

# Homecomings: Danish Soldiers' Narrative Identities

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## **Abstract**

In 1990 Denmark adopted a new approach to foreign policy that legitimized deployment of its armed forces as peace-builders in international zones of war, and which eventually led to it being labeled a "belligerent nation". In this article I explore how this change in policy has affected the private life of soldiers and their families and increasingly exposed and entangled these in public domains and discourses. I argue that the concrete circumstances of the remote wars, as well as the emerging homebound narratives of war profoundly affects what is considered private and intimate, and public and shared. I moreover suggest that this reconfiguration of the private and public produces its own line of secrets, intimacies, semi-lies and circumscribed truths, and that it establishes gatekeeping narrative communities. The paper discusses three different paths taken by Danish war veterans to create post-deployment identities.