

It was quite an emotional experience actually because...

*Seeing your wife and child again just waiting for you?*

Yes, there was because we came back a little bit earlier than the rest because we were attached from here to Joint Force EOD. So we, there was, say about a dozen or so of us came back early, like because we deployed early we came back about three or four days before everybody else.

*Okay.*

And we got in a, in the minibus from the airport and there was a crate sat there with a little bow, a little ribbon and bow on it with a message from the MTWO.

*Yes. The what, sorry, the...?*

The Warrant Officer in charge of the transport basically.

*Okay, yes, yes, I get you.*

In the Regimental transport. So the Warrant Officer and he basically said, you know, it was a little note saying basically 'thanks for all your hard work, welcome back, have a beer on us'.

*Okay. Oh that's very nice.*

So it was, we had a beer and then left the airport and come back. Got back here and there was, you know, all the rear party guys gathered who hadn't actually been on tour they'd been here to look after the families and things like that, which is a much maligned job as it was, as it sounds. Rear party actually do play an important part to us in theatre and I don't think sometimes they get the recognition for that. You know, they organise things for the wives and that that are left behind, you know, they organise little, you know, coffee mornings and things like that. And like they send, there was one we got, it was like a big sheet like a poster of paper that had drawn up squares on like a brick wall type effect and like the families had all written little messages on it and that.

*Oh really, that's nice.*

If it wasn't for the rear party things like that wouldn't happen.

*Yes, yes, yes, okay, that's pretty cool.*

So then we got back and there was all the guys there with, you know, Union Jacks. Hats with Union Jacks printed on them. Big inflatable hands with Union Jacks.

*Okay.*

It was, the best way to describe it it was like, you know, the street parties you see from the end of World War Two?

Yes, yes.

That sort of thing. When we got off this minibus and it was like, I got a round of applause and then obviously once everyone was back, the whole regiment was back we had the Freedom of Hamein parade.

Okay.

And that and the medals ceremony and that, getting presented with our medals from the tour. And there we did a march through the town and even the Germans and everybody come out with Union Jacks and everything, which is a quite surreal experience.

*That's really good, yes, marching through German town, yes.*

You know just getting behind us and, and, and like thanking us for all the work we'd done was, is quite a, a surreal experience.