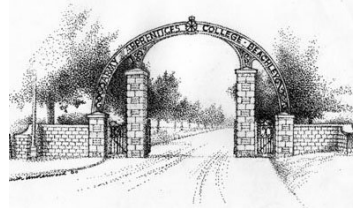




Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 13 ~ April 2007



THE DECISION WILL BE YOURS - EVENTUALLY

Is Our President's thought on

The Old School House (OSH) and St Johns Church (SJC)

After the last AGM, as requested by the members, I wrote to Defence Estates at Brecon once again, this time to request clarification of our position in respect of the OSH, they passed it on to HQ 160(W) Bde. Over a month later I wrote direct to G4 Estates at HQ 160 Bde, asking for a reply – weeks later our Chairman managed to find out that a copy of my letter had been passed to Divisional Headquarters (Shrewsbury). An email message from Defence Estates dated 27 Feb advised us that discussions were taking place and that the OSH had now been accepted into the Regional Prime Contract (Repairs). Over four months now and we have not yet received a formal written reply from 160 Bde. Currently the position is that the OSH needs a survey, extensive work on the roof, wide-ranging remedial work on the outer walls to ensure it's safety we await the Defence Estates to inspect the building.

Progress has been little better on the SJC front, John Furley and I have been tasked by your Committee to prepare a brief. This brief will contain the foreseen necessary work to bring the SJC up to an acceptable condition for use as a possible 'BOBA Home'. From this report we would expect to be able to go to tender action, (in simple terms, we need to know 'How Much It Will Cost ~ and how much has to be raised'). It has proved to be a daunting task as each time we think we are nearly there we realise that there are other problems to resolve first. The internal work necessary has been listed, the supply of services noted and need for a pathway/vehicle track from the road is being investigated, but, before we progress we MUST ascertain the condition of St Johns roof timbers; to date we have not been too concerned about them as it has been assumed because the roof line was good, there would be no problem. However, the School House has taught us differently, the roof line is also good there,

but we know the timbers inside the annex roof at least, are in a very poor condition. Assessing SJC roof will be no easy task as it is very high and there is no internal access to the inner roof from the inside of SJC. There are a few loose tiles, however it is what is underneath them that concerns me; suffice to say that we are now seeking the services/advice of a qualified surveyor, (to keep costs down we aim to provide/erect a scaffolding ourselves). I firmly believe that the resulting survey report on the roof of SJC will be the deciding financial factor in the progression of the SJC project to any fruition.

On The 13th Feb '07, Defence Estates advised us by email that we could possibly be granted a lease on the OSH, but it would be for a maximum of 5 years (renewable). Also that if the OSH were to be sold it would be on the Open Market, I don't think we could be interested with the kind of money a sale on the open market would almost certainly generate.

What for the future – the membership were very much in favour of us securing a permanent home and your committee will try it's utmost to provide that for you. Sadly there is no quick fix. In the past you have heard some very convincing arguments against a permanent home, albeit from a distinct minority, who have as passionate a belief in the future BOBA as I have, we have listened to their alternatives, and indeed taken some of their ideas of on board, however - eventually you, the Membership, will have to take the final decision in an official postal vote.

We hope to have a more positive report by the time of the AGM, but at this time I honestly cannot foresee that I will have anything concrete to propose then. Please all remember, Rome was not built in a Day!



Continued from 'Front Cover'.

Factors also requiring serious consideration in the SJC and OSH situation:

St John's and the Old School House Project, precisely just what have we achieved to date? At the 2006 AGM the committee were able to report the lease had been signed with the Diocese of Gloucester! How much we have achieved since that declaration, as stated, not much. The reason has been because the MOD have continue to drag their feet on any decision regarding repair of the Old School House. What has the Old School House to do with St John's Church I can hear many members asking? The reply must be just that the committee were tasked by the membership to discover which building was best for our needs, financially, and to facilitate our needs. Before we are able move forward with this project we need to know exactly what, if anything, the MOD wants to do about the Old School House, after all it is a major part of the equation! They claim to own the building; however the OSH does not have an MOD building's number to date, which all MOD buildings on Beachley Peninsular have allotted to them, even those buildings which have been sold or demolished all had MOD building numbers. Until very recently and then only verbally the MOD have steadfastly refused to grant the building a financial budget and have stated repairs are a BOBA responsibility. The fact that the OSH & SJC are both Grade II listed buildings has not excited the MOD at all, nor does the fact that the roof is now in such poor condition, there is in a danger of it being extensively damaged by severe storms; in fact we have lost many roof slates this winter and the infrastructure of the annex roof supports at least are in very poor condition. The MOD's current answer is to send a man round to fix the slipped roof slates; they don't want to hear or take on board that the annex roof timbers are in very poor condition, and the building in general is seriously falling apart.

Points for SJC are: 1. It is in a much better condition than the OSH. 2. Many 'Wind and Weather' jobs have been completed at the Diocese cost. 3. The two 70 feet Beech trees which threatened the very structure of the building have been felled at our request, paid for by the Diocese, at a major cost of £10,000.00. 4. The windows have all been repaired/replaced and the front window protected all at the Diocese cost. 5. All loose damaged exterior/interior masonry has been extensively repaired. 4 & 5 together cost estimated at £5,000.00. 6. We can do what we like to the interior of the Church, within sensible reason. 7. It is not only feasible, but true to say, the building can be ours at the very reasonable cost of £5,000.00. 8. Mains services installation should be fairly simple, as ground access is available.

Points against SJC: 1. Perhaps the building is a trifle too large for our future needs, but grants us a greater scope for the future. 2. The costs for upkeep are not tremendous, but will require the reinstatement of membership fees from time to time, as any building containing our 'Association Home' would.

Points for the OSH: 1. Is a more suitable size for our needs. 2. Annual costs will be less than SJC.

Points against OSH. 1. We do not own the OSH, but could by adverse possession. 2. OSH requires a staggering amount of work which could possibly equate to costs required for SJC. 3. The OSH annex roof is in poor condition, requiring refurbishment, the main OSH roof requires a survey inspection. 4. Tiles have been ripped from both the main and annex roofs in recent storms. 5. The water supply appears to come from Beachley House, perhaps without the owners knowledge, or consent. Also the Drainage is to a septic tank on Beachley House land. 6. Any main services connection will be difficult to arrange and more over install because of access.

Urgent point of note: MOD control the sewage on Beachley peninsula, the MOD could refuse BOBA a connection to this service for SJC and possibly the OSH should the facility of the septic tank be lost. Please note importantly we do not have the option to install a septic tank in a cemetery, OSH or SJC.

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The Chairman's Jottings:

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS:

For most of us the sign that spring has arrived is the sight of daffodils in our gardens and for those of us live in or near the Principality, the celebration of Dewi Sain (St David's Day). Not for me though, spring is signified by a flurry of e-mails and the odd phone call from the editor of The Beachley Echoes informing me that my jottings and the Ladies column are long overdue.

If I may start by looking back to our last reunion, which I enjoyed immensely and I believe went extremely well. There were a couple hiccups, but these were put down to the new owners taking over the hotel literally days before our reunion. Rest assured these issues were addressed within hours of reunion end, and we are confident that the hotel management will provide us with excellent service at our reunion's in future.

Planning for the 2007 reunion is well advanced and you will find comprehensive details in the centre of this issue of the Echoes. Also included is a sheet of labels which should be glued over the relevant pages in your rule book, the committee believed this is by far the most economical way of amending the publication.

The reunion this year will follow the usual format and I encourage all members of the association, if possible, to join us in September. Mr Peter Burridge our reunion organiser, who liaises with the hotel has negotiated the best possible prices for the meals we take in the hotel, to this is added a number of 'on costs' such as entertainment. So please remember the £10 plus you pay on the Friday is for the 'evenings event' as it includes an element of entertainment, as well as the cost of your supper. This simple rule also applies to all other functions we put on over the course of the weekend. We also keep the costs as low as possible by subsidising the weekend from the general purpose fund.

At this point I was about to mention the St John's

Church project, but by now you will have read the front page and be fully aware of the situation, needless to say our President and Vice Chair working hard on what is sometimes a frustrating project.

Hopefully for those of us who access to the world wide web (www) you will have seen the revitalised BOBA website. Thanks go to the Membership Secretary, Mr Rocky Evershed, who has completed an immense amount of work by taking on the BOBA homestead site. The keen ones' amongst the membership will notice that our website now contains all previous copies of the Echoes.

