

# Edition No. 12 ~ April 2006

# A Brighter Look For Our Association's Headquarters: BOTH 70 FOOT BEECH TREES ARE NOW FELLED ~

~ LEASE FOR ST JOHNS NEARING COMPLETION ~

~ DRAWINGS FOR LAND REGISTRY COMPLETED ~

~ OUR PROJECT MOVES FORWARD >>>>>>!

Who owns the School House? If you remember we reported last year that Thelma Duke (wife of Jack 51A) discovered a very old and dirty wooden plaque. When studied it clearly expressed a record of the donation of the School House to St. John's, by church founder Mr. James Jenkins in 1840.

The BOBA committee understands the School House was never owned by the MOD. We have discovered the Government would almost certainly have been unable to compulsory purchase any Diocesan school property in the early 20th century when Beachley peninsula was purchased. The true story will emerge, aided by our further investigations. However our assumption is that over time and after the school closed the building will have most likely been unofficially loaned to the MOD.

Regarding the lease of St Johns, our solicitors have drafted a list of comments on the basic lease issued by the Diocese. This draft list has already been presented to the BOBA committee members individually for their perusal. Following committee deliberations taking place and agreement on lease terms made, as per the BOBA members agreement at the 2004 & 2005 AGM's. With the above facts in mind a two year lease will likely have been signed by the time this publication reaches you.

The Government have introduced new legislation whereby all church property in UK has now to be registered with HM Land Registry. The Gloucester Diocese are to use St Johns as their registration test case. Registration scale drawings have been produced by the BOBA committee ensuring this goes ahead without any unnecessary delay.

Both 70 foot beech trees are now felled and St Johns lease preparation is nearing completion. The presentation of required financial information is very unlikely to be ready for the 2006 AGM. Please remember the main reason for the lease, was to grant time to double check information.

We are now able to announce ~ "The Project": >>> is at long last ~ moving forward >>> Syd Thomas & John Furley.



St. John's at Beachley & The Old School House ~ Beech trees removed, day light once more shines all around.

Conditions of the felled trees and more photo's on page 12.



# The President's Thoughts.

You will see by the front page that the main topic of the past two years perpetuates, The Old School House and St. Johns Church, are still very much an ongoing item. John Furley beavers away and has made some considerable progress, BUT it is going to be a long drawn out affair to finalise both the St Johns and the Old School House projects.

Whilst, all being well, we will be able to sign the lease for St. Johns Church and thereby gain unrestricted access to St John's, enabling us to carry out a full survey to confirm the previous findings and thereafter put together a financial plan for consideration by the membership, the exact timing will be very dependant upon many factors and it would be, in my opinion, totally wrong to rush the findings and only present a half baked appraisal. If it can't be finalized by the September AGM then it will have to wait a further year, we hope not, but we must be totally realistic and accurate with all the financial factors that are to be considered and presented.

The Old School House will take time before it comes into the overall scheme of things, who knows where the present efforts and leads will take us?

Finally on this subject I would like it to be known that I was not in the least upset by David Chapman at the last AGM – he made some very valid points that will have to be fully considered by you all when it comes to the 'final reckoning' – do we or don't we go ahead with Committee proposals? I still believe that we will be able to present a very strong case for purchase and restoration of St. Johns Church.

Please be patient with the committee – Rome was not built in a day!

#### 2006 REUNION ID NAME HOLDERS:

Here is a sample of a reunion name holder we have available for all members attending the reunion this year. They are of a simple design on laminated card, which will be inserted into a clear plastic sleeve envelope with both a press frog clip and secure safety pin mounting. No risk of damage to clothing. A full coloured badge with border. Order yours when booking for the reunion, and pick it up when you arrive at the Chepstow Hotel. They are good quality and cheap at just £1.50 each and yours to keep! Please ask for your name badge when booking in? The 2005 Remembrance Parade, Whitehall at the Cenotaph was in complete contrast to 2004, at the 2005 parade we had a very good turn out but poor TV coverage. As in previous years we managed to gather some 'waifs and strays' swelling our numbers towards the 50 mark. It was noticeable that we 'Led the Apprentice way' Arborfield Old Boys' making their first appearance on the parade were in their correct station - behind us. Again it was a moving occasion for all those attending. My personal thanks to Baz Morgan our transport provider and RSM.

Please mark this year's Remembrance Parade in your diary, as the 12th November 2006. The normal notice will be displayed at the Reunion Weekend for you to append your name, or you can contact me giving your details at: Tel: 01656 661180. Post: 4 Hawthorn Drive, Coychurch, Bridgend, Glamorgan, CF35 5ER. Email: syd4hd@btopenworld.com

Brian Henderson continues to guide your Committee and like him I never cease to admire the effort, time and travel they dedicate, on your behalf, to the BOBA Association.

God only knows how John Furley, with all else he does, manages to find the time and dedication to attend so many funerals as our BOBA, or REME Standard Bearer. His presence is much appreciated by the next of kin who feel that their husband/ father was laid to rest in keeping with his life.

Gaynor and I hope to see you in September! May Fair Winds propel you in your chosen direction. God bless, Syd Thomas.







# The Chairman's Jottings:

It's March once again and time for another BOBA Newsletter, my second as Chairman.

Without doubt I believe the reunion last year was one of the best, the display put on by our Historians was excellent and I'm informed that the golf match was very competitive. Thanks go to all those who attended what turned out to be a lively AGM and to those that also participated in the Sunday parade and Church service.

The staff at the hotel continue to serve us well and my thanks go to Peter Burridge who organises that part of the reunion weekend so very well indeed. His election to Honorary Life Member at the 2005 AGM was justly deserved.

The executive committee has had a couple of meetings since the reunion in September and in brief I can report that our membership continues to grow, albeit slowly, and our finances are sound, especially with the re-introduction of the subscription fees. Talking of money, those that intend signing up for the reunion this year will have noticed that prices are very similar to those charged last year.

What of the St John's Project I hear you say, well, as appears to be the norm, progress is slow. The President and Vice Chairman are currently in discussion with the 'legal eagles' over the terms and conditions of the lease. More details are contained in later pages and no doubt we should have more to report at the 2006 AGM.

Over the recent months we have lost a few of our members and our condolences go to their families and friends. A special mention must be made of George Gasser, one of our Honorary Life Members and staunch supporter of BOBA for many Sadly George passed away and our years. thanks go to his widow Vera for the very generous donation she passed to us following his funeral. Can I remind you that our stance regarding the widows remains the same, 'they are most welcome to attend'. If you know of a widow who would like to join us please pass on the details or let us know her address and we will do the rest.

One of our great friends of the association is the Rev Joe Rooney, those who attended the reunion last year will have noticed that he was absent from the weekend proceedings. Joe was on holiday at the time and was most apologetic that he could not attend, however worse was to come as Joe returned from his holiday trip abroad very unwell, which laid him low for a very long time, thankfully he is now just about fully recovered and no doubt will officiate at our Founders Day Service again this year.

The welfare of the members occasionally raises its head and thankfully the network of area representatives under the guidance of Ifor Anthony is working well. Having said that, if we do not know we cannot act, so please keeps us informed of all news, good and not so good and we will do our best.

Finally, I and my wife Margaret look forward to meeting you and your ladies at this year's Reunion.

Until then take care ~ Brian Henderson.

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#### Greetings from Ian MacDonald 55A ~ from Canada ~ writing an email to his group mates:

As 2005 draws to a close I suspect that for many of us it will be a year to remember. The most poignant part for me, being my trip from Canada over to Britain for the actual reunion, the renewal of friendships, the radiant warmth and the genuine affection displayed by people. Sharon and I were entertained, wined and dined and invited into people's homes and showered with kindness and caring. Fifty years seemed like it was yesterday as we discussed all manner of things and remembered people, places and events so vividly. It was an emotional time and it was difficult to say goodbye. I may never see some of you again and that makes me sad. Others on the other hand may visit my igloo, so I guess that counters it.

Billy Welch started the ball rolling from far off Australia and it gathered steam from there - today we are in touch with a sizeable number of 55A members and many of them eager to meet up early in the New Year. Friendship like that is difficult to find. We have come a long way down the road since Beachley and embarked on a variety of careers most having little to do with our training. One thing remained constant (like the taste of workshop coffee/tea/hot chocolate) and that was the feeling of comradeship. As I look at the photographs taken at the dinner and on parade they illustrate fully the genuine closeness of the group. We are getting older and some are not in the greatest of health, others sadly are no longer with us. These reunions however, give us an opportunity to relive our youth, to be the carefree kids we once were and to reminisce over a beer about our days at Beachley. Days that would have made Oliver Twist feel like he was a glutton. As I sat at the table eating dinner and looking around, I felt proud to be a part of it all. I was amongst a group of men who had achieved success and contentment in their lives. Oh sure we could all ask for more - who couldn't, but there were no failures in that room. Beachley graduates every one, with a lifetime of experience and a genuine friendship for everyone present. Some could be classified as heroes. Scottie for example, he walked from the top to the bottom of Britain and was so very unassuming about it. Ray Bird's autobiography says much about his fortitude and the list goes on. I learned so much about the lives of many people that previously was unknown to me. The hardship and pain they suffered and overcame was inspiring and sad at the same time. We kept so much to ourselves in those days as we struggled to become men but men we did become. It is so easy to talk about things, doing them is something else. 55A was represented so well at the reunion because Billy cared enough to get things moving - other groups failed to do that yet they are far more computer literate than our old fogies. Colin and Alf are keeping the tradition going with a Northern soiree in the New Year. An impressive list of attendees will be available shortly no doubt. The availability of body painted waitresses having little to do with the numbers attending. Ray and others go out of their way to visit those less fortunate or stricken with illness - yet another example of the caring shown by this group. These get togethers are indeed meaningful and most definitely uplifting for those who attend. I would encourage all members of the 55A Beachley asylum who can possibly make the trip to do so, you certainly won't regret it. I am so glad I made the pilgrimage in September and sorry that I didn't get as much time with everyone as I would have liked. It is a memory I shall never forget (Alzheimer's permitting).

Christmas is a time for family celebration and the joy that can be seen on the faces of children. Sharon and I trust all members enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy New Year filled with good cheer and joyous memories. We would further wish those who are under the weather a speedy return to good health, or a remission of pain and suffering for those battling more serious conditions. Our prayers and our thoughts are with you.

#### lan Macdonald 55A A Coy



*Most of the 55A lads at the 2005 BOBA Reunion dinner.* Thanks to Bill Welsh for the original pics. Sorry all members are not in the frame, please note the wine has spread, just don't try to pick up the bottles . Ed.

# Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ 2005 Reunion continued.

Page 5

GET ON PARADE ~ By Colin Weir 55A – Roughie, Toughie Sapper Sgt.

