

Press Release

## **LION SCOTLAND recreates more great battles for BBC TWO *Time Commanders* recommissioned for 2005**

Lion Scotland, part of Lion Television and one of the UK's leading independent production companies, has been commissioned by BBC TWO to produce a second historical entertainment series of *Time Commanders*.

The eight episode series (45 min programmes) will be presented by Richard Hammond (*Top Gear*) and is set to air in early 2005. Series one, also screened on BBC TWO in Autumn 2003 averaged an audience of 3 million viewers.

*Time Commanders 2*, will follow a similar format to its predecessor with two teams of four taking enemy sides in an epic historic battle; pitting their strategic wits against each other to try and alter the course of history. With the help of expert historians and military experts the teams must formulate their battle strategy before watching their decisions played out through sophisticated on-screen animation. Their choices could produce an entirely different outcome, changing the course of history as we know it. Unlike the first series, the teams for series two feature a mix of families, professions and interests including vicars, spin doctors, military men and juditsu trainers.

Each *Time Commanders'* episode presents the teams with carefully researched historical facts and sources, a map of the battlefield and vital statistics of their enemy to accurately reproduce a famous battle from around the world. The series will feature the battles of Stamford Bridge, Hastings, Hydaspes, Troy (based on Greek mythology), Dara, Teutobergwald, Sarmizegethusa and Cynoscepheliae drawing on Greek, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Byzantine history.

**Colin Cameron, managing director at Lion Scotland** says: "*Time Commanders* not only brings the great battles of history to life, but allows our teams and the viewer to be right at the heart of the action. The virtual historical combat is brought to life with amazing CGI – which has been made even more detailed for series two. *Time Commanders* demonstrates exactly what we do best – bringing high-quality, innovative ideas to the screen. It shows what can be achieved when an ambitious idea brings together two technologies and brings history - a popular tv subject – into the realm of the computer game."

The new series will be filmed next month in a specially-designed studio at SMG Studios in Glasgow. The *Time Commanders* series will be produced by Fiona White and series producer Angus Cameron, and executive produced for

Lion Scotland by Colin Cameron and Paul Gilheaney and Neil MacDonald for BBC Scotland.

The historical and military experts featured in the series include Adrian Goldsworthy, Michael Loades, Aryeh Nusbacher and Mark Urban who offer an insight into the military technology of the time, the battle tactics and political consequences for the victors and the vanquished.

The computer graphics and animation for *Time Commanders* are developed by Creative Assembly.