



Dates indicated are Draft Dates for guidance only, with actual event date confirmed closer to the actual indicated draft date for the event. All events will only be undertaken if TRNC Government Regulations can be complied with. Events are subject to change should circumstances arise.

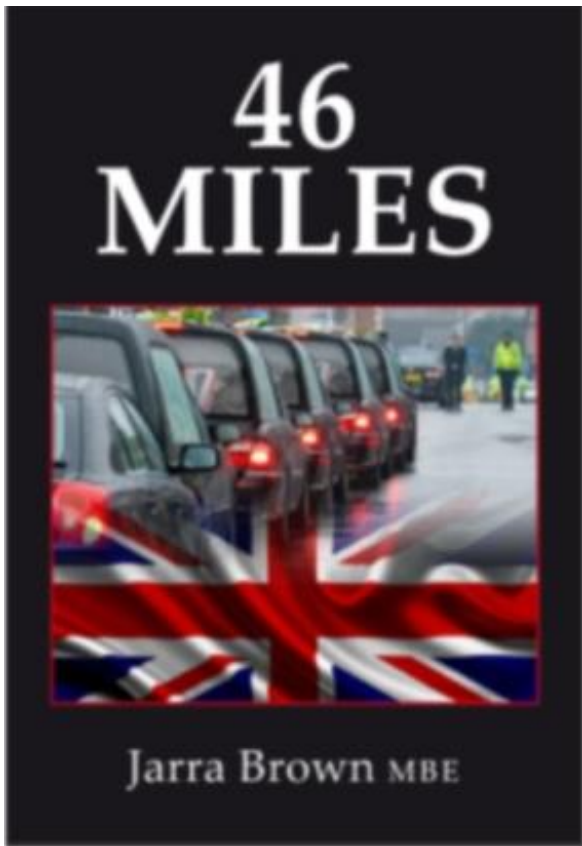


## ATA Organised EVENT for 2021

20th September – What happens when the bell tolls



































# Wootton Bassett

## Tributes to the Fallen

### A Policeman's Perspective

PC 'Jarra' Brown MBE





## Wootton Bassett



### Heart Beat Style Policing



## March 2007

- Repatriation Rehearsal:  
Sombre setting
- Marquee
- Aircraft ramp down
- Bugler and SWO stood
- Actors
- Bearer party march on
- Conductor
- Surreal
- Last Post
- Union flag draped Coffin
- Stood to attention
- Feeling of intruding
- Honour bestowed
- Awesome



## Why was I there?

- Introduced to Funeral Directors
- One simple question?
- My Reply



- Agreed to escort the cortege 8 mile up to M4
- Abnormal load procedure blue lights no siren



## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

- Phone Call received from RAF Lyneham
- A soldier had been killed prepare for Operation Pabbay.
- Further call plan for two

### First Repatriation

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007

- Kingsman Danny Wilson  
2 Duke of Lancs from Workington, aged 28
- Rifleman Aaron Lincoln  
2 Rifles from Durham, aged 18
- Both Killed in Iraq



### Aaron Lincoln 18



- Aaron had six months of basic training
- He had just turned 18, he was sent to Iraq.
- End of March his R & R was finished
- Young and unashamedly scared he did not want to go back
- His Mother Karen will tell you the rest:

'We stepped outside,' says Karen, 'and he broke down crying. He said, "I've seen things you'll never see. I don't want to go back." I didn't know what to say, so I just cuddled him. We both cried.' Five days later, Aaron was dead"



# C17 Globemaster Flypast



After flypast climbed  
to make final approach and land  
An hour later the Repatriation  
Except this time very real  
Two soldiers inside the union flag  
draped coffins

Slow  
Low  
Majestic  
Like an Angel in the sky  
Deft Dip of the starboard wing  
To Honour the two soldiers brought  
home



## First Escort

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007

- Kingsman Danny Wilson
- Rifleman Aaron Lincoln
- Lyneham to M4 Jct 16
- Abnormal load
- Blue lights - no siren
- 20 minutes
- De-Brief



## After the Escort

call from the RAF

- Four next week
- Second repatriation
- Includes two females
- Killed in Iraq



Pt Eleanor  
Dlugosz  
Age 19. RMC  
Southampton



2 Lt Joanna  
Yorke-Dyer  
Age 24  
Int Corps

Killed with two others by an IED





Kingsman Adam Smith  
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, 2nd Battalion