We hovered in eager anticipation of reconstructing a March Past on the very square we took our very first tottering steps, more than 50 years before. In those far off days we had formed up in the Company lines and marched on to the square. This time we milled about on the edge, nervously chatting. In those early days we had a "double act" to face, RSM's Lowe and Lowes, man and boy; the gruesome two some. This time we had a more gentlemanly Parade Commander in Baz Morgan A/T RSM of 73B; his dulcet tones reverberated around the camp, "Get on Parade". 55A and I believe one brave member from 55B abandoned their white sticks, guide dogs, zimmer frames and adjusted their hearing aids. This was their moment as they marched (shuffled, is probably more descriptive) over the hallowed ground to take their places once again in the ranks, something they undertook with a hint of amusement, mainly to cover up their nervousness, although you could sense the pride. "Right Dress", now in the Sappers our training NCOs always insisted that we took a, "short, sharp pace to the front, followed by a pattering of feet that a tap dancer would have been proud of, as we got our dressing. "Arms length, you stupid bugger", was hissed from the side of someone's mouth, trying not to attract the attention of any superiors, lest he got a dose of Jankers. There we were, in honour of our 50<sup>th</sup> given pride of place, we would lead the parade. All of a sudden we were soldiers again, our chests filled with pride. The spectators, our kith and kin, the sick, lame and lazy, and one or two onlookers produced their Box Brownies and commenced snapping.

Our camp hosts the Green Howards allowed us the use of the big bass drummer, on the command, "Quick March" he attempted to set us off at Light Infantry pace but soon realized we required a more sedate tempo. "Eyes Right" as we passed the saluting dais, "Eyes Front" followed by a right and left wheel, we were then brought to a halt outside the church, advanced and dismissed, we even remembered to turn right on this final command. All too quick it was over. More than one or two eyes glistened at the memories this had all evoked. Given the opportunity I'm sure we would gladly have done an encore.

Ter Ra all. Colin Weir 55A A Coy.

Another Perspective (BOBA 2005) by Alf Robbins (Major Ret`d) ex 55A D Coy

Colin Weir (55 A Coy) has written a few words describing the weekend from his perspective and it seems to me, accurately capturing the nostalgia that such a gathering generates. As a Group we had a reasonable turn out largely due to Bill Welch and his long three line whip, from Australia. Answering the roll call in alphabetical order were: Ollie Allsop, Ray Armstrong, Brian Bartholomew, Ray (Birdie) Bird, Harry Blunden, Dickie Bound, Mike Delf, Brian Lowes (A/T RSM), Robert McVinnie, Alan Merry, Moggsie Morris, Ivor Murrant, Peter Parman, Alf Robbins, Chas Spinks, Derek Walker, Stuart Walker, Gil Warner, Colin Weir and Bill Welch.

Any discerning observer in Chepstow on the Saturday would have noticed pairs and small groups strolling in the sun, mostly sporting a BOBA tie and/or badge and all with that characteristic military bearing. Passing snippets of conversation carried in the still air included such remarks as "That was after Barton Stacey...." or "The cinema was just over there..." or "We were still Champion Company then... or "Didn't Big Mac check him for a haircut as he left the barbers .... etc. etc.

The bus stop for that last bus back to camp, or as Colin says, the long walk via the bridge. The Castle and Dell, the hill up through Chepstow and the archway all landmarks, particularly during driver training as we set off to Newport. Stopping for a cup of tea on the way with Paul Anka blaring from the Juke Box "...'Oh please stay by me Diana'... The race to beat "Handbrake Harry" back into Chepstow. All of these things and many others came to life in my own mind and I have no doubt in others.

This looking back and catching up on what old mates had been up to, took up hours of conversation and the topics remain un-exhausted. Some of us have weathered better than others and some have gone forever, but no matter what, the camaraderie remains undiminished. There just was not time enough to complete all our agendas or to even speak with all we had intended to. But with modern communications we can pick up on these things via the Internet and for those who wish to capture the atmosphere of the location, simply book in for the annual reunions as well.

We all learned many things at Beachley and had Army careers of varying lengths, but no matter what we did I am sure that the basic bed rock for life was laid there. It was formed from self discipline, self determination, and an appreciation of teamwork and none of it came from an easy ride.

My best wishes to you all. Alf Robbins 55A D Coy.



BOBA ~ WELFARE: can only supply an interim measure of help, we do not have the resources of the Royal British Legion or SAAFA. The small amount we can accomplish is now completed by Lt Col. (Ret'd) Ifor Anthony and the BOBA voluntary welfare team. The BOBA committee thank Ifor once again for taking on this important task. For ease of working, the country continues to be divided into geographical areas and a welfare representative has been, or will be, when available, allotted to each area, as someone volunteers to fill the vacancy (As shown below). Should anyone feel they need assistance, please contact your area rep in the first instance. Possibly you may require a lift to the annual reunion. If this is so contact your area rep, who maybe able to help you make contact with someone, who is 'Going from and returning your way'.

Please also contact the Area Representative if you have knowledge of a Beachley Old Boy's serious illness, address change, or demise. Many comforting and appropriate specially made supporting BOBA cards have been sent to members and families. If you have any pressing case, or know of any member who requires any assistance, as an interim measure, please contact one of the following:

#### Welfare area representatives:

Location:	Rep's Name:	Group:	Tel. No:
Berks/Bucks/Oxon.	Tom Davitt	54A	01344 775787
Dorset / Wilts.	Ron Durtnall	37	01202 763270
Essex	Joe Finerty	43A	01702 554362
Ditto	Noel Drew	60A	01708 556475
Germany	John Bass	44A	(49) 220 456437
Gloucester/ Bristol	VOLUNTEER	REQUIRED.	
Hampshire	Dave Stone	49A	02392 265554
Herts./Beds/Northants.	John Smith	44A	01582 592432
Kent	Charles Whitehead	45A	01634 361801
Lancashire/Cheshire	Ray Armstrong	55A	01942 491140
Lincs/Notts/Derby	Wally Green	50B	01522 595963
London/Middx.	VOLUNTEER	REQUIRED.	
N. Wales	Ray Armstrong	55A	01942 491140
S. Wales (West of)	John Stokes	42A	01974 821697
S. Wales (East of)	Ifor Anthony (Control)	48A	01291 420823
Scotland	Dave Lackie	43B	01313 362268
Ditto	Sandy Hay	46A	01224 82248
Shropshire	Allan Ball	46A	01952 591060
Som / Devon/ Cornwall	Tony Waite	60C	01823 669336
Staffordshire.	Andy Roulston	46A	01785 257410
Suffolk/Norfolk/Cambs.	Dave Chapman	60A	01379 870084
Surrey/Sussex	VOLUNTEER	REQUIRED.	
Worcs/Hereford/W Mid.	George Waite	42B	01217 449117
Warks./East Midlands	Chalkie White	73A	01203 404999
Yorkshire	Trevor Medcalf	43A	01904 644569

If you do have not have a BOBA welfare representative in your area, or the representative is not available, please don't forget being an ex serviceman / woman you will be able to secure help from <u>any</u> Royal British Legion (RBL) <u>Branch</u>. It is unnecessary to be an RBL member, the RBL will help <u>all</u> ex service persons; there is only one qualifying point, you must have initially exhausted all Social Security channels!

If you can spare a little time to help with BOBA Welfare, even with a smaller area than is mentioned above, please do contact the BOBA Welfare Officer: Ifor Anthony 48A on Tel: 01291 420823.

**The BOBA Standard:** may be available to attend the funerals of members should the family desire. However owing to the heavy cost of travel these days, we would ask for a donations towards fuel costs at 15p per mile. This donation is not essential, if it cannot be afforded, please request BOBA welfare to cover this cost. *BOBA Standard Bearer ~ John Furley. Tel: 01291 630491. Email: boba@johnfurley.plus.com* 

Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ RUKBA ~ Beneficent Ass'n.

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HERE'S SOMETHING, IF YOU'RE OVER 65. THAT MAY HELP YOU FINANCIALLY								
YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO AN EXTRA INCOME AND/OR GRANT:								
If you are over 65 years of age, or over 40 and permanently unable to work with a disability and live in the British Isles contact:								
	GDOM BENEFICENT ASSOCI incess Alexandra ~ Charity F	ATION." Known as: 'RUKBA' Registration No: 210729.						
	sociation also now also cov	ncome, or in some cases possible help <b>vers ex forces members</b> , you may be current income.						
Your 'Income limits' (April 2004) me	ust be less than the following to	o qualify:						
Single Person: Couples:								
(Attendance, Me	obility and Disability allowance	are disregarded.)						
Your savings 'Capital limits' (April 2	004) are less than the following	g to qualify:						
Single Person: Couples:	Not more than £12,000.00 Not more than £17,000.00	Savings. Savings.						
If you qualify with the above ~ Maxim	num Annual Income (from Ju	ly 2004) will be:						
Single Person: Couples:	£936.00 per annum £1,596.00 per annum	(£18.00 per week.) (£31.00 per week.)						
To find out more about 'RUKBA':	<u>Telephone: 020 7605 4200</u>							
or write to:	The Care Officer, RUKBA, Freepost, London, W14 8BR <i>(NO sta</i>	mp required, but it helps if you do!)						
WH	EN YOUR CALL GOES THRO	UGH:						
"Initially you will no	eed to state you are intereste	ed in receiving help."						
	f you receive any state benef I own your own home. (A leg							
person you are enquirin	RUKBA will gladly advise you over the phone, or by post, if you, ~ or the person you are enquiring for, ~ are likely to qualify for help. They may arrange for one of their friendly and discreet local volunteers to make a home visit.							
Most people who apply have never needed charitable help before, so all the assistance is given with tact, sensitivity and discretion. All financial information is strictly confidential.								
NIFF NAFF AND TRIVIA STATISTIC	S - DID YOU KNOW?							
<b>NIFF NAFF AND TRIVIA STATISTICS - DID YOU KNOW?</b> That for their 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in 1996, of the 46A and 46B combined intakes, the seekers had no known contact addresses for 101 of them, but they knew 16 had died. From the known contact addresses for 114, 27 did not reply, 24 gave apologies, 6 were not interested, importantly 57 attended.								

Malcolm Hay 53A ~ Heritage Member

#### Ollie Allsop 55A ~ my reflections of a golden age. (To be read with an obligatory Welsh accent!)

On a cold and bleak day in Feb 1955 a group of young boys could be seen gathering at the entrance to a grim looking cluster of buildings. Some of the boys stood slightly apart, their expressions dreamy and slightly vacant (obviously officer like qualities), a few others had a keen eager look (NCO material), the rest stood more closely together already showing herd like instincts and the need to avoid being noticed, these were obviously destined to become other ranks. Sleep soundly in your beds people, the famous 55A have arrived, some to become legends in their own lifetimes, but all to become Beachley boys.

Soon a figure approached, we all became apprehensive and wondered what was going to happen, as he drew near we all relaxed, no need to fear him for he looked like a kindly granddad (he must have been at least 30)."Hello lads just arrived have you", funny how they always stated the obvious, "come along with me and I'll get you settled in", we followed, thinking this is going to be a doddle just like being in school. Gradually we were sorted into our various barrack rooms and left to our own devices, we soon started to get to know each other, what's your name and where do you come from. I don't know why but there always seems to be a lot of Scouser's in the army. Eventually the grandfather returned, "Right lads listen in, tomorrow indoctrination (bloody hell, jabs already) the rest of the day just take it easy". The following day we spend filling in forms and finding out some of the rules, no smoking for the first 6 months was the worst one for some lads. Then our kindly mentor informs us that tomorrow we will be issued with uniforms, what excitement, look out the guards brigade we'll make you look like a load of scruffs, we thought.

