



PRESS RELEASE

DOUBLE AMPUTEE HERO *BEN PARKINSON* TO TAKE PART IN MULTI- MARATHON CHALLENGE TO HELP OTHER WOUNDED SOLDIERS

Wounded soldier Ben Parkinson who lost both legs in a landmine explosion in Afghanistan three years ago, has decided to take part in a 131 mile super challenge in aid of a military charity, Project 65.

Lance Bombardier Parkinson, 25, from Doncaster, will be taking part in stage 5 of the FORCES MARCH and promoting the charity's 131-mile FORCES MARCH challenge, which has been created by the charity to unite civilians with personnel from the military and emergency services to raise vital funds for the care and support of wounded UK armed forces heroes.

Ben, who serves in 7 Para RHA said "I have been so determined to walk again and now I am learning to do that I want to do something to help other wounded soldiers and show them that it can be done. My injuries were very severe but it has not held me back and I now want to do everything I can to raise money to help others. I am very proud to be a Patron of PROJECT 65 and the FORCES MARCH is a great opportunity for wounded soldiers like me to have something to aim for in our recovery. I am going to walk as far as I can and I hope lots of people will join my team, PARKI'S PLATOON and help me raise money. If I can do it, anyone can."

There is already such overwhelming interest from people who want to join Ben on the FORCES MARCH that PROJECT 65 has set up 'PARKI'S PLATOON', Ben's own team that people can join and complete the 26.2 mile day five of the event.

Ben has also set up his own fundraising page for people to sponsor his amazing efforts:

www.justgiving.com/parki'splatoon

FORCES MARCH is a multi-marathon challenge staged over five consecutive days starting in Ilfracombe, North Devon on Thursday 27th May and will finish in Bulford, Wiltshire on Monday 31st May. Teams are invited to enter the annual event and either walk or run and raise money for PROJECT 65. Entry details and additional information can be found at www.forcesmarch.org.uk

Project 65 aims to raise £1,000,000 by the end of 2010. The money raised will be divided between [The Royal British Legion](#), [BLESMA](#), [St Dunstan's](#), [RAF Benevolent Fund](#), [Army Benevolent Fund](#), and [Help for Heroes](#).

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For further information please contact:

- **Danny Greeno, Chairman of Project 65 on 084473 65 2 65 or email green2@o2.co.uk**

Notes to Editors:

About Ben Parkinson

Ben Parkinson is a Lance Bombardier serving with 7 Para RHA. He lives in Doncaster with his family and is making a remarkable recovery. Ben's family's fight for better compensation for wounded armed forces personnel has been well documented and Ben has become very well known as a result. Ben has seen active duty in Kosovo and Iraq as well as Afghanistan. He has been described by medical experts as 'the most wounded soldier to survive his injuries' and is astounding doctors with his remarkable recovery and determination to walk and talk again.

About Project 65

Project 65 was established in 2007 to raise funds through challenge events for organisations which provide vital care and support to wounded armed forces personnel and their families.

Some of the funds raised from the charity's first challenge event, THE RUN TO PEGASUS were used to create a simple but lasting memorial to the men of the Coup de Main operation at Pegasus Bridge, Normandy. The memorial is now situated next to the original bridge and was unveiled by General Sir Richard Dannatt on 6th June 2009.