

Northern

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

news

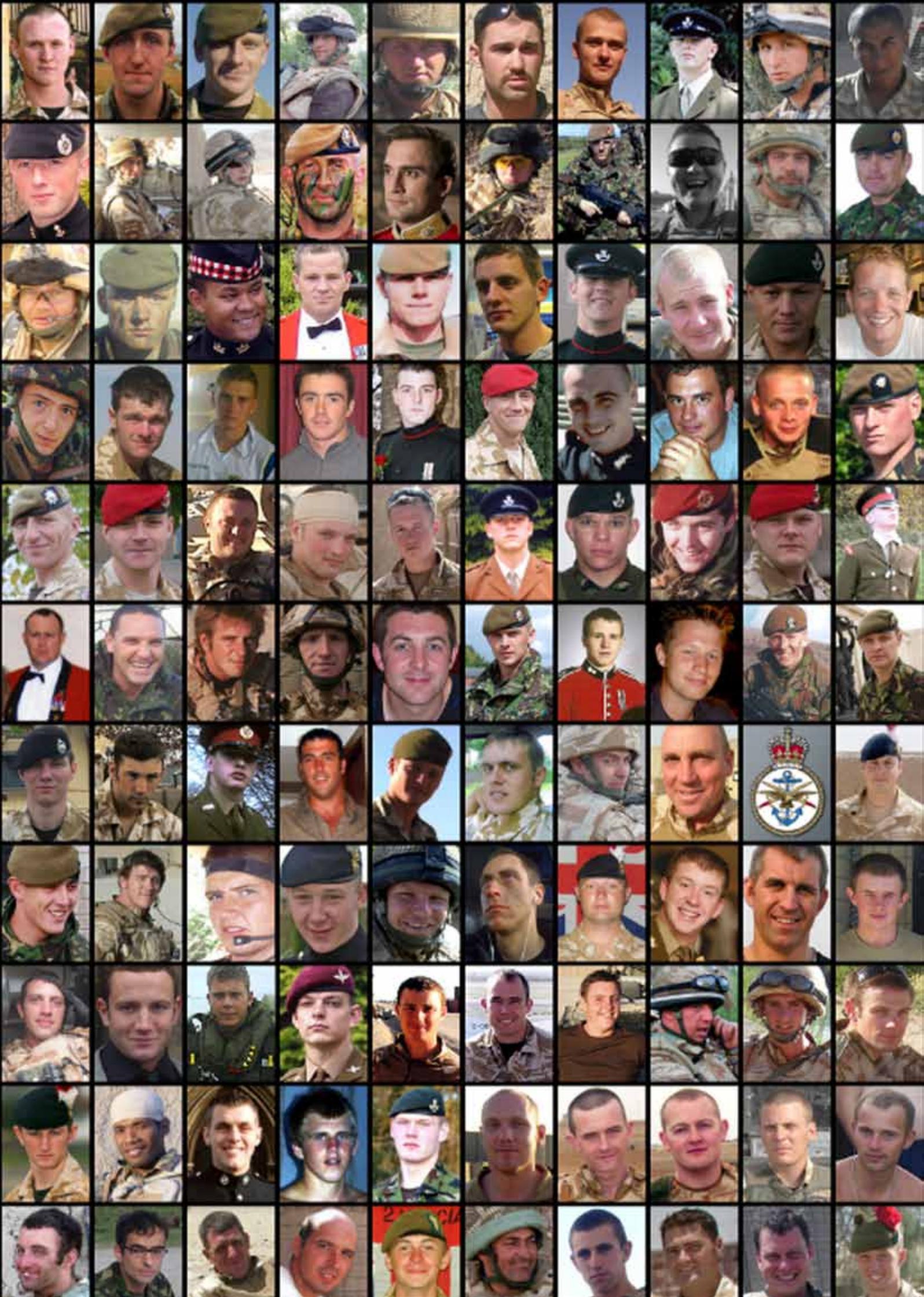
NOVEMBER 2012

*We must
never forget*



*437 British Military Personnel
killed in Afghanistan since the
war began*









Editorial Ramblings

I make no apologies to those who have seen this month's cover before. Yes, it is the same as last November - with good reason. We still need to remember those brave young people who have fallen in battle for our country. Since last year, others have fallen and also need to be remembered. Their photographs are shown below (courtesy of the BBC website at URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10634173>). The personnel killed since last year's memorial are shown below (up to the end of October 2012). Please remember them on 11 November 2012 - Remembrance Sunday.



It hardly seems possible that a whole year has passed since I sent compiled the last newsletter. Of course, I can't include a year's news in this edition or I'd be bashing my computer keyboard for weeks putting it all together. However, I would like to mention a few items of news that will be of interest. I might add that these are not in any order of priority; just as they come to mind.