One of the many highlights of the reunion weekend is the heritage display which is set up in the hotel on the Saturday morning. This is a very popular event and is organised by Maj. Malcolm Hay, who works tirelessly throughout the year gathering articles, memorabilia, etc, of our history. Malcolm is always pleased to have members of the association peruse his display but would also be appreciative of a helping hand during the setting up process.

The presentation of the annual golf prizes prior to the reunion dinner is all I see of this particular element of the weekend, it is well enjoyed by all who participate. Thanks go to Mr Fos Paterson who pulls this event together for the benefit of the golfing members of the association.

Finally my thoughts turn to the church parade and the Founders Day service, can I ask that those members attending to join us on the square at Beachley Barracks and later in St Georges' church. Our Padre, the Reverend Joe Rooney, delivers an entertaining sermon, which also includes a strong message. It would be nice to have maximum attendance and raise the roof, 'just like the old days'.

That's all for now; hope to see you in September.

2007 REUNION ID NAME HOLDERS:

Once again we will be presenting a reunion name holder for all members attending the reunion this year. They are of a simple design on laminated card, which will be inserted into the 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 please, 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?

Malcolm Hay



53A A Coy



1956 Group's 50th Anniversary Year.

56A - Attendees:

Jim Dunn D Coy
John Furley D Coy
George Gibb D Coy
Derek Hunter A Coy
Ken Nunn D Coy
Tony Orchard B Coy



56B - Attendees:

Joe Beavis B Coy
Glen Chalmers B Coy
Jerry McKay D Coy
Tony Mitchell D Coy
Barnie Mills D Coy
Pete North D Coy
Pat Pattison D Coy
Trigger Rodgers D Coy
Harry Vokes C Coy
Herbie Wodehouse C Coy
Brian Woodward C Coy

Apologies were received from Jack Dandy 56A C Coy & Brian Hanks 56A D Coy.

AAH!!! (or UGH!!!) Memories by Fos "Pat" Pattison 56B.

For those of us who passed maths (or had a GCE if you were posh) it was not rocket science to realise 2006 was the 50th Anniversary of 56A & 56B. Together John "Butch" Furley and I started 18 months earlier in our attempts to contact as many as possible from our two groups. Butch had already written to all known BOBA members from 56A and likewise myself those of 56B. The humungous task then was to try to contact more. This proved harder than was envisaged and time had run out before I could get more than 37 contacts, of which 11 promises to attend from 56B, Butch obtained similar numbers from 56A, sadly only 6 six 56A attended.

Reunion Friday duly arrived and the task then began of trying to recognise each other. Each of us trying to imagine the faces from 50 years ago without wrinkles, teeth gone, eyes gone and hair thinning if not gone. It was a hard and sometimes embarrassing task. I remember talking to Ken Nunn without recognising Jock Gibb, nor he me, despite having been in the band together. It was several hours later when he came up to me and said " I remember you now". Once we had established each others identity (thanks somewhat to the lapel badges) the weekend turned out to be a great success with buckets of sand were dug and lamp shades galore set swinging.

The climax of the weekend was on Sunday morning when the 56 groups were given the honour of leading the march past on church parade and performing the traditional tasks in the church. Many promises were made to keep in touch and to attend further BOBA reunions. Let us hope. I will be there God willing. I will however continue in my endeavours to contact and persuade more to join.

Weekend enjoyment by: Harry Vokes 56B C Coy

It was our Groups 50th Anniversary this year, and like many others I thought to myself it would be nice to meet up with some of those who walked through those famous gates just off the point at Beachley. So after being contacted by Fos 'Pat' Pattison I decided to bite the bullet and join BOBA. What a brilliant move. When the invitation came to attend the annual reunion in Chepstow I persuaded my other half to give it a go, we paid the money and looked forward to the event. That was in April, as the weekend drew closer I was thinking what have we let ourselves in for? What a smashing weekend, first of all, it is such a pleasure to see friends last seen in some cases forty seven years ago, who still recognise each other. Also to hear the different stories that they have to tell for all those years. I was also impressed with the friendliness and politeness of all those that were there. In addition I did not hear one swear word when ladies were present in the little talking groups. Beachley taught us brilliantly.

The Church parade was very moving and in some cases not in step but that was hilarious in its own way. D coy were never as in step as C was in the early years, no names mentioned. Personally, during my 3 years at Chepstow I was never considered for any rank other than A/T, so when the opportunity came to read the names of past ex-boys who were killed in action during the Sunday church service I jumped at it, During our time at Beachley, if I remember correctly it was the A/T Orderly Sgt's task, and although I did not give the Padre time to say his little piece before I read the names out it was an honour that I shall never forget.

Vi and I had a most enjoyable weekend and look forward to it becoming a regular date in our social calendar.



Words of praise from: Barney Mills 56B D Coy

This was not my first reunion but the one I would be most looking forward to. Fos 'Pat' Pattison had put in a lot of hours searching and then persuading group members to attend. On the day eleven of us assembled, a good attendance considering there is usually three or four of us. All in all the weekend was too short, to recall so much that had happened all those years before, and of course the memory is not what it used to be. Hopefully we will carry on next year and increase the numbers.

The glowing words of Glen Chalmers 56B 'B' Company

Although I was "persuaded" to join the Association on leaving Beachley, I can only re-call one early return when a gang of us travelled back from 6 Training Battalion REME at Bordon, where they were trying to make us in to "Tankies" It was literally only weeks after we had left and the main motivation as I recall was that it qualified us for a 72 hour pass! I sort of re-discovered BOBA after I retired in 1995 and was lured in to travelling back to "Chep" by the late Ken Standen (57A) on the promise of a game of golf. My wife Linda and I booked in to "The Hill House", where we were well looked after by the landlady Margaret Welsh. Unfortunately my wife was not as taken with the event as I, so all my subsequent visits have been alone. This apart, I have always enjoyed my annual trips back and for a time I was the golf organiser, an element of the weekend which has grown and grown. Until a couple of years ago the 56B flag was borne by Fos Pattison and I, we have always wondered how, in such a large group, we have so few attendees. In more recent years we have gathered in a few more (all golfers), but it was great to see so many old faces this year, well done Fos! The lasting impressions I have of my 1995 return was that I had missed Chepstow! Having followed all the signs and enjoyed a nostalgic bridge crossing I turned down the hill, the next thing I found myself turning into Sedbury! No town arch dreaded by many learner drivers, no high street, no pubs! no cinema! someone had stolen Chepstow. Then a very friendly local lady told me about the "new" road which I had just driven down, which by-passes the town altogether. Later we found our hotel and everything went more smoothly. Returning to the camp was an eye opener with houses being built where the swimming pool used to be and the only buildings I recognised were the MRS and the HQ building. The MRS I remembered as a "huge" complex of rooms and corridors, it looked pretty small and insignificant that day in the shelter of the road bridge. Some of the new two storey barrack blocks looked quite smart, especially compared to what we had, but I was then told they were to be demolished! The "old" church that everyone referred to was not there when I left Beachley, so it was a "new" church to me, but even that I was told is and remains under threat. Fortunately for us it still survives and allows us an excellent venue for our AGM and church service. When Hill House closed I was fortunate enough to obtain a room in the reunion home and what is now the excellent Chepstow Hotel, and the success of our weekend is due in great part to the friendly, co-operative, "can do" attitude of the management and staff. Many tales were told in to the wee small hours last September and I hope the newcomers will return, bringing others with them, and I will try to persuade my wife!

Final words from John Furley 56A ~ retiring from both Vice Chairman and Echoes Editor:

Perhaps not the most successful of recruitment intake years, but I have heard on the grape vine and personally experienced those 56A & 56B lads who joined in with and attended our half centenary celebrations all had a superb weekend, as usual Gill and I had a wonderful time. All the time and effort that goes into preparation of these weekends is well worth it when it is seen it is obvious members have enjoyed themselves, meeting one another again after so many years and reminiscing through those lost years. Perhaps one of the most gratifying things for me is observing promises to return on an annual basis; all I heard after Sunday's Church Service was praise for the reunion weekend, which is really good to hear. By the way, I am still mystified who the person was who put my name forward for karaoke singing on Friday Night?

God bless all, hope you all meet again at future BOBA reunions.



