

# MUMMY IS A SOLDIER

**Due to popular demand Gerry Waters releases her second book to help children understand and deal with a parent's deployment**

**AFTER** the incredibly positive response to her first book helping youngsters understand daddy's deployment, Gerry Waters has now released her next book, *My Mummy Is A Soldier*.

The second book, which went on sale on May 20, also addresses the issue of a young child dealing with a parent's deployment, but this time mummy is the soldier.

And as with the first book The Afghan Appeal Fund will again benefit from the sales of the new book as Gerry, married to a warrant officer in the Royal Corps of Signals based in Rhine Garrison, will donate a percentage of the profits to support the charity's work in Afghanistan.

The first book, a heart-warming picture book was inspired by and featured Gerry's family when her own young granddaughter Shay had to watch daddy go away to Afghanistan. The second book features Sgt Bex Coates and her three-year-old daughter Jessica, who are based in Cyprus.

## BOOST

According to Gerry the release of the book was brought about by public pressure from female soldiers who questioned why there wasn't also a version for female soldiers.

"What about mums?" commented one female soldier after reading the first book. "There are quite a few of us out here on Op Herrick and most of us would

by Gill Robinson

probably buy the book for our children back home."

If the response to Gerry's second book is anywhere near that of the first The Afghan Appeal Fund will again receive a real boost for their work raising awareness of the plight of people in Afghanistan and building schools for Afghan children.

*My Daddy Is A Soldier* is already on its third print run after having sold over 4,000 copies, 2,000 of which have been ordered by Surrey County Council's Early Years department, along with 2,000 of *My Mummy Is A Soldier*, for inclusion in their "Diversity Book Box".

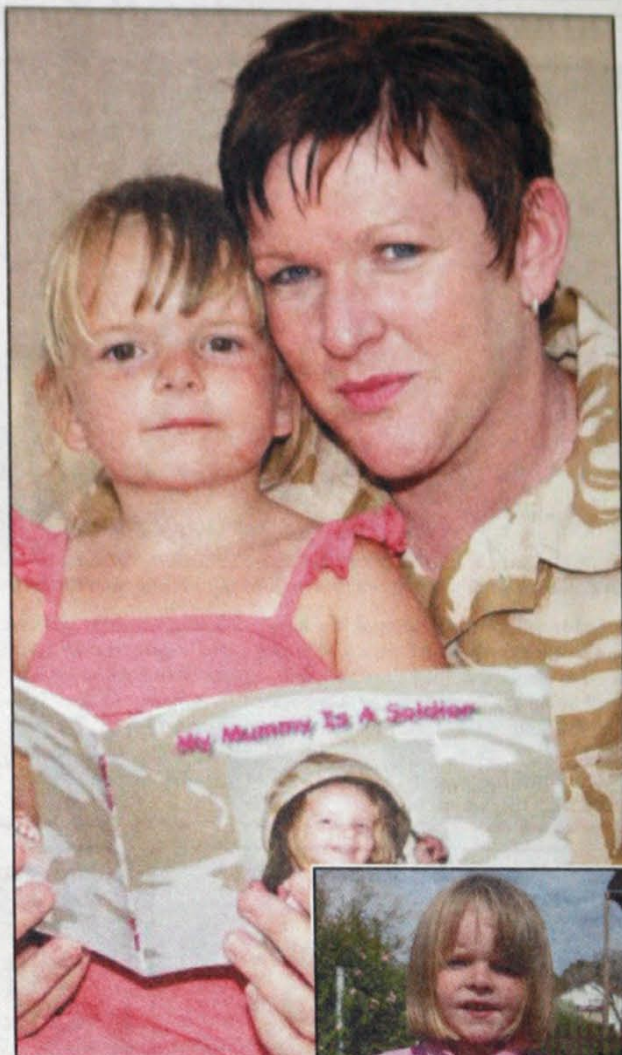
## PLANNING

Speaking as president of the Afghan Appeal Fund Lady Caroline Richards has commented on the release of the new book,

"Gerry Waters has once again found that magic formula of humour in the face of the difficulties encountered by small children when their parents deploy. This book will help the Afghan Appeal Fund support children in Afghanistan."

However, this is not the end for the series of books. Gerry is also in discussion with the Gurkha Battalion based at Netheravon near Salisbury about producing a version of the book in either Nepalese, or a mixture of English and Nepalese to support Gurkha families.

And after talks with Kevan Jones MP, the Under Secretary for Defence and Minister for Veterans during a visit to Germany a short film version of the book is now in the planning stages.



● A soldier mum reads the newly-launched book *My Mummy is a Soldier* to her daughter. Right: A little girl with the book. Below: TV chef James Martin with author Gerry Waters

Photos by Paul Reardon and Tana Pomfret



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