

APPOINTMENTS

QUEEN'S HONORARY PHYSICIAN

Colonel T C Dow TD, MB, ChB, RAMC, TAVR, is appointed Honorary Physician to The Queen as from 21 March 1977 in succession to Colonel F. L. Constable TD, MD, FRCPATH, on completion of tenure.

QUEEN'S HONORARY SURGEON

Colonel T. H. L. Bryson TD, MB, ChB, FFARCS, RAMC, TAVR, is appointed Honorary Surgeon to The Queen as from 21 March, 1977 in succession to Colonel D. N. Stewart TD, MRCS, LRCP, DLO, on completion of tenure.

LAST OF THE VETERANS

Major-General A. H. Farrar-Hockley, DSO, MBE, MC, Director Combat Development (Army), Ministry of Defence, has become General Officer Commanding South East District, in the rank of Lieutenant-General, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson, KBE, MC, who has retired.

Major-General Anthony Farrar-Hockley (53) is 'the last of the veterans' among the senior officers of the Army, for many of the new generation of general officers entered the Service after the end of the Second World War. Indeed Major-General Farrar-Hockley only saw extensive war service because he enlisted under age from Exeter School. Similarly, because of the discrepancy with his birth certificate, he remained rather longer in the ranks as a regular soldier than many of his contemporaries. A sergeant at 17, he was commissioned before his 19th birthday into the newly forming Airborne Forces.

At 20, he was commanding a rifle company in the 6th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, having seen active service round the Mediterranean during which he was awarded the Military Cross. Having become a regular officer in The Gloucestershire Regiment — there was then no regular Parachute Regiment — he returned to the former after service in Palestine in 1946, and was adjutant of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea. For the action in the Imjin River he was awarded the DSO as a captain and was subsequently mentioned-in-despatches for his activities while a prisoner of war of the North Koreans and Chinese, from whose camps he escaped six times.

He was sent to the Staff College, Camberley, on his return and then re-joined Airborne Forces, taking part in the Port Said landing in 1956 and in counter-terrorist operations in Cyprus. He relinquished the post of brigade major of the 16th Parachute Brigade after the Jordan expedition of 1958 on posting as a chief instructor to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. In 1962, he became commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which he led during the Radfan operations of 1963, advancing into the Wadi Dibs, the heart of the Rudfani guerrillas. For this event he was given a bar to his DSO.

Meantime, the Army was becoming involved in operations in Borneo. Having completed his command, General Farrar-Hockley was appointed principal staff officer to the Director of Operations in Borneo, remaining there until the completion of active operations in 1966, when he took command of 16th Parachute Brigade.

Major-General Farrar-Hockley has published eight books, beginning with 'The Edge of the Sword', the story of the Gloucesters in Korea. His most recent, published in 1976, was 'Goughie', the biography of General Sir Hubert Gough, which was widely acclaimed in the book pages of the national press.

YEOMEN AMID THE MOUNTAINS

Two hundred and sixty men of The Wessex Yeomanry have returned to their homes and civilian jobs after a fortnight of soldiering in the mountains of Mid-Wales.

The regiment, formed in 1971 with antecedents dating back nearly two centuries, went to Sennybridge, near Brecon, for annual camp, where it had the extensive ranges of the Eppynt Mountains at its disposal. This was their first camp in Wales. The regiment is commanded by Lt./Col. Piers Birchall, a farmer of Duntisbourne Abbots, near Cirencester. The Duke of Beaufort is Honorary Colonel.

Camp training included rifle and machine-gun firing, fieldcraft, tactics and practice in deployment drills. This led up to a day and night exercise in which a defensive position was occupied despite rough weather and tough opposition from a squadron acting as enemy.

Recruits attending their first camp had their own syllabus and were inspected on their passing-out parade by Maj. Gen. Bob Lyon, GOC South West District. Best recruit was Tpr Michael Burden, aged 18, of Tiverton, who received an engraved tankard.

QUEENSMEN AFLOAT

Six members of HQ Coy 6/7 Queens (V) hired the 32-foot Contessa sloop 'The Fusilier' from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Yacht Club from 18 to 25 March. After initial problems in finding the club at Gosport, the party, consisting of 2Lt A. J. Leonard and Ptes Foster, Driver, Thaddeus, Willis and Wadey, went straight to the yacht and sampled the rather cramped sleeping quarters. Saturday morning was spent — literally — tying themselves in knots and learning the ropes.

