



BY ROSS 'ACTION MAN' WISHART

ACTION MAN!



Action Man joined the Explore 4x4 team for their military survival experience.

The 24hr course runs takes in all the best bits from the 3 week long survival training delivered to the armed forces and squeezes it into a high intensity, nerve jangling, energy sapping yet all round awesome taster session.

Kevin & I joined forces with 9 other would-be survivalists and first order of the day was to get kitted up. Whilst we were prepared for a weekend into the unknown the thermal & waterproof layers were shed for army fatigues. Plus standard army issue equipment - mess tins, camo paint, knives & bivouacs. No soap! This isn't a spa weekend!!! The scene was set, not only did we have to survive the wilderness but an exciting role-play element was added, we were to be dropped close to a danger zone on a humanitarian mission, hostile forces have been seen in the area, be on your guard!

Swiftly delivered into action and first order of the day was reconnaissance, scout out the area looking for anything that might be of use, natural food sources, fire wood and also vantage points. Time to set up camp and this was no flat, lush, grassy meadow, you must find some trees to tie up your bivouac (just a waterproof sheet) clear the ground and flatten it out, cushion with some long grass and that's our bed for the night. (oh what I'd give for a Premier Inn right now!) We

eventually got a small fire going and it was time for dinner, we were handed some root vegetables along with a fish & a pigeon, no prepack supermarket jobbies, scales & feathers included! However with our knives and some careful instructions we were able to extract the meat and along with our roasted veg all cooked on an open fire it was a very tasty meal! Just as we started to settle for the night we were told that a hostile force was heading in our direction! With our earlier compass training we had to follow some written instructions and get out of camp, fast!

We scurried through pitch black woodland ducking and diving from the torches & foreign voices of our adversaries until we were given the all clear and it was back to camp. There was a threat of further hostile movement so shifts were taken to keep watch and the fire stoked.

The following morning with a "refreshing" brew of nettle & rosehip tea we gathered our belongings and made our way back to base via a vigorous physical therapy drill! We arrived at civilisation somewhat tired & hungry but all with a feeling of elation having completed the task and having learnt a great deal.

This course is one of many great activities such as 4x4 driving & clay pigeon shooting available for corporate & team building events through www.explore-4x4.co.uk you can also buy gift vouchers as a perfect Christmas present for the Action Man in your life!