56A - Tony Orchard, John Furley, Jim Dunn, George Gibb & Ken Nunn. Derek 'Jock' Hunter also attended.



56B - George (Trigger) Rodgers, Tony Mitchell, Pete North, Harry Vokes, Brian Woodward, Barney Mills, Jerry McKay, Foster Pattison, Glen Chalmers, Joe Beavis & Herbie Wodehouse.



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 Major Brian Henderson, standing in for Lt Col. (Ret'd) Ifor Anthony whilst he is less than well and the BOBA voluntary welfare team. The BOBA committee thank Brian and Ifor for taking on this important task. The country continues to be divided into geographical areas and a welfare representatives are available in most areas or will be allotted as someone volunteers (as shown below). Should anyone feel they need assistance, please contact the area rep. The type of thing we maybe able to help with, 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 may travel from your area.

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 Durnall	37	01202 763270
Essex	Joe Finerty	43A	01702 554362
Ditto	Noel Drew	60A	01708 556475
Germany	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED.		
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)	(Temp) Brian Henderson	65A	01633 882792
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	02476 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 can secure help from any Royal British Legion (RBL) Branch. It is unnecessary to be an RBL member, the RBL will help all 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 Brian Henderson on Tel: 01633 882792.

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: john.furley@zen.co.uk



This is a great story for all to appreciate, it will take just a minute or so to read this and may just change the way you think about life. You may have read this before, don't worry it's well worth a second glance!

Two old soldiers, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help clear the excess fluid from his lungs. The other man had severe head injuries and had to spend all his time flat on his back his eyes protected with bandages.

The men talked for hours on end, speaking of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in military service and even where they had been on holidays. Every afternoon the man who could sit up in bed would pass the time by describing to his room mate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man laid flat in bed began to long for those one-hour periods to arrive when his world would be broadened and enlivened by his friend describing all the activity and colour of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake; ducks and swans floated on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man sitting up described all the scenes in such exquisite detail that the man on the other side of the room with his eyes completely covered could vividly imagine the picturesque scenes. One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. The man could not hear the band - but he could see it in his mind's eye because the gentleman by the window portrayed it in such an enthralling and descriptive manner .

Days and weeks passed and one morning the nurse arrived with water to wash them, sadly she found the lifeless body of the man who related the scenes outside; he had died peacefully in his sleep. Saddened she called the doctor and he had the hospital attendants take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved to where the other man had been. The nurse was happy to move him, after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up and pushing the eye bandages away to take his first look at the world outside the window, that he had imagined should be there. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it for himself. He strained slowly turning to look out the window and faced a blank wall!

The old soldier summoned the nurse and asked what compelled his deceased roommate to describe such wonderful things outside an imaginary window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you to be happy with his colourful description of life!"

Epilogue: There is tremendous accolade in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. Today is a gift, that's why it's called the present. The story origin is unknown, but it brought an inner warmth for me and I hope to all who read it, and please pass on the message.

A SINCERE THANK YOU FROM THE RETIRING 'EDITOR' AND 'VICE CHAIRMAN' JOHN FURLEY:

Sadly the time has come for me to 'park my pen', not only do 'very personal reasons' dictate this, but also the fact that my wife 'Gill' and I are soon to spend a great deal more time in Spain, this to experience the welcoming warmth of the Mediterranean sun soaking into our aging bones. I really have to report I have thoroughly enjoyed producing the Echoes for the last four years and reiterate my thanks to all, for sending in your stories about your times at Beachley and beyond. These articles bring our newsletters to life 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, because many of us just have simply never written anything for publication, as the well known expression "roundtuit" possibly dictates. How about 'bending your fingers round a pen' for the next 'Beachley Echoes', a few minutes/words here and there will produce your master piece, the new Echoes Editor Mac Obermaier 58B will require entries by the end of February 2008.

So, Gill and I bid you a fond farewell, I hand over the Editors position to Mac after this issue, who I am more than confident will produce the Echoes in great form. Mac would appreciate any Echoes material preferably in an electronic 'rich text format', but if that isn't possible hand written will do. Go on, you can do it, give it a go, you can write an article, just try it! Thanks again from the retiring Ed. & Vice Chair ~ John Furley.

Mac, the new Editor's email address is: macobermaier@tiscali.co.uk



THE BEACHLEY GATE ARCH BADGE REFURBISHMENT (A Team Effort)
(by Malcolm Hay - Heritage Member)

For sometime there had been comment on the poor state of the Beachley Gate Arch and Badge, various ideas on how it could be rectified have been discussed. Not surprisingly the QM of the resident Battalion did not have sufficient funds to completely renovate the Arch and the Badge. However our Chairman Brian Henderson (65A) after much effort was able to get assistance and in mid 2006 the arch was repainted but the finished result was somewhat disappointing. Your committee then decided that we would remove the badge from it's mounting and refurbish it, "but who was 'WE' to be?" Our fearless President Lt Col Syd Thomas (47A) volunteered himself and John Furley (56A) and in Aug 06; with an aluminium extension ladder and a Nelsonian eye to Health and Safety, John, being the junior member, was sent aloft and after a struggle with seized bolts Col Syd lowered the rope swinging beast to the ground where it was found to be in a worst state than first thought (see photos).



The backing plate was one third rotted away, the swords had rusted away from the torch, the torch itself had fallen off and the riveted scroll at the base had come asunder. Final item the white cross denoting religious basis had huge rust holes and had depleted to about a quarter of it's thickness overall.

Hence new sword blades, cross and backing were called for, most difficult of all, a new torch for education.

Shot blasting was called for to see how far the rust had eaten the metal away; John Furley arranged this with a Forest of Dean Shot Blast company.



Mac Obermaier (58B) our own Chepstow Liaison member, had also volunteered to help out as he works with a local plant hire firm with some sheet metal and welding facilities. After John's shot blasting our badge hardly resembled the Army Apprentices College badge, in fact a great part of it was so thin it had blown away (see photo above left). The job was growing by the minute, Mac had recruited one of his work colleagues who was a dab hand with an electrode and went to work on the rear plate and the cross, cutting a new back-plate and cross to the dimensions required. (That's why they have not been shot blasted.)

Meanwhile Baz Morgan (73B) had a call from our President boss, "Baz can you make us a new torch for the badge as the old one is missing completely? I have a smaller one here as a pattern if you like", which our John Furley photographed and emailed to Baz. Later Baz decided it would be a good idea if he saw all the parts of the badge, so called round to see what was required and ended up taking the complete box full of badge parts away with him. Forgetting about never volunteering he took on the task and commenced to ask his friends and workmates if they knew where he could get an Olympic style torch of an approximate ½ meter height? Trying all the local fabricators and blacksmiths and spending quite a few evenings on the web looking up even architectural iron-mongers but drew a blank everywhere. Asking advice, constructive people suggested making one up in wood, creating a clay moulding and casting an all aluminium one, which would last forever. They were probably right but Baz had only three weeks before the re-union weekend and the badge had to be back up on the arch by then. He thought back to his technical drawing days at Beachley and decided that one could be made a torch from a piece of sheet metal, "The Development of a tapered radius from flat material" this is quite a common thing with sheet metal workers but he could not think of anyone to do it without running up some big bills.

Fortunately Baz remembered he had A CHAP working for him who was a coppersmith by trade, the initial projected conversation went along the lines of, "Hey John you must have done this kind of thing in your apprenticeship", after some strange looks John agreed that with the right materials and a bit of practice, between them they could do it. Having explained the full story to John, he was asked if he could make up two finials in stainless steel for the top and bottom of the torch. A couple of sketches were left with him and Baz went off to Scotland for 10 days work expecting to have all the components ready on his return.

Coppersmith John got busy initially with stud welding stainless steel studs to the back of all the required components whilst Baz re-riveted the individual letters in place and started planning the final task of spraying the indi-



vidual parts with Hammerite paint. Finally the finials and torch came together, the metal flames for the torch were made up of mild steel and folded to create the correct effect; on the Thursday evening before the BOBA reunion weekend Baz rang his 'partner in crime', sorry, 'pal for a long time' Chalky White (73A) in Coventry to ask what time he would be arriving in Chepstow on the Friday morning. Chalkie, as a committee member he was now to be roped in to assist in the re-fit. Baz talked Chalkie into coming down the Chepstow a day early to help with the final remount of the completed Badge. John Furley had rung a couple of times in that last week to check on progress and timescales for the re-fit and was reassured that the refurbished badge would be in place for the weekend.



