

## WWII battle still relevant in modern era

The Battle of Monte Cassino was used to broaden the military knowledge of 1 ATR Permanent Staff (PS).

The 1944 battle in Italy stands out as an important lesson on many aspects of military operations, such as multi-national co-operation, CDRILS and the application of the Geneva Convention.

As part of the exercise the group, made up of ranks down to Section Commander level, explored some of the more personal and moral elements of the battle.

The six-day visit covered the entire area of operations, visiting sites of major battles and conducting tactical exercises without troops and planning exercises/analysis in order to extract some key learning points that still apply today.

"One of our main tasks at ATC (P) is to develop the foundations of military character, which include the CDRILS and the moral component of fighting power," said Masters Troop Commander Capt Ryan Byrne.

"During our analysis of these battles that occurred over 60 years ago, it became evident that the mindset and basic values and standards of the contemporary private soldier appear to have changed very little compared to those of their forebears.

"As PS in a training team, we must live by and embody the CDRILS and inspire the SuTs to adopt them too. If we lead through values-based leadership and set the correct example, we can shape them into the soldiers that they aspire to be.

"We probably all remember role models from our own training. The baton has been passed and it is now up to us to ensure we are the inspirational role models for tomorrow's soldiers."

# Training teams put best feet forward

▶ The A Team from Army Training Centre, Pirbright won the gruelling 40-mile Lanyard Trophy 2010, crossing the line in nine hours and nine minutes.

The ATC(P) B Team came ninth in 11hrs 29mins, followed by the Female Team, in issue pink, just seven minutes later.

Initially devised for Cold War training, the competition takes its name from the unique lanyard worn by the Royal Signals members of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.

"To complete the Lanyard Trophy is a huge achievement," said Major Gary Irwin, Officer Commanding 1 (Fowler) Squadron, Royal Signals.

"Today, the competition has changed little and retains its essential simplicity of teams carrying 40lb – or 25lb for females – over a 40-mile route to test navigation, endurance, teamwork and leadership.

"Lanyard Trophy 2010 attracted the largest turn-out in its 31-year history, with 43 teams of regular, female, territorial and veteran competitors tackling the gruelling route, including 1000 metres of ascent."

Two ATC(P) male teams of eight and a female team of six competed after intensive training over three months.

"The hard ground hammered feet and knees and the hot weather dragged the pace down – it was a real test of determination, teamwork and morale," said Major Irwin.

With 10 miles to go the A Team, down to six men, lay third – about 20 minutes down on the leaders 22 Signal Regiment.

After reluctantly dropping a team member due to cramp, the pace lifted and they clawed their way into the lead, pushing on to win by 14 minutes.

"The Female Team was one of the few to cross the line as a complete team, in fourth place," said Major Irwin. "To finish as a complete team in a great time was a brilliant feat."



The winning A Team, Cpl Swanick, Sgt Blezard (2IC), Capt Hammond, Cpl Milburn, Cpl Leachman, Maj Irwin (OIC), Sgt Conley, Cpl Mitchell, Capt Sleigh and Cpl Elston



ABOVE: The B Team, Sgt Ransom, Capt Corns (OIC), Sgt Buckley (2IC), Cpl Pacey, Sgt Wood, Cpl Bedford  
LEFT: The Female Team, Cpl Whyte, Cpl Watson, Capt Barry, Cpl Mitchell, Capt Lifton (OIC), Cpl Fox

## Trainees start their careers on a high

Eight potential soldiers hit the heights when they took their Oaths of Allegiance at the top of Ben Nevis.

Led by Army Careers Adviser Major Steve Leslie, the trainees – from the Adjutant General's Corps, Royal Logistic Corps, The Parachute Regiment and 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland – took their Oath at the top of the UK's highest peak at 4,409 feet after a three-hour, five-mile climb.

Commander Regional Recruiting Scotland rose to the challenge after their Welsh counterparts held their Oath of Allegiance ceremony at 3,560 feet on the top of Snowdon.

Cpl Stuart Ritchie from Army Recruiting Team 27 (Glasgow) took no chances with the

weather, bringing a waterproof picture of Her Majesty The Queen and the Oath for the applicants to use.

In the event the ceremony was performed on a rain and wind-free summit. With regimental pride at stake, the Parachute Regiment applicants were first back down in just over an hour, with the remainder descending at a more leisurely pace.

