vibe.

The Welshman said he is grateful for the opportunities that his stint as TV's arch villain opened up for him.

"I don't think I'd have been offered the job if it wasn't for



*Game of Thrones*," he conceded.

"As an actor you want to do different things and I thought this was such a great story and fascinating character, as well as a huge challenge – learning Polish

and acting in a language I don't speak.

"There were times I didn't think I'd be able to do it and it was scary but I didn't have the option of failing."

The tale of the Polish fighter pilots ends on a sad note. Despite being hailed as celebrities during the Battle of Britain, the post-war government was keen to see them return to their homeland, now part of the communist bloc.

They were excluded from victory parades, unions complained about them taking "British jobs" and an opinion poll of the time found that a majority of the public were in favour of their deportation.

It is impossible to watch the film, nearly 80 years later, without a sense of resignation.

"With what's going on politically in Britain at the moment we can't forget that in the hour of our greatest need these people came and helped us out," Rheon added.

"People from all over the world – not just Poland – baled us out, essentially, because we were really up against it.

"I think it's a real shame that all of a sudden now we've just forgotten about that.

"Hopefully we won't need them to come and help us again.

"It's important to learn lessons from history and not forget what happened."

Whatever the current political challenges, *Hurricane* rightly shines a light on a brief but critical period in Europe's shared past and the bravery of all those who flew – and died – in the fight against fascism. ■

### VERDICT:

Puts you right in the cockpit for the Battle of Britain

★★★★★

INTERVIEW: BECKY CLARK, *SOLDIER*

## WIN

Released during the summer, the *First World War* is billed as the definitive documentary about the conflict that shaped the 20th Century. Based on the

book by Hew Strachan, it dispels some myths and clichés around the four-year clash of nations while offering new insights into events. We have five copies to give away – to stand a chance of winning, tell us in which year the fighting started.

Answers to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 28.





## DVD/DIGITAL RELEASES



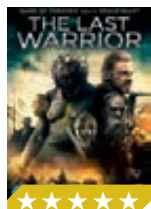
### The Negotiator

Out Sept 24

*THE Negotiator* – or *Beirut* depending on which country you see it in – is a political thriller underpinned by a strong creative pedigree.

Starring **John Hamm** as a world-weary ex-diplomat with a shadowy past, the plot revolves around him being called back into action by the CIA to negotiate the release of an agent held hostage. The film is solidly scripted while giving Hamm an opportunity to demonstrate his leading-man potential with an interesting and nuanced character study.

**Maj Alex Janaway, RAMC**



### The Last Warrior

Out now

If *Game of Thrones* was crossed with *Braveheart* with a dash of *Conan the Barbarian* added,

for good measure, the result would resemble this violent clash of clans romp. As a new era dawns in Eastern Europe, a warrior tribe called the Scythians have almost been wiped out with the remaining descendants now ruthless mercenary assassins. Against this backdrop, the story focuses on one man's quest to save his family amid a feud with another tribe. This epic fight for survival is well worth a watch.

**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**



### The Senator

Out now

BASED on true events, this film tells the story of how Massachusetts senator Ted Kennedy –

brother of John and Bobby – manages to kill one of his secretaries in a car accident in 1969. Facing prison, he causes a scandal by using his family name to influence the public while attempting to cover up what has happened, costing him any chance of becoming president in the process. This is an interesting insight into one of America's most famous families and its dark past.

**Cpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**



### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## STARS OF THE SHOW

### Developers unleash new gems at gaming get-together

► THE annual Electronic Entertainment Expo, E3, showcases forthcoming titles that gamers can feast their eyes upon for the very first time.

And judging by the host of releases unveiled at this year's event there is a lot to look forward to.

Microsoft were up first with an impressive array of offerings for both the Xbox and PC.

Surprisingly, *Halo: Infinite* was the initial revelation and it features gorgeous visuals along with what appears to be open-world exploring. Of course, the Master Chief is back and takes centre stage in this new saga. But if you're expecting to resume battle any time soon you'll be disappointed as the game is still some way off, most likely coming out either next year or in 2020.

Other titles include the more immediate *Forza Horizon 4*, due for release next month. The action switches to the UK in this latest instalment and visually it looks stunning, while the cars are amazing. The package also promises a far superior online experience.

Another offering to look out for is the next chapter in the *Tomb Raider* revival, *Shadow of the Tomb Raider*, which sees Lara Croft in Latin America.

It's a direct sequel to the previous game and is out later this month. Since her reboot in 2013, the franchise has definitely scratched that Indiana Jones itch and this one looks like it'll deliver plenty of action.

Ubisoft's follow-



up to *The Division* was also debuted during the Microsoft conference, sporting the usual list of criteria the developers are known for: rich graphics, tactical situations and plenty to explore as the series moves on from New York to Washington DC.

As with any E3 reveal, we had the usual raft of big hitters such as *FIFA 19*, *Battlefield V*, *Gears of War 5* and the next NFL and NBA titles.

Other highlights were *Cyberpunk 2077*, *Fallout 76*, and *Ori and the Will of the Wisps*.

The first of these has been in development under Polish studio and *Witcher* series developer CD Projekt Red since 2016 and is a role-playing game set in a dystopian environment that looks like it'll give its rivals a run for their money.

That being said, Bethesda also revealed *Doom Eternal* and recently unveiled gameplay footage at QuakeCon. And it looks amazing. Unfortunately it will not appear in its full form until next year.

All in all, it promises to be an interesting and exciting 12 months. ■

REPORT: DAVID MCDUGALL, CIVVY



## BOOKS



PICK OF THE MONTH:

## DESERT SNIPER

**Brit quits homeland to take up arms against Daesh**

▶ THE opening of Ed Nash's adventure through foreign conflicts sees him leading an ordinary life in the UK before heading east to join the Free Burma Rangers, an organisation providing medical support and assistance.

However it is here, in the world's longest civil war, that the author discovers his true meaning in life – to take on the greater evil of Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

Without any military experience, the do-gooder makes his way to join the Kurdish Peshmerga only to find he is no more than a foreign celebrity soldier, wheeled out for the media when they need a propaganda boost.

Boredom soon sets in and before long he joins another fighter to abscond from the Kurds' foreign legion and join a unit on the front line.