Cpl Kris O'Neil  
Royal Army Medical Corps

## Second Repatriation

- Media interest
- RBL & Local Council
- First Time people congregated at the memorial



## 2007 Repatriations Increased

Crowds grew in the High street

Request from Council – RBL & Funeral Director  
Slow down, Conductor walk in front  
Minutes Silence at the War Memorial





## Escort of the Cortege Extended to County Border A420



Privates Aaron McClure, 19, Robert Foster, also 19, and John Thrumble, 21, of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment,

## Plans go Astray!

- Hilton Hotel offered but not always taken
- Families travel to Lyneham on the day
- Bulford Family caught up in Heavy Traffic
- Two RPU's called up.
- RAF – VO escorted a family to the wrong Lyneham in Oxon;
- C17 flying on fumes
- Pressure was on

Lyneham in the Cotswolds 40 miles away.



## Raw Emotions Provokes a Review

- Initially no restrictions on numbers on family guests up at RAF Lyneham
- Deep Sadness; Raw emotions, even anger.





# St Bartholomew's & All Saints

Wootton Bassett



Flight Delayed

19:30 Bell ringing  
Tolled a single tenor bell

The impact as the conductor strode along the high street in unison with the Tenor Bell – moving and respectful.

A hushed silence fell across Wootton Bassett the first soldier killed in Afghanistan this year as the repatriated body of Corporal Darryl Gardiner was brought through the town on the evening of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Corporal Darryl 'Daz' Gardiner died saving a comrade.



## Repatriations Continued

Throughout the year

- Respect increased
- More people turn up
- People from afar
- Joined locals & RBL
- Shoulder to shoulder
- Respect for the fallen
- Support for the families



Respect  
and the  
raw  
emotion  
of grief!

## Media Interest Intensified

April 2008 Mail on Sunday

- Peter Almond agenda
- BBC informant
- Compare with Canada
- 'Highway for Heroes'
- Thames Valley Police decline to escort!
- Sunday Mail article appeared
- TVP Reconsider and Escort the cortege



Highway for Heroes - Canada



Grid lock in Oxford



## Route – RAF Lyneham to Mortuary



### 46 miles of respect

- More resources deployed
- Operation evolved
- Simple gesture = 4 officers
- To 50 + officers from 3 forces
- Weekly turn out, mostly volunteers



Main Gates RAF Lyneham



John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford

## Multiple Fatalities one unit



Lance Corporal James Bateman  
Private Jeff Doherty  
Private Cuthbertson,  
Private Murray  
Private Gamble





## August 2008

### Chapel of Rest Commissioned

Chapel of Rest

Allowing private family time



## October 2008

- Appreciation Parade
- Grp Capt Mike Neville
- Military Thank you
- To Wootton Bassett
- Support & respect
- Shown Live on Sky News
- Enhanced public awareness



## 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Group Captain Neville joined a Cortege

- Marine Neil Dunstan  
Age 32 from Bournemouth
- Marine Robert McKibben  
Age 32 from Co Mayo
- Colour Sgt Krish Nabahadura  
Age 36 from Nepal



Ghurkha family requested white flowers on the coffin. Request from Brig Hobson; slow down at vigil points for RM's show of respect.





## 46 Miles of Honour and Respect

- Gates to the shops
- More Royal at roundabout
- Green Beret spotted
- A3102 more Green Beret's
- WB High St
- Standards lowered
- Ghurkha Family Laid Flowers
- Towards M4; all lay-bys full
- A420 all bridges, lay-bys, garages
- At the JR – shrine, bunting, photos, crowds
- Comments to Charlie!
- Thereafter, each time a hearse appeared in WB, flowers and tributes were laid- Respects all the way to Oxford.

# Blondie and The RMA



## Immense Media Interest

2009



Fair

## Dignity

## Respect

## Compassion

No harassment  
of families

## 2009 – Summer Op Panthers Claw!

- Three repatriations in seven days
- Fourteen soldiers brought home
- C17 pilot advised:
- 1 week 41 troops
- Many with life changing injuries I met two 18 year olds.



