

# THE FORCES MARCH



**FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WW2 HEROES**  
from Devon to Wiltshire over five days

**28 Apr - 2 May**

**[www.veteranscharity.org.uk/fm](http://www.veteranscharity.org.uk/fm)**



Registered Charity No.1123149



**125 miles of stunning scenery through North Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire, following in the footsteps of the heroes of WW2.**

**DAY 1 – Weds 28 Apr: ILFRACOMBE TO EXFORD - 24.8mls**

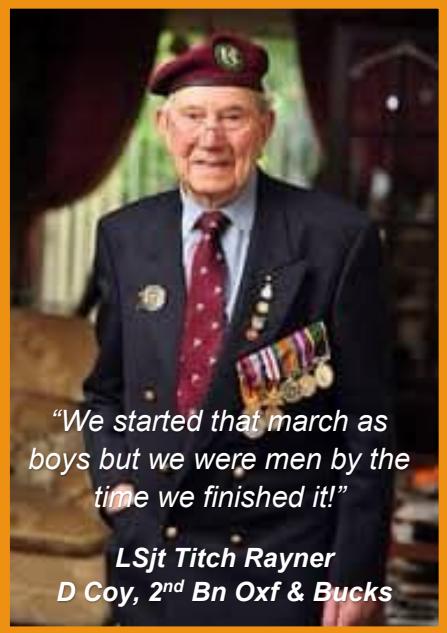
**DAY 2 – Thu 29 Apr: EXFORD TO CROWCOMBE - 23.6mls**

**DAY 3 – Fri 30 Apr: KINGSTON ST MARY TO SOMERTON - 24mls**

**DAY 4 – Sat 1 May: KEINTON MANDEVILLE TO WEST WOODLANDS - 29.2mls**

**DAY 5 – Sun 2 May: HORNINGSHAM TO BULFORD - 24.1mls**

**Every step, every mile means more support for a Veteran and their family!**



*"We started that march as boys but we were men by the time we finished it!"*

**LSjt Titch Rayner**  
**D Coy, 2nd Bn Oxf & Bucks**

**THE VETERANS CHARITY**

Registered Charity No.1123149

**Immediate needs support for Veterans experiencing hardship and distress**

[www.veteranscharity.org.uk](http://www.veteranscharity.org.uk)

**FR** Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

**The Veterans Charity** created this incredible challenge to honour the men who not only completed the original march in 1942 but also went on to spearhead the entire D-Day Invasion with the critical operation to capture Pegasus and Horsa Bridge. The Forces March was also created to raise vital funds to support the charity's work in delivering urgent assistance to veterans of the Armed Forces.

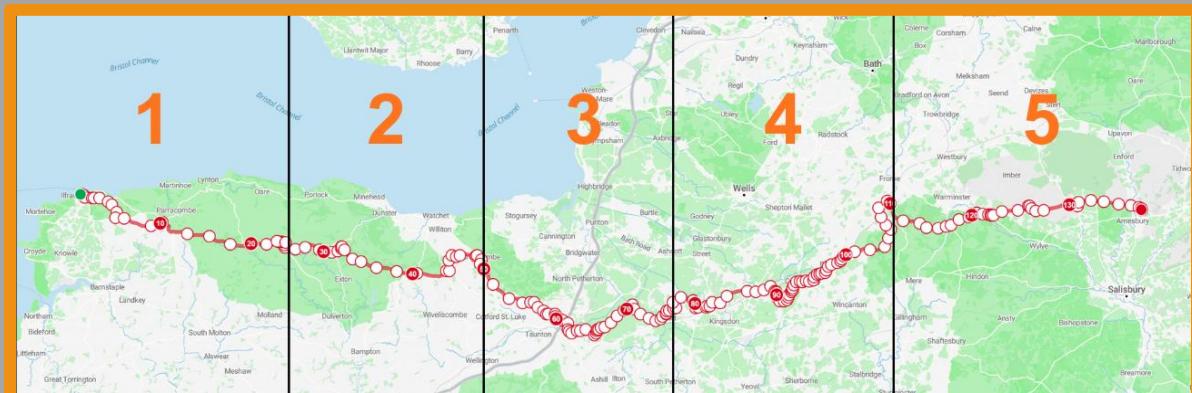
We extend invitations to His Majesty's Armed Forces, corporate teams, emergency services and civilians to join the march and to enjoy the scenery, camaraderie and the challenge of following in the footsteps of heroes, whilst helping to change the lives of today's Veterans.

Teams must consist of a minimum of 4 people plus a support element. Participants can either take on all five days or complete the event in a relay format, alternating each day or covering half a day each and swapping over at a pre-determined checkpoint location. Each team is required to have their own support crew and vehicle to assist with transportation and equipment management.

Individual participants will have their tents and baggage transported to the overnight stops by the Event Operations Team.

The Forces March is run over 5 consecutive days with four overnight camp stops along the route at Exford, Crowcombe, Somerton and West Woodlands.