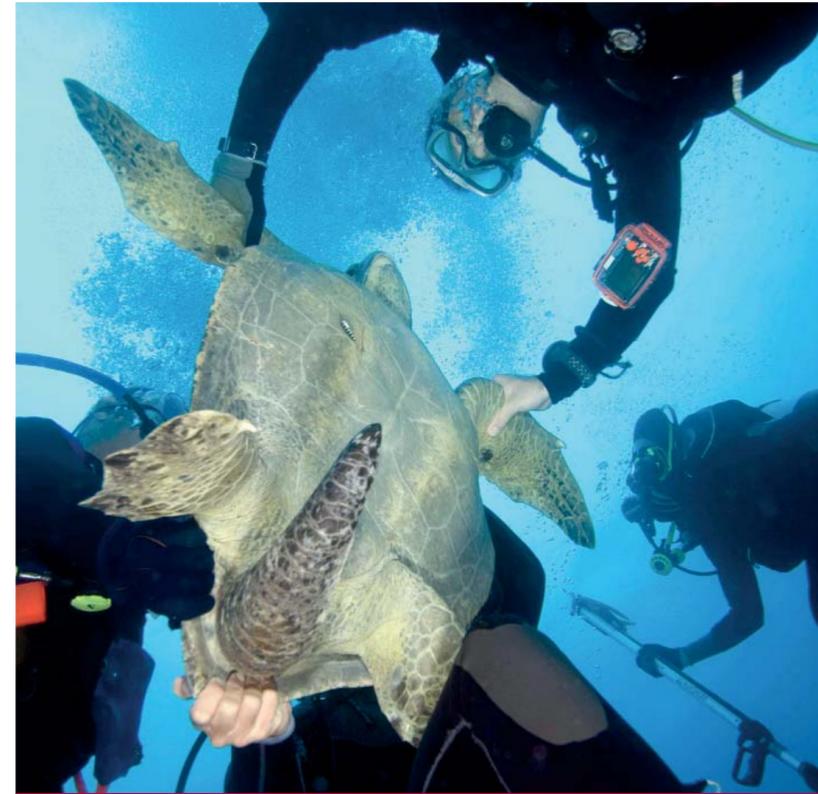
"With the rain staying away and all ready to start their Army training, we could not have asked for a better day," said Major Leslie.

"Those who took part showed they have a real spirit about them and I am sure they will carry this into their training.

"The day was an experience these new recruits will treasure for a long time."



The eight trainees on top of Ben Nevis with Major Steve Leslie



The team brings a green turtle to the surface, above; Sgt Gareth Thomas demonstrates the tagging technique to Cpl Jenny Beck, top right; and the joint services tagging team



# Shark tag group dives in

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▶ Soldiers are part of an ongoing joint services operation to tag critically-endangered sharks. Fifteen military personnel, representing the Army, Navy and RAF, made up the most recent Joint Services Shark Tagging Team (JSSTT) that dived off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

They tagged 15 sharks around the Cocos Island National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The research work carried out by the expedition took place in co-operation with Programa Restauracion de Tortugas Marinas – a non-government organisation (NGO) specialising in shark and turtle conservation.

The JSSTT provides resources for shark tagging and other marine conservation projects where diving skills are required. Operating under the Joint Services Adventurous Training Scheme, these trips are nicknamed Exercise Jurassic Shark and open to military and essential scientific personnel only.



Cpl Jenny Beck

I really hope the work we have done will result in a better understanding of shark movements

Including this latest expedition, the JSSTT has now tagged 50 sharks and placed six acoustic receivers in the Eastern Pacific to build an overall picture of shark movements.

The first expedition tagged 15 hammerhead sharks off Cocos Island in 2006. The second, in 2008, tagged 20 sharks, including 10 great whites, off Guadalupe and the Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico.

The acoustic tags send signals to underwater receivers, allowing the shark movements to be recorded. Thirteen scalloped hammerhead sharks,

one Galapagos and a black tip were tagged while free swimming, the least stressful method for the animal. Twelve Eastern Pacific green turtles were also brought to the surface, measured, weighed, tissue sampled and tagged.

The information gathered provides the scientific basis for the Eastern Pacific Tropical Seascape Initiative, which aims to extend the protection given to this part of the ocean.

"An expedition such as this is all about experiencing controlled exposure to risk with the aim of developing the kind of leadership, teamwork, courage and co-operation vital to military operational capability," said the Army's Major Andy Reid, who led the expedition.

"It involved two important conservation projects, both of which exploit the skills of a joint services team to best effect. Both sharks and turtles are in dramatic decline around the world and this is our chance to make a difference by establishing those parts of their habitat that most need protection."

Corporal Jenny Beck, the youngest Army team member, said: "The expedition has been one of the best experiences of my life. I really hope the work we have done will result in a better understanding of shark movements and help in the development of national and international strategies for their protection."

The next JSSTT expedition will involve tagging bull sharks in the rivers of the Costa Rican Corcovado National Park.

Major Reid said: "Bull sharks are one of the most challenging it's possible to work with – however, it is crocodiles that most concern us at this stage. This will be a remote, demanding and unique expedition."

For more information visit [www.jurassic-shark.org.uk](http://www.jurassic-shark.org.uk)

## 'Exciting and rewarding'

"This was an exciting and rewarding project which has opened my eyes to the environmental issues facing shark populations today."

Corporal Andrew Jackson

"I feel exceptionally privileged to have taken part in such an important project, especially one as close to my heart as the conservation of sharks. They are a little-understood group of animals that are becoming increasingly threatened in modern times. I really hope to be able to repeat the experience on a future expedition."

Captain Simon Griffiths

"Adventurous training was not the reason I joined the Army but expeditions like this are the reason why I stayed in."

Royal Engineers Officer Major Ian Macfarlane, who deployed to Afghanistan within two days of returning to the UK

"Tagging 15 sharks would not have been possible without the amazing teamwork displayed. This expedition is really the pinnacle of adventurous training within the Armed Services – providing a unique opportunity for military personnel from all ranks to come together in the pursuit of a unique environmental project."

Major Mark Foster, a surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps