

HIGH NOTES

Official Newsletter
Yorkshire Volunteers Band







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Below ~
The March Past
Armed Forced Day,
Scarborough.



Band Photo Album



Above ~ *left* Ex Royal Army Medical Corps Band, Shaun Moore & *right* Ex Royal Marines Band, Graham McPherson.

Right ~ "It's not always Black & White" an artistic view of the YV Band on the Shrewsbury Bandstand 2013.

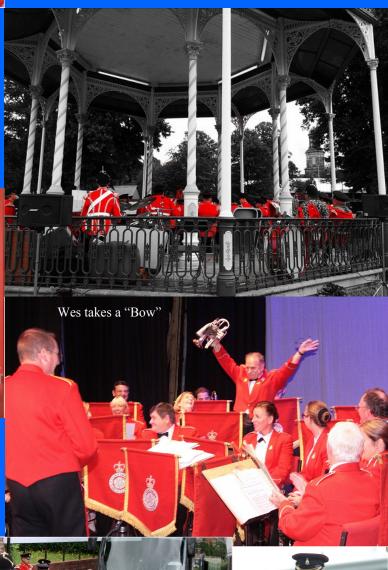
Below ~ "Ministry of Silly Walks"? Dave Stephenson solos with the Acrobat.



Left ~ Paul demonstrates the band's new tropical uniform! Below ~ Getting ready for the off. Bottom right ~ Major Jack.



Left to Right ~ Herr Goleby, Frau Colville & Crofts, Herr Stephenson & Rimmer.





New Band Arrivals Congratulations!



Below ~ Jonathan Morrell, Son to Duncan (trumpet) & Ruth Morrell, with Drum Major "Big" Dave at the Great Yorkshire Show 2013.



Above ~ Grace Emily Rose Jackman, Born 31/05/2013, Daughter to Claire (flute) & Paul (cornet), Granddaughter of Kathryn & David Stephenson (Band Secretary & Manager).



Left ~ WO1 Bandmaster Roy Bedford leading the Yorkshire Volunteers Band through the streets of York. This undated photo was sent into High Notes by former band member and avid High Notes reader Colin Bottomley (flute) who along with Janet (flute & oboe) have recently moved back to Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Adventurous Photo Found

Lauren Marshall Hall Manager and Audience Development Officer at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall in York recently contacted the band regarding an interesting photograph that they found of the 7th West Yorkshire Regimental Band at Christmas time in the Hall during the First World War. Lauren said "We know very little about the image itself but are just beginning to research it with the Centenary of the War beginning next year".



Congratulations to

to Amanda & Jon On their Marriage

Amanda Smith (trumpet)
married Jon Beckett on the
28th September 2013
We all wish them a long
and happy life together.



INSTRUMENTARIUM THE CIMBASSO

"I wish to insist again on a fourth trombone. I would prefer a trombone basso which is one of the same family as the others. If this turns out to be too much trouble and is too difficult to play, then get again one of those ordinary ophicleides that go down to the low B. In fact, use anything you like, but not that devil of a tuba which does not blend with the others!"



Giuseppe Verdi, in response to a question regarding his instrument preference for the lowest brass part in his opera orchestra. Yes, this is all Verdi's fault! However, it is somewhat understandable. Verdi lived and worked at the time of the Industrial Revolution which had a positive effect on the invention and manufacture of musical instruments in centres all over Europe. As a result, Verdi's lowest brass instrument parts would have been played by the various "instruments du jour"— serpent, ophicleide, Russian bassoon, bass horn, bombardone, whatever happened to be in vogue or available. One of these early instruments, unique to Italy, was a serpent-like bass horn made of copper and wood called a cimbasso (pronounced: *Chimbasso*).

There is some mystery surrounding the derivation of this term, but one plausible explanation is that the Italian term for bass horn, "corno in basso" was abbreviated in the conductor's score to "C. in basso," which over time became "cimbasso." In any event, in 19th-century Italian opera orchestras, "cimbasso" became the generic designation for "the low instrument beside the trombones." Verdi put up with this situation for some 40 years until 1881, when he visited the Milan instrument maker Pelitti (possibly as a result of hearing that Wagner, his rival, had commissioned the building of a contrabass trombone for the Ring of the Nibelung), and requested that a valve bass trombone in Bb (an octave below the tenor trombone) be produced. He was quite pleased with the result, and wrote specifically for this instrument in his last two operas, Otello and Falstaff. Verdi's fervent and longstanding desire for a homogeneous low brass quartet (i.e. no tuba) was finally realized, and today this is the instrument we now call the modern cimbasso. Other composers working at the same time as Verdi such as Wagner, Brahms and Berlioz, didn't have this problem, as they were quick to utilize the newly developed tuba in their works, and in the process, helped to establish it as a regular member of the orchestra. Fellow countryman Puccini was quick to follow Verdi's example, labelling his lowest brass part; trombone basso, or in the case of *Turandot*; trombone contrabasso. But it has been only recently that there has been a move to "render unto Verdi that which is Verdi's." Traditionally, because there is usually a tuba player on the opera company's payroll, Verdi's cimbasso parts would be played on the tuba.

Today, most, if not all, major opera companies have a cimbasso available, and it is now quite common to see European tuba jobs advertised with "the ability to play cimbasso as required" in the listing. In Hollywood, and other major film music recording centres, it is not uncommon for tuba players to double on cimbasso in the soundtracks of some of the bigger budget movies. Suffice it to say that the cimbasso is here to stay, and it is rapidly becoming an important part of the modern tubist's arsenal.

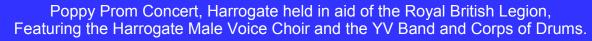


Above left to right ~ A selection of Bass Horns / Russian Bassoons. Bombardones & Giuseppe Verdi



The Great York Beating the Ketreat at







LEGION











Below: The winning team of Spanish ladies arrive to great applause, and then....



Backstory. The organisers had requested the band had all 20 National anthems ready to play when the winning team was announced, however as this was not practical they had agreed to play a recording of the anthem over the PA system.





Above: Harry Gration was there for Look North, however we had never seen this expression on TV! (and no he's not in prison) Below: YV Trombone Section on Parade.















Above \sim "I'm still standing" well just! After a very long inspection and a "Right Turn" the band played The Dam Busters March right on cue for The Battle of Britain Memorial fly past (pictured right).









Above ~ The Band entertain the crowd with a marching display within a roads width!

Right ~ The VIP's watch the proceedings.

Below ~ YVB Ready to go.







CORPS of ARMY MUSIC Future of Army Music

A more professionally stimulating career is in store for Army musicians as part of a reorganisation of the Corps of Army Music (CAMUS), this will also result in a wider range of military music for audience members, from soldiers to civilians.

CAMUS is reorganising to enable sustainable musical support to be provided to the Army and Defence supporting operations and defence diplomacy. Its structure needed to be reorganised to make the most effective use of manpower available to bring it onto a secure and sustainable footing for the future.

Army Music must move with the times. Following a review led by the Chief of the General Staff, the Future of Army Music 2020 (FAM2020) paper produced the following conclusions and objectives:

- To improve retention and introduce new capabilities over the period 2014-2018
- To increase the UK footprint that bands will have in future
- The reorganisation is not expected to result in a reduction in personnel as the size of CAMUS will remain at the same levels
- That further work on Army Reserve bands will be done in 2014

The FAM2020 proposals will improve flexibility and provide a more efficient service both at home and abroad. Regular Army bands will role-specialise to improve efficiency and flexibility, forming:

- 18 marching bands, including the first professional brass bands
- 3 contemporary specialist bands to play popular music that 'soldiers listen to on their iPods'
- One new CAMUS State String Orchestra

Other key points to note:

- The bands of the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals will merge to form a single larger Household Cavalry band retaining both identities
- The Edinburgh based SCOTS band will grow to the same strength as the Foot Guards bands in London
- The 10 strong Light Cavalry Band will be amalgamated with the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band to form the Band of the Royal Armoured Corps.

The new structure will be implemented in stages, allowing there to be little or no impact on the delivery of musical support throughout the process.

Seven bands will re-locate to existing band facilities in the early part of this period, and three new facilities will be established later in the East Midlands, West Midlands and Wales subject to affordability.

Army TA bands will also be commanded by Brigades and will be publicly funded for full dress, uniform and instruments. The structure of TA bands and their associated infrastructure requirements will also require reorganisation and will be reviewed in the spring of 2014.