This is where the story should fully kick in. But far from an extraordinary tale of one man pitting himself against an evil empire, the remainder of the book is altogether a far more mundane affair.

It is refreshing that the narrative lacks the bombastic rhetoric often associated with these stories. The consideration given by the Peshmerga to the Kurdish civilians and the esprit de corps between the fighters gives the story a lift.

### VERDICT:

A modern *Bravo Two Zero* it is not – but at a push is worth a look during the daily commute

★★★★★

With little in terms of first-hand close-combat action involved, however, the entire tale seems to follow other people's fights or Nash's arrival just after – or departure before – the big contacts.

When we do find ourselves in battle the whole thing feels inflamed with hyperbole, disguised with *nommes de guerres* and with far too much time spent detailing well-known weapons that the most casual *Call of Duty* player would be fully aware of.

Surely the differences between an American M16 and a Soviet AK47 rifle would be well known to the target readership – so why spend pages detailing them?

The point of it all is somewhat lost as the story reaches its conclusion. Nash returns home to be arrested for fighting abroad but argues that any sane person could and should confront the evil of organisations such as Daesh.

Perhaps he is right. But either way the book should have gone down the line of telling the larger story of the Peshmerga rather than one man's experience within the fractured militia units. ■

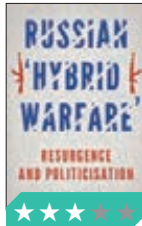
REVIEW: CPL SCOTT ROBERTS, RIFLES





*Desert Sniper* by Ed Nash is out now, priced £20.00

## BOOK RELEASES

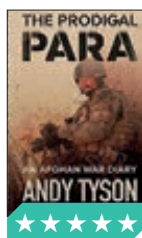


### Russian Hybrid Warfare

by Ofer Fridman

WRITTEN predominantly with an academic audience in mind, this book takes an interesting look at how Nato, American and Russian thinkers have conceptualised hybrid threats and warfare. The text is hard-going at points so a general reader may struggle. Nevertheless, it offers a timely and useful overview of Russia's approach to modern conflict and, as such, makes a valuable contribution to the genre. The title may make relevant pre-deployment reading for Servicemen and women who find themselves heading for Operation Cabrit, but would otherwise most likely be appreciated by personnel working mainly at the strategic, rather than tactical, level.

**Capt Daniel Burke, Int Corps**



### The Prodigal Para

by Andy Tyson

THIS book is based on the daily diary of a private soldier during his tour of Helmand Province in 2010. Nothing exceptional I hear you say, except this Para was a 47-year-old Reservist, who had rejoined the Army almost three decades after he last served as a Regular. His story is a punchy account of the boredom that front-line troops face, interspersed with life and death situations that appear in the blink of an eye, as well as the aftermath of trying to get to grips with PTSD. Funny, entertaining and thought provoking, it is a must-read for anyone thinking of joining the Paras.

**Tony David, ex-RE**



### This Dark Business

by Tim Clayton

CHRISTMAS Eve in the year 1800 and a bomb goes off in Paris – an attempt has been made on Napoleon Bonaparte's life. Through in-depth research, this book reveals the lengths the British government went to in order to subvert the French military leader. Propaganda, fake news, spying and assassination – nothing was off limits. With a huge cast of characters, the account weaves a story of deceit, betrayal and death. Newspaper editors were coerced into writing false articles about Napoleon to keep the idea of revolution from spreading to Britain. This is a fascinating, well-written account of a political period that was probably not Britain's finest.

**Andy Kay, ex-RS**



### Under the Wire

by Paul Conroy

REPUBLICATED to coincide with the release of a film of the same name this month, this book

tells the story of journalist Marie Colvin and photographer Paul Conroy's fatal assignment in Syria. The pair smuggled themselves into the blood-soaked city of Homs in 2012, but only the latter would come out alive. His heart-stopping account of the mission and his narrow escape reveals the sheer courage of those who put themselves in danger to report the facts. In an age where the mainstream media is under attack from the corridors of power this poignant tale highlights the vital role of war correspondents in bringing the truth to light.

**Becky Clark, Soldier**

## MUSIC



Picture: Lieven Bulkens

### PICK OF THE MONTH:

## FEARLESS FORAY

**Artist uses recollections of Army upbringing to inspire musical career**

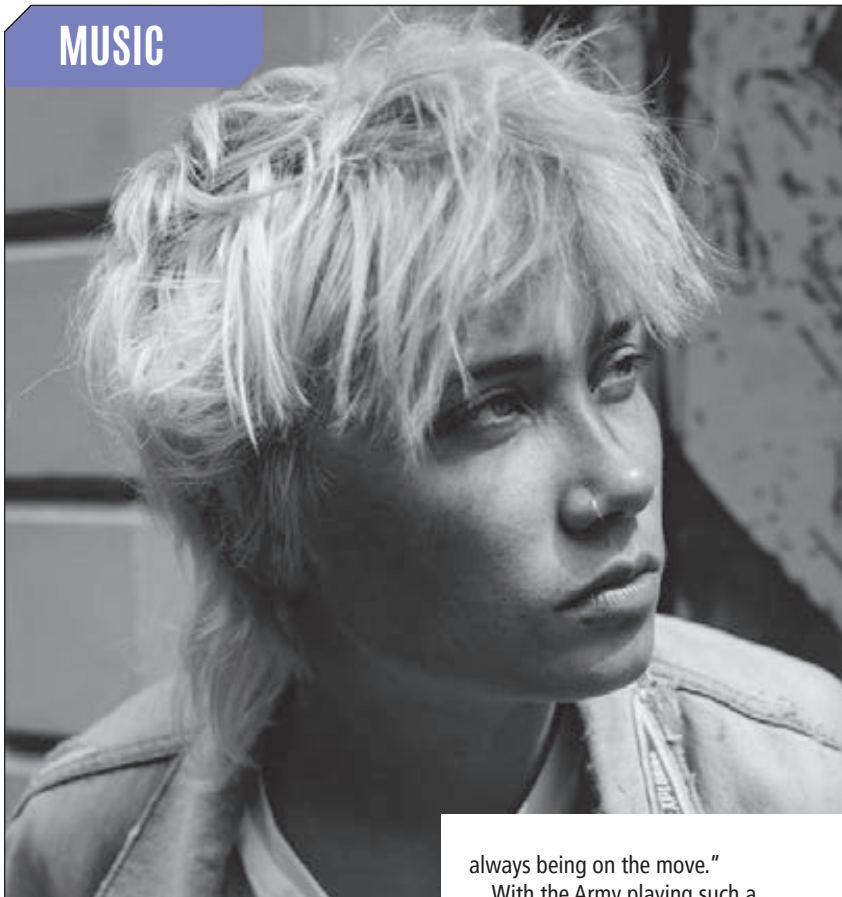
› "IT definitely spurred me on to be creative," singer-songwriter **Annabel Allum** tells *Soldier* as she fondly reflects on her experiences of growing up in an Army family.

