



## A Great Injustice

By Stephen Woolley

It was May 1940, at the Albert Canal, a long stretch of water that links the River Meuse with the River Scheldt at Antwerp. The German army was coming across a spanning metal bridge into Belgium. Therefore the bridge had to be destroyed at all costs.



Flying Officer R.E. Garland

All aircrews of a Fairey Battle bombing squadron volunteered. Then, selected by lots, five aircraft - like lambs going to be slaughtered - flew below 1,000 feet above the countryside to this vital target, where they would be no match for entrenched fire power and enemy fighters.

Flying Officer Garland, leading the formation, managed

to reach the bridge, and the Battles dive-bombed to hit the target.

From this suicidal attack came not only the loss of four bombers, but controversy within the RAF that it seems will never go away.

Flying Officer Garland was awarded posthumously the Victoria Cross (the first RAF officer to receive the VC).

His navigator, Sergeant Thomas Gray, was also awarded posthumously the Victoria Cross (the first RAF sergeant to receive the VC).

His Wireless Operator/Gunner, Leading Aircraftman L.R.Reynolds, received no medal.

May I now quote from RAF records. "Obviously the VC could only be awarded sparingly, and there was no other medal which could be awarded posthumously. Such are the mysteries of bravery and valour."

Valour, obviously, far beyond the call of duty.

All three brave airmen are buried in Heverlee War Cemetery. However, Flying Officer Ronald Edward Garland, VC, 22 years old and born in Ireland, lived in Finchley. Where, I don't know. Perhaps a reader does.

## Cause for Celebration

By Diana Cormack

Parents, pupils and staff all have reason to be pleased with the results of the latest Ofsted Inspection at Martin Infant School, which showed it to be an effective school with many strengths.

One of these is the quality of teaching, rated overall as "good and very good." Another was the amount and quality of parental involvement, reflected perhaps in the parents being highly satisfied with the school and what it does for their children.

In fact, the inspectors had never received so many replies at any other school to their initial questionnaire regarding parents' opinion of a school! Parents also sent in accompanying letters of support, all of which the school really appreciates.

### Head first

The strong leadership and very clear direction of head teacher Pana McGee was noted, with aims and values that are well reflected in all aspects of the school. It was seen to be a happy and caring place with a positive and welcoming learning environment which helps the children to become confident and independent. The inspectors felt that each member of the school's community is valued as an individual and that their efforts and achievements are "a cause for celebration."

## Helping Others

By Sophie Eschwege

I am a sixteen-year old girl currently studying for my GCSEs. Amidst all my revision (or lack of it!) I still find time to work as a volunteer at the North London Hospice shop most Saturday mornings.

I first started working there in September 1999 because it was necessary for me to partake in some form of community service for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Almost a year and a half later, even though I have long completed the Award Scheme I still work as a volunteer. I find the people that I work with there (also volunteers) are kind and generous and many of them also work there during the weekdays.

The proceeds made at the shop go towards providing better care for the residents of the North London Hospice so this is a very worthy cause to support.

The Hospice shop will always welcome new volunteers and I sincerely hope that others will choose to start work there, not because they have an obligation to as I did at the beginning, but simply because they want to help others.

## Alaska Question

Patricia Rybarczyk, a 17 year old, second year A-level student has been chosen to join another 56 people to go on a six-week expedition to Alaska, in summer 2001, living in tents, climbing peaks higher than Ben Nevis, crossing waist high raging torrents of ice cold water, and finding a way through (almost) impenetrable 'bush'.

"To enable me to go on this expedition, I have to raise £2,500. After writing letters to numerous companies, I have asked many shops and businesses to sponsor me in East Finchley and Muswell Hill. Some have been generous enough to help, but the money raised is still far from my target.

As I have a Polish background, the Polish Society may let me use one of their halls to organise a 'sponsorship party'.

Other ideas also include holding a clothes sale, from clothes donated from a modern clothes shop in Camden 'Urban Nation', where I used to work, holding a 'borough' raffle, with items donated from various shops in the area, to sky dive for sponsorship

### Off Pat

To be chosen to go on this expedition is a once in a lifetime opportunity and will be a wonderful experience. As the 'trip' is organised by BSES 'British Schools Exploration Society', located at the Geographical

Society, the main aim of the expedition is to carry out real and valuable scientific work as well as projects which will benefit the local communities. Science projects might include geomorphology, the life sciences, cartography, meteorology and geology.