At last the day dawned and we sort of marched to the Q. M's stores." right form a line lads", instructed our mentor (what a nice kind man we think), expectantly we file though the door to be faced with a long counter which was piled with various items of equipment, behind the counter stood what we took to be real soldiers. Looking at me disdainfully the first asks " what size hat are you", I answered, "I don't know I've never worn one!" The curt response, "You look like a 6&7/8ths to me" and so with some adjustments, that is the size my head became. Moving along the counter I was piled up with odd looking bits of equipment, bewildered I found myself outside and joined the rest standing amidst mounds of clothing etc. Right, we are told, try your uniforms on, he must be mad it's at least 40 below out here, but being keen we obey. As I was fumbling with my trouser buttons (they were so thin they felt like razor blades). Then the kindly looking grandfather said to me "stand up you", (I thought this is great only been in five minutes and I've been given a rank already, he must have recognised my leadership qualities, I wondered how many stripes a "you" has), I replied: "But I am standing up" Now you must understand, I have always been taller sitting down than standing up. I was so short, I used to walk around with a space underneath me to make up for the shortness at the top. The grandfather figure was towering over me (he was at least 5 foot 6) he looked down and said, "God help us, if you had been a fish I would have thrown you back in!" Thankfully he moved on to someone else. We staggered back to the barrack room loaded down with all our newly issued gear. "Right sort yourselves out" said our mentor, we then start swapping uniforms with each other to try to find something that nearly fitted. These hats are great I thought, it will keep my shoulders dry, I looked like a Russian admiral.

The following day (at least I think it was day it was still dark) we are woken by someone screaming at us to get up, the room must be on fire I thought. The shouting voice we learnt was the next thing to God, our barrack room Corporal. "Get washed and dressed and ready for parade", as I was scrabbling about trying to get my uniform on I thought it won't be to bad it's to dark for anyone to see us. Eventually, we all sort of formed up for inspection, then along the line comes the nice kind looking man, he stops in front of me and peers at my face! "You haven't shaved this morning" he yells! (What has happened to that lovely kind grandfather?) "I've never shaved before there's nothing to shave off" I said. "Listen you" (at least I've still got my rank, I'm still a you) "You're in the army now, you shave whether you need to or not". Later sitting on my pit looking at my razor I begin to panic, how do I use this thing, I'll have my head off if I'm not very careful. I thought, I know I'll jump in the Wye now and get it over with. One of the more worldly boys, realising the state I was in, came over and said. "Don't worry Ollie, (yes we all had nicknames by now) I'll show you how to do it, the bonds of friendship were beginning to form. Next day on parade feeling very pleased with myself I stood waiting for HIM to arrive, then my turn came, I thrust out my chin (doing a fairly good impersonation of Desperate Dan), which was covered with about 3/4 of a toilet roll stuck on various places, "that's better, but don't use so much paper next time".

Now the day arrived when we are shown how to clean our kit, blancoing, brass cleaning, chinstrap shining and the swirl on the top of the hat, busy with iron and brown paper pressing uniforms, am I going to look

# The Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ 55A Tale Cont. & Cenotaph

smart tomorrow I thought. "Now I'll show you how to burn your boots" said the Cpl, funny, I thought, we've only just been given them, but at least we'll have a nice warm fire. Other delights were the bedding block, bumpering floors and Zeboing the holy of holies the cenotaph, why they didn't call it a fireplace beats me. The next morning we begin to get dressed, looking at my uniform on the hanger I thought it looked immaculate, but after putting it and my web belt on I was horrified, I looked like a sack of s--t tied in the middle, where had all those lovely creases gone. On parade the Sgt, by now we knew what he was (in more ways than one) he was critical but full of advice, maybe he's not so bad after all.

The next big event was our first pay parade. Up I marched came to a crashing halt (bugger I've stamped on my toe cap, more spit and polish) and hurled up a salute, almost taking my eye out in the process, and yelled in the best squeaky voice I could muster, 23234223 Apprentice Allsopp, Sir, and thrust out my hand into which he placed two lonely half crowns, hold on I thought I should be on 17/6 a week, so I stand there feeling like Oliver Twist waiting for the rest, I was quickly taken to one side by the Sgt while he explained all about leave pay and barrack room damages, panic again set in (I'm a great one for panic) the barrack rooms were falling apart when we got here; we'll never finish paying for them I'll have to sign on for longer.

Slowly we progressed, cleaning kit became easier and we began to cope with drilling and P.T. we were becoming boy soldiers. There were some lows, but we no longer alone we now had become mates, us against them.

Then HQ Company passing out day approached, not only a magnificent march past but a P.T display as well, for some strange reason I was put down for the Indian clubs, after a few days of having to go back and fro to M.R.S with various head injuries, not only from my own clubs I might add, what can we do with him we can't let him loose with those clubs there will be civilians about, I know, he can do a headstand with legs apart at the end and the rest of the team can do forward rolls through them, he's so short they won't have to dive very high and he's got all that lovely space underneath.

So the big came. We all felt proud marching to the Corps of Drums and the display went OK apart from my mother clutching my fathers arm and saying: "Oh Arthur, he looks so small", I was mortified, did she not know I was now a trained fighting machine. Families mixed and various introductions made. Was it hard I was asked, nah, I said, it was dead easy, thinking I was the best thing since sliced bread. Our days in H.Q coy had come to an end, we were now going to join our various Companies' and we were nearly no longer junior group, 55B would be arriving soon and we could look down on them.

Well that's it I hope I've stimulated the old memory cells. There are many more things that happened back then but it would fill a book and would take someone better than I. Please make allowances for any errors in the writing; I didn't have a classical education like some of you.

Bye all. OLLIE THE 55A JANKER KING

**BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2005:** On Sunday 13th November 2005 the lads listed below assembled at Horse Guards to march at Whitehall past the Cenotaph to remember and respect our War dead. It is always an extremely deep nostalgic event. Please consider joining us this November and swell the ranks saying "thank you to those who gave their tomorrows, for our today's".

Tanko	Saying	thank you to the	/00 WII	o guve i			louuy o	Nam	nes of ma	rchers for 20	006 to 📋
Mr.	Ray	Armstrong	55A	Mr.	Joe	Kinson	50A	Syd 1	Thomas, <sup>-</sup>	Tel : 01656 6	61180.
Mr.	Bob	Beeston	60C	Mr.	Mike	Mathews	50A				
Mr.	Joe	Beeston	62B	Mr.	Baz	Morgan	73B	Mr.	Stuart	Walker	55A
Mr.	Peter	Bell	47A	Mr.	Moggsi	e Morris	55A	Mr	Chalkie	e White	73A
Mr.	David	Brown	60C	Mr.	lvor	Murrant	55A	Mr.	Albert	Woodward	51A
Mr.	Norma	nBrummitt	45A	Mr.	Maurice	eMurtagh	43B	Mr.	Peter	Banks	Guest
Mr.	Peter	Burridge	43B	Mr	Carl	Parker	58B	Mr.	Maurice	e Baun	Guest
Major	Mike	Charleworth	62B	Mr.	Derek	Pomeroy	62A	Mr.	Mac	Bedford	Guest
Mr	Tom	Davitt	54A	Mr.	Reg	Rider	54B	Mr.	Mike	Bowness	Guest
Mr.	Noel	Drew	60A	Mr.	David	Smith	60C	Mr.	Calum	Christy	Guest
Mr.	Rocky	Evershed	61B	Mr.	Don	Smith	61A	Mr.	W	Eurneaux	Guest
Mr.	John	Furley	56A	Mr.	John	Smith	44A	Mr.	Leslie	Jaguet	Guest
Mr.	Chris	Gould	71B	Mr.	Dave	Stone	49A	Mr.	Н	Paymans	Guest
Mr.	Keith	Gribben	61B	Mr.	John	Symes	47A	Ms.	R	Story	Guest
Major	Malcolr	n Hay	53A	Lt. Col.	Syd	Thomas	47A	Mr.	Р	Wilkinson	Guest

	Pag	ge 10	Be	each	nley Old Boys	'Asso	ciation	∼ In Me	emori	am	& Obituary
	IN MEMORIAM REPORTED PASSINGS SINCE THE 2005 BEACHLEY ECHOES Issue No. 11.										
	Ne	w BOBA	Mem	ber	S:						
Mr. Maj. Mr. Mr. Mr. Mr. Mr.	ol. Ken Peter Monty Roy Jim Colin Jim Ted	Allison Ashford Beatrup Bethell Butler Chambers Colclough Cole	42B 46A	A A D A C A B	01/05/2005 24/11/2005 14/11/2005 09/01/2006 06/02/2006 20/11/2005 16/10/2005 15/01/2006	Mr. Mr. Mr. Mr. Mr.	Gordo Nigel	Mitchell Moore aff) Smith n Trowsda Webb on BOB/ Duff	42B 55A ale 41 53B	D D A	09/11/2005 11/06/2005 08/08/2005 ~July 2005 18/09/2005 <b>rs:</b> 30/04/2005
Mr. Maj. Mr. Mr. Mr. Mr.	Mauric George	n Croucher e Flambard e Gasser Goldfinch Maynard Melton	d 48B	A B D	04/07/2005 05/10/2005 08/12/2005 22/06/2005 23/02/2005 27/10/2005	Mr. Col. Mr. Mr.	David Cyril Jim Peter	Rowling Morgan Funnell Haram	48A 41 43 54A		11/10/2005 ~ 1993 23/07/2005 20/03/2006

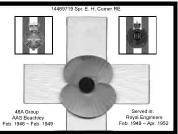
#### A KOREAN WAR VETERAN MAKES A POIGNANT RETURN

In Spring 2005 Peter Ashford 46A A Coy, a REME Korean War veteran, proudly took part in the British Korean War Veterans Association pilgrimage to Korea. Their trip included a Commemorative Service held at the United Nations Military Cemetery in Pusan, Korea, where 2300 servicemen from twenty two nations are buried, 885 from the UK.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

This photograph taken in the Spring of 2005 in Pusan Military Cemetary, South Korea by the late Mr. Peter Ashford 46A A Coy, it is of the gravestone of Sam Comer 46A D Coy who was killed in the Korean War.





After the service Peter searched for and found the gravestone of his group comrade Spr Sam Comer 46A D Coy, RE SMW, bronze plaque pictured above. Here he placed the RBL Poppy Cross adorned by a backing depicting the Korean War Medal ribbon and BOBA and RE Badges, as seen on the right of the gravestone above. Peter was a regular attendee at our reunions, sadly he passed away in November 2005.

