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British skiers seconds before avalanche strikes



KEITH: Always on his bum

Webster branded 'a Major disaster'

KEITH WEBSTER has been branded "a liability on skis" by fellow tourists.

A source close to the Whitehaven-born father of three told us: "Although highly trained by the British army, Keith's fitness has definitely declined over the years - which is only to be expected at his age.

"He likes to think he's an expert, but his need to show off results in him spending a lot of time on his bum."

The other members of the Webster party - Marg, Paul, Zoe, Danny, Alison, Charlotte and family friends the Blighs - were believed to be continuing with their holiday, although Paul was said to be having difficulty locating the hotel.

IT'S SNOW JOKE KEITH

A BRITISH Sergeant Major was being held by Austrian police last night after allegedly starting an avalanche that destroyed a peaceful skiing resort.

Keith Webster, a Territorial Army Warrant Officer from Heworth in York, could spend his 46th birthday on March 2 behind bars. Local police believe his stomach-slide down a black run was the cause of the disaster that hit the town of Neiderau.

A sheepish looking Keith was taken for questioning yesterday, with long-suffering wife Marg said to be standing by him.

Neiderau police chief, Jurgen von Strudel, said: "Witnesses said the Englishman fell heavily while on the piste. It must have been a very big impact - there's

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not much of Neiderau left. He's showing no remorse - he doesn't understand the devastation he has caused.

"He just keeps saying his thumb hurts. He's such a squib."

The chief added that other prisoners were demanding to be moved after being kept awake by Keith's heavy snoring.

The manager of the Hotel Staffler, where Keith was staying, said: "I'll hurt a lot more than his thumb when I get my hands on him. December 27 is a dark day for Neiderau."

When asked to comment on the situation late last night, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "Keith who?"



SMIRKING SERGEANT MAJOR: Keith Webster is driven away for questioning yesterday, while wife Marg loyally sticks to her husband's side

Angry Austrian police slam hapless holidaymaker