The finished article



Baz Morgan on the right utilised his company to complete the job.

Finally on Friday morning at 1000 hrs Chalky 73A, Baz 73B and John 56A erected a tower scaffold and hauled the refurbished badge back in place, all the new studs lined up with the existing holes in the arch perfectly, in fact all went pretty much to plan, the obligatory photos were taken and in the very best Sapper tradition the job was completed on time and to our very low budget.

The following companies are thanked for their assistance in the refurbishment:

Finials - Cross Engineering, Swansea.

Sheet metal work and fabrication shop - Timet UK, Swansea.

Paint - Swansea Fasteners, Swansea.

Time and much Effort - B P Engineering, Port Talbot.

The above photos do not do the refurbished badge justice, to physical visit and see the badge does!

BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2006: On Sunday 12th November 2006 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 deeply nostalgic event. Please consider joining us this November and swell the ranks in saying "thank you to those who gave their tomorrows, for our today's".

Mr. John Adams	70B	Mr. Mike Mathews	50A	Mr. Ken Stout	53B
Mr. Ray Armstrong	55A	Mr. John Moore	73C	Lt. Col. Syd Thomas	47A
Mr. Bob Beeston	60C	Mr. Baz Morgan	73B	Mr. Bill Tudman	57A
Mr. Joe Beeston	62B	Mr. Mogsie Morris	55A	Major Derek Walker	55A
Mr. Norman Brummitt	45A	Mr. Maurice Murtagh	43B	Mr. Stuart Walker	55A
Mr. Peter Burrige	43B	Mr. Carl Parker	58B	Mr. Chalkie White	73A
Mr. Paul Chapman	66C	Mr. John Philips DSC	58B	Mr. Ian Harrower	RE Guest
Mr. Rocky Evershed	61B	Mr. Derek Pomeroy	62A	Mr. Richard Pool	RE Guest
Mr. John Furley	56A	Lt. Col. Ken Reader	62C	Mr. Tony Stamford	REME Guest
Mr. John Goodall	74C	Mr. Bob Reid	56A	Names of marchers for 2007 Remembrance Parade on 11th of the 11th 2007, to: Syd Thomas, Tel : 01656 661180.	
Mr. Chris Gould	71B	Mr. Reg Rider	54B		
Mr. Keith Gribben	61B	Mr. David Smith	60C		
Major Malcolm Hay	53A	Mr. John Smith	44A		
Mr. Joe Kinson	50A	Mr. Dave Stone	49A		

**IN MEMORIAM**

REPORTED PASSINGS SINCE THE 2006 BEACHLEY ECHOES Issue No. 12.

New BOBA Members:

Dennis Buck 48A B Not Known
Roy Capper 58B A 06/06/2006
Ray Carson 46B A 06/12/2006
John Clegg 45 C 25/05/2006
Danny Dunne 47B D 20/07/2005
Bob Foster 50A B 02/12/2006
Joe Gardner 24 C Not Known
Bert Gilks 16 D ~/05/2006
Ron Greenhalgh 53A B 08/12/2006
Trevor Harding 43A C ~/09/2006
Mike Kearney 41 D 18/05/2006

Ray Kirby 42B C 26/11/2005
Dougie Lane 39 C 21/04/2006
Jack Mathews 42A A ~ 2005/6
Billy Moore 59A C 07/02/2007
Don Powley 54A D 27/01/2007
Dick Randall 51A D 19/09/2003
Ray Rayner 44 D 29/01/2006
Len St Clair 38 B ~ /11/2005
Ken Trowsdale 50A C 01/02/2006
Garth Tyrer 42A A 14/06/2006
Jim Wade 47B A 03/04/2006
Peter Ward 46B D 30/10/2004

Non BOBA Members:

Lloyd Bates 53B 21/10/2006
Bill Breen 56A Not Known
Ray Carson 46B 12/08/2006
Len Cockerill 56B Not Known
Mike Cottle 42A Not Known
Cecil Crapnel 42A Not Known
Wilfred Dawkes 35 06/09/2006
Frank English 50A Not Known
Mick Fearn 48A Not Known
John Fletcher 39 Not Known
Dennis Gooch 51B ~Nov 1968
Tom Harrison 55A Not Known
Ron Hoare 48A Not Known

Maurice Lamrock 29 Not Known
Barry Later-Hilling 56B Not Known
Dave Nicholson 54A Not Known
Ron Pangbourne Staff Not Known
Bob Penney 38 Not Known
Bob Perry 38 Not Known
Neil Philp 71A Not Known
Brian Warren 43B 01/07/2006
Sam Weller 42A Not Known
Terry White 66C 11/06/2005
Jack Byrne DCM 36 10/01/2007
John Blackwood 47B 10/01/2006
Barry Allen 56B Not Known
John Ingram 56B Not Known

**Billy Moore 59A. 14/09/43 ~ 07/02/07 by Chris Ricketts 65A**

Born in Burnley on 14th September 1943 and named Billy, (not William as generally believed), he enlisted as an Army Apprentice in 1959. Initially to AAS Harrogate to be trained as a Plumber. With changes affecting Trade Training within the RE Corps Billy was transferred to Chepstow where he completed his apprenticeship.

On completion of his Cove Combat Engineer course he was posted to Osnabruck. The first of several postings within BAOR and were complemented with tours at Dover, Training Regiment, Chepstow, Tidworth, N.I. and the T.A. in Birkenhead. During his service he became a proficient linguist and was able to speak five languages.

He steadily rose through the ranks to become a W.O.11 (QMSI). On his discharge he joined the R Mon RE (Militia) and was commissioned as a Captain. He also began a second career with TAVR in Cardiff where he quickly became a popular and valuable asset to the organisation, and was well known for his sense of humour as well as his ability to "get the job done".

Alas this development was to be cut short when diagnosed with Renal Failure and he retired prematurely on health grounds. However his stoical and enduring character shone through and he tolerated the many medical interventions during the following six years. These challenges slowed him down somewhat but never stopped him and despite needing regular hospitalisation he continued to travel, visiting the USA, Canada and several other countries. Billy also took an active interest in many sports, fishing being his main sport in recent years, this culminated in 1995 when he became the Army Fly-Fishing Champion.

Billy is survived by his Wife of 37 years Lesley, and his daughter Suzanne. He will be fondly remembered by his many friends and comrades.

RIP Billy


21126236 James Wade 47B (11-09-1932 ~ 27-04-2006)

Jim passed out with 47B group in Oct 1950: he commenced his colour service with the RASC but was later transferred to REME upon phase 2. of the army reorganisation.

Following his reception into the RASC at Elles barracks Farnborough he swiftly departed to Egypt where he served with 3 Inf. Workshops for three years. He received his Zone medal posthumously fifty years later.

He returned to the UK and found himself attached to a territorial unit in Falkirk for three years, following which he became a victim of poor service management by REME records and followed TA service in Glasgow with a further two year TA attachment in Grimsby. The only saving grace to this was he met his wife to be and decided that civvy street held better prospects for him.

Like many of us Jim was proud of his AAS apprenticeship and was a strong supporter of BOBA Old and New. Jim had many friends from 47B who will be sad to hear of his passing and he is already greatly missed by those of us who knew him.

He is loved and mourned by Kathleen and his two surviving daughters Allison and Clair.

22309128 Robert Henry Foster 50A Group (18.9.33 ~ 2.12.06)

Bob as he was known enlisted on 13th February 1950 and reported to Beachley Camp as part of 50A group. Like me Bob was in 2 Platoon, HQ Company under Sgt Danny Hanley, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. I remember Bob as a jolly Yorkshire lad, with a wicked sense of humour. He was selected for training as an Electrician. On leaving HQ Company Bob moved to 'A' Company and due to his trade and Company differing from mine we saw less of each other. When 'A' company was disbanded he moved to 'B' Company. Bob qualified at his trade on 12th December 1952.