#### Malcolm Hay 53A ~ Heritage Member

**14469669 The Late Peter Ernest Ashford 46A A Coy:** It is with a sad heart we report the passing of Peter, aged 74 years. Peter enlisted at Chester where his father was serving with the 11th Hussars, perpetuating a family tradition. He arrived at Beachley on the 20th February 1946 to serve his vehicle mechanic apprenticeship leaving on the 25th August 1949 to begin service with the RASC. On the 1st July 1951 Peter was transferred to REME on phase 11 of the Corps formation. Serving around the world and finally leaving the service and Corps on 16th May 1971. Peter and his family settled in Pencoed near Bridgend, Glamorgan.

Peter was extremely proud to be an active member of both BOBA and the Korean War Veterans Association (Cardiff branch); quietly but firmly active in both organisations. With respect to input into BOBA Heritage, his efforts were very much appreciated by Ron Marie at the Heritage Displays during the BOBA reunion weekends; also by Lt. Col. Ifor Anthony for his coverage of the central South Wales Welfare area.

At Peter's funeral the BOBA Standard was carried by John Furley, the REME Standard by our BOBA President Lt. Col. Syd Thomas, the Korean Veterans Standard represented their Cardiff Branch. Members of Peter's 46A group were present, as were members of the BOBA Executive Committee. Wickey Jones of the Royal Mons Militia sounded the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' superbly.

Rest in peace Pete ~ Allan Ball and Ron Marie ~ 46A Group.

Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ Obituaries

#### FRANK PICKERING 47B B Coy ~ 1932 to 2005

Frank arrived at Beachley with 47B group following his training joined R.E.M.E. trained as a Radar Technician serving in Korea, Egypt, Malta and Germany before completing his service as a WO1 ASM in 1972. Frank then retrained as a science teacher and eventually returned to Sedbury, Chepstow area, to teach at Wyedean School, (where JK Rowling was school head girl, but maybe before Franks time me thinks.) He also set up and ran a detachment of Gwent Army Cadet Force at Beachley. Finally after retirement he returned to Beachley again on a short term contract back in his old classrooms at Beachley during the run-down of the college.

During these extensive travels he found time in 1952 to court and marry Daphne Price from Tutshill and had three sons, all three of whom served in REME.

Daphne and Frank regularly attended BOBA reunions. Frank was long serving BOBA committee member and was BOBA membership secretary for some time before moving to the New Forest. Frank died in Southampton General Hospital on 2 April 2005 after a short illness.

He will be sorely missed by his family and by the BOBA committee. Thanks go to Daphne for allowing this very important tribute to a great man.

#### B3769 ~ 1948705 WO1 Douglas Ian "Roy" Bethell MBE (Clerk of Works Construction).

It is with great sadness the Beachley Old Boys' Association report Roy's passing on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Roy commenced his service with 42 Group intake at the Army Apprentices, Boys Training School at Beachley, Chepstow as a carpenter and joiner, going on through his 44 years service with the Corps of Royal Engineers always a proud and honourable 'Sapper' and a staunch member of the Beachley Old Boys' Association. Roy was cremated at Weston Mill Crematorium, Plymouth and leaves a loving wife Doris and two sons Michael and Stephen. The BOBA committee send their sincere condolences to Roy's wife Doris and sons Michael and Stephen and family.

**George Harry Gasser 39 Group:** It is my sad duty to report George passed away peacefully on 8th December 2005 at Beechcroft Green Nursing Home, Gosport after a long and protracted illness, aged 84.

George was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1921, joined the Boys' Technical School at Beachley on the 21st January 1937 aged 15. When he completed his apprenticeship as a Blacksmith, on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1940 he joined RAOC and in 1942 transferred to REME on its formation. During the Second World War he went to Palestine and Italy before being posted back to Beachley in 1948 as an instructor. In 1953 he moved to Singapore and served at 41 Base Workshop REME. George joined FVRDE at Chertsey in 1956 before serving at 10 Training Battalion, Gosport in 1960. His 22 years service ending at Gosport in January 1961. George then worked as civilian instructor at Bordon, later transferring back to the Army Apprentice College, Beachley in 1972. He retired in 1983 from his post in charge of the Blacksmiths workshops where he had first started his career as a boy.

George was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in January 2000, he died peacefully aged 84 in Beechcroft Green nursing home on the 8th December 2005, where he had been for the last year of the life, having become far too ill for Vera to manage.

George is sadly missed by his wife Vera, son John and daughters Tricia and Marion.

Denys Edward Goldfinch 43B B Coy: 4 July 1928 - 22 June 2005. Obituary from the Craftsman Magazine.

Denys joined Army Technical School Beachley on the 4th October 1943. Son of an ex RA Tiffy Blacksmith, he was to follow the same trade. Denys completed his trade training in 1946 and was posted to Arborfiled for Corps training. Posted to 6 Central Workshops, Denys was a Class 1 Blacksmith by 1947; he then undertook Airborne training and was posted to the Far East at the commencement of the Malayan Emergency, whilst there qualified as a Gun Fitter. Returning to UK in 1951 he met and married his wife of 52 years and after posted to Dover Castle maintaining the 15 inch guns on the Kent Coast.

Denys then applied to become a Sgt Tech Storeman and on completion moved to Singapore as an instructor at the training centre of 41 Base Workshop REME. This did not last long and he was posted as a WO2(RQMS) to 50 Infantry Workshops serving in Jordan. This fizzled out and he decided to retire from the Army in 1959.

In civilian life he spent a short period with the Ministry of Supply Workshop, after this moving to a new career in the then your computer industry as an instructor. Since then much of his time was spent working with computers and adult education, closely associated with Auckland University of Technology, He held several Fellow-ships and Membership of professional bodies in UK & NZ. Denys was also an Assistant Senior Commissioner of the NZ Scout Movement and received a number of awards and on retirement mad a life member.

A founder member of the British Service Ex Boys Association (BSXBA) and the REME Association Branch New Zealand, as Secretary and Treasurer, until poor health forced him to retire. Denys then became the Chairman of the REME committee ensuring the smooth running for the newly appointed officers. He is survived by his wife Jean a son and daughter and five grandchildren. Denys we also salute you.

Ł



The Ladies Column:



Yet another year has passed and once again it is time to provide the editor with an article for the issue 12 2006 of the Beachley Echoes.

Firstly thanks go to Peter Burridge and the committee for staging a superb reunion in 2005, I know Peter has already been working hard preparing for this year's BOBA reunion on the third weekend of September 2006.

Being a fairly new to the association I wonder if any of the lady readers would like to air their views on the yearly BOBA reunion. Do you have any dislikes or improvements you would like brought to the attention of the BOBA committee? Perhaps you have a story you would like related to the members on this page, it's up to you, come on now, pen to paper and write to our editor ladies, I promise he doesn't bite!

I cannot help but notice there are a lot of unaccompanied men at the reunion. Does this mean the 'old boys' are not telling their wives and partners what they are missing by not attending, or do the men just like to see us ladies in high demand on the dance floor! Seriously, any lady who has not yet attended a reunion must cajole her other half to take her, it is a special event where you can chat, drink, eat, but above all, you can meet old acquaintances and of course make new friends.

Finally, if you intend to join us at this years reunion weekend now is the time to start planning (don't leave it to the men), until the reunion on the 15th to 17th Sptember, all the very best.

Margaret Henderson. (My husband is Brian Henderson 65A ~ The BOBA Chairman.)

#### THE THREAT OF THE TREES AT ST. JOHNS

It is always difficult to have to decide to destroy a majestic tree, particularly when it is an English Beech and doubly so painful when the decision is doubled with the two 70 feet magnificent trees involved. This decision would need to have been made regardless if BOBA was involved or not. Both trees trunks were about five metres from the church, one at the rear to the north west, the other at the front nearer the road on the south east corner; both were far to close to the building to be able to gain any useful insurance cover liability. The north westerly tree (at the rear), unbeknown to anyone prior to felling the centre 30 inch core was rotten and most certainly would have afforded much misery to the occupiers of St John's in the not too distant future. This misery in the form of the tree falling possibly on the church, the school house, the civilian cemetery where many Beachley Boys and staff rest, or even the War cemetery where our first CO Major General VTR Ford DSO and A/T's and staff rest. The risks were just far too great, some action taken, this action has been done with due consideration to all aspects that required to be considered.





The photos above portrays the Editor lying on top of the stumps of the trees. The left photo is of the tree nearest the road. The editor is 5' 7" tall, the trunk is wider than the Ed's height, it must have been near to 6' across. The trunk to the rear is at least 5' in diameter and rotten in the centre.

**Message picked up on the Internet: Terry (Josh) Coble 1265. email: terrycoble@onetel.com** I am Ex AAS Beachley 48A. I have already made contact with Mick Bailey, Don Bradley, Dan Buck, Dave Craddock, Norman Shaw, Vic Wardale, of 48A, but would like more chaps from 48A B Coy to contact us with a proposed future re-union. Good Luck All, Josh Coble. Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ 2005 AGM Minutes Page-1

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#### BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, MONS NP16 7YG

Chairman

B Henderson 33 Kensington Park Magor Monmouthshire NP26 3QG



Telephone

Home: 01633 882792 e-mail: brianhend@hotmail.com

Office: 01600 711331 101sqn@rmonre.army.mod.uk

#### March 2006

#### MINUTES OF THE BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN ST GEORGES CHURCH, AT BEACHLEY BARRACKS ON SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005

Present Lt Col S Thomas Maj B Henderson Mr M Murtagh Lt Col I Anthony Mr R Marie Maj M Hay Mr J Furley Mr AW Waite Mr P Burridge Mr R Evershed Mr M Obermaier Maj DRO Walker President Chairman Honorary Life Member Vice President/Welfare Vice President Historian Vice Chairman/St Johns Project Treasurer Reunion Membership Secretary Chepstow Liaison Secretary

#### **Introduction**

1. Prior to the commencement of the meeting the resident padre David Moss, introduced himself and informed the members that he was standing in for Joe Rooney. The meeting in St Georges Church, Beachley Barracks then commenced at 1500 hours with approximately 90 members in attendance.

#### Item 1. Opening Address.

2. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance at The Association's, Annual General Meeting. He then thanked the Executive Committee for all their support and work through the past year and congratulated 55 Group for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

3. Apologies for absence were read out from Col Alan Holman and Lt Col Glyn Chalmers.

#### Item 2. In Memoriam.

4. The list of those who had passed away will appear in the next issue of the Beachley Echoes.

5. Nine names were read out at the meeting and the members present stood and observed a period of silent remembrance.

#### Item 3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM.

6. The minutes of the last AGM, held on Saturday 18 September 20044, were included in the 2005 (Edition 11) edition of the Beachley Echoes. All members should have received their copy, members should be aware of the contents of these minutes and were asked for their comments and observation.





7. Observation: Para 7 should read '2003' and not '2004'. (Derek Walker)

8. There being no comments it was proposed by John Furley and seconded by Ifor Anthony that the minutes be passed as a true record of the proceedings.

#### Item 4. Matters Arising.

- 9. A BOBA contingent would be attending the Cenotaph Parade again this year.
- 10. A number of members attended the celebration at Horse Guards for the WW2, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade in Jul 05.
- 11. A BOBA plaque for the NZ Old Boys has been dispatched.

