

COME ON...REWARD OUR FORCES HEROES

EXCLUSIVE by DAVID WOODING Associate Political Editor

BRITAIN'S forces heroes are set to save hundreds of pounds a year — in a fantastic new rewards scheme backed by The Sun.

Servicemen and women past and present and their families can sign up for brilliant deals with 1,300 companies.

And today we are calling on even more firms — including local businesses such as decorators and furniture removers — to join the Rewards for Forces card scheme and boost our troops. With a host of discounts and two-for-one offers



Bargain... Colin at restaurant

already up for grabs, an ex-squaddie can expect to save between £550 and £1,000 a year in shops, restaurants and hotels and on holidays. Among the household names who have signed up are National Express coaches, Frankie & Benny's restaurants, Clinton cards, Vue Cinemas, the AA and Holiday Inn hotels. National



Sign up... rewards scheme

Express is offering **60 PER CENT** savings for serving personnel, while most firms give at least a fifth off. The Sun teamed up with businessman Peter Raith who dreamed up the idea after hearing how a returning war hero was denied a discount given to a student in a shop.



Idea... Peter and reward card

Mr Raith said: "It doesn't seem right that people who put their lives on the line for their country are not given special treatment when they return home. We hope lots of household names will do their bit by joining this fantastic scheme and giving something back to our brave troops. Gulf Veteran Colin Beawick has

saved £90 in just a few weeks. The dad of two, 49, of Warrington, Cheshire, said: "It's about time something like this happened."

"Full marks to The Sun for helping to get it going."

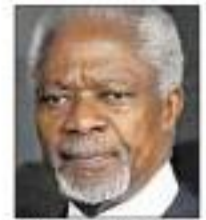
Royal Navy vet Lesley Anne Allen, of Glasgow, has saved £400 in less than two months.

The 39-year-old said: "It's a brilliant idea."

Families can still use the card while their loved ones are away on tours of duty. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond last night said: "We owe our brave service personnel a great deal. This lets firms support them."

To enrol and start saving, just visit www.rewardsforforces.co.uk. Terms and conditions apply.

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The Sun Says — Page 12



Mission... Kofi Annan

Kofi plea for peace snubbed by Assad

By NICK PARKER

BRUTAL Syrian tyrant Bashar al-Assad snubbed pleas to halt his bloody persecution of opposition groups yesterday.

Peace envoy Kofi Annan begged Assad to end the bloodshed at face-to-face talks.

But the Syrian president ruled out a negotiated settlement, insisting his government would continue to resist "armed groups".

And he pledged there would be no peace talks as long as "terrorists" vied to topple him.

Mr Annan — representing the United Nations and the Arab League — is seeking an end to the violence, estimated to have claimed 8,000 lives.

Seventy more civilians were killed on the eve of his arrival in Damascus.

Syrian opposition figures scorned his mission, claiming Assad prefers to carry on killing.

45 al-Qaeda die — Page 18

EXCLUSIVE: ARMY'S CHIEF WRITES FOR Sun AFTER AFGHAN HORROR

A TIME to reflect, but not to lose focus. Success in Helmand is within the Army's grasp.

The past week has been a tough one for the British Army.

But our determination to play our part in securing the lives of the Afghan people and their future is as strong as ever.

Our soldiers are making a huge difference and our plan to hand over to a competent Afghan security force is well on track.

Security in Afghanistan is vital to our safety back home. Never again must we be threatened by terrorists from that country.

Our soldiers are committed, well-equipped and highly trained.

They are professionals and they are more than equal to the challenge of this operation, and ready for whatever is asked of them.

But they cannot do this alone. The support we all get from people at home is essential and key to morale.

The end of our time in Helmand in 2014 is in sight. We have made tremendous progress but there is still much to do.

We need to keep our wits about



Pain... scene of blast where six were killed

THE head of our Army today tells Britain to stand firm in a passionate defence of the fight for peace in Afghanistan.

Confidence was hit this week after six soldiers died in the deadliest Taliban attack yet. A Sun survey on Friday found 60 per cent of Brits feel we're not succeeding in our mission.

General Sir Peter Wall, Chief of the General Staff, sounds a rallying cry in The Sun.

Rallying call... Sir Peter

us and stay strong. Conflict is never risk-free and there will be more setbacks, but we have a task to do on behalf of the nation.

That is the Army's duty and I know we can finish our job out there.

There is no question of cutting and running. It would betray all the skill, courage and hard work the Army has invested in Afghanistan in the past few years.

That is clear to see in the towns, villages, schools and bazaars of Helmand and in the growing capability of the Afghan forces. Success is within our grasp.

For now though we should reflect on the deeply sad losses in the Yorkshire Regiment and the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment last Tuesday.

The men and women who volunteer to serve in our Armed Forces are the bravest and the best of their generation. These men were no exception.

They were outstanding British infantrymen who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Our thoughts are with their families, their comrades and their friends.



3 held on murders

THREE people were yesterday arrested on suspicion of murder after the bodies of two women were discovered in a flat.

The unidentified females were found by cops in Wakefield, West Yorks.

Two men, aged 19 and 23, and a 19-year-old woman were arrested by Kent Police and were in custody last night.

The alarm was raised early yesterday by a female, also 19, in Dover, Kent, who had been concerned for the safety of two women from the West Yorkshire area.

The flat in Wakefield and the surrounding area have been sealed off for forensic examination.

PM stalk law blast

STALKING victims are accusing David Cameron of going back on a pledge to toughen up the law.

The PM told them last week it was to be made a specific crime.

But after studying plans campaigners say it means offences would go to crown court only if there was a "fear of violence".

Victim Claire Waxman, who met the PM, said: "It's disappointing. This is pretty much what we've already got."

ABBEY BIRTHDAY

Beatles fans yesterday toured London's Abbey Road Studios where the Fab Four recorded to mark its 50th anniversary.