LCpl Thompson RRF, the skipper, then taught us the names of the principal parts of the boat and after practising sail-changing declared us fit to go to sea.

Passing out of the harbour mouth, hoisting the headsail, saw Pte Foster marooned in the bows and pounded by heavy seas. The sail was brought down immediately and replaced by a smaller one. He was certainly thrown in at the deep end!

As the day went on the Queen's crew became accustomed to the motion of the boat and reached Cowes by early evening. During the week they sailed down through the Needles to Lulworth Cove, and back via Poole receiving instruction on sailing terms and tacking. Winds which had been strong (Force 6-8) at the beginning of the week moderated considerably towards the end, which made the cooking under sail much easier. Some of Pte Wadey's early attempts to pour hot water from kettle to pot ended in a hand-wash instead!

The final test came when the crew were left to mend a ripped mainsail late on Thursday night. Pte Driver watched attempts by Thaddeus and Leonard with muted disgust and finally took over and completed the job successfully himself.

It was a splendid week, of course unpaid but it demonstrated how much the TAVR can offer from its access to Army facilities. The crew are grateful to Lt Col Hugh Rogers and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for the loan of 'The Fusilier', and we hope to see more of her.

THE FUTURE OF COLCHESTER SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO

The Ministry of Defence has announced that the 1978 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo will be the last to be held as an annual event.

For some time, the Ministry has been studying the overall manpower problem to see where reductions can be made, thus alleviating what the Army calls 'overstretch' — too few soldiers for too many duties, and has now announced its decisions.

As far as Colchester is concerned, it will no longer be possible to present a Tattoo each year as hitherto. Instead, the Ministry has decided that manpower will only be available for Colchester to have a Tattoo on a three-year cycle. Similar plans have been announced for the Cardiff Tattoo and the Catterick Army Display.

On this basis, after 1978, the next Tattoo will be in 1981, and thereafter every third year.

The Colchester Community Fund Committee, the charity fund-raising organisation, which not only sponsors the Tattoo as part of the Colchester Carnival Week each year, but also organises and provides the civilian volunteer helpers (without whom the event could not be staged) has been assured that whenever possible, Colchester Garrison will provide what help it can in the intervening years, such as Beating Retreat, which could be used by the Fund as a means of raising money for charity.

Although such an event would not compare in size and scope with the Tattoo, it would maintain the tradition of a military event on a regular basis, thus assisting the Colchester Community Fund to continue its invaluable work in aid of charity, and maintain the close relationship which the Army enjoys in Colchester.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

IN OUR June issue we published an article "Volunteers at Westbury RCB" by Colonel Q. A. Rhodes TD, ADC, Colonel SE District on the pilot scheme whereby TAVR commission candidates attended the Regular Commission Board at Westbury. As promised in that issue, we now publish the impressions of one of the candidates at that Board — Officer Cadet A. C. Gregory 6/7 Queens (V) now, happily, 2nd Lt. Gregory.

Although TACB sounds like yet another course of injections to be inflicted upon unwilling soldiery, it actually stands for the Territorial Army Commissions Board. TACB 1, was held at the Regular Commissions Board Leighton House, Westbury, between 14 and 16 March, 1977. During this period, for the first time ever, candidates for TAVR Commissions were tested for suitability alongside and under exactly the same conditions as candidates for Regular Army commissions.

The basic idea behind this innovation was the furtherance of the 'One Army' concept by the adoption of a common selection procedure for all Army officers regardless of whether they are regular or TAVR. TACB 1 was run on exactly the same lines as a normal RCB, the only variations being that during interviews, the Board interviewing officers were assisted by TAVR officers. It also lasted three instead of three and a half days. Regular Army candidates stay for a third night in order to participate in a group obstacle course the following morning.

TACB 1 commenced at mid-day on 14 March when seven members of the TAVR including representatives from 6/7 Queens, RE, OTC and REME joined four similar groups of regular commission candidates at Leighton House. Two of the latter groups comprised of young ladies aspiring to become officers in the WRAC, and their presence certainly added to the conviviality of the time spent at Westbury.

