



Pte Brockis is a Movement Controller in The Royal Logistic Corps

Did you have your driving licences before you joined the army?

“No, but I got both my car and car and trailer licences within the first year of being in the Army.”

“YOUR SECTION COMMANDERS HELP YOU OUT A LOT”

What was your basic training like?

“I enjoyed it to be honest; much better than I’d imagined. If you were lacking in a particular skill, whether it was your fitness or drill, then your section commanders help you out a lot; they were very supportive. I suppose before I started I’d expected them to be on your back, not there to help you, but they were great.”

What was your Movement Controller training like?

“It was mainly classroom-based, which is what I joined the Army to avoid, so I did look forward to PT! It was interesting though and it was getting me ready to start doing my job, so it felt worthwhile.”

What type of role do you perform within your unit?

“At the minute my primary role is as a shipping clerk, which means I work in the different departments tracking the movement of the imports and exports coming through Marchwood Military Port. I might be working one day in the shipping office and the next in the container section or the Port Control building.”

What attracted you to army life?

“I started studying at sixth form college but it wasn’t really for me; I wanted to move out of the house and find something I was interested in doing and the army fitted the bill as I have always loved a challenge and definitely wanted a career where I could work with people.”

How old were you when you joined?

“I was 17 and five months when I started basic training.”

How do your friends and family feel about you being in the army?

“My mum had some concerns at first but I took her to the careers office and the Sergeant there explained everything that I was going to be doing in training and what I could expect from life as a junior soldier. Once she realised the opportunities that were open to me she was completely on board with my choice.”

How did you hear about your trade in the army?

“From the Army Careers Centre – I had some ideas beforehand, but they listened to what I wanted and asked about my grades at school and told me about a few trades I hadn’t heard of before. Movement Controller really appealed so I’m glad I had that discussion.”

“WE GET TO GO ALL OVER THE WORLD”

What was it about this particular trade that appealed to you?

“It’s odd, because even within the Army there are a lot of people who don’t know what we do and like I say, before I went into the Careers Centre I had never heard of Movement Controllers. Because we are involved with transporting the people and equipment of the Army we get to go all over the world, so the travel is really good. Sometimes we deploy in small teams or alone, so you have quite a lot of responsibility quite early and promotion can be quite quick compared to some other trades.”

Can you go in to detail about your duties – what is your job?

"I check and amend customs and movement paperwork that accompanies cargo, to make sure that it is compliant with regulations for the journey and destination country. The department gets very busy when we have more than one vessel in at the same time, so sometimes the NCO in charge has to go and iron something out in the port and I step up to run the office when he's away. I also cover for other people when it's busy, such as supervising vehicles and cargo going onto vessels or checking shipping notes."

"I'M ON ABOUT £22,000 A YEAR AND HAVE NO DEBT. IM 21 AND HAVE BOUGHT AN AUDI A4 SINCE JOINING THE ARMY"

Are your family supportive now that your in the Army?

"Yes, I'm on about £22,000 a year and have no debt. I'm 21 and have bought an Audi A4 since joining in the Army – using the money I saved up during basic training I purchased it outright."

Do you live in Army accommodation and if so what is it like?

"Yes, I live in the accommodation block with the single soldiers. It's really nice; I have my own room, with wifi, a double-bed and an en suite. There's also a common room and a kitchenette. We do have room inspections occasionally, but most of the time it's just our space and we are allowed to decorate our rooms and make them our own."

What is the culture like? Are you all friends?

"Yes, we all get on – not all of the guys I live with are Movement

Controllers; there is a Diver and three Driver Communications Specialists on my corridor and we all get on."

Can you move up the ranks quickly?

"Yes as a Movement Controller the average promotion time is one of the shortest in the Logistic Corps."

"AS AN RLC PRIVATE I MIGHT BE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO A WARRANT OFFICER"

What special qualities do you need to do your job?

"You've got to be able to think on your feet a lot and you can't be reliant on others. I frequently have to make decisions on the ground myself, as the nature of the job is that you don't always have a Senior NCO nearby. This means you need to have a high level of trade knowledge be able to apply it, so that you can make a good decision or solve a problem by yourself. Sometimes you just have to say "right, this is what I'm going to do..." You need to be confident because as an RLC Private I might be giving instructions to a Warrant Officer or SNCO from another cap badge who needs me to tell him what to do because I have the trade knowledge."

"I'VE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO SKI EVERY YEAR"

Where have you travelled abroad?

"I had done downhill skiing before I joined the Army and in my first year at 29 Regiment RLC I had the opportunity to try Nordic Skiing. Through that, I travelled to Norway, Germany, France, Austria and Italy. I had trials for the Great Britain development team and I've

been lucky enough to ski every year since I joined."

What else have you done that is particularly unusual?

"I deployed to Kenya in support of an overseas exercise, doing my job in the air terminal. There is a military air terminal in the UK too, at RAF Brize Norton – I met Gary Barlow there once as he was moving out on a trip to support troops overseas."

"EVERYDAY IS DIFFERENT"

If you were to focus on one thing you really like about your trade, what would it be?

"I enjoy the fact that every day is different as a Movement Controller. You can work with different modes of transport - sea, rail, air, road. Also, because you are dealing with people a lot of the time it varies from one day to the next even on the same task."

Do you do dismounted exercises and military skills activities with the your regiment?

"Yeah we recently did an exercise that was quite interesting and demanding. We deployed into the field and practiced our dismounted combat skills and patrolling – things like that. It's all part of the "Soldier First" mentality – yes we have a trade, but we have to be able to do the "green" stuff first and foremost."

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