The 22-year-old may have moved on from the youngster who, alongside her brother, found great excitement in the wonders of the military estate but her memories of this "magical" time live strong and have inspired her latest foray into the indie scene.

On the back of critically acclaimed EPs *All That For What* and *Sorry I'm Not Perceptible*, her new single *Fear Naught* details her childhood and the immense freedom she found at such a young age.







» “Being an Army child forces you to be full of adventure,” Allum explains. “We would be out in the woods playing, learning new skills and a sense of survival, as well as making short-term friendships.

“That was such an important part of my life.

“Now I find myself getting itchy feet and I crave the need to be constantly on the go. My experience as a child was so magical.”

The Guildford-based artist’s father, Cliff Allum, concluded his career as a major in the Royal Tank Regiment and, after spending her early years in Germany, she lived on two UK camps.

“Luckily enough we managed to stay put for a lot of our schooling but other children had to move around much more,” she adds.

“*Fear Naught* is almost an ode to my father. It was something he used to say to us as kids and it has always stuck in my mind.

“His work ethic and the way he brought us up taught us to be fearless, I really admired that.

“The song is very fast moving and it kind of represents our lifestyle of

always being on the move.”

With the Army playing such a prominent role in her life Allum concedes that following in her father’s footsteps was a possibility. But she is happy with the path she has taken.

“It was definitely something I thought about,” the singer says. “My brother is moving in that direction and is part of the University Officers’ Training Corps.

“But I’m focusing on my music career, I really enjoy the fact I’m able to be creative.”

And the decision is paying off. *Fear Naught* premiered on **Huw Stephens’** Radio 1 show and was accompanied by a live session at the esteemed Maida Vale studios.

Allum was due to play the Reading Festival as this issue went to press and a three-week UK tour gets under way in Newcastle on October 9.

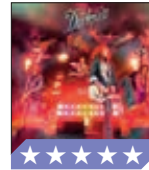
“It is pretty crazy really,” she reflects. “To do a Radio 1 session at Maida Vale off the back of a single is just amazing.

“Now it’s a case of ‘keep going’. I’ll be working on more releases and bigger and better shows and we’ll see what happens from there.” ■

INTERVIEW: RICHARD LONG, SOLDIER

For tour details and to listen to her music visit [www.aannabel.co.uk](http://www.aannabel.co.uk)

## MUSIC RELEASES



### Live At Hammersmith by The Darkness

THIS is by far the best live album I’ve heard in well over a decade. If you can’t decide whether you’re a fan of glam rockers **The Darkness** I can guarantee that after one listen of this impressive collection you’ll be scouring the internet for tickets to a gig near you. The crowd interaction is a fantastic addition to the superb music and those who are fans will be pleased to hear the group’s seminal album, *Permission To Land*, appears in almost its entirety. The highlights from more recent releases are also present and the combination of old and new material gives an energy-charged overview of their 15-year career. I couldn’t recommend this album any higher – buy it now.

Sgt Adam Jackson, Para



### Coup De Grace by Miles Kane

INSPIRED by his love of WWE wrestling, **Miles Kane** returns with his first solo release since 2013. The title is the name of the signature move performed by grappler **Finn Balor** and while this offering has some enjoyable peaks it ultimately lacks a killer blow. The highlight is *Cry On My Guitar*, a track that could easily be mistaken as being from the **T Rex** back catalogue given its trademark riffs and **Marc Bolan**-esque vocals. The glam feel is repeated on the likes of *Silverscreen* and *Too Little Too Late*, which work well, but the remainder of the album proves to be a hit and miss affair – despite the best efforts of collaborators **Jamie T** and **Lana Del Rey**.

Richard Long, Soldier



### Move Through The Dawn by The Coral

IT has been 16 years since **The Coral** announced their arrival with a self-titled debut album and, after some highs and lows along the way, the Wirral natives are still going strong. *Move Through The Dawn* is the band’s ninth studio release and, after some psychedelic diversions last time out, sees them reverting to the minimalist, ballad-like style that has become their trademark. Opener *Eyes Like Pearls* ticks all the boxes of a typical Coral song but there is greater variety to be found on the likes of *Reaching Out for a Friend* and *Eyes of the Moon*. There is nothing groundbreaking to be found here but, instead, we have another solid offering from a group who know what they’re good at.

Richard Long, Soldier



# T40

the new  
reference of  
medium-calibre  
armament  
system



**nexTER** **K+N**  
A COMPANY OF **D+S**

CREATING NEW REFERENCES IN DEFENSE | [WWW.NEXTER-GROUP.COM](http://WWW.NEXTER-GROUP.COM)





# BLACK EAGLE® TACTICAL 2.0 GTX

high / brown

**High cut full leather tactical boot**

- > Light & dynamic
- > All conditions boot
- > Extremely slip resistant
- > Fully waterproof & breathable GORE-TEX® lining

Quality shoes for military, police, firefighters, rescue services, hunting, forest, workwear and leisure time



[www.haix.co.uk](http://www.haix.co.uk)

SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN WORKERS



# TRUE BRIT

**THE ASTRA SPORTS TOURER WITH 5 YEARS 0% APR PLUS YOUR ASSOCIATE PARTNERS SAVING**

Forward collision alert to handle stop-go rush hour traffic. Sport switch to power you through long straights and steep country climbs. The Astra Sports Tourer SRI. Built in Britain. For the roads of Britain.