After lunch all candidates received an opening address from the Board Supervising Officer and having been briefed, immediately began work on a test paper about current affairs. This was followed by an essay on one of a choice of topics of current interest.

On completion of the essay five minutes were allowed to get a breath of much needed fresh air and then back to work. This time it was on a series of intelligence tests which left everyone feeling that perhaps they had been blessed with very little in the first place. With these tests completed it only remained for the Invigilating Board Sergeant Major to advocate the virtues of retiring to bed at a reasonable time and not drinking too much (as if one would!!) and the rest of the evening was free.

Nerve-Racking

On 15 March, the Board recommenced at 0830 hrs with further and even more demanding intelligence tests. This was rather unfortunate for those who had not heeded the BSM's advice of the night before. These tests were followed by the first of the three interviews that each candidate is subjected to whilst at Westbury. The interviews are conducted in turn by one of the Boards Vice Presidents, a Brigadier assisted by a TAVR Colonel, a Deputy President, a Lieutenant Colonel assisted by a TAVR Major and an Education Advisor a Lieutenant Colonel. These interviews could more correctly be described as probes in depth, as they cover one's military and social activities, education, likes, dislikes, and political opinions. With an average duration of 40 minutes each, can prove quite nerve-racking.

On completion of the first interview there was time to grab a bite of lunch and then get changed into a set of denim coveralls, complete with a large candidates number fore and aft, for while at Westbury you lose your identity and become a number both for ease of administration and informal assessment. We then had to rapidly reassemble for an address from the President of the Board. Immediately after this came the first of the group tests where each of the five groups of candidates go to separate locations to continue their tests under the supervision of a Group Leader who is a Regular Army Major.

The first test consisted of an informal discussion on a number of varied topics, such as crime, politics, or economics. During this discussion opinions and reactions were noted by the Group Leader

and by a number of anonymous visitors who mysteriously descend upon the groups' activities from time to time.

When the Group Leader and his associates had heard enough of the discussion the group was whisked off to one of the obstacle course areas in the grounds of Leighton House. There, with the wind howling and the rain lashing down, the weather is of course incidental — the Board cannot arrange it, the Group were briefed on their next task. This task was to cross, handicapped with a large burden, from one side of an obstacle to the other using only the aids provided. These included rope and cunningly shortened planks. One had also to be careful not to touch the various restricted areas around the obstacle.

The test is leaderless in that the method to be adopted to solve the problem has to be mutually agreed between the members of the group who must reach a solution and execute it as rapidly as possible. On completion there followed an inter-group race which entailed taking a similar burden over a number of such obstacles. It was at this stage that some of the male candidates wished they were WRAC candidates whose obstacle course was conveniently located in the comfort of the Board gymnasium. With that race completed to the Board Officer's satisfaction, the group returned to their quarters as quickly as they could hobble to get changed for the two remaining individual interviews.

"Suffering"

The day's activities finally ended at about 1930 hrs with many of the candidates under the impression that they were suffering from severe mental and physical exhaustion?

The morning came around all too quickly, and the Board recommenced with an individual project task which required a comprehensible written solution to a complicated tactical problem. This required an assessment of the pros and cons of the various possible solutions to the problem, taking into account such factors as available manpower, time and distance. With the written side completed, groups reassembled to discuss their

UBIQUE

Officer Cadet Gregory, as he then was, wearing beret inspecting the rifle of a member of his platoon.



Why do the Royal Engineers have the motto 'Ubique'?

Ask anyone in 105 (TEE) Plant Squadron RE (V) that question and they will tell you why.

Since camp in Germany last year the Squadron has carried out plant tasks for the TAVR Association at Drill Halls in Newcastle, Sunderland, Middlesborough, South Shields and Darlington.

3 Troop have extended the Bird Sanctuary at Washington and 2 Troop have built a road for the Camp Commandant at Otterburn.

The Squadron has taken part in the Ladies Plate Shooting Competition and 72 (TEE) Engineer Regiment (V) at Bellerby, held range classification weekends at Whitburn, practised basic infantry tactics at Warcop, orienteered at Scarborough and carried out basic watermanship at Halton.

