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NORTHAMPTON

# Herald & Post

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## In the sky to save lives

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## Popular fair makes a return

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PARADE: People show their support for the soldiers (left) and the Royal Lancers march through the town (right).

# Saluting our forces

BY LAURA CORCORAN  
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### EMOTIONAL crowds fought back tears as soldiers marched through the streets of Northampton.

Thousands of people lined the streets to proudly cheer and welcome home the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

Lance Corporal Antony Dyer, 24, from East Hunsbury, took part in the parade yesterday.

He said: "I was deployed in Iraq in Easter 2008."

LCPL Dyer returned to do a course and then went back to his unit in Germany, Hohne.

As a young boy he did not want to be a soldier, it wasn't until later he realised his chosen career path.

He said: "When I was a boy I didn't grow up wanting to be a soldier.

"It was something in my teens."

Talking about the parades in Derby and Leicester he said: "It did touch a lot of people's hearts."

Mr Dyer is looking forward to meeting parents of a colleague Carl Smith from

**PROUD FAMILY:** Antony Dyer, with his dad Ken, mum Dawn and brother Sam, aged nine.



Rushden who died in Iraq. He said: "His father is set to be wearing his medal.

"A lot of the boys want to meet his parents.

"We have been told we will hopefully get a chance to speak to them."

He added: "This is my parade, I want to see the best turnout I can.

"Even to get a turnout like we have now (prior to the parade) is overwhelming.

"It is nice to have the support. It makes everything worthwhile."

His mum, Dawn Dyer, said: "It is an amazing turnout."

And his father, Ken Dyer, added: "I am an emotional wreck today.

"You watch them grow up and all of a sudden they're not your little boy anymore.

"I am very proud of him. When he was

12 he joined Army Cadets in Northampton barracks.

"When he finished school he said he wanted to go in the army.

"But we wouldn't sign the papers.

"He did two other jobs and lasted a day at one and a morning at the other.

"He went off at 16 and here he is now."

Speaking about friends he has lost Ken added: "He has lost some good friends.

"Because they are all in the same squadron we get to know them.

"They are like an extended family, we really are close knit."

MP for Northampton North Sally Keeble was amongst the crowd with members of Northampton Royal British Legion.

She said: "They (the soldiers) are very impressive.

"I have enormous admiration for what they do.

"It is wonderful being here."

The parade seemed to be peaceful although one member of the crowd noted there was one protester with a placard.

At the end of the parade soldiers stood down to attend a civic reception.

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