The course is highly challenging with many hills and valleys along the way, but the scenery is stunning and spectacular.



## ENTRY CONDITIONS

### **REGISTRATION FEES:**

**Full 5-day entry - £160.00 per person (Discounted to just £100 before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026!)**

**Relay entry - £100 per person**

**Single Day Entry - £50 per person**

**Team Support Crew - £50 per person**

**30% discount for all Serving Personnel and Veterans with code FM27MILITARY.**

**£60 discount for Corporate Team entries with code FM27CORP.**

**Check-In will be located at The Pavillion Room, Landmark Theatre, Wilder Road, Ilfracombe from 1200hrs - 1800hrs on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April and again between 0700-0815hrs on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. We strongly recommend arriving in Ilfracombe on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April to check-in, enjoy the wonderful scenery and book a stay at one of the many hotels and B&Bs in the area.**

**All participants are required to be at the assembly area in Ilfracombe by no later than 08:30 on day 1 of the march, ready to attend the pre-event briefing and assemble in good time for the start. Transportation to and from the start and finish is the responsibility of the participants. There is a good rail link to Barnstaple from Exeter St Davids and regular buses (no21) from Barnstaple to Ilfracombe. National Express run a regular service to Barnstaple from Victoria Station, London. There are several taxi firms operating in Barnstaple. Ilfracombe is approximately 10 miles by road from Barnstaple.**

**You will need to supply your own tent, bedding, clothing, footwear and additional refreshments for the march. Our checkpoints carry stock of essentials such as water, sweets and salted snacks only. Please carefully consider your dietary and nutrition needs during each day and be sure to eat well at breakfast and to have some provisions for the day. Lunches are not provided as many participants don't want to eat too much whilst active on the route.**

**The safety of your belongings is entirely the responsibility of the participants and their support crews. We cannot accept liability for any damage or loss to any personal belongings.**

**All teams of 4 or more people are required to have their own support crew. The support vehicle used must be capable of transporting all team members and personal equipment. Individual participants' baggage and tents will be transported to the next campsite each day by one of our logistics vehicles and will be awaiting your arrival at site.**

**Participants must be fit and healthy at the time of the event and capable of completing the distances within the required time each day. Any pre-existing medical condition MUST be disclosed upon registration to enable our medical team to provide the best level of care. Should your medical needs change before the event, please ensure that you update your registration information via Eventbrite.**

**This is a particularly challenging event with a demanding all-road route which undulates throughout, and careful consideration should be given before applications are submitted. The Veterans Charity cannot be held responsible for any injury or death due to participation in this event. Extensive training is required to complete this event.**

**If you have any concerns, please contact our Medical Lead, Andy Cottrell of Face2Face Medical Ltd via [andrew@face2facemedical.net](mailto:andrew@face2facemedical.net) prior to registering.**

**All participants MUST follow the precise route set out by the organisers. Any deviation from the route will result in disqualification from the event. In the event of disqualification or withdrawal, entry fees and donations cannot be refunded.**

**Each participant is required to raise sponsorship as part of their entry into the event. ALL funds raised as part of participation in The Forces March MUST be for The Veterans Charity.**

**The fundraising target for the full 5 days challenge is a minimum of £500 per person. For single day participants, the target is a minimum £100 per person, per day entered.**

**Sponsorship can be raised online via JustGiving as well as using the manual sponsorship form which is available to download from the event website. You will be required to create a fundraising page for The Veterans Charity upon registration.**

**The entry fee is payable upon registration, but instalment options are available. Please email us at [contact@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:contact@veteranscharity.org.uk) to arrange to pay your entry fee by monthly instalments.**

**The deadline for fundraising is 31st August 2027. Participants are asked to ensure that they have reached their target and have all monies paid to the charity no later than this date.**

## **ENTRY INTO THE FORCES MARCH INCLUDES:**

- Entry into all five days of the event**
- Fully signed route – more than 500 signs!**
- Live fully monitored GPS tracking throughout the event**
- Daily safety and route briefing**
- Class 2 high visibility lightweight orange vest**
- Hot Breakfast on days 2-5**
- Evening meals on days 1-5**
- On-Site Brew Tent with snacks and nutritional supplements**
- Baggage transfers between campsites**
- Professional medical support along the entire route and on site**
- Bespoke commemorative medal and Trophies for category winners**
- Stocked and manned checkpoints throughout the route**
- Escort/safety/uplift vehicles and motorcycle marshalls**
- Camping facilities with showers, toilets, communal dining and charging points**
- Fundraising support and guidance**
- A lifetime of amazing memories!**

## FUNDRAISING

The Forces March is a unique and challenging adventure which is hosted by and in aid of The Veterans Charity. Every pound raised by the participants will enable us to improve the quality of life for Veterans who find themselves in hardship.

ALL funds raised as a result of participation in The Forces March must be for The Veterans Charity. There are several ways that you can fundraise, and support will be given to help you maximise your efforts.