However it is important to remember that to enable me to go, I have to raise the total amount specified as well as get all my equipment."

For more information or to join a mailing list, regular updates, or ways to help, please email Patricia at: [helpPatriciaGoToAlaska@newexperience.co.uk](mailto:helpPatriciaGoToAlaska@newexperience.co.uk).

## Rolling to record!

East Finchley Underground station was once again the scene for filming.

The latest Aero commercial was the most recent in a long line of features to be filmed at the station.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### Art and Dec

An excited group of ten and eleven year olds from Year 6 at Martin Junior School met their teachers really early one Saturday for a very special outing. This piece has been chosen from the many well-written reports the children did for *The Archer*.

### My Day at SM:TV

By Archana Depala

At night I kept waking up thinking I was late for the train and it was only 03.31! All that time up until 05.00 I was trying to get back to sleep but kept failing. By the time my mum woke up and we left for the tube station, all the roads were deserted and so was the station.

When we got on the train I started to feel sick and the butterflies weren't helping! On the journey Ben (our group leader) had a maths test between two boys and it was so funny because when one got a question wrong, they couldn't take it!

We reached the studio and were taken over some rules and then we filmed *Challenge Ant*. Unfortunately (as I'm an Ant fan) Ant lost, but he didn't seem to care. The most amazing thing happened when we were going back to the rest room! Well, Ant was walking right behind me and I got so excited but the thing was, I couldn't say anything, I was so star-struck!

### Anty climax

After we got drinks and biscuits we were taken back into the studio where Ant, Dec and Cat were rehearsing. Before we knew it we were live and my voice was almost gone with all the screaming and shouting! When I went to the toilet, the lady that did the vocals for

Hear'Say was in there and 3LW so I said "Hi" and they said "Hi" back and I was sooo happy!

We saw Chums and an extremely funny "Anty and Decky." Then, after no time at all, we were being shoved out of the studio! I really wanted to see Hear'Say and shake hands with Shaggy. I was so glad I was there and would love to go again. It would have been impossible without Miss Oldnall. Thank you so much!

Sadly, Miss Oldnall is leaving after three and a half years of tremendous commitment to all aspects of school life. She will be missed a great deal.

## Jokes

**(historical or hysterical?)**  
Teacher: Why were the early days called the Dark Ages?

Pupil: Because there were so many knights.

Teacher: Where were the kings and queens of Britain usually crowned?

Pupil: On the head!

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

The school is to receive a School Achievement Award from the Department of Education in recognition of improvement made over recent years, focusing on 1999-2000 in particular.

Six junior children took part in a Science Challenge at Tudor School to celebrate National Science Week. The school also entered East Finchley Library's competition to design an invention, with Russell Warman gaining 1<sup>st</sup> prize and Archie Price runner up.

The school raised £145.80 for the Comic Relief Fund on Red Nose Day.

### Martin Junior School

The school raised £330 for Comic Relief with a variety of activities. Year 6 and teachers met at East Finchley tube station at 6.30 am to take part in the SM:TV live broadcast. See *Young Archer* for more details.

Six children took part in a Science Challenge held at Tudor School to celebrate National Science Week.

Years 3 and 4 spent a day working with a musician and a dance teacher composing music and arranging movement based on "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes.

The school choir received many compliments after singing beautifully at Barnet's teacher recruitment day. They subsequently performed at the Barnet Music Festival.

### Martin Infant School

Mothers of nursery children enjoyed the annual tea and cakes celebration for Mother's Day. At this lovely event the children sang for their mothers and gave them a little present. Along with Year 1 children, they had made a decorated tile for this special day.

Year 2 pupils hatched out several Painted Lady butterflies in the classroom. They carefully studied their development before releasing them to the outside world.

The parents' evening devoted to literacy was a great success. The PTA held a Factory Fever sale with branded fashion for youngsters currently stocked by major shops being sold at bargain prices.