

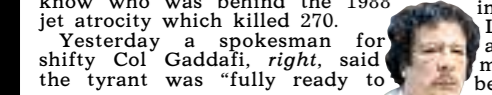
10,600 ARE WARNED OF AXE

AS T.A.-STYLE ARMY LOOMS

LOCKERBIE COPS WILL QUIZ MUSA 'IN DAYS'

DEFECTOR Musa Kusa will be quizzed by Scottish detectives within days over the Lockerbie bombing, it emerged last night. The former head of the Libyan intelligence services is believed to know who was behind the 1988 jet atrocity which killed 270. Yesterday a spokesman for the shifty Col Gaddafi, right, said the tyrant was "fully ready to talk for peace" — but only if the country's people agreed. Meanwhile MPs will report today that an arsenal including artillery computers, combat shotguns and infrared sights were all sold to Libya by British firms before an arms embargo was imposed last month and are likely to have been used against the rebels.

By TOM NEWTON DUNN



Corpses in streets

BODIES lined the streets of Misrata last night after Colonel Gaddafi let loose his fury on the rebel-held Libyan city. Evacuees told of fierce clashes. One said: "Hospitals are overflowing." **● AT least 12 protesters marching against Yemen's president Ali Abdullah Saleh were shot dead in city Taiz yesterday.**

FORCES CUTS BY 2015



MORE than 10,500 military personnel were yesterday warned they could be sacked this year — as it was revealed the entire Army faces being replaced by a much smaller TA-style force.

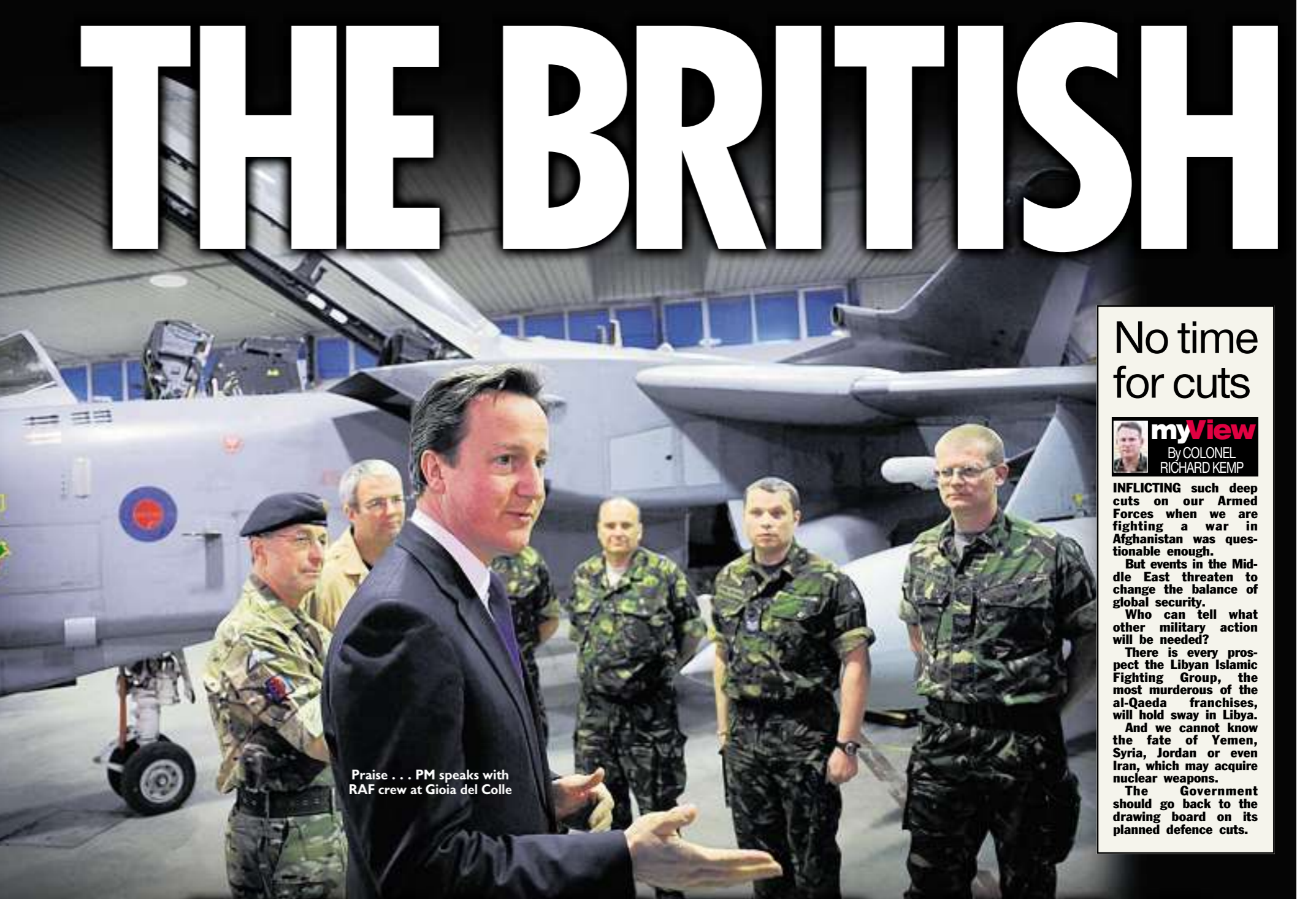
In a first round of savage cuts, 2,600 servicemen and women will definitely go in the autumn. And 10,600 received letters yesterday telling them they could be among those chopped. They included many currently in frontline action. Incredibly, the cull was announced against a backdrop of **TWO** wars being fought in Afghanistan and Libya.