#### Item 5. Chairman's Report.

12. The Chairman thanked the Committee for the last years support and work. He said the Committee had worked hard and that the last reunion had been very successful. The Cenotaph attendance needed to be increased as there were only 24 on parade last year. The re-introduction of subscriptions had been put in place and this will be monitored through the coming year. There was good coverage on TV for the WW2, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade featuring BOBA attendees. He requested that stories and articles for the Beachley Echoes still be sent in for publication.

#### Item 6. Election of Executive Committee Members.

- 13. The confirmation of the President and Chairman's election was reiterated.
- 14. All committee members stated they would continue in their posts for the coming year. The proposition was put to the floor.

Proposed by Peter Burridge 43B Seconded by Dave Chapman 60A Carried unanimously

15. It was proposed that Peter Burridge be elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition for his outstanding efforts since the creation of New BOBA. Proposed by Brian Henderson 65A Seconded by John Smith 44A

#### Carried unanimously

#### Item 7. Executive Committee Reports.

#### Item 7a. Treasurer's Report

16. Copies of the Financial Statement as at the 31 Dec 04 were made available for members scrutiny. The contents were summed up by the Treasurer, Mr Tony Waite, and comments from the floor were answered. The account had been audited and it was proposed by Mr G White and seconded by Mr S Walker that the Financial Statement be passed as read.

#### Item 7b. Secretary's Report

17. A thank you letter had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund acknowledging the contribution of £360 that was raised from the proceeds of the 2004 Founders Day church service offertory hymn.

#### Item 7c. Membership Secretary's Report

18. <u>New Members</u>. Rocky Evershed stated 57 new members had joined BOBA since the last reunion, he broke them down by decades, the 50's (35) and 60's (13) being the main groups. He was endeavouring to get more members from the 80's/90's ensuring longevity of the Association. BOBA has 795 members

with 46 potential members approached. 4 members lapsed in 2004/5 and 14 were reported deceased.

19. Recruitment has been good mainly due to 55A Group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Many thanks. There is now a system in place to contact old (friends) Boys by contacting myself. You can also use the website, which is in need of a 'webmaster' at this time. Any volunteers?

20. There are other methods of recruitment but by far the best is 'word of mouth', so those who are attending for the first time, go back home and ensure you get another ex boy you know to join! God Bless.

# Item 7d. Historian.

21. Maj. Malcolm Hay, the Historian explained he received a good response from 55A & 55B Groups following his photograph, 'Passing Out' programmes, badges, buttons and other memorabilia request. He requested that all members search their 'attics' for items they might have relating to their time at Beachley.

22. He also raised details on the main gate arch refurbishment for which the Chairman was hoping to get some aid from Property Manager of 160 (Wales) Brigade. Basically it will be taken down, refurbished and re-affixed in the coming year.

23. He was hoping to visit Chepstow Museum soon and liaise with Anne Rainsbury, who was seeking some financial assistance in enabling our records and suchlike to be digitised, but with present uncertainties on the St John's project, etc, he would revisit this at a later date.

# Item 7e. Welfare/Benevolence

24. Lt Col Ifor Anthony commented that last year had been a very busy year with numerous 'get well cards' being sent out. Where possible financial cases had been directed towards the most suitable welfare/military associations. He thanked all the field officers for their support during the year. He advised members whenever possible to approach these representatives, if not they should write to him with details to ensure a satisfactory conclusion.

# Item 8. St John's Project.

25. The President reiterated the background to the School House, use/status since initial occupation and the ongoing problems with tree removal, links with the Church and rental/land registry confirmation being traced. He also thanked Mr John Furley for all his efforts so far.

# Item 9. Any Other Business.

26. Mr David Chapman, 60A, gave a statement on the St John's Church project and queried the need for either the School House or the Church, suggesting storage space, display area and meeting place was all that was required by the association. This was disputed by members from the floor and a discourse on pros and cons arose. Generally it was stated much work had been put in on the project. At present we do not need to spend any monies or make any major decisions until the ownership/registry facts have been established and a proposal was on the table. It was also muted that a 'postal vote' might be utilised to determine the outcome, allowing all the membership to partake not just those in attendance at reunions.

27. Finally a number of propositions were put forward:

a. That the Associations 'Objectives and Rules' be amended to allow 'postal voting' on most important matters as determined by the Executive Committee decided from time to time.

Proposed by: D Chapman Seconded by: S Thomas Carried:(3 against)

b. Proposed not to vote on St John's Project now, but allow the Executive Committee to bring to the Association the costs and recommended avenues of choice for a final decision. Proposed by Jim Carr 42B

Page 16	Beachley Old Boys	s' Association ~ 2005 AGM Minutes Page 4
		Seconded by G White 74A Carried
28. Can more younger me	embers of the Association b	be encouraged to attend the Cenotaph Parades?
<u>Closure.</u>		
		ember 2006. There being no further business the President e and continued loyal attendance and support. The AGM
	Sec writer	BHendarson
н	lon. Secretary	B HENDERSON Hon. Chairman
"The Porthcawl Outing	" or the "The Nosh Goll i	incident''~ by Ollie Allsop 55A A Coy.
dank and dismal at Beac for being such good boys	chley) it was announced by s and eating up all our gre the public's reaction would	what the rest of the country was like it mostly seemed y the higher authorities, that we were to be given a treat ens. We were to be taken on a trip to Porthcawl near my be on seeing us, more probably it was we were getting
young ladies on holiday. forbidden delights we we crafty pint's and for the r	After the initial burst of e ould enjoy, some dreamin more carnal among us the	arge funfair and numerous caravan sites, full of nubile xcitement we settled down in our pits to dream of all the ng of endless helpings of food, for others it was a few e thought of getting to grips with some young ladies (do ginning to work at last) the greedy dreaming of all three.
dency began to set in. T ing the fairer sex, "So I'll bility of my masterful pla	hen a cunning plan begar follow Nosh around and p	and I thought "It's no good I'll never pull a girl" despon- n to form in my mind Nosh Goll is renowned with attract- ounce on his leavings", so, confident of the actual infalli- about bevies of voluptuous females feeding me banana e dreams of youth.
voices with a higher pitch uniforms sharply creased business. I once again cl ble around in my locker (	n than mine. The previous d, boots gleaming brasses hecked my untold wealth, (I'm sure I had another thr	trained for a whole day, oh joy, to be able to hear girl's night had been spent feverously bulling up our kit. With s shining and belts freshly blancoed we looked the real the princely sum of three and six pence, one last scrab- ree pence somewhere), some lucky girl is going to have ed with anything her heart desires.
	before our eyes lay nest	rations, having never seen them before we peer into the led a curly sandwich and a wrinkled apple, never mind
lasted until we had gone songs we could remember it is really happening, we	e at least 15 yards outsid er. As our destination nea	g to get the best seats, off we go, the haversack rations le the main gates, onward we go, singing all the ribald red the excitement began to mount, this is it we thought, of our dreams lay before us, more frantic jostling to get ).
my plan is going down th hind him, now this had tw wouldn't see me until it w	e tubes, its ok I have spot vo advantages, one I woul vas to late, and two no ma ced smugly around at the r	reat at panicking) where was Nosh, I must find Nosh, ted him. Sidling through the crowd I position myself be- d be hidden by his height so the unsuspecting girls tter which side he discarded them I would be in an ideal rest of the boys thinking, "I bet you will wish you had

# Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ Outing cont. & Bits

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Nosh looks around nostrils quivering trying to pick up a scent, he had not noticed me, my lack of height was now an advantage, suddenly he stops looking around and like a retriever he's off, this is it, this is really it, one last check on the wealth in my pocket yes it's all there, let the debauchery begin. It's working, girls are swooning right and left and centre! But "My plan" it's falling apart, the evil git, the swine, the greedy b-----d he's not leaving any for me, what am I going to do, "Thinks", I am a trained soldier, I'll do it on my own, so off I go bags of swank and confidence, soon I spot a young maiden who looked as if she would take pity on a lonely Squaddie, I move I'm on her all boots and sparks, "excuse me", I say in my best squeaky voice (I'll have them off her before she notices the draught). Then my whole world falls apart, she turns towards me looks down at me and in a voice deeper than a Welsh mine say's "What's the matter sonny, lost your mammy?" I stand there crimson and speechless (or was that squeak-less) hoping the ground would open up and swallow me, then the herd instinct kicks in and I scuttle away in a shower of sparks to find the others.

Finding them, the world no longer seemed such a cold and lonely place. I am back with my mates, oh! why did I ever leave them, with them I can be myself, to hell with girls serves them right, they will miss sharing my wealth, that will teach them!

All is going fine, we are enjoying ourselves, stuffed full of fish and chips, candy floss and pop, when suddenly someone points to a group of well made up ladies and in a loud voice says "Are you some of them Queen street girls then?" A stony silence from the girls, we hurriedly depart in case one of them says yes, we would have been terrified (thank God they obviously had not heard the song). Then disaster strikes, it starts to rain, nothing for me to worry about yet, my Russian admirals hat is working a treat, then the rain gets heavier and we notice our uniforms, gone are the knife edged creases and the blanco is running off out belts and down the front of our tunics, now some of us had coated the inside of our trousers with soap to hold the creases in, result, a soapy froth all down the front, what a sight, we looked like a bunch of refugees, on top of this my cap badge had flown off into space when I was on the big dipper, I hope it landed on that bloody girls head.

Sadly the day came to an end and it was time to return to reality. I like to think the outing helped us to retain our sanity, for we had, for all to brief a time become what we were, a bunch of young lads enjoying ourselves. And I still had a whole shilling left.

I hope you all enjoyed this little delve into the past. OLLIE THE JANKER KING.

# PLEASE CAN I HAVE A MOTORBIKE LICENCE?

I never craved to own a motorbike but thought it would be nice to have a licence so in my final term I asked the MT for a test. I was told that that this was not normally allowed but they would make an exception for that fine upstanding figure, the A/T RSM. On a cold day I set off on a BSA M20 with the WO2 Examiner following on another bike. We had not gone far when his engine seized but fortunately he was able to hail a vehicle going towards camp to ask the MT to send out a 15 cwt to pick up the bike. The truck obviously left in a hurry as the driver forgot to do his First Parade and put water in the system and the engine duly seized en route. (In the 50's and certainly when I was in BAOR in '56, only A vehicles had antifreeze and everything else was drained if there was a danger of freezing.) My test was abandoned and on another day I did a figure of 8 (on the bike not on a rink) on the slipway and duly passed. Fortunately after such a comprehensive and challenging test I never owned a motorbike!

#### Malcolm Hay 53A

**A FEW THANK YOU WORDS FROM THE EDITOR:** I really must say a big thank you to all the ex Beachley Boys who make this publication possible and without whom this newsletter would be a very dull annual report. The stories and tales sent in about the times they experienced at Beachley, or of individual lives of ex boys bring life to the newsletter and also grant the chance for the individuals to air their expressive talents and put their thoughts into words as a writer. We all have a little of the writer in us, many of us just have simply never written anything, as the well known expression goes 'I'll get round to it one day'. How about for the next 'Beachley Echoes', a few minutes here and there will produce your master piece, I need it by the end of February 2007. I would appreciate anything produced to be in electronic format, but if that isn't possible hand written will do. Go on give it a go, you can do it if you want. Thanks again, Ed.

