

My military career, from cadet to machine gunner in 29-years

By me, Anthony C Heaford: British territorial army 2009-13, service number 30088729

Me aged 12, pretending to man a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG)



Army recruitment day at school Lancaster Grammar, c.1982



1983

Me



1985

Me

NBC - Nuclear, Biological & Chemical warfare training



1986

Me

A week long field exercise in Germany, on a huge training area with about ten armoured personnel carriers supporting us!

1983: Issued my first army uniform when I joined the school's cadet force. I'd chosen that school because it had a cadet force

1984: Cadet summer camp, Warcop Cumbria. Firing Lee Enfield .303 rifles!

1985: Summer camp, Colchester. Signals & orienteering in Land Rovers!

1986: Summer Camp, Paderborn Germany. My first time operating a GPMG!



2009



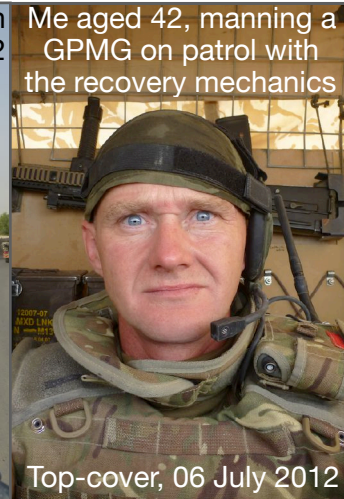
Me



Camp Bastion, 2012



My view on a patrol, passing through Nadi Ali on 21 June 2012



Me aged 42, manning a GPMG on patrol with the recovery mechanics

Top-cover, 06 July 2012

2009: Joined the British territorial army as a vehicle mechanic and completed basic training aged 39

2012: Deployed to Camp Bastion in Helmand Afghanistan. Manned the GPMG on five vehicle patrols, never in combat