On leaving Beachley on 5th February 1953, he was posted to 5 (Radar) Trg Bn at Arborfield. After six months he moved to 3 AA Group Wksp (detached Glasgow) until his Class 2 Trade Test at Lydd. Then back to 3 AA in Scotland (detached Edinburgh). His next move was to Hong Kong where he met Les Drury from 50A, his posting was 27 Heavy AA Regt RA LAD (detached Stonecutters Island), then posted to Command Workshop REME. In 1957 in Hong Kong, he married Chung Fung Yiu (Known as Ada). Next posting was to LAD 74 Light AA in Hong Kong. He was RHE in October to MTDE until December 1959, when he was posted back to Hong Kong to Command Workshop REME. In February 1962, he later transferred to the Corps of Royal Signals. His next posting some time later was to Catterick, and the rest of his service was between Catterick, Germany and Ireland. He retired from the Army on completion of his 22 year contract in September 1973.

He then had two civilian jobs over a four year period, before joining HMP Service as a Civilian Instructor, and retired from that Prison Service job on 31st March 1996. He then took a part time Stores job at Northallerton Hospital until he retired on 9th October 1998, a week earlier than planned, tragically Bob suffered a stroke on 10th October 1998.

Being a strong character he survived the stroke due to grit and determination. Battling his disability, he learned to use a computer and typed out his side of the stroke, and produced a small booklet, called 'One Stroke From My Side'. The booklet explains his side of how the stroke affected him, and makes for a fascinating read.

Roy Barnett kindly visited Bob on a monthly basis, initially at his home, and later in the Care Home when he needed full time care. Roy attended Bob's funeral on his own behalf and represented Bob's friends from 50A Group.

We all send our sincere best wishes to Bob's wife Ada, his son Peter and daughter Sheila; and also to Bob's sister Gladys who kindly put Bob in touch with BOBA. In May 2001 she wrote to many of Bob's friends from 50A group telling us of his stroke some years earlier, enabling many to write to Bob.

PS - The posting information provided above had been laboriously typed by Bob some time after his stroke. He portrayed the wicked sense of humour I recall so well from our time in 2 Platoon in HQ Coy in 1950 in the above, where he had written of marrying Ada, he had included "Still together for our sins".

Joe Kinson 50A Group



The Ladies Column: by Margaret Henderson.



This is my third contribution to the Beachley Echoes and as every year passes the words for the Ladies Column do not come any easier, I guess that's because the association is predominantly men and therefore what should I write that would be of interest to the wives and partners of the association members.

Like Brian I thoroughly enjoyed the reunion last year and on behalf of all the ladies who attended my thanks go to Peter Burrige for organising the weekend, especially for our dinner on the Saturday evening. As always the Executive Committee are already well on the way to finalising the details for the reunion this coming September.

Last year I asked if any of the lady readers would like to air their views on the yearly BOBA reunion. So far nothing has been forthcoming so it can only be assumed that we are all content with the format of the weekend. That said if any of you would like to raise a comment or observation please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or when we next meet.

Looking ahead I would encourage you all to accompany your husband or partner to the reunion later this year. I appreciate there is a cost attached to the weekend especially if money has to be spent on accommodation within the Chepstow area, but I believe it is worthwhile as you ladies who have been the long suffering wives of soldiers have a wealth of experiences that should be shared amongst us all.

Finally if you do intend to come along this year and would like something organising on the Saturday while the men are out and about, playing golf, etc, please give me a call to discuss it on 01633 882792. So until we meet in September please look after yourselves.



LONDON MARATHON RUNNER

22nd April 2007

**Fund raiser in memory of the late Maj. Ken Standen 57A
The original "Mr. BOBA Golf"**

**Supporting: "The Alzheimer's Research Trust"
~ by Lesley Standen - Ken's loving daughter.**



Please visit my website to appreciate the importance of my cause, a donation can be made there:

<http://www.justgiving.com/lesleystanden>

I am very fortunate to be blessed with a ballot place in the 2007 London Marathon and I feel that this is my opportunity to raise some funds for the Alzheimer's Research Trust a Charity very close to my heart. Please do reflect, Ken Standen my father died of this dreadfully destructive and disabling disease.

If you could find it in your heart to support my fund raising cause activity, your sponsorship would be very much appreciated, all gifts aid the cause, no matter how small your donation.

Donating through the website is simple, fast and totally secure. It is also the most efficient way to sponsor me. The Alzheimer's Research Trust a Charity will receive your donation faster and if you are a UK tax payer, as extra 28% will be added to your gift at no cost to you by the Inland Revenue.

In anticipation please allow me to thank you from my heart for your support. God bless, *Lesley Standen*.

About my charity: The Alzheimer's Research Trust is the UK's leading charity for research into Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The charity provides free information on dementias and the treatments available. Reg. No. 1077089.

Alzheimer's Research Trust, Livanos House, Granhams Road, Cambridge, CB2 5LQ, UK.

Telephone: 01223 843899. Email: enquiries@alzheimers-research.org.uk

If you make a donation to Alzheimer's directly by post, please mention my website address, thank you.



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

Chairman

B Henderson
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 Magor
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March 2007

MINUTES OF THE BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN ST GEORGES CHURCH, AT BEACHLEY BARRACKS ON SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2006

Present	President/St Johns Project Chairman Vice President/Welfare Vice President Vice President Vice Chairman/St Johns Project Hon. Secretary Historian Hon. Treasurer Reunion/Hon Life Member Membership Secretary Chepstow Liaison	Lt. Col. S. Thomas Maj. B. Henderson Lt. Col. I. Anthony Mr. B. Morgan Mr. G. White Mr. J. Furley Maj. D.R.O. Walker Maj. M. Hay Mr. A.W. Waite Mr. P. BurrIDGE Mr. R. Evershed Mr. M. Obermaier
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Item 1. Opening Address.

1. **Opening Address.** The President welcomed all and especially 56 Groups on their 50th Anniversary. He indicated their responsibilities for Sunday's parade and church service. He commented on the continuing Committee's enthusiasm and progress and a later update on the St John's project. He raised the point of 'Judy' leaving her position in the Chepstow Hotel and suggested it would be fitting to consider her for Honorary Membership given the years of service support and organisation she had given to our BOBA weekends.
2. **In Memoriam.** A minutes' silence was held in memory of all those Ex Beachley Boys and personnel who had died and in particular the 26 BOBA and 13 Non-BOBA personnel who had passed away in the intervening year.
3. **Minutes of the 2005 AGM.** On the basis of previous distribution of the minutes being published in the Beachley Echoes the minutes were accepted as being read.
4. **Matters Arising.** Jim Carhill 48B stated his group had been wrongly identified in the minutes Para 27(b) as Jim Carr 42B - Noted.
5. There being no other comment it was proposed by Ray Armstrong 55A and seconded by Bill Withers 41 Group that the 2005 AGM minutes be passed as a true record of the proceedings.
Carried unanimously.
6. **Chairman's Report.** Much work had been done on the St John's project which will be reviewed later. BOBA History was being updated - Chapters 18, 19 and 20 had been finalised and a digitised copy would be held by the association's Heritage member. The document is currently with the printers but we still await the production of the final chapter. The BOBA website was also up and running with lots of useful data available. Any comment or feedback would be appreciated. The review by Cyril Thurlow Davies of his time in Beachley made very good reading and is being digitised; it is intended to place the



6 *Cont.* document on the website. Charitable Status is still being progressed, there is a possibility of legal costs arising somewhere in the process. We have also noted areas of interest to BOBA members within the camp are not being maintained. The committee have organised the refurbishment of the main gate school/college badge which was badly corroded. A big thanks must go to Baz Morgan 73B and Mac Obermaier 58B for all their industrious efforts as the 'craftsmen' in this project.

7. **Election of Officers.** All members of the present committee were hoping to continue in post. It was proposed by Roy Carver 46A and seconded by Bob Beattie 45B that the Committee be reselected for a further year. Carried unanimously

8. **Re-election of President.** Lt Col S Thomas agreed to stand. It was proposed by Ken Reader 62C and Seconded by Dave Chapman 60A that Lt Col S Thomas be elected President of BOBA for a further 3 years. Carried unanimously

9. **Executive Committee Members Reports.**

a. Treasurer. Figures for 2005, with a minor adjustment of £20 GPF are before you in the Balance Statement with an Accumulated GPF of £25,482.77p as against Yr 2004, £23,422.33p. New membership fees of £1500/yr for some over the next 5 years due to re-introduction of subscriptions. 2004 was a 9 month accounting period. We would endeavour to stay around the £25K mark in our budgeting, expenditure permitting.

