

TED History - National service

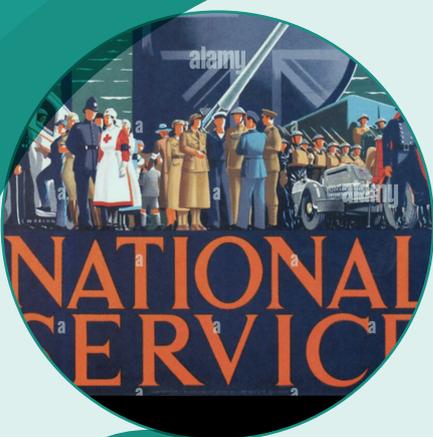
2021



Being a cheeky 18 year old led to meeting my wife...

When I was at Grammar School in sixth form we had some of our old pupils come in with three stripes on their uniform. They were sergeants of the RAEC, Royal Army Education Core. They were teachers or instructors in the army. When completing the form to complete my own national service I was a cheeky 18 year old. When filling in the forms, I put that I wanted to be in the RAEC in every box. Well, luckily, the RAEC was where I was placed. We got three months learning how to be a soldier and three months learning how to be an instructor. I got my three stripes but I was local acting and it was an unpaid job. I completed the usual duties of a sergeant in an office with an orderly sergeant in the main office supervising what went on. There was an incident when the telephone rang and was passed to me. A group of soldiers had arrived at the railway station and needed transport to the barracks. Looking a little perturbed since we weren't expecting anyone, I phoned up to get transport for them. The supervisor asked why I looked worried. He told me that I had the three stripes for a reason and that I had acted the part of the sergeant.

When I came out of the army after an extra year, I realised that teaching in the army did not make me a qualified teacher for schools. So I went to teacher training college. I became a teacher at King Alfred's college. We used to get tickets to local dances and one time, me and a friend managed to get a couple of trainee nurses to go with us. Me and one of the nurses really hit it off. She had had plans to go to Oxford to become a midwife. When I went to do a specialist year in Worcester and she changed her mind to come with me and do accident and emergency instead. I got a job at the end of college and since we wanted to live together we got married 14th July, Bastille Day.



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