The most recent news is the birth of Carla Louise on 7 November 2012 (more overleaf). Also, I'd like to express our congratulations to my son, Paul, for the successful outcome of a heroic undercover operation that he led during recent weeks. Other family news includes my starting a new contract in Delft, in the Netherlands, which is where I'm now working. I'm living in our caravan in The Hague, from where I'm compiling this newsletter. The weather has been absolutely appalling since I arrived in the Netherlands on 20 October 2012, with tons of rain descending from the clouds, together with strong winds.

*A New Life in our Family:
Carla Louise*



Born on 7 November 2012, in Al Khoud, Muscat, Oman, after 16 hours in labour and weighing in at 5.8 lbs, Carla Louise is the latest addition to the family and the daughter of Grace's sister, Nadia and her husband, Leonardo. Congratulations to the delighted couple.



Life in The Netherlands



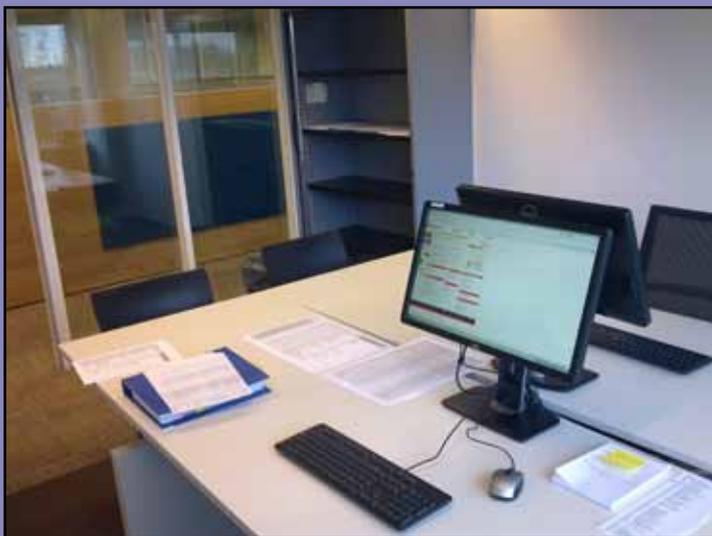
On a caravan site just outside of The Hague. Life is very comfortable in our luxury caravan - albeit lonely without Grace and JP.



On 20 October 2012, Grace and I set out very early for The Netherlands. Everything seemed to go wrong that day. It took ages to get the caravan hitched-up to my truck, then I broke a light fitting on the side of the caravan. The delayed start meant that we missed our original ferry crossing and had to travel on a later crossing. In turn, this meant we arrived at the caravan site just after the reception office had closed. Despite a non-stop drive from Wolverhampton to Dover, followed by an even longer non-stop (except for one fuel stop just outside Calais) drive to the caravan site just outside The Hague, I couldn't make-up the time lost. The good thing was that they let us in and we sorted out the booking and paperwork the following day. We'd travelled for about 13 hours, so we were pleased to arrive safely and make a 'cuppa'.

Grace flew back to England on the following day (Sunday) and left me amongst the trees and birdlife of the country park where I'm now living in the caravan. I've also seen a fox and any number of rabbits. The following weekend was the start of the half-term holiday, so Grace and JP flew out to spend the week with me, although I was working during daylight hours. The weather has been really terrible since I arrived and remained so throughout the time Grace and JP were here, so we haven't done much sight-seeing. The caravan site is one of very few that are open throughout the year. It has all the facilities one needs, as well as an indoor swimming pool - which is where JP spent much of his time while he was visiting me. Despite the weather, the site, whilst no means busy, has a surprising number of guests, mainly using motorhomes, but with a few caravanners too. Most of them are 'locals' but I've seen a few from Germany and Belgium too. I haven't seen any British caravanners here, so I guess they must head for the warmth and sunshine of sunny Spain during the winter - and who can blame them!

As far as the job is concerned, it's a case of so far, so good. I'll just have to see how it works out. Below, are a few pictures of my office and a view of the sunrise from my office window.









On a trip out to Delft, we were able to sample the delights of the canal city with its market stalls of bread and cheese, hams and sausages, as well as restaurants both there and in The Hague.

Some of the photographs in this newsletter were taken by Grace and JP.





*Concert at the International School
in The Hague*



We had a great evening's entertainment listening to two youth orchestras, one from The Netherlands, the other from Germany, at a concert in the International School of the Hague. What a great evening.

All good things come to an end - Grace and JP on their way back to Wolverhampton.

