



DAY OF ROYAL TRAGEDY AND DRAMA

Sudden death of Lady Gabriella's husband rocks Royal Family

SEE PAGES 2-3

William mysteriously misses his godfather's memorial

SEE PAGES 4-5



LADY
GABRIELLA
WINDSOR
WITH LATE
HUSBAND
THOMAS

INDEFENSIBLE

Despite growing global threats and warnings from military top brass, Chancellor rejects calls to boost Forces funding in Budget

JEREMY Hunt faced fury last night after it emerged he had no plans to increase defence spending in next week's Budget.

Despite wars raging in Europe and the Middle East, the Chancellor is set to defy calls to give the

By **Harriet Line** and **Mark Nicol**

Ministry of Defence more money. Former military chiefs and defence ministers lined up to urge Mr Hunt to reconsider – with one saying the decision was ‘absolute lunacy’.

Ex-defence secretary Ben Wallace said Britain's ‘hollowed-out’ military will not be ‘match-fit’ for the conflicts to come

without a committed rise in defence spending. Mr Hunt is planning to prioritise tax cuts to grow the economy, with sources pointing to the extra £11 billion – spread over five years – that he gave to the MoD last year.

But much of that money is already allocated to long-term projects such as upgrading the nuclear deterrent and replacing equipment sent to Ukraine.

A report by MPs this month found

that – despite £50 billion a year being spent on defence – ‘sustained ongoing investment’ is needed for the UK to be able to fight a ‘high-intensity war’.

Mr Wallace said: ‘We are already tumbling down the tables on defence spending and aid to Ukraine. Reversing 30 years of hollowing-out can't be done in four years. We need a sustainable and

Turn to Page 6