**VAUXHALL**  
British Brand since 1903

To find out more visit: [www.vauxhallpartners.co.uk/military](http://www.vauxhallpartners.co.uk/military)  
Call 0344 875 2448 or visit your local Vauxhall Retailer.

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Astra Sports Tourer Range: Urban: 33.2 (8.5) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined: 42.8 (6.6) – 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 151 – 107g/km.\*

Model shown is Astra Sports Tourer SRI Nav Offer subject to availability, on selected models at participating and qualifying Retailers only. Conditional sale. Finance subject to status. T&Cs apply. Applicants must be 18+. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, CFIS 7YT. 24-60 month term. Offer applies to Vauxhall Partners only. Offer available on orders or registrations between 1 August and 1 October 2018. For Partners Terms, Conditions and Exclusions go to [www.vauxhallpartners.co.uk/terms-and-conditions](http://www.vauxhallpartners.co.uk/terms-and-conditions) \*Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to print: 17/08/2018.



# SOLDIER SPORT



## ◀◀ TITLE HUNT

IT was a day to remember at the Inter-Services Triathlon Championships as a new-look Army women's squad topped the individual and collective standings. There were also wins for the men's and masters teams. Read more on pages 70-71...





# TEAMS REIGN SUPREME IN COTSWOLDS QUEST

**T**HE Army's triathlon stars reigned supreme in the punishing summer heat as they mounted an impressive defence of their team titles at the Inter-Services Championships.

It was the Reds' strength in depth that proved decisive once again as the loss of leading personnel was countered by the emergence of some exciting fresh talent, particularly in the women's competition.

Capt Katrina Rye (RAMC) and Sgt Becky Hoare (REME) figured prominently in the 2017 standings but with both soldiers missing this year's Cotswolds battle the team turned to its new breed of athletes.

However, it was far from plain sailing in the early stages as Royal Air Force star Flt Lt Hannah Rose dominated the swimming stage to open a lead of more than two minutes on her nearest Army rival, Cpl Hannah Lyons (AGC (SPS)).

Capt Emma Wardall and Lt Rosie Wild (both RA) followed three minutes later, meaning there was work to do on the bike.

Wild set a blistering pace on two wheels and clocked the fastest time in the field but it was Lyons who headed into the final stage with the overall advantage after she hunted down Rose on the road.

The ten-kilometre run proved to be a shootout between teammates Wild and Lyons and there was just two seconds separating the duo as they headed into the last lap.

But it was Wild who made the crucial break to cross the finish line in a winning time of 2hr 14.59sec – a lead of 39 seconds over Lyons in second.

Wardall claimed fourth place behind Rose and with the Army taking two other positions in the top ten the collective honours were secured.

"It all went wrong in the

swim," Wild (pictured right) told *SoldierSport*. "I've been on exercise for the past few weeks so couldn't really train for it.

"So it all came down to the bike and run. It was a good road to cycle on, there were enough hills to make it challenging and there was some good speed on the flat sections.

"I was looking ahead for people to pick off and once I'd done that I was banking on my performance in the run. I managed to get ahead on the last lap and take the win."

The Inter-Services was only Wild's second standard-distance triathlon race and Lyons' third, meaning the team – which also included Olympic rowing gold medallist Maj Heather Stanning (RA) – had a distinct novice feel this season.

"To be honest, I've surprised myself," Lyons (pictured left) said. "I didn't really know what to expect.

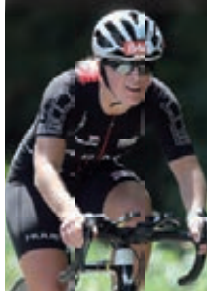
INTER-SERVICES  
TRIATHLON

MEN

ARMY

WOMEN

ARMY







"The swim went well and I ate my way through the field on the bike. I was leading on the last lap of the run but that is my weakest event. Rosie is an Army runner and she was able to come through and get the win.

"This is my first year with the triathlon team and so far I'm enjoying it, they are such a supportive group.

"There are a few people missing this year; if they come back we can really push on."

It was business as usual in the men's race as RAF sensation SAC Luke Pollard stormed his way to another dominant victory – finishing almost six minutes clear of rival Lt Henry Eaton (RLC) in second.

But with Cpl Ieuan Hudson (REME) taking fourth place, and the Army clinching seven spots in the top ten, the team title was emphatically retained.

"Second place was a realistic target before the race," Eaton told *SoldierSport*. "Luke Pollard is a full-time athlete so he is in a different league. We are right there if he has a puncture or mechanical problem, but that did not happen today.

"We've got some really good guys in the Army team. Our strength is in the bike and run but we've made some massive gains in the swim and that can only make us better.

"We now have more than 300 members and that is down to the growing popularity of the sport. People join the military to get fit and challenge themselves; triathlon lets them do that." ■



## TRIATHLON IN NUMBERS

ATHLETES IN ACTION AT THE EVENT

118

SUCCESSIVE INDIVIDUAL TITLES WON BY SAC LUKE POLLARD

4

COMBINED TRIATHLON CONTESTS COMPLETED BY WOMEN'S CHAMPION LT ROSIE WILD AND RUNNER-UP CPL HANNAH LYONS

5

SOLDIERS FINISHING IN THE TOP TEN PLACES OF THE MEN'S STANDINGS

7

YEARS OF INTER-SERVICES TRIATHLON MARKED IN 2018

30



Pictures: Julian Perreira

## HUDSON VOWS TO PUSH ON

**A** FOURTH place finish at the Inter-Services represented the first real setback of the season for Cpl Ieuan Hudson (REME).

The rising star was victorious in the Army Sprint and Standard-Distance Championships earlier this year and had high hopes of pushing Royal Air Force star SAC Luke Pollard all the way in the military showdown.

But his aspirations were dashed as he struggled on the bike and eventually finished more than seven minutes behind his rival.

"I wanted to compete for the win," the 24-year-old told *SoldierSport*. "I was well placed in the swim and the plan was to stay with Luke.

"When I got on the bike I realised I had nothing in the tank – maybe it was the heat.

"But if you had told me this time last year I would finish fourth I would have taken it."

Hudson admitted he may have pushed himself a little

too hard in the build-up to the race and is already targeting an improved showing in 2019.

"Given my form this year, finishing fourth is a bit of a kick in the teeth," he added.

