

Lt Colonel Michael McErlain was an Army Military Trauma & Orthopaedic surgeon who sadly died on 06th June 2013 whilst partaking in the D-Day 44 charity run that he had established in 2009 to remember the fallen soldiers of 1944 and those that had sacrificed their lives in more recent conflicts for their country.

Mike studied Medicine at the University of Aberdeen and qualified in 1993. He joined the RAMC as a medical cadet in 1990 and was a larger than life character at the annual cadetship dinners held at RAMC HQ Mess at Millbank.

After housejobs, he completed the PQO course at RMAS and then, on successful completion of Pre-Para, he served as the RMO to 1PARA in 1996.

Basic Surgical training and then Higher Surgical Training were completed within the NHS with an overseas fellowship in Spinal Surgery in Melbourne Australia. He was then awarded his CCT and took up consultant placement at Frimley Park Hospital.

His military service included tours to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan where he was strongly influenced by the severity of the injuries sustained by the patients treated at Camp Bastion's military hospital. On his return he continued to review and treat those UK military personnel based at DMRC Headley Court via peri-patetic clinics. His passion to help those injured in warzones led to the foundation of the D-Day 44 charity run in aid of BLESMA. This continues as the Dday44Challenge supported by Combatstress ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Mike was the epitome of a military surgeon, he was passionate about patient care, training of the next generation of surgeons, kept himself fit (skiing, ultra-distance running & cycling) and was a devoted husband to Joanna (Jo) and devoted father to Paris, Venezia and Lucius.

He was talented in many ways, teaching himself to play the guitar and was a dear friend and colleague. His untimely death from an undiagnosed cardiac condition was a tragic loss to his family, friends and Defence.