Proposed by John Furley 56A and seconded by Ken Reader 62C that the Balance Sheet be passed as a true statement of account for BOBA. Carried unanimously.

b. Secretary. Apologies were received for non-attendance from: Bob Teare 54A, Dennis Scaife 67C, (Don Powley 54A (Sadly Don died on 27/01/07)).

c. Membership Secretary. Apologised to members for requesting subscriptions when standing orders were already in place, this was due to a clerical error. He also stated his request was just that and not a demand as some people had assumed.

(i) **Fees.** 17 new members since the 2005 BOBA reunion: 1930's 1, 1940's 3, 1950's 9, 1960's 2 and 1970's 2. This indicated younger group members were starting to come forward. There are 807 current active members of BOBA, a potential 17 have been contacted. 13 members are no longer contactable. 39 members have passed on since our last reunion. RIP

(ii) **N.O.K. Forms.** A very good response, this should alleviate the present 'hit and miss' method applied by the Committee to establish Next of Kin contact.

(iii) **Recruitment.** Due to the reintroduction of subscriptions, little time has been devoted to recruitment this year. I shall try to correct this in the coming year using Andy Yarrow's website.

(iv) **Website:** John Furley is still looking for someone to take over the running and updating of the BOBA website. To all please endeavour to find at least one ex boy from Beachley this coming year and get him to join new BOBA.

d. Heritage.

(i) Chepstow Town Council received the final Parade Casket in 1994, and they can't find it. Advertised in the South Wales Argus without conclusive result. Enquiries are ongoing. The main arch badge has been refurbished; please view it after the Church Parade. The SD uniform with insignia, cap and belt was on display today. Many thanks to Paul of 69 Group.

(ii) New entries in the Honours and Awards register have been completed. Photographs, passes etc have been received to increase the memorabilia of BOBA from various families clearing out after bereavements. Any material members may wish to donate would be appreciated. Cyril Davies' story as previously mentioned by the Chairman was extremely good.

e. Welfare/Benevolence. Ifor is not well. He is undergoing treatment every 3 weeks. The Chairman will cover through the coming year. Assistance during the year has gone to the Widows of



e. *Cont*three members to allow hospital visits by bus prior to passing and one member to accompany his wife who won a scholarship. In special cases subscriptions are to be waived for a very few members. A continuing communication with SSAFA and other Associations has been maintained. Welfare Reps are still required for some areas, please see page 6. Please be our eyes and ears and let area BOBA Reps, our Secretary, or the Chairman know of any welfare problems arising in your area.

10. St John's Project. Introduced by the Chairman, The President reiterated the history and occurrences via the Old School House by BOBA and the use to which we had put it. The on going task of seeking who owned the building and then the request for repairs needed on it. St John's Church came up for possible purchase. The present situation is that neither of these are owned by BOBA's per sae. Last year you requested the Committee to evaluate the options and uses for each or either of these buildings. St John's is now on 2 year lease first year free, 2nd year £250 after the diocese has carried out £15K work on it. Many attempts have been made by Peter Russell, the Chairman and President, to establish ownership. After many visits to lawyers and Agents the President and John Furley signed a lease for St John's on 15 Sep 06 by return of post. There is much more to evaluate on St John's, equally the Old School House has a residual value, we have occupied it for 12 years, we may have rights of adverse possession which will need exploring. The individual cost of taking up any case which evolves will be put before the assembled members (including non-attendees) before any action or expenditure is incurred.

11. Any Other Business.

a. John Phillips DSC 58B Group: Should we have had a vote on the £250 rent for St John's?

This had been previously vote agreed two years ago by BOBA members at the 2004 AGM.

b. Confirming the question of the link between the Old School House and St John's through the diocese?

The President answered this question establishing the MOD's claim to OSH ownership.

c. Private research has been conducted by Peter Russell 39 Group, a background update was given by Peter on OSH/St John's. At his request documents were to be displayed on the hotel display board prior to the reunion dinner. (It should be noted the documents portrayed a very different and inaccurate appraisal of the situation than that of The President and John Furley.)

12. The assembled members gave a loud round of applause for the efforts shown to date by the Committee and especially by John Furley on the Old School House and St John's subject.

13. The Chairman informed the assembly that the Committee would continue progress with this matter and would present the final details to the membership for final comment and direction.

14. **Honorary Membership.** Proposed by John Smith 44A seconded by Pat Perry that 'Judy Lomax' be elected Honorary Member of the BOBA for her management, service and loyalty to the reunion weekends over the past 12 years. Carried unanimously

15. **Donation.** Ron Marie donated a solid cubed Apprentice College Badge one of twelve, which had been originally made by an Ex RAF person residing in Wotton Bassett.

16. **Date of Next BOBA Weekend/AGM.** Weekend will be from **14-16 September 2007.**

17. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1715 hrs.

DRO WALKER
Secretary

B HENDERSON
Chairman



As Editor the kind of camaraderie portrayed below I am really proud to promote, within the circle of 55A members namely 'The Purple Circle', I received this email as part of that circle from Ian MacDonald 55A who lives in Canada. The 'circle' of friends he speaks of is largely 55A, however he mentions three other names, Malcolm, Tim and John. I am that John and like Tim and Malcolm I am proud to be part of their 'purple circle', to be welcome in another 'Family' group is just wonderful.

Hi Guys!

Only oldies like us take the time to consider the past, the young are too busy carving out their careers to take the time to smell the roses. I too fell into that bracket, along with most of you probably. It was only in the past few years that I personally started to look back to my Beachley days - thanks to Bill Welch. The years in between were spent pursuing my career, changing careers, emigrating, being flat broke and starting again from scratch in a foreign land. My years in Beachley taught me how to cope with all of that and I did manage to claw my way back to some degree of achievement. Going back over the e-mails I have received in past few years, some of which were for my eyes only, I realised that some members of this circle have overcome absolute huge obstacles in their lives and bounced back. The fortitude induced by Beachley training has paid off big time - without it perhaps the individual outcomes might have been different.

We all moaned and groaned about everything back then. The future was uncertain, the past a nightmare best forgotten and the present was something to be endured - until we made it to senior group. As Alf points out, the swimming pool in the Summer was little more than a cesspool. However, those that did swim in it were immunised for life against all known diseases. The same applied to the Wye - but combined you were protected against all unknown diseases for sure. The school of hard knocks! perhaps - but looking back I feel privileged to have attended Beachley. Like in any group of people we are all different, each have talents respected by the others and an affection and friendship shared by all. 55A is almost unique in that they have come together again after 50 years to celebrate their friendship, their memories and the nostalgia of their youth and we still communicate with each other, more or less on a daily basis. Billy Welch did this for us, and to me, this is, and always will be a priceless gift. Malcolm, Tim and John are equal members of this our extended family and are also frequent contributors of news and BS.

Other 55A members are being unearthed all the time and they too will have stories to tell. Sadly for some - their experience at Beachley was such that they no longer wish to be reminded of it; this is of course a shame. As we all know, some aspects of life there were less than savoury and some of the boys were treated worse than others. It is sad, but little can be done now to correct it. I know of no incident involving anyone on this mailing list that may have contributed to that problem. What we do have is a large group of friends who meet regularly to have fun and reminisce about "The Good Old Days" we all bitch about. Such as the starvation diet, the inadequate barrack room heating, serfdom to senior group status, slave wages, unenviable haircuts and questionable medical facilities. Ah Yes! The Good Old Days indeed; let us not forget the involuntary sharing of food parcels with seniors, the equally involuntary purchasing of coffees and various other indignities suffered as we strived to make it to the NAAFI counter. Failure to oblige was not an option - unless one had a death wish. Non-compliance would result in all manner of fatigues, physical torture or public ridicule, not to mention confiscation of ones prized possessions. The old stories about our parents walking barefoot to school in the snow (up hill both ways of course) pales in comparison to the ones we could tell. As a junior group "Batman" spit and polishing boots, brasses and blanching belts (web and White). Gardening with a Knife and Fork, not to mention burnishing buckets with a sewing needle and last but not least dry scrubbing and bumpering. Nobody today believes these tales, but we all suffered and got through it. Today, criminal charges would be laid for far less. However, it made us who we are and strangely enough I found it to be have been character building. Characters I am privileged to know, writers, poets, comedians, magistrates, computer geeks, technical wizards, businessmen, firemen, teachers, military officers, correctional officers and golfers galore. It may well be a Long Way to Tipperary Colin, but Beachley nostalgia will not be readily forgotten either, perhaps not as well known as that song - but just as memorable. C'ya, Ian.