The identity and ethos of CAMUS needs to be developed in order to improve morale. Regimental Affiliations and uniforms of existing bands will not change. Musicians will wear CAMUS badges, accoutrements and insignia in all orders of dress, except full and concert dress.

The size of the CAMUS was reduced in 2009 to meet operational demands in Afghanistan. Its organisational structure was not reviewed at the same time and was further delayed to make sure that any new structures supported the requirements of Defence.



Right ~ Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall A scene never to be repeated?



Shrewsbury Flower Show has always been a mecca for the best military bands in the land such as the Royal Marines and Guards Bands, in 2013



the YV Band were booked to perform two concerts a day for the two day show, all performances featured a different music programme with the exception of the CoD performance. These bandstand duties were shared with the British Imperial Band from London made up of ex-regular and serving musicians from the RAF Central Band and various Guards Bands. Both bands took part in the massed band finale along with TA Bands (now Reserve Bands) from the Royal Signals (Northern Band) and The Band of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and the

Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir. The grand finale was the ever popular 1812 Overture accompanied by a spectacular firework display. Unfortunately due to work commitments the YV Band could not make the massed band rehearsal so went on "cold" and performed the whole finale without fault. The accommodation was a local outward bound centre.











Below ~ The Saxes: Phil, Mick, Dale, John & Meg.
Below right ~ The CoD take a rest.

Shrewsbury Flower Show

Scrap Book

Left ~ Trumpets Wild —
Paul, John & Panette.
Right ~ Jonathan after his
"blindfold" solo.
Left below ~ Adrian "Left
hand marker".
Right ~ You never know

who's listening!

Below ~ Mike
demonstrates "Bells Up"



Left ~ The Trombones:
Dave Craig & Simon.
Right ~ Dave joins the
crowd and takes a rest!
Right ~ The Tubas, Dave
& Matt.

Below left ~ "Brassed Off" Panette solos on Flugelhorn.

Below right ~ BM Ritchie tells another one of his "classic" tales.
Below ~ Peter & Mick.

















Left ~ CoD Takes
centre stage; Andy,
Gary, Paul &
Jonathan.
Right ~ Shrewsbury
Town Crier.
Below right ~
Marching into the
Showground.
Below ~ BM Ritchie
takes the salute.



















The Band Broadcast live on BBC Radio York, Major Jack tells the audience all about the band.

Below ~ "Permission to march the band off parade, Sir?"























Above ~ A youthful I Left ~ Members of D Below ~ The Regime

Above \sim A youthful Dave in panto (far right and second from right). $Left \sim$ Members of Duke of Wellington's Regimental Band (DR far left). $Below \sim$ The Regimental Band on parade (DR on Tuba far right).







Left ~ Dave with...... Just hold on is that a half in his hand?

Right ~ Dave sporting a side forage cap (Chipbag) and Stable belt in the German snow.

Below left ~ Ready for Guard Duty.

Below right ~ On patrol in Northern Ireland.

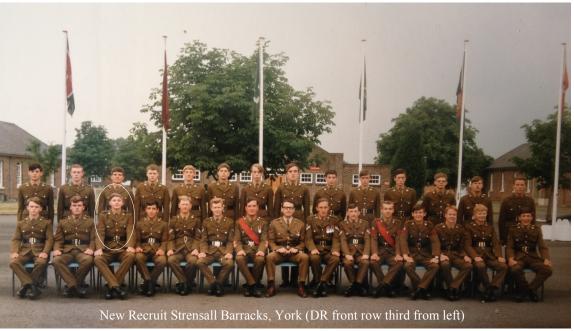








Above ~ First day as Postman Dave Below ~ The Bee Gee look?











Centre above ~ The day before Dave joined the YVB, complete with Otley Chevin in the background.

Above ~ Helping out the regular band in Gibraltar.

Left ~ Dave conducts The Famous Hammonds Sauce Works Band.

Below far left ~ Dave in his natural habitat.

Below centre ~ Dave with his vintage Austin Cambridge

Below ~ On parade with the regular band again in Gibraltar.







My Career as a Territorial Army Soldier Corporal Dale Heaton Part I

As mentioned in one of my previous articles, for better or worse I decided to join the Territorial Army. The choice of unit was my first task. For reasons outlined previously, the Yorkshire Volunteers Band did not make it onto the short list. Over a period of time I visited quite a few units and spoke with various recruiting Officers and Sergeants.

