

My strongest one was when Lance Corporal Palmer from 42 - I don't know if you've heard of him - he got hit by an IED and lost both his legs.

*Really?*

Yes. I was right behind him when it happened , that's my strongest one. It's about the only... Well I don't say it's my only one but it's the one that stands out the most, the one that takes over from the rest of them sort of thing.

*What, what were your reactions right after he was hit?*

I was a casualty myself.

*Were you really?*

Yes, I got, I went up into the air, come back down and didn't know what was going on. So I was sort of like, I was deaf as well, quite deaf.

*Okay. So you didn't know what happened to you, or did you sort of guess that you'd been hit?*

I didn't know what had happened until I started hearing things, seeing what people were doing. Seeing the people that had me, like dragging me, taking my, like checking if I'd been hit, if there was any blood or anything, but I weren't, it was just like shell sock and, shell shock sorry and I got hit in the face by something in the blast, I don't know what it

was, but then I started realising what had happened and just went into a trance for about eight hours.

*Really, okay?*

I was just stuck.

*So were, did you have to be taken out of theatre?*

Not casevaced out of Kajaki but obviously Shanksy, his name being, that was his nickname, that is his nickname sorry, he got casevaced out straightaway whereas I just went back to the FOB, a couple of people tried speaking to me, comforting me.

Yes.

And then we went out that night and stayed out, just to stay out on the ground just to sort of, it would be better to stay out on the ground and stay with the lads than come back in the FOB and mope around and be unhappy so we stayed out the night and showed, yes.

*So, you know, hours after being hit you were back out there patrolling?*

Yes, which was, it did... At the time I was, I was furious like 'I'm not going back out there'. But the sergeant major and my boss and the padre were all like 'now listen this is, it'll do you good, it'll be better to stay with the lads and it will be better to stay out there and show the Taliban that "look you've hit us

but we're still out here", which I agree with to be honest.

I still do every day to this day, every day I rationalise it because I was, I was first man, I was point man Barmaing. After an hour and a half obviously I was tired, I was switching off. My boss realise this, Shanksy realised this so Shanksy says like 'oh I'll go forward, I'll start searching', eight steps later 'boom'! It's quite close isn't it?

*Yes. I mean so it must have been one, one of those wooden, wooden IEDs .*

It was a wooden IED definite.