The late Ron Greenhalgh 53A: by John Furley.

"God please take this good man into your care".



What a man, Ron was a chap that did not flinch from anything, a good friend for many years. Even in his last days he was very exacting and direct about his funeral wishes. Ron asked me to organise a 1 Para Regiment presence at his funeral. Syd Thomas and myself drove to the 1 Para HQ and spoke with the Adjutant and RSM, they requested a 1 Para REME Warrant Officer to drive all the way from Plymouth to be present in No 2 Dress Uniform, where he was on leave. Also six Para Regiment Association members and two Para Branch Standard bearers all in Para Mufti attended, none of these guys would even accept fuel costs and none of them actually knew Ron; that's what I call real true camaraderie. God give you rest Ron, you have earned it my friend.



**YOUR INVITATION TO THE BOBA REUNION
AT THE CHEPSTOW HOTEL
14th to 16th September 2007**

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

TICKET PRICES

THE FRIDAY EVENING SUPPER AND DANCE	£14.00 PER PERSON
THE BOBA REUNION DINNER	£25.00 PER PERSON
THE LADIES' DINNER	£25.00 PER PERSON
SUNDAY LUNCHEON	(Please see the article at the base of page 29.)

THE REUNION BOOKING FORM IS LOCATED ON PAGE 19 OF THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE REMOVE, OR PHOTOCOPY IT, ENTERING YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THE FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR FULL PAYMENT (CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO '**BOBA**'). PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR DELIVERY OF YOUR TICKETS.

Send to:
Mr. P. Burridge
4 Southbrook
1 Heron Close
Preston
Weymouth
Dorset, DT3 6SX.
Tel: 01305 835989.

PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE 1st AUGUST 2007.



THE 2007 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

REGISTRATION	The BOBA Desk in the Hotel Foyer	14.00 onwards
GOLF PRACTICE	Dewstow Golf Club	13.30 onwards
SUPPER	The Two Rivers Suite	19.00 to 21.00
ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING	The Ballroom	20.30 to 00.30

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

THE BOBS GOLF COMPETITION	Park Course, Dewstow Golf Club	08.30
HERITAGE TRAIL & MUSEUM	The Two Rivers Suite	10.00 to 13.00
WELFARE AREA REPS MEETING	The Larkfield Room	13.00
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	The Larkfield Room	13.30
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	The Chapel at Beachley	15.00
THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION	The Lounge Bar	18.00
GOLF PRIZE GIVING	The Bistro Restaurant	18.00
THE BOBA REUNION DINNER	The Ballroom	18.30
THE LADIES' DINNER	The Two Rivers Suite	19.00
THE AFTER DINNER DANCE	The Ballroom	22.00 to 01.00

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

FORM UP FOR CHURCH PARADE	Parade Square in Beachley Barracks	10.30
BOBA ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE	St Georges Chapel at Beachley	11.00
SUNDAY LUNCHEON	Two Rivers Suite	12.15 to 14.00



THE BOBA REUNION

BOOKING FORM

14th to 16th September 2007

THE REUNION DINNER:

Name: Group: Company: Membership No:

ADDRESS.....

..... Post Code:

Telephone No: DATE:

THE NAME(S) OF ANY GUEST(S) INCLUDED IN THIS BOOKING:

1. 2.

TICKET REQUIREMENTS:

THE FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER TICKETS @ £14.00

THE REUNION DINNER TICKETS @ £25.00

THE LADIES' DINNER TICKETS @ £25.00

SUNDAY LUNCHEON (Please see the article at the base of page 29)

TOTAL VALUE OF CHEQUE ENCLOSED: £..... :

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS - VEGETARIAN MEALS ETC.

.....

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE REUNION DINNER

THE SEATING FOR THE REUNION DINNER WILL BE ARRANGED BY GROUPS. IF YOU WISH TO SIT WITH A PARTICULAR FRIEND PLEASE INDICATE HIS NAME AND GROUP BELOW:

NAME: GROUP:

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE LADIES DINNER

THE TABLES AT THE LADIES DINNER WILL SEAT UP TO EIGHT PERSONS - SHOULD YOU WISH TO SIT WITH ANY PARTICULAR FRIEND(S) PLEASE INDICATE THE NAME(S) BELOW:

NAME: 1. 2.

PLEASE ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT. (CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO 'BOBA') PLEASE ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR TICKETS.

TO:

P. Burrige, 4 Southbrook, 1 Heron Close, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6SX

PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE: 1st August 2007.



This form is to allow an opportunity for members to complete, or resubmit an update.

BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, NP16 7YG.



BOBA ~ Membership Secretary
Rocky Evershed
19 Sturdee Avenue
Gillingham, Kent.
ME7 2JL

Tel: 01634 850043
Fax: 01634 850207
Mobile: 07074 850043
email: bobachepstow@yahoo.co.uk

Dear BOBA Member

Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

This is a particularly difficult subject, however one that decidedly requires to be addressed. When a BOBA member 'passes on', the Executive Committee are left with a quandary as to whom, if they should contact in the family. If such a contact is desired, please be so kind as to complete the details below, and in doing so, assists the Executive Committee to help where they are able. The Data Protection Act will apply to all details given.

(Please use block capitals throughout)

NOK Name: NOK Relationship:

NOK Address:

..... NOK Postcode:

NOK Tel. No: NOK Email:

Your Name: **Membership No:**

Please return this information to the Membership Secretary using one of the following means:

Email: bobachepstow@yahoo.co.uk

Fax: +44 (0)1634 850207

Telephone: +44 (0)1634 850043

Mobile: +44 (0)7074 850043

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.
Sincere Regards,

Rocky Evershed ~ BOBA Membership Secretary.



CHEPSTOW & AREA ACCOMMODATION LIST: CONFIRMED MARCH 2007

The accommodations published here have **not** been checked for standards. ~ These entries are subject to change without notice.
 All Locations are in, or within, a twelve miles radius of Chepstow. ~ Please check prices before booking, some are expensive.
 Accommodation marked thus * after the telephone number, have not been confirmed for availability. ~ SC = Self Catering.

HOTELS ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

Telephone No:

AFON GWY HOTEL	28 BRIDGE STREET, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 620158
BEAUFORT HOTEL	BEAUFORT SQUARE, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622497
CASTLE VIEW HOTEL	BRIDGE STREET, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 620349
CHEPSTOW HOTEL ('Old Course' & 'Two Rivers')	NEWPORT ROAD, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 626261
THE GEORGE HOTEL (New Owners Recently)	MOOR STREET, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 625363 *
THE HUNTSMAN HOTEL	USK ROAD, SHIRENEWTON, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 641521
THE MARRIOT RESORT (ST. PIERRE ~ GOLF)	PWLLMEYRIC, NR. CHEPSTOW (Note: Expensive)	(01291) 641521

B & B, INNS, PUBS, etc ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

COACH & HORSES	WELSH STREET, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622626
COACH & HORSES	CAERWENT, Nr. CALDICOT	(01291) 420352
THE FIRST HURDLE	9/10 UPPER CHURCH ST., CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622189
WHITE LION	WHITE LION SQUARE, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622854
OLD FERRY INN, (Linda & Murray)	BEACHLEY, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622474
THE WHEATSHEAF INN	THE SQUARE, MAGOR	(01633) 880608 *
THE TREDEGAR ARMS (NEW OWNERS APRIL '07)	SHIRENEWTON, NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 641274

B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

COURT FARM, (Mrs. ANSTEY)	ROGIET, Nr. CALDICOT	(01633) 880232
PENYLAN FARM, (Mrs. ARTHUR)	St. BRIDES, MAGOR	(01633) 400267
PRIVATE HOUSE (Mrs. BATCHELOR)	7 LANCASTER WAY, THE DANES, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 626344
PRIVATE HOUSE (Mrs. BROWN)	6 BIGSTONE GROVE, TUTSHILL (Prefers doubles)	(01291) 620283
BRICK HOUSE, (Mrs. PARK)	REDWICK, MAGOR	(01633) 880230
UPPER SEDBURY HOUSE, (Mrs. POTTS) (Full '07)	LOWER SEDBURY LANE, OFF BEACHLEY ROAD	(01291) 627173
THE LYCHGATE, (Mrs. WELCH)	47 CHURCH ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 422378
CWRT ROBERT, (MRS. PAXTON)	BRYN GWYN, RAGLAN	(01291) 690709
COALPITS FARM	SHIRENEWTON, NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 641820
PARSON GROVE	EARLSWOOD, (OFF USK ROAD), NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 641382