Encouraged by a Barclays colleague who had become a Captain in the Light Infantry I asked them all about the possibility of entering as an Officer Cadet. All were uninterested and one of them insulted me with the comment "What, be an Officer lad? You need 'O'Levels for something like that."



Deflated, I left it for a while. Then perchance, when reading the Institute of Bankers Journal one day, I spotted a T.A. recruitment advert. It urgently begged for the services of new entrants specifically from the banking, accountancy and legal professions to a specialist unit – swift promotion guaranteed for the right candidates.

I called and spoke by telephone with an elderly but enthusiastic Captain who's name now escapes me. A short while later a recruitment pack arrived giving details of the RAPC CVHQ TAVR stationed in Worthy Down (Worthless Down as we later referred to it), Winchester. Interestingly this was a specialist unit of 200 or so RAPC clerks qualified at various levels all the way up to and including Military Accountant – full training provided I was assured.

This T.A. unit was in effect a part time regular army unit with a dual role in direct support of the regulars. In peace time it provided relief pay clerks on a temporary basis to units all over the world (some lucky blighters got to go to Hong Kong) in need of RAPC support for whatever reason. On active service it provided a collection of self contained mobile pay offices each to be attached at brigade level, its clerks also performing other duties related to Theatre Location Index maintenance and POW record keeping.

The pack invited me to 'a fun filled' recruitment weekend with no obligation to join which would include things such as aptitude and intelligence tests, physical fitness tests and a whole host of other interesting activities. The pictures in the leaflets looked impressive. I filled in the form and sent it back.

Quite a while later (after the security checks I guess) I found myself stepping off a train in Winchester one Friday early evening, armed with a telephone number for the guard room, the duty driver would be sent to pick me up when I arrived I had been told. I called from a phone box (no mobile phones in those days) as ordered and then looked around to see if there were any other nervous looking potential recruits hanging around. There were none.

Forty minutes or so later I found myself in the Worthy Down guardroom stood before a rather severe looking 'R.P.' (Regimental Policeman), clip board under left arm. He was as smart as a new pin and the creases in his 'lightweights' were sharp enough to shave with. "Dale Heaton" I said, "reporting for the CVHQ recruitment weekend." "Very good." he barked back and scrutinised his clip board. "Block six, report to Corporal Hughes, sign here for your itinerary".

I was presented with a large wad of foolscap papers in varying colours which not only covered the weekend's activities but other things as well such as the fire drill and what to do in the event of nuclear, biological or chemical attack! Five minutes later I found (H) block six and Corporal Hughes who was in the process of issuing bed linen and blankets to what turned out to be another potential recruit – Alan Smith.

Bedding under arms and bags in hands, Smith or Smithy as he became known, and I were shown to our room. It had six single beds with bedside lockers, four of them evidently already taken. As he departed Corporal Hughes gave us directions to the NAAFI bar and suggested we might like to join him there later. We had both arrived too late to catch the 'cookhouse' for an evening meal but the NAAFI sold snacks of varying descriptions which would tide us over until breakfast next morning. It also sold very cheap beer.

The H block in which we were billeted was one of a collection of identical buildings which must have been built in the 1930s. They looked as though they had been neither decorated nor refurbished since. The lavatories and washrooms were particularly awful and the large communal shower could easily have been transported directly from a Nazi death camp. The block had with it a particularly distinct odour which was exactly the same as that which currently pervades the staircase to our own band room. I have 'enjoyed' this army issue fragrance many times over the years at various army buildings. I think Q.M.s must issue it in tins or something.

To say we had a lively evening in the NAAFI bar would be a massive understatement. We met some of the other potential recruits and a certain Permanent Staff Instructor - P.T. instructor Corporal Milne ('Haggis' to his friends) who I was to get to know quite well over the coming years. He was a lowland Scot and softly spoken with a mild Scottish accent. I was later to discover that his mild 'off duty' persona belied his Rottweiler like approach to his role of improving the fitness of his charges. We also met a lot of the regular army RAPC clerks who were at Worthy Down on the various training courses being run. Friday night was evidently the night for letting off steam after being stuck in a class room all week. They all seemed very keen to use up their 'beer vouchers' as quickly as possible.