Step 1:

Create your own fundraising page for THE FORCES MARCH 2027 using [JustGiving](#).

Make your page inspiring. Tell your story of why you are setting yourself the challenge and what the funds raised will do for those who deserve and need our help. Regular training updates and photos will help to keep your page fresh and informative.

Step 2:

Send an email to all your family, friends and contacts telling them about your participation in the march and how the money you raise will directly help Veterans who are facing hardship and distress. Then ask them to donate by visiting your page.

Step 3:

Post your page address on your social media account pages (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram etc) and ask people to donate to help you reach your target. Remember to add the page link to your email signature as well! Please use the hashtag #TheFM27.

Step 4:

Ask your colleagues at work and family/friends to sponsor you. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from [www.forcesmarch.org.uk](http://www.forcesmarch.org.uk)

You can even ask a local pub or shop to display a sponsorship form for you.

Step 5:

Create your own fundraising event like a cake sale, fitness challenge or gala evening. Many participants have had great success with their own events in the past and many thousands of pounds have been raised. You can also take part in other events to raise funds so keep an eye out for opportunities – great training too!

# THE FORCES MARCH



## THE ROUTE

The route of The Forces March is very challenging. There are many steep climbs and drops as well as adverse surface camber on some sections of the route. Extensive, well-structured training is a must if you want to complete all five days!

The all-road route passes through some of the UK's most spectacular and beautiful scenery including Exmoor, the Quantock Hills, Somerset Levels and Salisbury Plain and takes in many beautiful towns and villages along the way.

Days one and two feature the greatest undulations.

The target start time each day is 09:30 except for day 1 which is 10:00. The cut off each day is 18:30 except for day 5 which is 18:00 to allow for the trophy and medal presentations, which are led by *General Sir Bob Pascoe KCB MBE* – President of The Veterans Charity.

### **DAY 1:**

Ilfracombe – Berrynarbor – Blackmoor Gate – Challacombe – Simonsbath – Westermill Farm

### **DAY 2:**

Exford – Wheddon Cross – Raleigh's Cross – Elworthy – Stogumber – Crowcombe

### **DAY 3:**

Kingston St Mary – Creech St Michael – North Curry – Stoke St Gregory – Langport - Somerton

### **DAY 4:**

Keinton Mandeville – North Barrow – Castle Cary – Bruton – North Brewham – West Woodlands

### **DAY 5:**

Horningsham – Longbridge Deverill – Heytesbury – Chitterne – Shrewton – Larkhill - Bulford

You can view the draft route via the following link:

<https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/6653374400>

**\*\*Please note that the above link will show a map of the entire route from Ilfracombe to Bulford and does not account for uplifts to the start points on days 3, 4 and 5 so the mileage will appear longer than you will be covering.**

**For safety reasons, the route is subject to change as we constantly assess and monitor for any potential hazards or works which may impact The Forces March.**

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Each participant or team is required to arrange their own transport to and from the start and finish points in Ilfracombe and Bulford.

Ilfracombe is well connected via road links. The nearest train station is at Barnstaple approximately 10 miles away. There is a regular bus service from Barnstaple to Ilfracombe (no.21).

There is a mainline train service from London Waterloo to Exeter St Davids. There are hourly trains to Barnstaple. National Express provide a regular coach service which runs from London Victoria directly to Barnstaple.

Ilfracombe has over 120 hotels and B&Bs so you should have little problem in finding overnight accommodation however, the May Bank Holiday period can be a very busy tourist time in North Devon, so we strongly advise to book early!

**We strongly advise you to travel to Ilfracombe on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April and stay overnight to ensure that you are at the starting point in plenty of time. You must check in on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at The Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe between 1200-1800hrs and be at the start location by 08:30 on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

Once the march has reached its finish in Bulford you are welcome to stay overnight at the finish location and we would like all participants and crew members to attend the trophy/medal presentation exclusively for participants, support crews and their families. You are responsible for arranging return transport home. Nearby Salisbury is well connected with rail and bus connections.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the location, vehicles cannot be left at the finish point during The Forces March. We strongly recommend that you travel by public transport or arrange for someone to drop you off and collect you at the start and finish points.



# EQUIPMENT LIST

**As a minimum, you will need:**

**A tent(s) and good quality, warm sleeping bag/pillow**

**Spare trainers/walking boots and socks**

**Spare AND wet/cold weather clothing**

**Any prescribed medical supplies** (if required – please disclose on your registration!)

**Water bottle/pack (water will be provided at checkpoints)**

**Energy drinks/gels/sweets**

**Suitable rucksack/suitcase (clearly labelled!)**

**Support vehicle (Teams only)**

**Support crew (Teams only)**

**Personal Insurance (recommended)**

➤ You may wish to bring food/snacks for during each stage although checkpoints are stocked with water and sweets/snacks. Breakfasts and evening meals are provided for all participants and support crew members.





## CONTACT US

**General Enquiries:**  
01271 371001

**Email:**  
[contact@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:contact@veteranscharity.org.uk)

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