



The most important hobby there is...

A GREATER SENSE OF PURPOSE

From Cpl T Mundy

I was interested to read Maj J R G Putnam's plea for a greater sense of purpose for the TAVR in general and the General Reserve Battalions in particular.

His first point concerning wastage rates (now running at 20-30% annually in TAVR Infantry units) is a fact that we Junior NCO's experience at first hand. This situation might be improved by devising much more interesting Drill Night training, especially for the two years service Trained soldier. He is the man who knows his SLR Lessons and Section Battle Drill sequenced backwards, and would welcome really imaginative tests of his skills carried out on a Company wide basis.

Fortunately the new Army Training News booklet shows the way to more effective training techniques, involving simulators, the cinema range and the prepared Training Packs — cannot we press for this sort of kit?

Major Putnam's second contention regarding "lack of purpose" is felt by many of us. But I wonder whether the sad demise of the old Civil Defence Corps points the way to our assumption of at least some of their skills. There is clearly a requirement for some 'heavy rescue' capability in event of a major attack. First Aid is useful in civilian life, and a knowledge of fire-fighting techniques would not go amiss.

London TAVR units face the real possibility of a serious flood until the Thames Barrier comes into operation. Our fellow citizens would expect us to take effective action both in rescue and prevention of looting from the start of such a disaster.

Finally, I would contend that if we were seen to be ready to assist in dealing with emergencies other than strictly military ones the community would better know our worth.

T Mundy

'D' Coy
6/7 Queen's (V)

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

From Maj M A G Roberts, TD

Firstly, so that no reader thinks that there is collusion between 'Queen's Men' I would say that although I know Maj Putnam, I have not seen him now for about eight years and I was very pleased to read his letter in the December edition of this magazine. I would like to say that I and those Officers to whom I have spoken fully agree with everything that he has said in his letter.

We are fully aware of the political complications of the employment of any form of reserve in emergencies where Trade Unions are involved and indeed one cannot but agree, for this Governmental attitude is quite correct for it would be only too easy for a most embarrassing situation to arise. However, the help given in the South West and the Highlands which Maj Putnam mentions are splendid examples of the way in which the Volun-

teer can give help in minor disasters and it is unfortunate that the media had not given more coverage to this.

The Volunteer is often referred to as "Twice a Citizen" and I think that there might be a little more read into that expression.

M A G Roberts

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approximately 560 men and women of both the Regular Army and TAVR and includes modern lecture and technical instruction rooms, canteens and messes, a miniature range and new garages.

Mr Brown, before unveiling the commemorative plaque, said: 'There are some people — not Territorials — who regard the TA as a hobby. If it is a hobby, then it must be the most important hobby there is, since the TA is an essential component to NATO. The Fenham Project is typical of the improved facilities being provided for the TA and it is appropriate that the complex should be in Newcastle, as the City provides a large number of volunteers and the North of England as a whole provides a high proportion of the national total.' Mr Brown commented that the old accommodation was not up to the high standard appropriate for the modern soldier and he congratulated the Architects, L. J. Couves and Partners and the Contractors, Fairclough Building Limited, on their work on the new building.

The completion of this Centre and its occupation by many Units both Regular and TA will enable the Army to perpetuate its long history in Fenham Barracks and for the Units concerned to retain their traditional associations with the City of Newcastle.



Mr R Brown MP unveiling the plaque to commemorate the opening of the new Fenham TAVR Centre watched by Col Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Chairman of the North of England Association and Brig S T Baldry MBE Commander 29 Engineer Group (V).