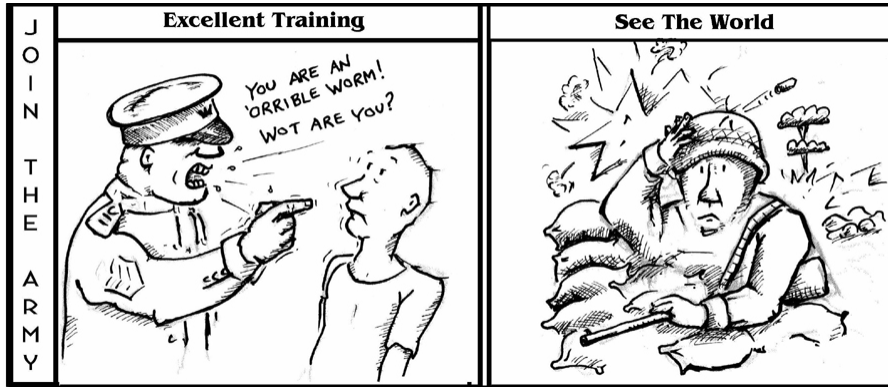


THINKING OF JOINING THE ARMY?



TEN REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU DECIDE

1. *The Army's main job is FIGHTING. Expect to KILL PEOPLE and maybe BE KILLED.*
2. *Being a soldier is very RISKY. Apart from being killed, you could end up ILL, DISABLED or TRAUMATISED.*
3. *Once you're in the Army, it's really really HARD TO GET OUT.*
4. *But sometimes the Army SACKS SOLDIERS EARLY to save paying them a full pension.*
5. *And when you are out, it's HARD TO FIT IN to civilian life again. Many ex-soldiers end up HOMELESS.*
6. *Being in the Army is all about OBEYING ORDERS. You WON'T BE ALLOWED to have YOUR OWN OPINIONS.*
7. *You could be sent to fight wars which are ILLEGAL, like the Iraq war. If you refuse, you could be COURT-MARTIALLED.*
8. *And DON'T EXPECT to have all THE KIT you need when you get there. Army FAILURES like this could put your LIFE AT RISK.*
9. *Are you prepared for the ARMY EXPERIENCE? – living like sardines in Army barracks in DEPRESSING PLACES; loads of RULES; PUNISHMENT for disobedience; institutional food. You may be BULLIED..*
10. *If you really want adventure, fun, qualifications, money and to see the world, there are other ways to achieve these things. YOU DON'T NEED TO JOIN THE ARMY! (or the Navy or the RAF).*

For more details contact: **Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales)**, c/o 3 Tai Minffordd, Rhostryfan, Caemarfon, Gwynedd LL54 7NF
www.cymdeithascymod.org.uk E-mail post@cymdeithascymod.org.uk

After you've joined the army it will be too late to change your mind – now is the time BEFORE you join to think carefully if you are prepared to KILL somebody and to accept the risk to BE KILLED YOURSELF.

"Look into it first, before you join up. They tell you you'll get a career and see the world. It's not like that. It's all false. It's just a con to get you to sign. Gordon was sent straight into war after 6 months training. The only part of the world Gordon saw was Iraq. For a young life, it's not worth it."

Rose Gentle, mother of Gordon Gentle who was killed in June 2004 by a roadside bomb in Basra.

"When young people under 18 join the Army, they only have the chance to leave between the 2nd and 6th month of service. After that they must serve until they are 22. They cannot buy themselves out. They cannot obtain a discharge... Absence without leave is punishable by detention." AT EASE Advisory Service for servicemen and their families.

"The Army admitted for the first time yesterday that four soldiers found with fatal gunshot wounds at a Surrey barracks may have died as a result of a regime of bullying and inadequate supervision and care." Telegraph, March 5th 2004.

"A devastating report by the National Audit Office... showed that British troops invading Iraq were deprived of vital equipment, including body armour and protection against chemical or biological attack, as well as such basic items as desert boots and clothing." Guardian, Jan 13th 2004.

"According to the [National Gulf Veterans and Families] Association, 606 Gulf servicemen have died from ill health and a further 5,933 have applied for a war pension due to disablement." BBC News, Feb 3rd 2004.

"It is common practice around the world for army recruits to be treated brutally in the early stages of their training. The individual is broken down through physical and mental pressure before being rebuilt in the form required by the military. The recruits are verbally abused, made to perform pointless menial tasks, forced onto long marches carrying heavy equipment..." 'Design for a Life' by Patrick Bateson and Paul Martin, Vintage, 2000.

AT EASE is a free, confidential, independent advice service for members and would-be members of the Armed Forces and their families.

28 Commercial St, Aldgate East, London, E1 6LS

Tel: 020 7247 5164 (Sun 5-7pm only)

Web site: www.atease.org.uk Email: atease@advisory.freeserve.co.uk

This leaflet was produced by

Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales)

c/o 3 Tai Minffordd, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL54 7NF

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