R

#### BOBA Membership Secretary's Report by:

#### Rocky Evershed – 61B.

#### **Foreword**

It terrifies me! It's now been eighteen months since I took over as Membership Secretary, and I can't help the feeling that I must be getting older, along perhaps, with maybe one or two of you reading this? You've probably all seen those adverts on the telly where they promise to make you feel younger, healthier, more alive!!!!!: I've tried them all. I've still got "Frown Lines", still got my "Crow's Feet" and my double chin. (Or is it now triple?). Happily still have my "Laughter Lines".

But hey! Guys are just the same as women! We mature and grow wiser. So the next time your feeling a little under the weather, think of the good things that have happened in your life, and ask yourself, "If I had the chance to live my life again, would I change anything?"

Anyway, on with the job in hand!!

#### Membership Fees

As most of you that attended the 2005 AGM will remember, it was unanimously voted, because of ongoing commitments, we would need to re-introduce membership fees again. This has been set at the previous membership fee of £10 per annum, for just five years (£50 for paid up to date membership), this to be paid on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. Please help us to keep the Association going by renewing your membership.

#### New Members

It's been another bumper year for membership. Since March 2005, (1062), we have had another 63 new members (1125). Our total membership so far has now reached 810, and I envisage this to grow even more as the months pass, bearing in mind that this year sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 56 groups. (A little more on this shortly)

#### Potential Members

A further 36 potential members have received the BOBA information pack, of which some have already replied, and become new members.

#### Next of Kin (NOK) Forms

In this issue of the Beachley Echoes, you will find a 'Next of Kin' form. We on the Committee appreciate that this is a delicate subject to talk about, but we feel it necessary that we know who your next of kin is, when a member has passed on, so that we know whom to contact in the family. If a contact is desired, please complete this form, and return it to me.

(The Data Protection Act will apply to all details given)

#### <u>1956 Groups – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</u>

2006 sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 56 groups joining Beachley. If you were in 56 group, or know of anyone else who was, that would like to take part in this landmark anniversary reunion, please contact: John (Butch) Furley 56A. Tel 01291 630491. Mobile: 70831 780512. email: boba@johnfurley.plus.com

#### **BOBA Website:**

Or contact the BOBA Membership Secretary directly: >>>>

Is at: <u>www.boba-beachley.org.uk</u> ~ for info on other related websites see this website's page 5.

Andy Yarrow 76B has a website at: ~ <u>http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com</u>

There is also a site for those who served with the Royal Engineers, at <u>www.engineers-reunited.co.uk</u>

Ве	ach	ley Olo	d Boys' Assc	ociatio	n ~ Nev	v Memb	bers	s & Info		Page 19		·····································
	NEW BOBA MEMBERS JOINING IN THE LAST YEAR:											
1062	Mr	Chas	Spinks	55A	D	j 1097	Mr	Derek So	cott	55A	D	
1063	Mr	Colin	Burnett	54A	А	1098	Mr	Sam W	/oodger	73A	С	
1064	Mr	Gil	Warner	55A	D	1099	Mr		/ard	64C	В	
1065	Mr	Bill	Jopson	51A	С	1100	Mr		urrrant	55A	В	
1066	Mr	Alf	Robbins	55A	D	1101	Mr	John W	/ebb	48B	В	
1067	Mr	Peter	Gatford	62A	А	1102	Mr	Roger B	eard	58B	А	
1068	Mr	Bob	Thorne	37	D	1103	Mr		ead	72C	В	
1069	Mr	Robert	McVinnie	55A		1104	Mr	Dave N	unley	59B	А	
1071	Mr	Peter	Parman	55A	С	1105	Mr		avies	54A	А	
1072	Mr	Herbie	Wodehouse	56B	С	1106	Mr	Paul N	ewbold	70C	Α	
1073	Mr	Don	Grieve BEM	54A	С	1107	Mr	Paul Sa	ancto	59A	J	
1074	Mr	Joe	Beavis	56B	В	1108	Mr	Terry M	cDermott	58B	С	
1075	Mr	John	Clegg	45	С	1109	Mr	Eric C	resswell	47A	D	
1076	Mr	Derek	Fox	58B	С	1110	Mr	Brian H	anks	56A	D	
1077	Mr	Mac	Hosking	44A	А	1111	Mr	Trevor C	oram	56A	С	
1078	Mr	Peter	Marchant	54B	С	1112	Mr	Michael V	okes	56B	С	
1079	Mr	Joe	Beeston	62B	J	1113	Mr	Barrie G	ear	55A	В	
1080	Mr	Brian	Goll	55A	А	1114	Mr	Nick Bi	rowning	56B	В	
1081	Mr	Charlie	Denning	65C	С	1115	Mr	Alan Le	ewis	43B	D	
1082	Mr	Dougie	Lane	39	С	1116	Mr	Michael M	edhurst	50B	С	
1083	Mr	Paul	Barbara	49A	С	1117	Mr	Ray Pa	arrott	56A	D	
1084	Mr	John	Hawkins	63A	В	1118	Mr	Tony Ly	yon	61C	С	
1085	Mr	Peter	Kelly	50B	В	1119	Mr	Nobby C	hambers	52B	D	
1086	Mr	Ron	Sheard	42	С	1120	Mr		oodfellow	42B	С	
1087	Mr	Ollie	Allsop	55A	А	1121	Mr	Viv A	rnold	55A	Α	
1088	Mr	Bob	Bartlett	61B	В	1122	Mr	John H	arrison	51A	С	
1089	Mr	Bill	Melville	61B	A	1123	Mr	Tom Di	ick	62A	С	
1090	Mr	lan	Dickins	47B	А	1124	Mr	Eddie Ta	all	68B	В	
1091	Mr	Vic	Lloyd	61B	С	1125	Mr	Jerry M	cKay	56B	D	
1092	Mr	Peter	Brazier	55A	A	1126	Mr	George R		56B	D	
1093	Mr	Clifford	Castree	60C	A	1127	Mr		oodall	74C		
1094	Mr	Andrew	/ Fox	55B	С	1128	Mr		ichmond	62A	С	
1095	Mr	lan	Gerring	59A	A	1129	Mr		ibb	56A	D	
1096	Mr	Doug	Britton	55A	А	1130	Mr	John Fo	orsterr	62A	С	

#### BOBA INFORMATION PACKS WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING Ex BOB's IN 4/2005 to 4/2006

Peter Riley	57A	Ken Fox	?	Stewart Potter	70B
Bryan Osborne	69C	Trevor Fancy	66C C	Wallace Jones	56B
John Sefton	56A B	Stanley Hallwood	54B B	Bill Eden	62A C
John Stollery	53B A	Brian Watts	56A	Moritz Dawkins	56A C
George Harris Curley Suthers Derek Reid Richard Williams Stuart Massey Peter Townsend Barry Divers	52B 55A D 88 49B 87 55A 65C C	Bill Ashley Nigel Short David Asbury Eddie Blower Ernie Hiscock Brian Holloway Stan Smith	43B 70C A ? 55A 65C 61C 42	Barrie Gough Derek Pudney Graham Drew James McBeth Bill Ashley	62C 79A Staff 57B 43B

If you would like to contact any of the above Gentlemen, please place only a letter, in a sealed and stamped envelope with the name on; send it to the Membership Secretary, who will append the address(es) and forward it (them). Sadly the Data Protection Act makes this necessary.

Membership Secretary ~ Rocky Evershed,

19 Sturdee Avenue, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2JL, UK.

Tel: (0) 1634 850043 Fax: 850207 email: rocky@redex289.f9.co.uk

#### OUR BEACHLEY HERITAGE: by Malcolm Hay 53A.

**Honours and Awards Book** We have a book recording the honours and awards given to ex-Beachley boys with separate pages for the GC, MM, MiD, OBE, MSM, MBE and BEM etc etc. It records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having decorations for which we may be unaware please do notify me with the details and I hope to have the amendments incorporated by the Sept 06 reunion.

**Conversion from Electrician REME to Electrician Control Equipment (ECE).** Following my request in the last Echoes for information on how Electricians were selected for conversion to ECE I received a very detailed reply from John Finnamore 50B who with information from his fellow ECE's provide details on the selection, training aids and training, including attachment to an Artillery unit in Newport.

**<u>Passing out Parade Programmes.</u>** Our earliest held programme is for 45B's Passing Out where **Field Marshall Montgomery** was the Reviewing Officer. We are still looking for any programmes prior to 45B and for 47A, 48A - 49B, 51A - 52A, 55A, 56A - 69C, 70B – 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87

**Photos and Memorabilia.** We had a good response from 55A, much of it coming from the ex convict colony and though sadly 55B had only two attending their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we again had photos and memorabilia from them including a batch from Geoff Trow in NZ. At the reunion one of the 55B attendees, Brian Walker, brought along his excellent collection of AAS Badge and Titles etc for display at the Heritage gathering on the Saturday morning. It is hoped that the members of **56A and 56B** can **search the attics and albums for items** and send them to me for display at their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion.

Malcolm Hay 53A ~ Heritage Member

MAP READING EXERCISE ~ Colin Weir 55A A Coy.

I wonder how many of the superb 55A A Coy remember, the week long map reading exercise that OC A COY "Major Dusty Miller" took us on through the wilds of Monmouthshire. Each day after breakfast groups of us were given maps, references and haversack rations. (The processed cheese doorsteps and the obligatory green cooking apple) and told to plan the route and scoot.

On one occasion our group had the option of climbing over a small mountain or taking a forbidden "soft option" and going through a tunnel with a single track line. Guess what we chose. Correct. Fifty yards into the tunnel it was pitch black, initially we kept contact by talking, then one voice became fainter, stop was the order as we heard plaintiff cries for help. The nearly lost one and one was in tears. Eventually he made contact, we then decided to proceed in a line holding on the small pack of the one in front, after what seemed a lifetime we spotted a glimmer of light ahead, spirits were lifted then dashed, as we got closer we could see that it was a ventilation shaft. Disillusioned we realised we were only half way through, which silly buggers thought this was going to be a doddle? Another light was spotted in the distance, the idea that we had made it was short lived, the spotted light was none other than a diesel train. Desperately we run our hands along the wall searching for the alcoves the workmen used to put themselves out of danger from any passing train, like most things you couldn't find them when needed. We flapped. Lie on the floor near the wall was all we could think of. The rattle and roar of the speeding train brought with it a fresh fall of soot from the roof that had been deposited there from the steam train age. Undaunted we eventually emerged from the tunnel looking like half a dozen chimney sweeps, as black as the ace of spades and stinking. In another story I described the Chepstow Goldfish drifting on the tide in the Wye, this time they were unseen on the floor in the tunnel flushed from the passing trains.

