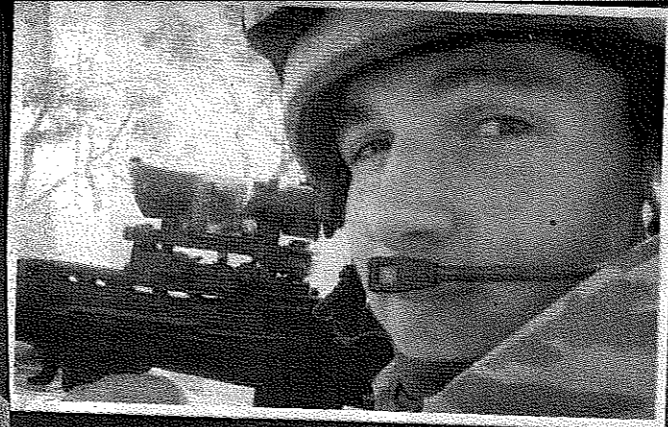
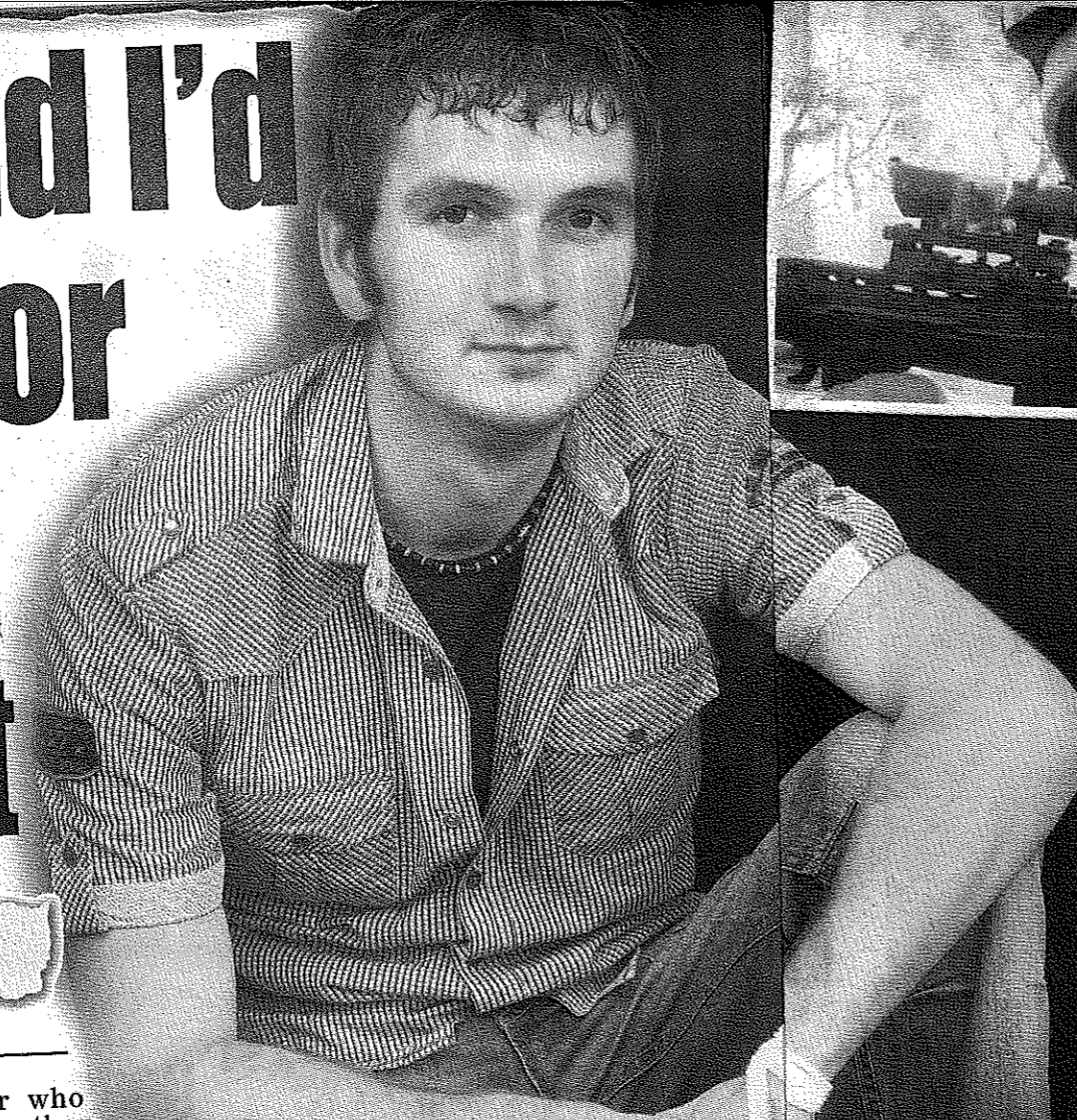


