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War hero who survived Iraq loses leg on 80mph Cresta Run toboggan...but didn't realise it was missing

An Iraq war hero whose leg was torn off in an 80mph toboggan run did not even realise it was missing, he has admitted.

Captain Bernie Bambury thought he had broken his ankle but discovered his leg had been severed below the knee after completing the famous Cresta run in St Moritz, Switzerland.

Microsurgeons in Zurich managed to sew the limb back on - but the 32-year-old was told it would take two years before he could walk and he might never regain full mobility.

So, instead the brave soldier, from the 4th Battalion The Rifles based in Bulford, Wiltshire, asked for his leg to be amputated and was yesterday fitted with a false leg.

He told the Sun: "Amputation gave the best prospects for the rest of my life and the swiftest return to duty."

Capt Bambury, who had served six months in Iraq, was tackling the mile-long Cresta Run at an Army tobogganing event in January when his right foot hit a marker post.

After completing the run he asked friends "Is my ankle broken?" before hearing the horrifying reply: "It's not broken, it's gone."

The severed leg was recovered hundreds of yards up the course after he crossed the finish.

He is now at the Headley Court Military Hospital near Epsom, Surrey, which fits prosthetic limbs to wounded soldiers.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "This was a tragic accident and Capt Bambury has taken a brave decision on medical advice to amputate his foot.

"We hope he is able to make a swift recovery and wish him all the best for his rehabilitation at Headley Court."