The recruits, of course, to do their basic training have attended at Cove and Wyke Regis and for trade training, a number of members of the Squadron have been to Chatham.

We are now looking forward to this year's annual Camp at Wyke Regis, Weymouth with the Squadron engaged on tasks at Bovington and Lulworth.

Who said 'Join the Navy and see the world'?

individual solutions and to agree on a mutually acceptable one. This was then to be explained and justified to the Deputy President, the Group Leader and his various associates.

With the project complete it was off to the obstacle course again. This time for what is known as the Individual Command Task. As indicated by its title this test requires each member of the group to make a rapid assessment as to the most practical and speedy way to complete a nominated task on the obstacle course from the 200 tasks available. He then assumes command of the remainder of the group until the task is completed. When all seven tasks had been tackled it only remained for each individual to attempt to overcome as many obstacles as possible on the individual assault course within the

prescribed time and then to retire for lunch.

After lunch the final test took place. This required each candidate to perform a lecturette to the remainder of his group. The lecturettes covered such topics as the individual's profession, opera and wine making — the latter, of course, drawing avid attention. With the lecturettes given TACB 1 at last ended.

As with all Commissions Boards at Leighton House, TACB 1 had not been easy but then it was not supposed to be if any value was to be derived from it either for the Army or for the candidates. It did however leave the latter with a sense of achievement which could not be eradicated even by a failure to be selected when the final results of their endeavours were known.

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YORKSHIRE PUDDING



Maybe it was the distinctive accents or perhaps it was the subtle aroma of 'compo' Yorkshire pudding that told farmer Karl Osterloh of Kalletal in Weserbergland that the soldiers camped on his farm were a familiar breed. Whatever it was, he was right. The soldiers were from the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers and Herr Osterloh is the local expert on Yorkshire since attending the East Riding College of Agriculture at Bishop Burton recently.

He is pictured swapping stories with Major Desmond Teilow (second from left), Pte Mark Botterill (left), and L/Cpl Graham Potts (right), all from York.

The Volunteers were taking part in an exercise code named 'Lion Heart' involving Rhine Army's recently formed 5th Field Force.

MERITORIOUS QUEENSMEN

Amongst those who were presented with Meritorious Service Certificates by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy (centre) on 23 March were two Queensmen, both old Diarchs. The Queen's Regiment is very proud that two certificates of the eleven awarded this year went to members of the Regiment. Sgt Mick Ward (left) has served for 25 years in the same drill-hall at Hounslow. During National Service he served in Korea and afterwards he joined 11 Para TA. He transferred to 8 Middlesex in 1956, and served with that battalion and 5 Middlesex until 1967. After a short spell with 10 Queens(T) he transferred to A Coy 5 Queens(V), his present unit. He works as a cashier and accounts administrator with Data General Ltd. His other hobbies are reading, music and model soldiers.

Sgt Len Cowlard (right) was a strong contender in the Army Boxing Championships when he was a National Serviceman. He started his TA career in 1955 when he joined C Coy 5 Middlesex at Enfield. He was an "Ever Ready" for several years. When C Coy disbanded in 1967 he joined 5 Middlesex at Hornsey and shortly afterwards they became D Coy 5 Queens(V). He remained with D Coy until they became part of B Coy 6/7 Queens(V) in 1975. He is a British Rail train driver, and can be found most weekdays driving on the new electric service between Finsbury Park and Welwyn Garden City. He says he is far too busy for hobbies!

GIFT PICTURE



Mrs Gladys Collie (right), widow of the late W. R. Collie, the Yorkshire artist presenting her husband's painting "The Charge of the Royal Scots Greys at Waterloo" to Lt. Col. A. C. Roberts OC Leeds University OTC TAVR, watched by her daughter Margaret and 2nd Lt. Alastair Cuming, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The Royal Scots Greys of Mr Collie's painting were amalgamated in 1971 with the 3rd Carabiniers to form the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. When Mrs Collie offered the painting to the unit she explained that although several dealers had made offers for it she knew that her husband would have liked the work to have a military home.

The painting 6ft by 4ft now hangs in Leeds University OTC HQ, at Careta Barracks. It is a reproduction of a painting by Lady Butler which hangs in Leeds Art Gallery and where Mr Collie became well known to staff and visitors during the three years he worked on it.