After spending half an hour de-gunging ourselves, we took stock and realised our short cut had taken hours. The outcome was we were desperately behind time, couldn't find the RV in the dark, I slept fitfully on a big slate slab that was used for milk churns with Bob Apps, with the break of dawn we discovered we were only two hundred yards from the tented camp. We got less than an hour's sleep before Sgt. Yappy Yarwood, he of the Lancashire Fusiliers, kicked us out of bed and briefed us for another little excursion. Wack Butters was another member of the group but my memory fails me as to the remainder.

Ter Ra, Colin Weir 55A

Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ BOB Story & Jobs Market!

# DRIVING TEST BEACHLEY FASHION:

The three year Vehicle Mechanics course stared with bashing blocks of steel with a hammer and chisel and finished with the icing on the cake, - 'The driving course'.

We had 15 Cwt Bedford trucks and after a couple of weeks terrorising the other A/T's on the roads around Beachley, we were set free onto the King's Highway.

It's a long time ago, but I remember going through Lydney and Newent-on-Severn, but never as far as Gloucester. In the other direction we went through PwlImeyric (where I live today), on through Caerwent and Magor and to the outskirts of Newport, but again never into the town itself. It was a lovely summers day and we enjoyed getting out of the camp on a daily basis! The driving tests were taken during our final week at Beachley and I was the last man behind the wheel on that memorable afternoon. The driving instructor, a corporal in the RASC asked me for the time? In those days of 1948 very few owned a watch, so being an A/T Sgt. I shouted into the back of the truck, 'Anyone got the time?' ~ the reply came 'five to four'. A look of absolute horror appeared on the corporal's face and he spluttered, 'We're going to miss tea!' In those days food was a form of currency and an important one – to miss a meal was absolutely unheard of. 'Get through Chepstow and you've past your test', the corporal cried!

At the time we were stopped by the pavement, really waiting our turn to go through the town Arch, in Chepstow's Moor Street. As the corporal finished speaking, a large lorry with 'ALL BRITISH' past us to go through the Arch, I let the clutch in and by sheer luck and good fortune got right behind the lorry. From then on my eyes did not leave the lorry's tailboard. Down the main street, passing the shops we normally stared into, Herbert Lewis's, nor Woolworth's taking not even the slightest glance. I turned left into Middle Street, at what was then the Cinema, continuing on down past the 'Five Alls, and the 'Bunch of Grapes' still glued to the 'ALL BRITISH' lorry in front of me. On arrival at the Old Wye Bridge, by the Castle, we pulled up to wait out turn crossing the bridge. Our corporal told me to move over and he promptly got behind the wheel. He drove like Fangio over the Wye iron bridge and back to camp. Every one got tea, except me, as being in the A/T Sergeant's Mess, tea had been at 16:15 Hrs, all there was left was stone cold and all I could get was bread and scrape and rock cakes! But I had passed my test!!!

Exactly 21 years later, I was in a Bristol Motor Show room, contemplating the purchase of a very sleek sports car. The salesman said it was his favourite car, stroking the bonnet lovingly and he went into his very professional sales pitch. He concluded by saying the car would reach 130 MPH and with a big smile assured me, I wouldn't need a special licence to drive it and achieve this speed. For the first time in years I thought of and remembered my Army days and managed to stop myself saying: 'If you knew how I got my licence, you wouldn't want me to even polish the car, leave alone drive it!!!

James Freeman 45B ~ Band.

# **DEMOB - JOB ~ JOKING APART:** This is believed genuine information.

'Demob - Job' operations manager informs me it's a very genuine outfit and for more than half of those who passed through Beachley's portals as apprentices, during its 70 years of existence, it is a seemingly good opportunity to source a new job, whether you are currently employed or not..

Adrian Cheesman ~ Demob Job's Operations Manager, offers a website to surf for employment at:

http://www.demobjob.co.uk/home.htm

you can also talk to, fax, email, or write to him.

Talaabaaaa	0404 4554005	Postal Address:
Telephone:	0191 4551995	DEMOB - JOB
Mobile:	07813 655 898	PO Box 147
		SOUTH SHIELDS
Facsimile:	0191 4551995	NE34 6WT
		I hope they are as good as they sound, Ed.
email: <u>adria</u>	n@demobjob.co.uk	Thope they are as good as they sound, Ed.



## Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ One Boy's Story -1

<u>One "Boy's" Story</u>: T88179 Ken G. Smart 43 Group A Coy was introduced to the editor by Rod Travers-Griffin 46B, who found his story so interesting. Initially a 'Jersey Boy' Ken became a 'Beachley Boy', photo taken of Ken at 51 years old.

My story commences on the 31st August 1939 for T/88179 A/T KG Smart RASC, and concludes on the 22nd July 1972, as 36010 Major KG Smart, Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

I joined as a Boy soldier and was sent to the Army Technical School (Boys) RASC in Jersey, Channel Islands. World War 2 started on the 3rd of September. (I swear, I had nothing to do with that). Had a wonderful year in Jersey, and made it out, before Jerry made me a POW at 15.



knew what to do with us. Eventually we were sent to Beachley Camp, Chepstow, what a dreadful place after Jersey! I trained as a Mechanic and recall during initial training having to precision chisel and file in atrociously cold conditions.

My British Army Record of Service, indicates that I spent 3 years 288 days on `Boy` Service. My memory is rather dim on the subject now, but I think I was in 43A Group (Confirmed 43 Group A Coy Ed.)

Left Beachley in 1943 (Beachley records state 11-01-43 Ed) and was posted as a Vehicle Mechanic Class 3 to an RASC Workshop in Norwich (Confirmed, 61 Command, Ed), which serviced the vehicles all round the East Anglian coast. Like most youngsters, I wanted to get into the `proper war` and I pestered my OC for an `overseas` posting. In September 1944 I was placed on the troopship, Duchess of Bedford, with the task of landing in Greece to assist in that Country's liberation. Whilst we at sea, the Greek people liberated themselves, so we were diverted to Egypt, and I spent 7 weeks in a transit camp on the Suez Canal.

In November, I was posted to 406 (Works Services) Coy RASC in Iraq. The Workshop I joined, had just arrived in Basra after spending over 2 years in India. I was the first new face they had seen in that time and no one would talk to me (I'm not kidding!). The OC realised the situation and sent me to a detachment about 20 miles west of Basra at Shaibah. I had a platoon of Dodge tippers to maintain, and the only other British Other Rank was a driver Cpl. We lived in a tent that had the walls dug into the ground and three of the walls were lined with shelves of books of every subject imaginable, thanks Red Cross, Bless them! The Cpl used to talk, but not to me. The first day there, I asked a question, and was told, "I'm not effing talking to you". I read, and read, and read, and kept the tippers running. A year later I was sent to Beirut for 2 weeks 'sick leave', after living on dehydrated vegetables in Iraq, ate as much fresh vegetables as I could. When I returned to Shaibah I found that I had been 'accepted'. I can't recall celebrating VE Day, but vividly remember getting as 'full as a boot' on an RE launch on the Shat-el-Arab on VJ Day.

Repatriated in early 1946, then I returned to MELF (Alexandria) posted to 591 GHQ Car Coy in Cairo. Later moved from Cairo to take all our equipment and vehicles to the Canal. In February 1947, I was promoted to P/ A/MSM, having held the rank of Mechanist Staff Sergeant for the previous 18 months. I left MELF in October 1947, posted first to Chester for a short time and then to a Driver Training near Yeovil. I was made a Substantive Mechanist Sergeant Major in 1948 in the UK and also in 1948 I got married.

November 1949 saw me posted to MELF again as an MSM, first to Benghazi and on to Tobruk. In 1951, we were dismayed to be all transferred to REME. In 1951 my 12 years was `nearly up`, but due to the problems in Korea, us Regulars had to serve an extra year. An ACI informed the New Zealand Army were looking for skilled tradesman. I jumped at the chance and applied, cheekily writing to my OC in eventually in February 1952 my release was approved. My AB 64 (which I still have) carries the `sweet` statement, "Certified Full Scale Civilian Outfit Issued 6 Feb 1952". During my 2 tours overseas, I had lived or travelled through every Arab country with the exception of Algeria and Morocco. I wouldn't like to repeat it today!

In my Regular Army 'Certificate of Service'. My 'Service with the Colours' page, boldly states :-

Corps	CorpsCountryFrom		Years Days.	Years Days.			
RASC "	C Home MELF PAI Force	31.8.39 28.9.44 6.11.44	27.9.44 15.11.44 1.10.47	5 2	29 49 320 (Persia and Iraq Force)		
"	Home	2.10.47	28.11.49	2	59`````		
"	MELF	29.11.49	30.6.51	1	214		
REME	"	1.7.51	31.1.52		215		
"	Home	1.2.52	13.3.52		42		
What a great de	al these few lines cove	r.					



# Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ 22 - cont. & WW2~The Mall

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In June 1952 I arrived in Wellington, New Zealand, to become a Kiwi soldier. I had to revert to the rank of Sgt, in 1954 I was placed on a Officer Selection Board. I passed and was commissioned as a 2Lt in April of that year.

My first posting was as an Instructor at the RNZEME Training School at Waiouru, then to the Southern District Workshop, at Burnham in the South Island. Promoted Lt in 1955, Capt in 1961 and Major in 1965, at which time I commanded the main workshop in the South Island. In 1968, I became DADEME, Southern Military District.

My wife died of breast cancer in January 1969 and my DEME decided to post me to command the 1st Infantry Workshop RNZEME just outside Auckland. On retirement at the age of 47, in 1972, I had served 20 years in the NZ Army. My last posting was that of DADEME, Field Force Command, Auckland, ended my Army career.

I met an English lady in Auckland and remarried in 1975, in 1978 we decided to move to Australia; the best move I ever made and, of course, we are still here and LOVING it!!

Now in my 81st year, I look back with some pride at what I made of my career, and I owe it all to the training I received as a "Boy soldier" and perhaps to those weird people in Iraq, who by their complete lack of communication, obliged me to READ and LEARN so much.

OUR NEW BOBA STANDARD

#### My Best wishes, Ken Smart 43 Group A Coy.

My personal thanks to Rod Travers-Griffin for introducing me to Ken through the Internet ~ Ed.