It prompted a volley of blasts aimed at David Cameron's Government, with critics wondering how Britain can maintain credible operations with shrinking forces.

And it rekindled the sentiment of The Sun's famous front page of August 28 2009, when we accused Gordon Brown's Labour Government of failing Our Boys in Afghanistan under the headline: "Don't you know there's a bloody war on?"

The autumn axe is part of a massive clearout of 17,000 personnel, to be completed by April 2015 in up to four stages in a bid to save nearly £5 billion.

Seven thousand Army posts will go along with 10,000 split equally between the RAF and Navy. Of these, 11,000 will be made redundant with the rest of the jobs lost through natural wastage. The Sun has learned up to 1,000 officers will get the boot, including 30 full **COLONELS** and 15 **TOP**



Praise . . . PM speaks with RAF crew at Gioia del Colle

MINITARY

No time for cuts

By COLONEL RICHARD KEMP

INFLECTING such deep cuts on our Armed Forces when we are fighting a war in Afghanistan was questionable enough. But events in the Middle East threaten to change the balance of global security.

Who can tell what other military action will be needed? There is every prospect the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, the most murderous of the al-Qaeda franchises, will hold sway in Libya.

And we cannot know the fate of Yemen, Syria, Jordan or even Iran, which may acquire nuclear weapons.

The Government should go back to the drawing board on its planned defence cuts.

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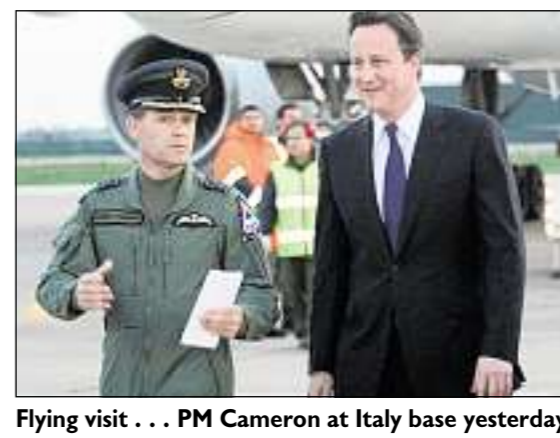
McNab said: "The military don't want to lose anyone and there are many arguments that we shouldn't be losing anyone. These cuts are coming from politicians. It's a dark day for the military."

Mr Cameron brushed aside the cuts storm as he paid a visit to Gioia del Colle, Italy, the base for the UK's warplane operations above Libya, to praise our pilots. The PM said: "I wanted to come and say a heartfelt thanks and well done from the British public to the brave Tornado and Typhoon pilots and their crews who have done an incredible job in a short period to save thousands of lives. The whole country should be proud."

He later flew to Pakistan, where he will today plead for a "fresh start" on terrorism. Accompanied by MI6 chief Sir John Sawers and Chief of Defence Staff General Sir David Richards, the PM hopes to broker a new deal on intelligence sharing.

He will call for a new era in relations between the two countries, clearing up past misunderstandings and working through current tensions to set up future opportunities.

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The Sun Says — Page Eight



Flying visit . . . PM Cameron at Italy base yesterday

TWO WARS

Continued from Page One

hours earlier he had ordered Defence Secretary Liam Fox to slash 2,600 more soldiers, sailors and pilots from the ranks, while Britain fights wars in Libya and Afghanistan.

Fifteen Royal Navy Harrier Top Guns will be among those to go. And Tornado jet ground crew serving on the Libya mission also face a nervous wait until September to see if they get the chop. While in Italy, the PM announced a further four Tornado GR4 bombers are to join the mission.

But Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton warned the RAF would need "genuine increases" in its budget to run the range of operations which ministers demand. Without more investment it would struggle to maintain its role in Libya, Sir Stephen said.