

Toby Wardman

Writing sample

Press release

8 May 2007 – for immediate release

Yorkshire 'one-man band' wins new army contract

A one-man instrument maker in North Yorkshire has won a contract to supply unique ceremonial fanfare trumpets to the Army in Yorkshire.

Dr Richard Smith, a instrument maker based near Sheriff Hutton, is to manufacture ceremonial instruments for the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band, one of only two Army bands in the north of England. A special presentation of the new instruments will be held on 10 May at the garrison.

Richard Smith, whose instruments are made in a converted North Yorkshire barn, beat off international competition from the likes of Yamaha (Japan), Besson (France), 'York' (Germany) and Bach (USA) to win the prestigious contract.

The Army contract is far from the first success for Richard, who is also a world-renowned expert in the acoustics of brass instruments. In a recent day-long test, RAF musicians from across the service overwhelmingly voted Smith Watkins instruments their first choice, easily beating international rivals into second place. As a result, Richard's company is now the only supplier of cornets for the entire RAF.

Other well-known clients include South Yorkshire Police and the trumpet section of the Hallé orchestra. The Yorkshire-made instruments are also used by the British and American armed forces, police bands, the Salvation Army and many of the world's brass bands, as well as by pros in top symphony orchestras and on the West End.

All Smith Watkins brass instruments are designed, assembled and customised by Richard himself in a remote North Yorkshire barn, housing a small but fully equipped instrument workshop. The Yorkshire company is the world's only manufacturer of a full range of sophisticated 'chromatic' fanfare trumpets (able to play every note in the scale), used for royal and ceremonial occasions. It also works with British and American universities at the cutting edge of modern acoustical research worldwide.

Captain Jason Griffiths, the HC&C Band's Director of Music at Catterick Garrison, said:

"Our cavalry trumpets have to be in tune, responsive and reliable. Our musicians depend on them day in, day out for a distinctive musical sound. In my experience, the only instrument maker to offers that kind of consistent quality is Yorkshire's own Richard Smith."

Notes for editors

Smith Watkins of York has been designing, making and selling brass instruments since 1985, including ceremonial fanfare trumpets, professional trumpets, cornets and flugel horns. This unique range of handmade instruments has won the company many backers in the music world, including the trumpet section of world-famous orchestras such as the Hallé.

Smith Watkins is renowned for attention to detail, carrying out unique acoustical research with several universities and working alongside top players to ensure that all its instruments are both technically and musically excellent.

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Dr Richard Smith wrote a doctoral thesis on trumpet acoustics and remains one of the world's foremost authorities on the acoustics of brass instruments. His research has been widely published in the scientific literature and on TV and radio, and he has travelled in Europe, the United States and Japan, testing instruments with top professional symphonic and session players. <http://www.smithwatkins.com/>

The **Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band** is based in Catterick, North Yorkshire. The band's ensembles include a marching band, a full concert band, brass ensembles, wind ensembles, a sax quartet, a clarinet choir, a fanfare team and a pop group. As one of only two army bands in the north of England, the band has played across the British Isles and in many other countries around the world.

http://www.army.mod.uk/bands/hccbnd/meet_the_band.htm

Captain Jason Griffiths: http://www.army.mod.uk/bands/hccbnd/director_of_music.htm

Photocall notice

11:00am, Thursday 10 May: Catterick Garrison, Scotton Road, Hipswell DL9 3JS

- **For print media:** A 35-strong military band on parade in full uniform, and a ceremonial fanfare team at your command! Plus a presentation ceremony for the new instruments.
- **For broadcast media:** The glorious sight and sound of a full military band! Plus interviews with Dr Richard Smith and Director of Music Captain Jason Griffiths. Other arrangements, e.g. tours of the Smith Watkins workshop, by special arrangement.

Media are asked to gather at the Guardroom at 11am, when they will be escorted to the parade ground.

Please confirm attendance in advance by e-mailing toby@40k.org.uk or calling Toby Wardman on 07739 071609. If you can't make it at 11am, but would like to be e-mailed images from our own photographer after the event or to make other arrangements, again please request this in advance.

Map: <http://www.multimap.com/maps/#t=1&map=54.37882,-1.72834|14|4&loc=GB:54.37885:-1.72829:14|catterick%20garrison|Catterick%20Garrison,%20Hipswell,%20DL9%203>