The first event the following day was a fitness test and this, the itinerary said, would be at 9.00 on the sports field. Kit to be worn – sports kit and trainers. I wore jogging bottoms, Reeboks and a Harlequins shirt. Now a 9.00 start to the day was not too bad really and very civilised for the army which normally starts things at stupid o'clock. The problem however was that at the weekend the cookhouse did not open as usual at 7.00 for breakfast, but 10.00 for brunch. This meant that quite a few of us who had arrived last evening after the cookhouse had closed, had eaten nothing of note since lunch the previous day!

There were about twelve of us and we were greeted by the elderly Captain I mentioned, and a couple of Permanent Staff Instructors (PSIs) Corporal Milne being one of them. He said he would accompany us on half a BFT (Basic Fitness Test) which we must pass within half the allotted time for a full BFT. Basically we were required to run a mile and a half in half the time given for a full three mile BFT. His idea of sports kit was army lightweight trousers, army boots and an army PTI T Shirt which was so tight it looked like it had been painted on. It also showed off what a very fit man he was. He had a stomach like a wash board.

The elderly Captain took out a stop watch and we were off. Now I had an idea that we might have been required to run a full BFT based on what friends already in the T.A. had told me and I had prepared accordingly. Several of the others clearly had not prepared well enough and were soon struggling. It was at this point Corporal Milne showed what a very good motivator he was. He left me alone because I was doing well enough but one rather tubby chap found himself on the end of what we later came to know as 'a Haggis beasting'. When it was all over the chap in question looked as though he was going to die but he had passed the test, just. Corporal Milne patted him on the back and congratulated him for a responding to 'encouragement' and (eventually) putting in a good effort. "When you are with me" he said "failure is not an option."

The rest of the morning included a NAAFI break which was very welcome indeed. We had a steady walk through of the assault course. Everybody was given the chance to learn and try out the techniques needed to get over the various obstacles. Then we had an aptitude test. We were each given a map of the sports field, with various numbered points noted on it, and a compass. Everybody was given a different place to begin and we then had to work out where we were, and then navigate ourselves using the map and compass to the various points on the field where small markers had been laid out. Each had a reference number which we had to record.

After lunch the whole afternoon was taken up with a long session of written tests which included Maths, English, Mechanics and Psychometric (personality). The Maths test was a struggle for me as it required me to do things like fractions and long division which I had long since forgotten about. One of the questions in the Psychometric test was familiar to me. It asked what a pictured shape reminded you of. I knew the answers of face/butterfly/spider were the sort of standard answers and mad axe man murdering children was definitely not one to go with. I answered that the shape reminded me of the Rorschach inkblot test.

After an evening meal in the cookhouse we spent another pleasant but quieter evening in the NAAFI. This is where I got to know better a few guys who would later become great buddies - Alan Smith, Kieran Howell and Graham Dodd.

The following day started at 10.30 so this gave time to have some breakfast before turning up at a class room noted in our itinerary for what turned out to be a very pleasant session indeed. On the desks there was a Stirling sub machine gun for each of us and we were to have an armourer give a prepared lesson in its operation, usage, stoppage drills, stripping and re-assembly.

A year or so later I did this training session again and in hindsight wish I had taken more notice because when it came to a time when it was me who had to deliver it to some recruits, I had an absolute disaster, but more of that in a later article.

The armourer put on his best army instructors voice and delivered the written element of the session verbatim from training materiel. He said that as we were dealing with fire arms now, it was written at the very lowest common denominator to ensure universal understanding by everybody including the 'pond life' part of the army.

I was tickled by some of the things he said which went along the lines of: 'Now this is the naughty end (pointing to the muzzle) you point this at the henemy. Never hever put your finger over the 'ole while pulling the trigger. And this is the nice end and you point this at yourself (pointing to the stock).'

The session included intensive practice of stripping and re-assembly and concluded with everybody having a go at stripping and reassembling the gun with a blindfold on. If only I had taken more notice, but as I say, the result of not doing so will save for another time.

After lunch we had a lecture about the army in general and CVHQ in particular and what we should expect if we joined, and what would be expected of us. Then it was time for us each to have an interview. This time it was an elderly Major not the elderly Captain and again this man's name escapes me.