Up to mid 2005 we had as our BOBA standard the College BOBA Standard of the BOBA closed down by the MOD. This standard displayed the old Army Apprentices Badge. As a gesture to our WW2 dead and to take part in the celebration parade on the 10th July 2005, the committee voted to purchase a newly designed BOBA Standard depicting our BOBA Badge. This done, both standards paraded at Horseguards, our president Syd Thomas

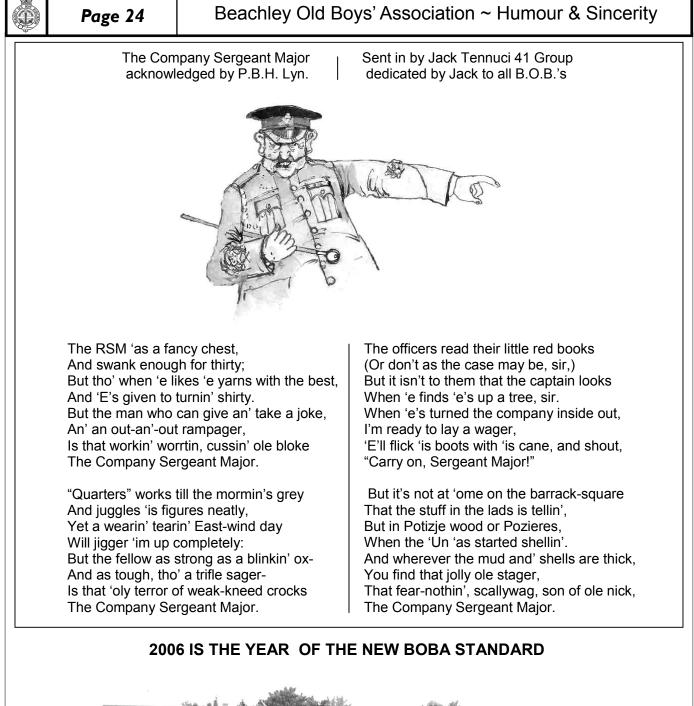


John John Syd Baz Furley Overs Thomas Morgan 47A carried the old college standard and John Overs 39 Group carried the new BOBA Standard. For the 'The Mall' march and into the front court yard of Buckingham Palace John Furley 56A and Baz Morgan 73B took over the respective standards. Both Syd and John, after parading at Horseguards remained with the parade joined the relief standard bearers, John & Baz for the long march up 'The Mall'.

# AN HONOURED AND PROUD DAY



What a day, I felt so honoured to be there, marching up The Mall carrying "The New BOBA Standard' and representing The Beachley Old Boys' Association. I know Syd, John and Baz found the event equally as exhilarating. We all certainly did you well lads, I am sure you would all have been proud of us. We were in the front rank of the main body of about 600 standards, the arrows point to our position. (Humbly Ed.)





# Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ Short lived as an A/T Cpl.

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#### I loved my tiny 8' x 6' bunk at Beachley - by John Furley 56A D Coy (Ed).

At times I despaired of ever being promoted an A/T NCO at Beachley, I suppose this wasn't unreasonable, primarily because I never seemed to be free of 'Jankers' long enough to be considered for such an enviable situation. If you remember in the Echoes Issue 10 of 2004, I related the story of how I was in detention for being <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> of an hour late back from a day pass; when I was informed of my imminent A/T NCO promotion. The late Major Harry Porter, the old BOBA Secretary for many years had kept a beady eye on me and decided I would be a good A/T NCO. (At least I think he was quite right in most ways, but I would, wouldn't I?)

I was duly promoted in part one orders just prior to the summer leave period, off I went home sporting my two tapes; Mum and Dad were so pleased! After leave back we came to Beachley and I was given the bunk in charge of a 57A group room, I do remember the late Ken Standen was in the room as an A/T starting his 4<sup>th</sup> term. (Didn't my life long pal Ken do well, a year later he was A/T CSM D Coy.) All went flowingly for just over five weeks, then one mournful day, I was just walking out of D Coy lines to go to the guard room to book out to visit Chepstow, when along the



road came our permanent staff platoon Sergeant in his civilian car. He stopped and quizzed: 'Are you going to Chepstow', I replied 'Yes Sgt.'. 'Jump in, I'll give you a lift.' he said. Being a little taken aback by the offer, I reminded him he wasn't supposed to give apprentices a lift; which he scorned and re-iterated 'Jump in!' So I did! He drove up to and round the corner of D Coy office and on up the road. By the NAAFI, I asked the Sgt to let me out to book out. He just said 'You've been out without booking out before'. And just drove on out of camp. 'I stated quite strongly, 'I don't have a cover up Sgt., if I get caught I will get bust and lose my bunk'. 'Don't worry', he said 'I'll see you're alright'. Later when Permanent staff RP, L/Cpl. Jackson and I saw each other in Chepstow, I thought nothing of it, forgetting I hadn't booked out, greeted him as normal.

When I arrived back at camp, I went past the main gate and nipped over the sports field wall to re-enter camp; in a couple of minutes I arrived back in D Coy lines. The A/T Duty NCO Cpl. Dusty Millar 56B was waiting. 'Butch, why didn't you tell me you weren't going to book out? I had to put a absentee report in for you.' I replied, 'Don't worry Dusty' and off I went to the bunk of the permanent staff platoon sergeant who gave me the lift. Just my luck, he wasn't in, so ran to the Sgt's mess, he wasn't there either. I rushed back to my bunk and said to Dusty, 'Did you go right down the front in the TV room when you did the roll call?' 'No' said he, 'I just called 'roll call' at the doorway.' I thanked Dusty and bid him good night. I got changed into my track suit bottoms, PT vest and pumps, rubbed my eyes until they were red and ran up to the guard room and reported I had been asleep in the TV room. The Duty Sergeant said you had better get the D Coy permanent staff Duty Corporal to sign a nil absentee report. Off I went and completed that, feeling very apprehensive about sating the problem I went to bed and tried to forget it. Next day at NAAFI break emerging from the workshops for my mug of tea. Low and behold L/Cpl. Jackson (Jacko) of the RP staff was waiting for me. 'Cpl Furley' he said, 'orders at 13.00 hrs.' 'What for', says I. 'You'll find out' says he.'

By the time I turned up for orders I had worked out what the problem was. RP 'Jacko' had seen me down town and probably had stumbled across the absentee report in the guard room, this time he put two and two together and made four, for a change!!! I was marched in on orders, Major Harry Porter asked me if I had anything to say. What could I say, so my reply was 'No Sir!' 'Remanded for CO's orders, march out Sergeant Major'. Later that afternoon I was quite correctly bust to A/T by the CO, Lt. Col. Cordy Simpson.

To give myself an excuse for losing my bunk; I asked myself this question for years, what on earth did I see in a room of just 8' x 6', but I really know what I revered about it and remember clearly, it was my little private domain, some privacy after an open barrack room for two and a half years, that's what was I liked!

It took me another two and a half years in man service to get promoted to L/Cpl and win another bunk and this time a decent size of 20' x 10'. Two and a half years later I was allotted a brand new married quarter!!

Our permanent staff Platoon Sergeant never did surface again at Beachley, I can only assume he was also rumbled and was returned to his parent unit, perhaps in disgrace!

Take care and best wishes, John Furley 56A D Coy (Ed.)



If you served between 1st January 1955 and 31st December 1959 you will be entitled to a badge with effect from 27th June 2006. The Veteran's Agency cannot accept applications from veterans within this new criteria until 27th June 2006 so please do not send an application before that date.

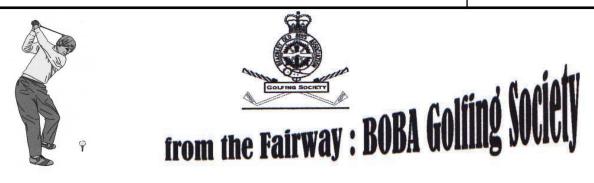
If you require assistance with an application or require a form please contact: John Furley: Tel: 01291 630491 Email: jf@johnfurley.plus.com Or post: 9 Park View, SEDBURY, Chepstow, Glos. NP16 7BE.



The Beachley Old Boys' Association  $\sim$  The Fairway  $\sim$  page 1:







In my inaugural year as coordinator of the BOBA Golfing Society I am pleased to say the weather was very kind to us after what was possibly an iffy forecast and the turnout, although slightly diminished from previous years was good, even the deserters to St Pierre played on the Friday. (They did play St Pierre on the Thursday). We look forward to a good turnout in 2006. In 2005 we fielded 14 players on the Friday and 28 for the BOBA Open this included three ladies and several new members: Dave Fettis 82C, Charlie Denning 65C, Dave Potton 69C and his wife Judy and a special welcome to Bill Welch 55A and his wife Kathie all the way from down under.

The previous BOBA Trophy has been renamed The Ken Standen Trophy in honour of our Society founder member who passed away in 2004, our condolences go to Julie. We had the pleasure to ask Julie to present the trophy for the first time. (Pictured right presenting the trophy to Dave Fettis). Many thanks Julie.

As in previous years one member, Dave Fettis, would have received more than one prize, but for our one prize per player rule and so could not also win the Longest Drive. This went to the second place Charlie Denning. As with Alf Chrascina who would have won the Handicap Cup but for his win of Par 3's. All in all a great time was had despite the apparent low scoring and we hope for better next year.



### The results of the B.O.B.A. Open Golf Championship 2005 are:-

Longest Drive (9 <sup>th</sup> hole)	Nearest the Pin (18 <sup>th</sup> hole)	Best Par 3's
Charlie Denning 65C	John Green 73B 71 inches	Alf Chrascina 67B
(Not measured)		

Drawn P	airs (The Geor	ge Murray Cup)		
Winners	61 points	Dave Fettis 82C	& Andy	Foster 75C
(Second	57 points	Stan Wildash 53B	& David	d Fowle 66C
-	-	On co	unt bacl	k)
The Han	dicap Cup			
Winner		Svd Thomas	171	35 nointe

Winner Second

35 points Syd Thomas 47A 31 points John Green

The winner of The Ken Standen Trophy Second

Dave Fettis 82C Alf Chrascina 67B

39 points 38 points

THE KEN STANDEN TROPHY

My thanks go to all golfers, especially President Syd, Tony Battle, Tony Waite and Peter and Pat Saunders for your assistance, it really was appreciated. Special thanks to Glen Chalmers for his handover notes without which I would have struggled.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2006, to include our regulars who were absent in 2005.

Regards, Foster Pattison

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	Page 28	The Beachley Old Boys' Association ~ The Fairway page - 2:
The 2006 BOBA Open Golf Championship.		
The BOBA Open is in the form of an 18 hole Stableford competition open to all members of the BOBA Golfing Society who must be BOBA members and /or their spouses / partners.		
It will be held at the Dewstow Golf Club Caerwent on Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2006 on the Valley Course. All golfers are required to meet in the clubhouse at 8.15 am on Saturday morning.		
Those wishing to enter should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for $\pounds 25$ made payable to BOBA.		
Start times will be allocated on Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2006 and all golfers informed by e mail or letter.		
In the event of too many entries being received, a "1 <sup>st</sup> come 1 <sup>st</sup> served" system will be placed in op- eration.		
PLE	ASE RETURN TO:	Foster Pattison,
		Flat 1, 12 Marine Parade,
		Clevedon,
		North Somerset,
	-	BS21 7QS Fo arrive at the latest by: 2nd September 2006.
To arrive at the latest by. Zhu September 2000.		
Plea	ase complete <b>FULL</b> `	Y and in BLOCK CAPITALS.
RAI	NK / TITLE:	SURNAME: FORENAME:
ADI	DRESS	
PO	STCODE:	TEL: E-MAIL:
CHEPSTOW GROUP / INTAKE: COMPANY:		
GOLF MEMBER AT:		
I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH		
I WISH TO PLAY ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON * YES / * NO (* DELETE AS APPLICABLE.)		
I ENCLOSE MY CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO "B.O.B.A." TO THE VALUE OF £25.		
SIG	NED	DATE