# Doctors said I'd never talk or walk - but I didn't quit



## Crash victim defies odds

By Kevin Duguid



**RECOVERY:** Lee was in a coma.

A YOUNG soldier who defied doctors when they told him he would not walk or talk again after an accident is inspiring others to fight against their illnesses.

Lee Grant lost his memory and was left paralysed and unable to speak after a car crash which claimed the life of his best friend and fellow soldier, Gordon Pirie, 18.

The 23-year-old, from Buckie, began to walk and talk again after spending almost a year in hospital recovering from

**INSPIRING:** Lee spent almost a year in hospital, but is now at home in Buckie.

and his family were told to expect the worst.

But four years on, Lee now lives independently in his own house, with support from his girlfriend Lisa Cowie, 20, and his family.

He is now a co-facilitator with the Momentum project, which supports young men in the North-east to manage on their own.

And he offers inspiration and encouragement to those who are facing a similar plight at the project, which also offers him support.

**"Don't listen to the doctors too much"**

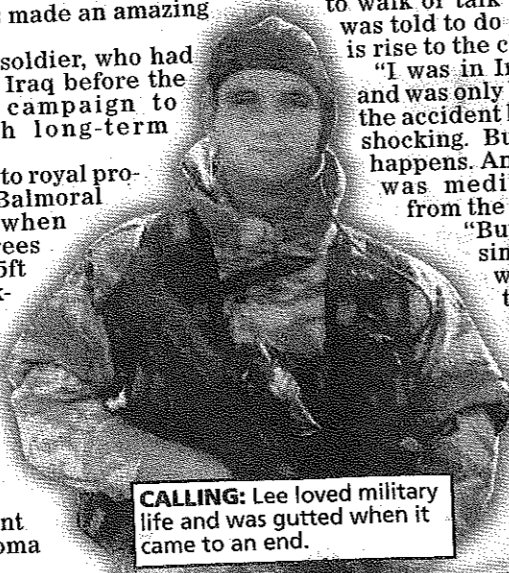
the accident and has made an amazing recovery.

Today, the former soldier, who had spent six months in Iraq before the crash, backed a campaign to help people with long-term conditions.

Lee was returning to royal protection duties at Balmoral with his friends when the car hit two trees and plummeted 15ft down an embankment.

He had serious head injuries, and fractured his neck, a bone in his cheek, an eye socket, his pelvis and a number of ribs.

The soldier spent five weeks in a coma



**CALLING:** Lee loved military life and was gutted when it came to an end.

bike and has been able to get a part-time job working at a shop in Elgin.

He aims one day to be able to get back behind the wheel of a car.

And he is hoping to move to Spain in the future to live closer to his brother Craig, 26, because the climate will make it easier for him to walk.

Lee is backing a new campaign launched to help those with long-term medical conditions.

The initiative by the Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland (LTCAS) is

called My Condition, My Terms, My Life.

This week a website, phone number, and text will be made available to help people and their carers find out more about self managing a long-term condition.

It has been developed in partnership with people who have long-term conditions. The project receives a grant from the Scottish Government's self management Fund, administered by LTCAS.

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**TRAGEDY:** The car Lee was in hit two trees and plummeted 15ft down an embankment.

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