He started by asking about me, my personal circumstances, my interests and hobbies my occupation and why I was interested in joining the T.A. Then he passed on to the outcome of the various assessments of my performance over the weekend. The half BFT was fine so I was fit enough. The sports ground navigation exercise was fine showing I had a good grasp of map reading, compass use and had both spatial awareness and sense of direction. The machine gun session was fine as well showing I had the ability to learn quickly and had good manual dexterity.

Then he moved onto the written tests. "I thought you said you worked in bank. Well the result of your Maths test doesn't suggest this". I explained that much of the test was stuff I had not done since I left school such as fractions and algebra. In banking we have computers to do all the hard work and if we do need to do some calculations at our desks, we all use calculators. He pursed his lips, thought for a while and then nodded. He moved on: "On the other hand I have to say that the result of your English test is actually the highest score I have ever seen." Inwardly I breathed a sigh of relief. He added "I like your answer to the Rorschach inkblot test question - a sense of humour in the army is essential. Without it you will not survive."

He concluded by saying that I had a lot to offer and he wanted me for the unit. He also said that the unit had a lot to offer me and it would not only be character building but be good for my career in banking as well, and would I like to join. I think I was more than a little overwhelmed by the flattery and replied yes, I would like to join. Without further ado he pulled some forms out of his desk drawer which he asked me to sign then he made me take an oath to her Majesty the Queen, her airs and successors etc., then shook my hand and said 'Welcome aboard Private Heaton. As I left his office he said "And by the way, get your hair cut!"

Outside his office I paused for a moment, I felt quite stunned at the enormity of what I had just done. I had only attended the recruitment weekend with a view to having a look at the army whilst they were having a look at me and had intended to make no decision without giving it a very great deal of thought over a period of time. In the event I had given it virtually no thought at all. What a very good recruitment officer that Major was!

At the end of the interview session those of us who had enlisted, which included Howell, Smith and Dodd as well as me, were taken away by the elderly Captain. He explained what was to happen next. Firstly we were taken to the Quartermaster's store and issued with two pairs of boots each, one of which would be a 'best pair'. We were told to take them home and get them well broken-in, in anticipation of our next visit to Worthy Down which would be two weeks basic training. That would be subject to passing an army medical which would be arranged somewhere close to where we lived and we would be contacted in due course.

Howell, Smith, Dodd and I exchanged phone numbers and agreed that we would try to get on the same basic training course. A short while later I was back on the train home armed not only with two pairs of boots but also with loads of papers and booklets and a copy of my enlistment form. As the journey progressed I mused over the events of the weekend and what may possibly lay ahead, and then I realised – that Major had not given me my 'Queens Shilling'. I felt cheated. In fact in all the time I was in the T.A.I never did get one.

And then, just a few weeks later, the (first) Gulf War broke out. 'Oh my God' I thought. 'What have I done?!!!!'

To be continued.

Corporal Dale Heaton (Tenor Sax & emergency Clarinet)

World Famous Cornet Soloist and Instrument Designer Vincent Bach Plays with The Scarborough Spa Orchestra

The orchestra seasons in the UK would stretch from September to May and musicians would look for work in the many seaside spa orchestras to pay the bills over the summer period. The Scarborough Spa orchestra is the last remaining of it's kind.

The orchestras music librarian found a programme featuring Vincent Bach as cornet soloist during the war years. He was playing Sullivan's 'The Lost Chord' and another solo. With a little research, it transpired that Bach was Principal Trumpet of the forerunner of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and worked the Summer Season at Scarborough.



Paul's Picture Puzzle Page

Here's how it's done:
"Yorkshire Volunteers"
More below:
"Military or Music"
Variations on a Theme





York

Shire

Vole

Ant

Ears

1.





2.







4.





5.









7.









9.







10.





11.



12.



Puzzle Page by
Paul Jackman ~ Cornet
(Answers on Back Page)

More brain teasers next time

Behind the Scenes



Left ~ Water Music? These unusual urinals were spotted by Barry Tone!









Left ~ Do it again!

Right ~ All Change at the GYS.

Below right Bob makes a bid for freedom!

Left ~ Corps of Drums pose for some visitors at the GYS.

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Paul's Puzzle Page 1. Rifle 2. Stable Belt 3. Fusiliers 4. Royal Marine (Margarine minus the "Jar") 5. Drum Major 6. Baton 7. Quaver 7. Quaver 9. Three Pace Rolls 9. Three Pace Rolls 10. Engineers 11. Cornet