"I wanted second place as a minimum so I've got to eat some humble pie.

"I've won every race this season but got destroyed today; I think you need that every now and then.

"I'll go away and work on my biking and running in the heat. I'll train hard and come back next year."

Hudson's campaign will continue at the national relays and Inter-Services Half-Ironman Championships ahead of a busy period of winter training.

And if his impressive form continues he hopes to push for international honours.

"Representing Wales at the next Commonwealth Games is in sight," he said. "There's a gap in elite triathlon so why not go in at the top." ■









# START YOUR ENGINES

## PETROLHEADS INVITED TO THE GRID AS SERVICE HOSTS ITS ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF MOTORSPORT

**T**HE many disciplines that comprise the British Army Motorsport Association (BAMA) will take to the track at MoD Lyneham later this month for a celebration of life on two wheels and four.

From karting and sports car racing to trial bikes, enduro and sprint motorcycles the set-up has got it covered and the powers-that-be are now looking for more troops to experience life in the fast lane.

Each sport will be represented at the showcase on September 12, when soldiers will have the opportunity to learn more about the organisation and how they can get involved.

Sports car racing will attract significant interest given the fact it is the fastest growing discipline within BAMA.

It started with just five cars in 2012 and now boasts a field of more than 30 vehicles.

The main focus is the Armed Forces Race Championship before the season culminates with an Inter-Services showdown at Silverstone.

While the cars are privately owned and maintained the unique nature of the sport – lap time consistency is key – ensures drivers do not need a vast budget to be competitive.

In contrast, being quick round the track is a prerequisite for the Army karting team, who compete against their Forces rivals in six hard-fought rounds throughout the year.

The soldiers hold two championship titles and are racing three endurance and three sprint karts this season.

“We want to make motorsport open to all,” said team manager Sgt Ben Lockyer (REME). “We are always looking for new

drivers and pit crew, whether they have a background in karting or not.

“We will hold trials for the next championship year in November and potential recruits will then be invited to a track day, where we can assess their driving style to see if they have the potential to be quick.

“A select few will then be welcomed to a second round, when they will be pitted against current team members.”

Those with an interest in rallying have two options.

The Armed Forces Rally Team is a tri-Service organisation based at Deepcut Barracks that competes in a variety of national and international special-stage events.

Racing in six Land Rover Wolf vehicles, entrants are tested on a variety of surfaces for the right to be crowned Armed Forces champions.

Alternatively, aspiring drivers can push their own vehicles in the Army Rally Championship.

The event features five point-scoring rounds and culminates with a final stage in which all competitors race each other at the same location.

The expression “any vehicle can be rallied” holds true as anything can compete, provided it is fitted with relevant safety equipment such as a roll cage, fire extinguisher and harness.

When it comes to motorcycling pursuits, enduro is proving the most popular within Army circles.

Riders can compete in events ranging from local level to the European Championships and the Service’s top riders test themselves at the International Six Days of Enduro each year.

While the sport caters



Picture: Garry Fox

**“WE WANT TO MAKE THE SPORT OPEN TO ALL”**

for experienced athletes it welcomes newcomers during an annual training camp.

Developing riders at grass-roots level has also been a key focus of the Army trials team.

This ethos has allowed the set-up to compete at the highest level, with personnel entering the International Scottish Six Day Trial every year since 1936.

It is billed as a true test of man and machine as entrants cover more than 100 miles a day, riding through 30 sections including obstacles such as steep gullies, slippery rocks, streams and gorges.

Those seeking action on the track are catered for by the Army Motorcycle Road Race Team, which takes part in sprint and endurance events.

The former sees soldiers compete against their military rivals at some of the country’s top venues.


Many of the sprint riders use the experience gained in the series to take on notorious road races such as the Isle of Man TT and the Manx Grand Prix.

Sgt Jason Makham (RA) highlighted the success of this route when he finished third in his class, and tenth overall, at last season’s Junior TT.

And if an off-road escape is something that appeals the Service offers opportunities in motorised adventure.

The most recent quest saw personnel complete an epic 24,000-kilometre journey from the southern tip of South America to the shores of the Arctic Ocean in Alaska. ■





# Leading the whey...

- ✓ 20g protein
- ✓ 2g leucine
- ✓ Supports muscle growth and recovery
- ✓ Added vitamins for improved absorption
- ✓ Unflavoured for versatility
- ✓ FREE great tasting flavour drops
- ✓ FREE UK delivery

**£10  
OFF**

TRIAL PRICE\*  
£24.99 NOW  
£14.99



**INFORMED-SPORT**  
Trusted by sport

[healthspanelite.co.uk/protein](http://healthspanelite.co.uk/protein) Offer code **ESOF AU**

\*Quote code ESOF AU when ordering at checkout. Please allow up to five working days for delivery. Free delivery on all Healthspan Elite\* orders delivered to UK addresses. Single use only. Voucher valid until 30/11/18 at [www.healthspanelite.co.uk](http://www.healthspanelite.co.uk) and only when purchasing Healthspan Elite\* products.





**EYES ON THE PRIZE:** THE ARMY RETURN TO ACTION AT THE INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BEDFORD FROM SEPTEMBER 10 TO 14

## SPORT SHORTS



### Ironmen set the pace

**SENIOR** officers Maj Gen Ivan Jones and Brig John Mead went head-to-head with athletes from across the world at the inaugural Estonia Ironman competition.

Comprised of a two-and-a-half mile swim in the Baltic Sea, a 112-mile cycle leg and a full marathon, the event attracted more 1,400 entrants from around 50 countries.

Jones posted a time of 10hr 6min to finish ninth in his age group, while Mead (pictured above) completed the course in 9hr 39min to take fourth spot in his category.



### Forces fixtures finalised

**THE UK** Armed Forces rugby union set-up has confirmed the details of this season's remembrance matches.

Bristol's Ashton Gate Stadium will host the men's fixture against Bristol Bears on Thursday, November 15.

And the women will play the South African national team at Rosslyn Park on Friday, November 2.

For more details follow @ukafrugby on Twitter.



## BOARDERS PASS EUROPEAN TEST

**A** RMY riders Capt Charlie Hay (AAC) and SSgt Dale Crossley (RE) gave a superb showing on the elite stage when they represented Great Britain at the European Wakeboard Championships.

