

Hi sis

Trust all goes well. Had a good time down south, apart from the cr\*p weather Monday & Tuesday. Bit of excitement as a tree fell down & blocked the end of the Terrace next to our hotel, plus we had a false fire alarm at 11.00pm the Sunday night after a weekend of working at the auction! The Sat & Sun however were fine & Sunday.

Of passing interest I have received military service medals for my time with the army 1969-1972! I knew of the awards being made but hadn't applied as the scheme was scrapped by the new Government in December 1972 before I completed all training. Anyhow an ex officer I know said I would get it if I applied...so after 18 months of not doing anything I then found my service book from 1972 which Dad must have kept, filled in the online form & in 10 days they showed up!

I didn't actually get discharged....the Chief Med Officer asked how I was accepted with flat feet, as that causes the rolling over of ankles.....so I had time on bed rest and light duties....which drove the SM nuts, but as the CMO outranked most other officers, she basically said that was ok by her & simply gave them an order on how it was to be!

I then spent that time sitting in the Serg-Majors office doing paperwork (which he disliked) and making the odd politically incorrect comment about army life. We had this little game where he would give me hell in his best voice when on parade for any infraction (real or imagined) which caused the rest of the Company to keep in order....then I would report to his office where he would sit grinning like a Cheshire cat feeling pleased with himself & I would compliment him on his being able to follow the stereotype faultlessly.

He was actually a Pom who has served with 2NZEF for a while in Egypt, then later joined the NZ Army when his time was up in the UK, so he was coming up for retirement....in a moment of weakness he did let on that he would be sorry to see National Service end as it brought in much better quality recruits..."BUT THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE YOU ". As for Corp training he suggested maybe Military Intelligence.....to which I replied that surely that was an oxymoron of the first order. Not sure he had heard of the word, but took it that it was unlikely to be complimentary!.....hence I was bound for Medics. I imagine he is long since passed on, but I have some affection for his memory and of course now my military service medals..... .

