Prayer in extreme circumstances

There are no atheists on the battlefield

- Are all soldiers religious?
- Do soldiers turn to God on the battlefield?
- Is there such a thing as an atheist in a war zone?

SOLDIER: “I find myself saying a prayer as I lie face down with bullets whistling over my backside. Soldiering is a vocation. Dying is a part of the job.”

CHRISTIAN CHAPLAIN: “In extreme circumstances many soldiers discover their needs in God.”

- Soldiers gather on the eve of battle for prayers, to hear the ‘Word of God’ and be blessed.

CHRISTIAN CHAPLAIN: “I give them words of comfort and assurance, that God is a loving God who is merciful and compassionate. Soldiers want reassurance that God is who he says he is.”

- Soldiers carry silver tags perforated with the shape of a cross, prayer beads, charms and Bibles. It is not uncommon for soldiers to stuff a prayer into their helmet, or to have tattoos of words from the Bible –
- Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid... for the Lord your God, he it is that goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

SOLDIER: People ask, “Why should you believe in God?” but I say, “Why shouldn’t you believe in God?”

- Does faith give a soldier something extra?
- Christianity is a living faith. A Christian, faced with the reality of mortal danger, may find reassurance in Jesus’ resurrection as a personal saviour.
- Does God hear and answer the desperate prayers of people in trouble?

CHRISTIAN CHAPLAIN: God hears and answers all prayers. People of faith and no faith find themselves uttering desperate prayers at desperate times. People over the centuries have found great comfort in the knowledge that Jesus died on the cross because it means that he has gone before them to the dark place and taken the light with him. Therefore we need not be afraid.