Staged at Wake Paradise in Milan, the contest saw both soldiers perform strongly in the qualifying rounds as they progressed to their respective finals in style.

Hay (pictured) took second spot in her heat and went on to finish fourth overall in the masters' ladies event, where British teammate Steph Caller took silver.

"I'm happy to take fourth place at what

was my first European Championships," the officer said.

"I've had a solid three weeks on the water and had a great time with Team GB. I have to say a massive thank you to the Army and my corps for the support this season, which has enabled me to train, travel and compete."

After negotiating the qualifiers and semi-finals, Crossley made it through to a six-strong line-up that contested the men's masters final.

And his efforts were rewarded as he claimed a bronze medal. ■

**"I'VE HAD A GREAT TIME WITH TEAM GB"**



**THERE** was a familiar feel to this year's Inter-Services Tennis Championships as Army players dominated the court to secure the men's and women's collective titles.

Back-to-back wins for top seed Capt Ben Rogers (RA) helped the men's team – which included the returning Lt Scott Sears (RGR, pictured) – to a slender 5-4 lead at the end of the singles draw. The soldiers then hit top form in the doubles to eventually triumph 11-7 over the Royal Navy in second.

It was business as usual in the women's contest as the Army won all six matches in the singles before dropping just one match in the doubles to finish with 11 points.

The Royal Air Force claimed second spot ahead of the Navy in third.

Picture: Steve Dock

Picture: Steve Dock





## GAME BRIEF

**DATE:** July 26, 2018

**COMPETITION:** Inter-Services Women's Twenty20 Championship  
**VENUE:** Burnaby Road, Portsmouth

**NAVY 61-6:** Extras 19, Raynes 13, Tatnell 12, Gavillet 2-5, Potgieter 1-10, Clark 1-12

**ARMY 64-0:** Potgieter 38 not out, Vaggers 20 not out

**SUCCESS** in the Twenty20 format underlined the Army's dominance of Forces cricket in the 2018 season.

The Reds' bowlers conceded just 114 runs in their two matches – a total that would be considered well below par in a standard single match – and raced to their victory targets with ease.

"We had two really good performances," skipper Capt Lauren Harden (RE) told *SoldierSport*. "We were on it from the first ball and everyone wanted to take a catch or claim a wicket."

"Our openers were on top form which meant I had to sit for 40 overs with my pads on, but I have no complaints with that."

"Some new players have come in to bolster the team from last year so we felt confident coming into the tournament."



# REDS HIT CRUISE CONTROL

### INTER-SERVICES WOMEN'S T20

NAVY

61-6

ARMY

64-0



**T**WO thumping victories over their Forces rivals saw the Army women complete an emphatic Inter-Services double as they lifted the silverware in this season's Twenty20 showpiece.

Having already secured the honours in the longer format the Reds maintained their impressive form in Portsmouth as they recorded ten-wicket triumphs against the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

It was the team's efforts with the ball that laid the platform for success as tight bowling, coupled with superb fielding, restricted their opponents.

The RAF posted a lowly total of 53-7 as the Army won the toss and asked their rivals to bat first in the opening match.

All-rounder Sgt Amanda Potgieter (REME, pictured above) was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2-13 and there was a ruthless edge to the run chase as the soldiers finished the job in style.

Maj Mel Vaggers (AGC (SPS)) blasted a rapid-fire 51 not out to help her side race to their target inside seven overs, with

opening partner Potgieter a virtual spectator as she finished unbeaten on three.

With the Navy enjoying similar success against the RAF it was winner-takes-all in the final game of the day.

Again, the Army fielded first and after a promising start from the hosts they seized control.

LS Lou Worsfold was the first to perish when she was superbly caught by Vaggers off the bowling of LCpl Gabie Clark (Int Corps) before Potgieter executed two run outs to reduce the score to 27-3.

Spinner SSgt Kirsty Gavillet (RLC, pictured left) claimed the prize scalp of Lt Cdr Hazelle Garton and her departure in the tenth over ended any hopes of a challenging total.

The second half of the innings saw just 21 runs added as the Army's stranglehold continued. Gavillet claimed a second wicket to finish with figures of 2-5 from a spell that included two maidens.

The run chase proved to be a formality as Vaggers and Potgieter cruised to their target with little danger. ■





YOU TAKE CARE OF US.  
WE TAKE CARE OF YOU.  
TOGETHER WE GO FURTHER.

CURRENT OR FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL  
CAN SAVE UP TO **20%\*** ON A NEW FORD.



FORD KUGA ST-LINE SHOWN AVAILABLE WITH  
**15%** CUSTOMER SAVING.

**TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [FORD.CO.UK/MILITARYSALES](http://ford.co.uk/militarysales)**

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Kuga ST-Line range: urban 30.1-57.6 (9.4-4.9), extra urban 44.8-67.3 (6.3-4.2), combined 37.7-64.2 (7.5-4.4). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 173-115g/km.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

\*Military Saving programme available to current and ex-Service Personnel, including veterans and retired members of the UK Armed Forces. Customer savings of 4% to 20% off the Recommended On The Road price available across the Ford range (excluding KA+ and Focus RS) on vehicles contracted between 26th January 2018 and 31st December 2018 and registered between 26th January 2018 and 30th June 2019. Retail customers only. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with other manufacturer promotions or incentives. At participating Ford dealers – for terms and conditions, including the eligibility criteria, eligible models and customer savings visit: [www.ford.co.uk/militarysales](http://www.ford.co.uk/militarysales)





## UMPIRES NEEDED

THE UK Armed Forces cricket set-up is looking for new umpires and scorers to join the fold.

Training and courses in both facets of the game are available to any interested personnel who, once qualified, can eventually go on to officiate in matches at regimental level through to the Inter-Services Twenty20 at Lord's.

"We want to push the message out there so we can get aspiring umpires and scorers involved," said WO2 Alex Rennie (Rifles), secretary of the UK Armed Forces Association of Cricket Officials.

"It is really easy to do. We run courses in Aldershot and there is also online training through the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"Individuals will start at a basic level but there is scope to go all the way to the international stage.

"We've got lots of football and rugby referees but we are starting to struggle in cricket as quite a few people have left the military without being replaced."

