



Joe Townsend, Royal Marines

On Feb. 8, 2008, Marine Joe Townsend was injured when an IED exploded while he was on early morning patrol with 40 Commando, Royal Marines, in Afghanistan. Aged 19, he lost both legs and spent six weeks in serious condition, fighting infection in the hospital and at home. Two years after his injury, Townsend began training in adaptive sports to regain his former fitness. He now competes in world-class endurance and Iron Man competitions.

"I think my family finds it hard to believe, as I do, how far I've come. I've gone from being a frail, injured little boy in hospital to a strong endurance athlete who's competed in some of the toughest endurance events in the world, ones which able-bodied people struggle to do. I suppose I've got that typical Royal Marines grip where you need to keep pushing yourself and finding new challenges, and once you've completed something, you need to find something harder and just keep driving yourself. And it's a way of me saying thank you to my family for being there while I was really weak and struggling and really needing them. It's a way of proving to them that I've overcome this injury and that there are new things I can do."

PHOTO BY BRYAN ADAMS

Scars of war

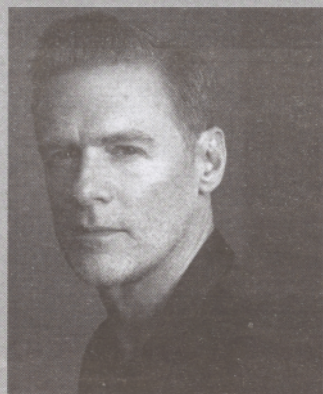
Canadian rocker Bryan Adams is also an award-winning photographer. With the release of his new book, "Wounded: The Legacy of War," Adams tells soldiers stories of survival, endurance and overcoming the violence of war

BY BRYAN ADAMS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was driven to do this as I was firmly against the war in Iraq and didn't see the point in kicking the hornets' nest. When I started to see people coming back without their limbs, I felt compelled to say something. It wasn't enough just to march in protest. The politicians weren't listening to the people.

It all started about five years ago when I was approached by Independent Television News journalist Caroline Froggatt who knew a lot of these guys. They all worked so hard, not only with their own rehabilitation but for other people. Most of them were challenging themselves even harder than they did before they were wounded — climbing mountains, crossing oceans, traversing the poles. All extraordinary things and all for the betterment of their comrades. Incredible people. I have an enormous amount of respect for them.

I see the book and the exhibition as a document to a particular time in our lives that shouldn't be forgotten. We must not also forget the brutal consequences of



BRYAN ADAMS, SELF-PORTRAIT

war and what the repercussions are. This only scratches the surface of the pain and suffering Britain incurred in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention the millions of people who were displaced and entire families lost due to these senseless wars.

All photos by Bryan Adams, featured in "Wounded: The Legacy of War."

Corporal Ricky Fergusson, Royal Marines



PHOTO BY BRYAN ADAMS