## Escort of the Eight Unforgettable

- Exiting RAF Lyneham gates
- On to Main Road
- All eight hearses in view
- Cortège Length
- of a Soccer Pitch
- Lyneham Primary School Children
- Lined up on the verge – clapping!
- Difficult to distance from that raw emotion



## Along the M4





## The vigil Points



## Watchfield



## Final Turn



## Each of the fallen were recognised

Rain  
Snow  
Single  
Multiple  
The support never  
wavered



## Communities travelled down on each occasion



## 2010 – Interesting Start

- Islam 4 UK Protest
- English Defence League offer of help
- Islam protest cancelled
- 500 EDL turned up
- Spoiling for a fight





## The Royals Also Came to Show Respect



## Fancy popping to Bassett for a Pint and a bite

Facebook  
Tommo 59  
RAF 50 Bikes  
RAF Project Officer



The bike ride was the idea of 18 year old Elisabeth Stevens

## Afghan Heroes Ride of Respect

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

- RAF Lyneham agree to a Charity Bike Ride
- Lay a wreath at Chapel of Rest
- 15000 Bikers!



## Bikers at Hullavington Line up to Ride Through Wootton Bassett



Event raised over £100,000 for Afghan Heroes Charities

This was the start of many events in Bassett

## Sterile bubble created by the rolling barrier on the M4



## Apache Helicopters Join in

Spontaneous Aerial Escort

- Escorting along the M4
- Cortège Lane 1 - Lane 2 Outriders
- Blue and headlights flashing
- Apaches flew over M4
- Escorted us from the skies





# Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010

- Homecoming RAF Regt Unit Parade
- Hundreds present
- Pleasant change
- Families welcome loved ones home
- Flags
- Cheers
- Smiles
- Relief
- Poppies
- Pride
- One Short



## SAC Scott Hughes

- Age 20: Gunner 1 Sqn RAF Regt
- From Wales
- 6 months tour in Afghanistan
- **SBA Cyprus**
- Killed in Boating Accident
- Repatriated five days later



## 2011 Announcement RAF Lyneham

- January Confirmation Repatriations to return to Brize Norton - effective August.
- 32 more killed
- 18<sup>th</sup> August final and 168<sup>th</sup> Repatriation
- 345<sup>th</sup> and last Lt Daniel Clack



## Final Repatriation

- Thames Valley Police Officer
- *'You started it Jarra, now finish it.'*
- *As I lead that final cortege*
- Absorbed huge spontaneous respect that had grown

## Final Lyneham Repatriation Lt Daniel Clack



## 46 Miles of Respect

- Each vigil area – saluted  
Lady on the bridge over M4  
Highways Agency  
White Hart Roundabout  
Gablecross  
Watchfield  
The Folly  
Oxford  
The Final Turn  
Hard to keep emotions under control

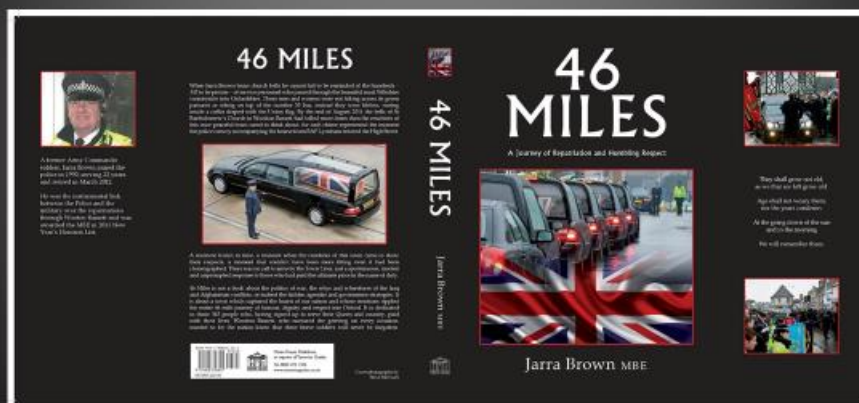


## The Final Stop of the Cortege

- Reflections on first chat with Funeral Directors
- After watching that I will get them to the moon.
- Well I think we did
- Immensely proud
- Sunset Ceremony
- ROYAL Wootton Bassett
- DVD to close
- Thank you



## 46 Miles A Journey of Repatriation and Humbling Respect



## Why I wrote the book 46 Miles?

- Rifleman William Aldridge

