

Supporting London Poppy Day Appeal

YOU may have noticed that Transport for London (TfL) and Network Rail have teamed up to decorate the transport network with poppies in support of London Poppy Day.

Part of the Poppy Appeal, the initiative aims to raise more than £1million in a single day for the whole Armed Forces family.

A Metropolitan line train, a Circle line train and 10 London buses have been wrapped in a special poppy design. Network Rail is also displaying a giant poppy on the roof funnel of the western concourse at King's Cross station.

As a mark of respect for the sacrifices made by the capital's service men and women, poppies

will also be displayed on the front and back of all Tube, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and Overground trains, trams as well as some bus shelters.

Listen out for retired ex-service men and women from London transport, who will be making announcements across the network today encouraging passengers to donate. There will be over 2,000 volunteers collecting at 80 Tube and mainline rail stations.

■ **To make a donation go to**
www.britishlegion.org.uk/donate

► Help for veterans

Since November 2008, war veterans have been able to travel on the Tube, DLR, Overground, London's buses and trams for free.

More than 5,710 Veterans Oyster photocard have been issued.

This scheme is particularly beneficial to veterans who live in London and are not yet eligible for a 60+ London Oyster photocard or a freedom pass.



TfL helps ex-Armed Forces with jobs

THIRTY paid work placements have been created by Transport for London (TfL) to help ex-Armed Forces personnel who may be wounded, sick or injured get back into work.

The six-month placements will see ex-service people working in engineering, planning, project management and operational roles.

The initiative follows a successful pilot scheme run by TfL last year. Four former members of the Armed Forces were offered short work placements and at the end, three of the four went on to get permanent positions with TfL or its suppliers.

Armed Forces support groups have identified that many of the personnel leaving the services had useful skills that could be transferred to other industries, especially transport, which need top-quality engineers and planners.

■ **For more information**
visit www.ctp.org.uk

Mark Mayungu, 39, loved his work as an engineer in the Royal Navy. He was in the Fleet Air Arm, working with helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, both here and abroad.

But the serviceman's career was tragically cut short when he broke his neck in an horrific road accident. He spent months lying on his back unable to move as he recovered.

Now, he has made a full recovery and with the help of TfL's scheme, he is back doing what he loves most.

Mark, who is a senior traffic engineer at TfL, said: 'I was very lucky because 80 per cent of people who suffer my injury do not make a full recovery. I met a lot of people with engineering skills during my time in rehab but many of them had just given up. They thought their lives were over and

all they could do was stay at home and be cared for. I'd recommend this TfL scheme to all of them.'

He works with a team of eight highly qualified engineers attending site meetings, carrying out inspections, commissioning work and meeting with the police and local authorities.

He has been at TfL for more than a year and has worked on some exciting projects including the London 2012 Games. He said: 'I still have physiotherapy once or twice a week but that doesn't stop me from doing my job effectively.'

He added: 'It is about putting yourself on the line and the self-belief that you are capable. I now feel very integrated in my job – and into the transport industry. I owe a lot to TfL.'

Mark took part in TfL's pilot scheme in 2012 and went on to get a full-time job as a result.

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London Travelwatch

London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.



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