For more information email [alexrennie1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexrennie1@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.ukaf-aco.com](http://www.ukaf-aco.com)



# GUNNERS TOAST TRIPLE CROWN



**T**HERE was a familiar feel to the climax of this season's Army Cycling Road Race Series as the Royal Artillery claimed the overall honours for a third successive year.

Fought over 11 gruelling rounds, the competition was decided during the final stage at the Brownlee Cycling Centre in Leeds, where the Gunners secured enough points to triumph over the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Their rivals claimed the individual glory on the day, courtesy of Sgt James Bevan, but it was the team's strength in depth that ultimately proved decisive as three riders finished inside the top ten to seal the win.

Victory came on the back of the Gunners' success at the

Army Reserve Championships, where Dmr George Aldridge (HAC) and Sgt James Green (RA) secured a one-two for the corps.

The Army Medical Services dominated the women's event thanks to consistent showings from Reserve champion Capt Bexy Dew and Sgt Dani Gloyn, who claimed second and third in the overall individual standings.

The team finished more than 200 points clear of the Royal Logistic Corps in second.

Bevan took the men's individual title, a feat matched by LCpl Fran Derbyshire (AAC) in the women's field.

A further sign of the sport's strength was witnessed in the fact that both Reserve champions also finished on the podium in the main Army series. ■

● GLOUCESTER Rugby's Kingsholm Stadium has been named as the venue for this season's Inter-Services clash between the Army and Royal Air Force.

The match will be played on Saturday, April 27 and will see the Reds face the defending champions ahead of their traditional Twickenham showdown with the Royal Navy.

Ticketing details, including hospitality packages, will be posted on [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk)





# MONTH IN SPORT

## September's key fixtures...

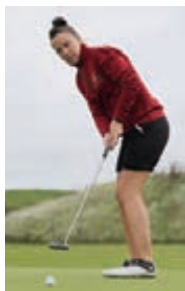


**WHAT:** Army Road Race Championships  
**WHEN:** September 5  
**WHERE:** Sandhurst  
**NEED TO KNOW:** With the Inter-Corps series

complete attention now switches to the key race in the Army season. A number of riders will be hoping to hit top form ahead of the Inter-Services



**WHAT:** Army v Royal Navy, Inter-Services Rugby League  
**WHEN:** September 7  
**WHERE:** Army Rugby Stadium, Aldershot  
**NEED TO KNOW:** The 2018 campaign starts with the men's, women's and academy sides all in action. The senior team missed out last year and will be hoping for more this time round



**WHAT:** Inter-Services Golf Championships  
**WHEN:** September 9 to 13  
**WHERE:** Frilford Heath Golf Club  
**NEED TO KNOW:** There was double delight for the Army last

season as the men and women secured their respective team titles. But who will reign supreme on the greens and fairways this year?

## TASS IN NUMBERS

NAMES CONSIDERED FOR THE 2018/19 INTAKE

57

ARMY SPORTS PUTTING ATHLETES FORWARD FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION

19

NATIONAL TITLES WON BY FIGHTERS FROM THE ARMY BOXING SQUAD DURING THE COURSE OF LAST SEASON

9

ATHLETES ALSO NAMED IN THE BAE SYSTEMS SPORTS SCHOLARS SCHEME - AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT THOSE WHO HOPE TO JOIN TASS IN THE FUTURE

53



## SERVICE SCHOLARS STEP UP

A TOTAL of 48 sportsmen and women have been selected for the 2018/19 talented athlete scholarship scheme (TASS).

Run by the Army's elite sport programme in conjunction with Sport England, the initiative is aimed at helping personnel fulfill their potential on the pitch, court or in the ring while maintaining their progress in the day job.

Paralympic skiing champion Capt Jen Kehoe (RE) and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Sgt Sam Gowin (RA) have been named in the latest intake, along with triathlon ace Cpl Ieuan Hudson (REME) and distance runner Cpl Dani Hodgkinson (QARANC).

The success of the Army's boxing squad has been reflected, with 12 fighters from the set-up receiving the call - including national champions Cpl Steph Wroe (REME), Gnr Karris Artingstall and Gnr Tori-Ellis Willetts (both RA).

Martial arts is represented by the likes of karate ace Pte Chris Rowan (Para, pictured) and judo player Capt Alex Paske (RE). Cyclists Capt Ejay Harris (RAMC), WO2 Chanel Mason (RAPTC) and Pte Charmaine Porter (RLC) have also seen their efforts rewarded.

The winter sports fraternity boasts a healthy contingent, with skiers Spr Euan Kick and Spr Duncan Kuwall (both RE) featuring alongside luge star Sgt Dani Scott (QARANC) and biathlete Sgt Amanda Lightfoot (AGC (SPS)), who competed at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The scheme is aimed at those who are currently unfunded by UK Sport but are close to achieving the standard required for inclusion on podium and world-class development programmes with various governing bodies.

It offers support in crucial areas of performance such as strength and conditioning, psychology and nutrition. ■





## GAME BRIEF

**DATE:** July 25, 2018  
**COMPETITION:** REME v RE  
 Lawson Cup final  
**VENUE:** Army Rugby Stadium, Aldershot  
**REME TRIES:** Laing, Naulusala, Ram, Holmes, Vakalalabure (2)  
**RE TRIES:** Lloyd (2), Petueli (3), Capper

**SPEAKING** at the end of an absorbing final, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' skipper Cfn Jamie Laing said the result was the highlight of a tough campaign.

"This means everything to us," he told *SoldierSport*. "There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears both on the pitch and off.

"But everyone has come together for the good of the team.

"We have focused on our defence throughout the year and have built from there; we did that again today.

"We have got so many good players and it is a pleasure to captain this side.

"The Royal Engineers are a championship-winning outfit and we respect them but it is an amazing feeling to win this cup."



# TRIES GALORE IN CUP FINAL

### LAWSON CUP FINAL

REME

32

RE

30



**T**HE Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers triumphed in a 12-try thriller to claim the honours in this season's Lawson Cup final.

With attacking play at the fore there was little to separate the champions-elect from their rivals the Royal Engineers as the lead switched between the two sides throughout.

But it was a penalty from skipper Cfn Jamie Laing (pictured left) that ultimately proved decisive as the REME eventually triumphed 32-30.

