

COMBAT STRESS 100

LEARNING RESOURCE 6a PTSD & ENLISTING & BASIC TRAINING

**George's experience re-imagined
by students from
St Matthew Academy**

BESS, GRACIE & JAMAI
Radio Interview

Radio Host:

“So, in the studio today, we have army veteran, George. So George, when did you enlist for the army and where was that?”

George:

“I enlisted in 1971, it was at the Edinburgh Recruiting Office.”

Radio Host:

“So how old were you then?”

George:

“I was 15.”

Radio Host:

“And why did you choose to enlist for the army?”

George:

“I really liked the idea of adventure.”

Radio Host:

“So you wanted adventure?”

George:

“Yes, definitely. The job prospects at the time in Scotland were very poor and I really wanted adventure.”

Radio Host:

“Do you think a lot of people joined for that reason?”

George:

“Um...I think everyone had their own reason for joining the army. Mine was just one of many.”

Radio Host:

“Thank you so much for joining us this week to tell us about your story. Now, we have a caller-in who wants to share something they have created, inspired by you. Hello?”

Caller:

“Hi!”

Radio Host: “And what's your name?”

Caller:

“Aisha.”

Radio Host:

“Nice to meet you and what have you got to share with us today?”

Caller:

"I wrote a poem."

Radio Host:

"OK, let's hear it!"

Caller:

"Join the army
See the world
As far as I can go.
Know some more of what there is to know.

Join the army
And see the world
I knew nearly none
That promised the adventure.

I was gone."

Radio Host:

"Thank you so much, for sharing with us."

GEORGE

Extract from the 'Combat Stress 100' film

What I didn't realise was that you had to sit a test. I sat my test. The guy said to me, the recruitment officer says... he was from the Royal Scots and that was my local regiment in Edinburgh and at the time, the motto was, "Join the army and see the world." That's what I wanted to do. I sat the test and I come up with some points that had... I could only go so far but enough so I didn't have to go to the infantry. I said to the group sergeant, I said to him, "Where can I go with the points that I've got?" He had a big map on the wall of the UK and he pointed the way down to Coventry in England. That was a big enough adventure as a 15-year-old. That sold it for me. I was gone.