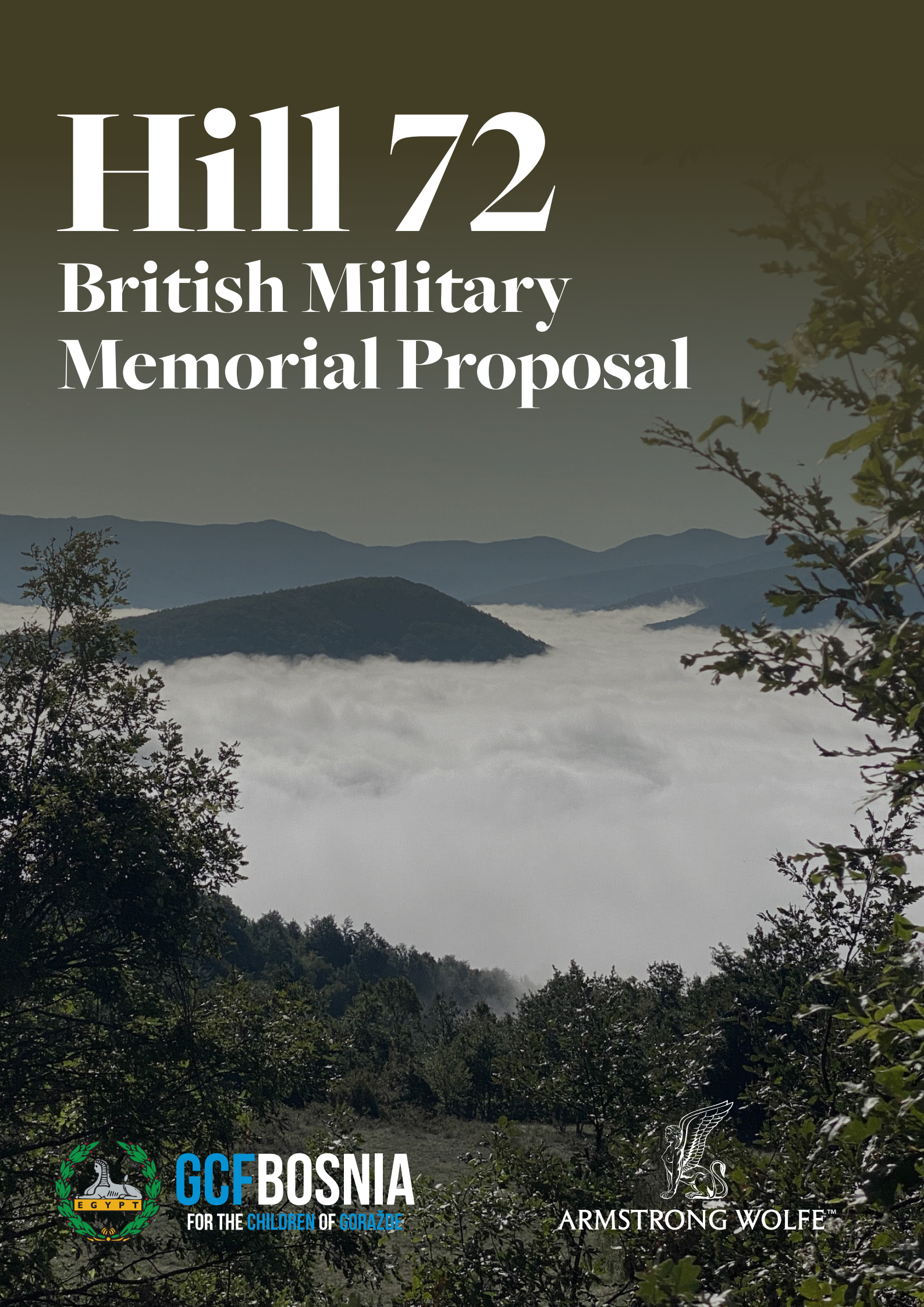
Hill 72

British Military Memorial Proposal



EGYPT

GCF BOSNIA

FOR THE CHILDREN OF GORAŽDE

ARMSTRONG WOLFE™

Hill 72

British Military Memorial to the 72 British military personel who lost their lives on UN service from 1992 to the present date, in Bosnia.

Location: Co-located with an established memorial on the hills above Gorazde, central Bosnia. **Targeted inauguration**: Opening summer, 2026.

This was the codeword used to cover UK defence operations in support of the UN peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia, including the deployment of British forces in Bosnia and Croatia from October 1992 until December 1995 as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Outline

On UN service from 1992 to date, 72 British service military personel have lost their lives. Initiated and funded by the UK charity GCF Bosnia (www.gcfbosnia.org) there exists a beautiful memorial opened in 2023 dedicated to the 6 British Army servicemen that lost their lives on UN service within Op Grapple 1994.

There exists no single memorial to the 72 lives lost on UN service in Bosnia.

Opening and dedication ceremony

The memorial

The 72

72 British service personnel died whilst deployed on operations in the Western Balkans - 49 in Bosnia itself and 10 in Croatia. 58 were soldiers; 1 was a Royal Marine. 25 died serving as part of UNPROFOR (1992 to 20 December 1995), 13 died serving as part of IFOR (20 December 1995 to 20 December 1996) and 21 died serving as part of SFOR (21 December 1996 to 02 December 2004). British forces suffered no fatalities whilst operating as part of EUFOR between 2004 and 2007.

Gunshots accounted for the largest number of fatalities (17), with most being accidents or suicide, rather than hostile fire. RTAs cost 15 lives and helicopter crashes 7. Minestrikes and EOD operations accounted for another 7. A further 7 died in accidents of various kinds, 5 died through natural causes and 1 was killed following a physical assault.

The memorial steps

Early morning view from the memorial site

Memorial detail

Design concepts

Memorial Wall

To the right hand side of the memorial side:

- The holding wall to the SAXON plinth/platform (*see below wall concept*)
- Steps to the right of the wall to the SAXON plinth/platform
- To the right of the stone benches, raised platform with:
  - bronze statue of The Blue Beret Bombadier; kneeling with child before them, noting the child's cry "bonbon soldier, bonbon please"
  - reconstructed OP with viewing platform (child centric to climb)

The holding wall to the SAXON plinth/platform concept

Bronze Statue

Bronze Statue visual concept 1

Bronze Statue visual concept 2

Saxon

- Steps up to a levelled platform to the rear right of the present memorial site (the former position of the OP)
- SAXON vehicle painted in white

Contact

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