Laing opened the scoring in the fifth minute when he rounded off a flowing cross-field move to complete a concerted spell of early pressure.

The Sappers then eased their way into the match and had a try disallowed before their efforts were rewarded in the 17th minute as Spr Tom Lloyd used his blistering pace to run clear and touch down.

The winger crossed again moments later to extend the lead but their rivals hit back with a double of their own.

LCpl Peter Holmes smashed through the opposition lines to create the platform for Cfn Uraia

Naulusala to score in the corner before Cfn Nashville Ram barged through the defence to find the line.

However, the Sappers fired a response on the stroke of half-time as Spr Ernest Petueli gave his side a 16-14 lead.

The ebbs and flows continued after the break as Holmes handed off a tackler to run home and the REME opened an eight-point advantage through Cfn Jefeti Vakalalabure.

Petueli added his second to reduce the arrears but Vakalalabure struck an instant blow as he collected a Laing pass and stretched to the line.

Laing expertly dispatched a penalty from distance to put his side 12 points clear with nine minutes remaining but the final stages proved to be anything but plain sailing.

The outstanding Petueli completed his hat-trick moments later and the pressure continued as Cpl Marc Capper crashed over.

But with the conversion floating wide the challengers remained two points adrift and as the clock ticked down they fell short of a comeback. ■





CRYE PRECISION



**TAILORED FOR COMBAT**  
INCREASED MOBILITY AND COMFORT



**UNIQUE FEATURES**  
DESIGNED TO BE USED WITH AND WITHOUT AIRFLEX™ PADS



**LARGE THIGH POCKETS**  
EASY VEHICULAR ACCESS



**AIRFLEX™ COMBAT KNEE PADS**  
COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT  
LIGHTWEIGHT, COMFORTABLE, PROTECTIVE



**MULTICAM® COLOURS**



## CRYE COMBAT TROUSERS

CRYE PRECISION now offer a combat trouser designed for both extreme tactical functionality and a refined appearance. These trousers strike the perfect balance of looking the part and offering great value; whilst performing to the level you expect from a Crye garment. Featuring an athletic fit, cut from the highest quality fabric currently utilised on the '4th generation' of Crye Precision combat clothing. This offers the user greatly increased comfort through its high stretch properties, low-profile design and faster drying times.

LPA provide Police and MoD specialist users, including military aircrews, with the world's finest combat equipment, providing the best to the best. LPA supply equipment to UK MoD, Police and other government departments via a variety of contracts. Please email for more information: [info@levelpeaks.com](mailto:info@levelpeaks.com)

# LEVEL PEAKS

ASSOCIATES





Most recently we had a demonstration of explosive method of entry, which was carried out by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. It was professional and good to see something different.

**LCpl Brian McGuire (PWRR)**



The Royal Engineers were an inspiration before I joined the Army. I was encouraged to look at other trades but didn't want to know. I was keen to do what the lads were doing – when I became a sapper I was lucky enough to go straight into pre-deployment training and out to Afghanistan.

**A/Cpl Lauren Toth (RE)**



In places like Afghanistan, you need military engineering professionals to clear IEDs. Everyone really appreciates their skill and courage.

**LCpl Ryan McConkey (R Anglian)**



**From my own experience, I remember my first job as an EOD operator. A suspicious object had been spotted on the A52 at Nottingham – all five lanes of the road had been closed and it was absolutely deserted. I was in my bomb suit, completely enclosed in my own bubble. It was really surreal.**

**WO2 Vinny Ng (RLC)**

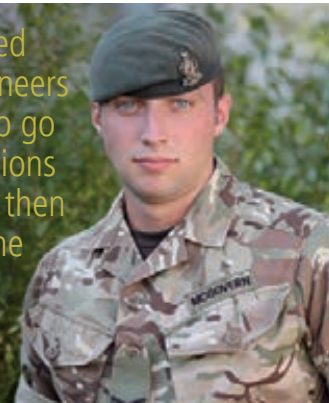


We need the engineers as much as they need us. You know they are out there doing important tasks, such as building compounds and blowing up IEDs.

**LCpl Steven Winder (Lancs)**

As a recce soldier I worked alongside the Royal Engineers in Batus. It was our job to go ahead, look for good options for their bridging kit and then offer protection. It was the first time I had seen that and it was impressive.

**Cpl Lewis McGovern (QRH)**



## Force fixers

Troops recall experiences of seeing Army engineering in action

I remember the Royal Engineers teaching us how to build a bridge on Exercise Askari Storm in Kenya. It was hard work with a lot of heavy kit, but I enjoyed working with them. They were good tutors too.

**LCpl Jemal Anthony (Scots)**







Let's go  
*Somewhere*


**15% Discount** for **Armed Forces Personnel, Veterans and Cadets** in-store and online.

We're rewarding your service with ours.  
Receive an exclusive 15% discount when you present your Military ID in-store or use a valid discount code online.

You can also use your discount with:

**SNOW  
ROCK**

**runnersneed**  
the running specialists

 **CycleSurgery**

Proud to support



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. 30% discount only on bikes. Only valid on production of your Military ID in-store or use of valid discount code online. Offer expires 31.12.18.

**Trusted by our partners since 1974**  
Stores nationwide | [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)

**COTSWOLD**  
outdoor



# CALLING ALL Serving Military Personnel Military Veterans Reserve Forces MOD Employees

With genuinely exclusive military discounts and special finance options (some with direct salary deductions), we lead the way in military car sales across the UK & Europe.

With a National programme and local dealer participation we are your one-stop-shop to a discounted new car.

**No Hidden Fees**

**No Hard Sell**

**Just a genuine discount  
and a better service**



With 18 manufacturers, we have the right car or motorbike for your needs and budget, and with class leading finance we'll put you in your ideal vehicle for less than you probably thought. With rates from just 4.9% APR on HP or PCP, we lead the way in the military new car sales market. **Apply today for a free, no obligation, finance quotation.**



**GRIFFIN**  
Military & Diplomatic  
Europe's Largest Military  
& Diplomatic New Car Dealer

[WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM](http://WWW.GRIFFINTAXFREE.COM)

UK Head Office: 01273 574000

German Freephone: 08001 800 560

