

TIM WILSON

Rob Forsyth

This final story is, most appropriately, that of a still-serving soldier...



Colonel Wilson briefing a QDG patrol in Basra, Iraq, December 2004

Tim is the youngest son of the late Hewitt Wilson and his wife Joan. His career in the army reflects the frequent deployment of the modern soldier to the various conflicts around the world that have succeeded the Cold War era.

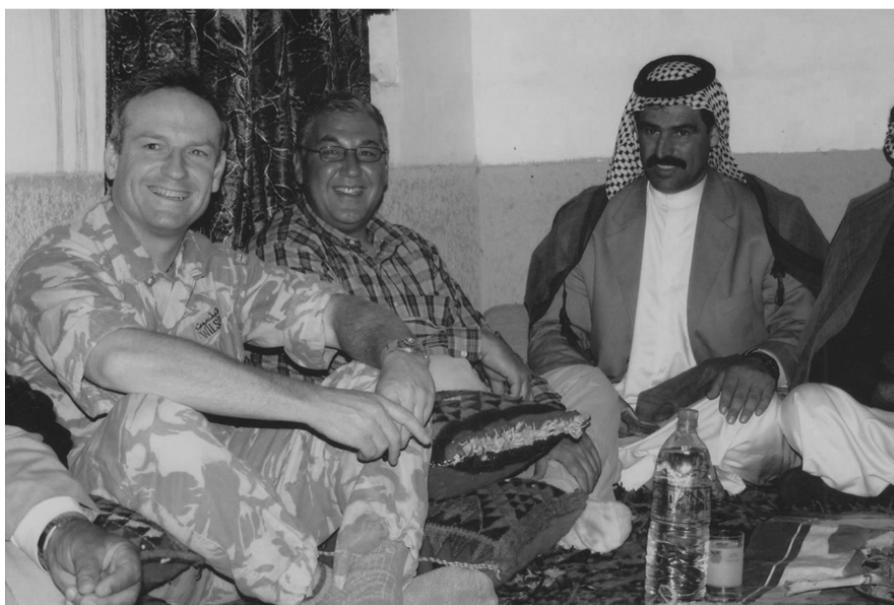
He was educated at Haileybury College and has an MA from King's College, London. He was commissioned into The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) in 1984. Early service included leading reconnaissance troops in UK, Germany and Cyprus (with the UN Force) followed by a tour as ADC to a Major General.

He was then deployed on Operation GRANBY (First Gulf War) as a Battle Captain leading the advance into Iraq from Saudi Arabia with 7 Armoured Brigade (Desert Rats). Post-war he was appointed Adjutant to the QDG before attending the Army Staff College, Camberley in 1994.

Staff tours as a Major included being Military Assistant to the Inspector General Doctrine and Training, and Ops Officer to 3 UK Division; this latter tour included NATO's first deployment out of area to Bosnia charged with a peace-keeping role trying to keep Serbs and Muslims apart in the centre of what was the former Yugoslavia. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he was a member of the Directing Staff at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham and at its equivalent in Kuwait. He also served in the Ministry of Defence with responsibility for Nuclear Policy and Special Forces.

As a commander, he has served in the Reconnaissance, Armoured (Challenger 1) and Infantry roles in Germany, Canada, Northern Ireland and Iraq. He was Commanding Officer QDG from 2003-05 and led his regiment in Northern Ireland and on Operation TELIC 5 (2004-05) in Iraq in the Formation Reconnaissance role. He commanded the Border Battle Group in Iraq where, in addition to peace-

keeping duties, he was given the responsibility for re-forming and re-training the Iraqi Border Police which had ceased to exist. To the amazement of his General, he achieved this within four months. His reward was to be given the further major task of setting up and commanding a new Task Force responsible for security throughout the province of Al Muthanna (west of Basra). Taking over from a Dutch Battle Group, he strengthened the security of the Province by developing the indigenous security forces and by building relations with the provincial government, tribal elders and international aid agencies



Colonel Wilson at a tribal elder meeting, Al Muthanna Province in January 2005

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and contribution to security during both these major tasks, he was awarded an OBE in September 2005 on relinquishing command.

On promotion to Colonel in February 2006, he became Commander Armour Centre at Bovington. He was Deputy Chief of Staff and Garrison Commander Land Warfare Centre 2008-2010 and became Deputy Chief of Staff for the Royal Armoured Corps in June 2010.

He is married to Alexandra Davis and they have three sons.