B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ EAST OF CHEPSTOW (GLOS):

CHERRY ORCHARD FARM	NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD	(01594) 832212
DEANFIELD	FOLLY ROD, PARKEND, Nr. LYDNEY	(01594) 562524
LINDUM HOUSE	OAKWOOD ROAD, BREAM, Nr. LYDNEY	(01594) 560378
TAN HOUSE (10 ROOMS)	NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD	(01594) 832222
VINEY HILL, GUEST HOUSE	VINEY HILL, Nr. BLAKENEY	(01594) 516000
WOOLASTON CARVERY INN (New last year)	WOOLASTON, Nr. LYDNEY (West of)	(01594) 528300
THE WHITE HOUSE	2 SOUTH ROAD, BROADWELL, COLEFORD	(01594) 837069
BERRY HILL HOUSE	44 PARK ROAD, BERRY HILL, COLEFORD	(01594) 832325

B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ CALDICOT, MONMOUTHSHIRE:

THE TIPPLING PHILOSOPHER	CHEPSTOW ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 420337
THE CASTLE INN	CHURCH ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 420509
FRANCESCA'S HOTEL	NEWPORT ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 425002
IVY LODGE GUEST HOUSE	CHEPSTOW ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 421504
STOW GUEST HOUSE	NEWPORT ROAD	(01291) 421468
BROOKLANDS MOTEL	PILL ROW, CALDICOT	(01291) 430500



HOTEL GUEST HOUSES ~ EAST OF CHEPSTOW (GLOS):

MILLINGBROOK LODGE (14 Bedrooms)	HIGH STREET. AYLBURTON, Nr. LYDNEY	(01594) 845522
THE WILLOWS	EAST OF LYDNEY (on A48 1 MILE PAST on right)	(01594) 843795
OAKFIELDS	NR. WOOLASTON, (BETWEEN SEDBURY & AYLBURTON)	(01291) 689776

HOTELS & INNS - WYE VALLEY & TIDENHAM CHASE:

Telephone No:

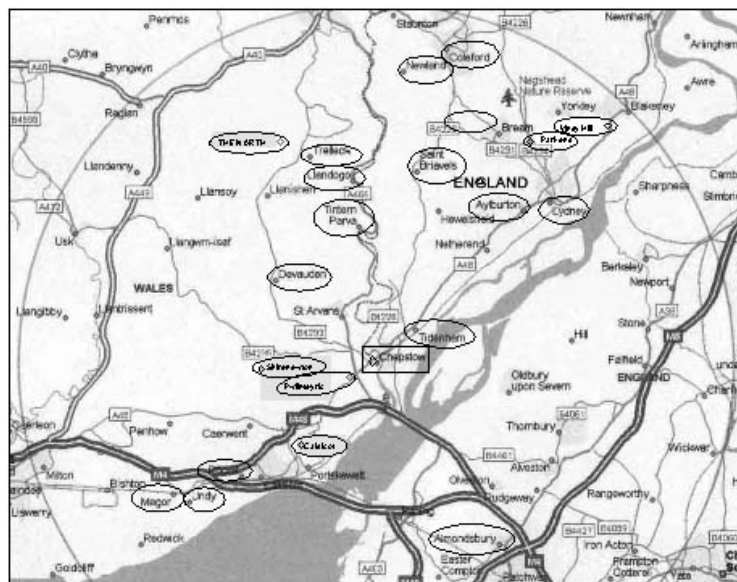
THE ABBEY HOTEL, (Formerly THE BEAUFORT)	TINTERN ABBEY, TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689777
PARVA FARMHOUSE/HOTEL	TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689411
THE CROWN	WHITEBROOK, Nr. MONMOUTH	(01600) 860 254
THE ROYAL GEORGE	TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689205
THE WYE VALLEY HOTEL	TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689441
THE BUSH INN B&B	PENAUPT, Nr. TINTERN, MONMOUTH	(01600) 772765
THE FLORANCE HOTEL	BIGSWEIR, St. BRIAVELS	(01594) 530830
THE GEORGE INN	ST. BRIAVELS, TIDENHAM CHASE	(01594) 530288
THE TUDOR FARMHOUSE HOTEL	CLEARWELL, Nr. COLEFORD	(01594) 833046
THE BELL HOTEL	LORDS HILL, COLEFORD	(01594) 832583
THE SLOOP INN	LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY	(01594) 530291

B&B GUEST HOUSES - WYE VALLEY & TIDENHAM CHASE:

CYPRESS RISE, (Mrs. ALVIS)	LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY	(01594) 530651
HEATHER DEAN, (Mrs. BOYCOTT) (Self Cater'g)	MARYLAND, THE NARTH, NR. MONMOUTH	(01600) 860566
WYE VIEW, B&B (Mrs. EVANS)	RIVERSIDE, GUYS CLIFF, TINTERN	(01291) 689779
OFFA'S MEAD, (Mrs. LACEY)	THE FENCE, St. BRIAVELS	(01594) 530229
BLUE BARNs, (Mrs. PARKER)	THE HUDNALS, St. BRIAVELS	(01594) 530252
CINDERHILL HOUSE, (Mrs. PEACOCK)	St. BRIAVELS, TIDENHAM CHASE, (Self Catering)	(01594) 530393
LUGANO, (Mrs. TOWNSEND)	LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY	(01594) 530496
TROY VIEW FARM, (MRS. RICHES)	LYNDART, MONMOUTH	(01600) 860283
HONEYHILL FARM, (MRS. MURPHY)	MILL HILL, BROCKWEIR	(01291) 689859
MADGETS FARM	TIDENHAM CHASE. NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689595
THE LILACS (MRS. TOMLINS)	BAILEY HOUSE, HEWELSFIELD	(01291) 689386

B&B GUEST HOUSES - SOUTH & EAST OF THE SEVERN (GLOS):

ABBOTTS WAY GUESTHOUSE	GLOUCESTER ROAD, (A38), ALMONDSBURY	(01454) 613134
TRAVEL LODGE (AUST SERVICES)	(SPECIAL RATES AT TIMES ~ PHONE 08700 850950)	(01454) 633199





BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2006

(Un-audited at Time of Issue, 06/03/2007)

Previous Period Figures			Item	Current Period Figures		
Totals	Sub-Totals	Detail		Detail	Sub-Totals	Totals

ASSETS

	£0.00	Cash in Hand		£0.00
	£3,253.19	Cash in Bank		£11,661.64
£3,253.19		Total Cash		£11,661.64
£6,746.25		Deposit Account		£6,860.72
£0.00		Sundry Debtors		£0.00
£9,999.44		Total Liquid Assets		£18,522.36

SHOP STOCK

	£2,110.24	BOBA / AAS Regalia		£2,293.27
£12,109.68		Total Current Assets		£20,815.63

LIABILITIES

	£0.00	Sundry Creditors		£0.00
	£585.35	BOBA GOLF Fund		£468.72
	£903.10	Benevolent Fund		£838.10
	£557.28	BOBA Heritage Fund		£146.03
£2,045.73		Total Liabilities		£1,452.85

£10,063.95	Net Working Capital being Current Assets minus Liabilities	£19,362.78
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FIXED ASSETS

£418.82	£418.82	Capital Property	£547.88	£547.88
£15,000.00	£15,000.00	Investments	£15,000.00	£15,000.00



Expenditure / Losses	This period	Previous Period	Income / Gains	This Period	Previous Period
Membership Refunds	£0.00	£0.00	Membership Subs	£12,920.00	£4,210.00
Committee Expenses	£1,529.60	£1,372.23	Donations	£329.30	£308.71
Computer Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00	Deposit Acc't Interest	£114.47	£115.81
Insurance	£557.48	£524.93	Current Acc't Interest	£0.00	£0.00
Property Depreciation	£263.04	£233.78	Investment Dividends	£1,204.02	£1,204.02
Reunion Subsidy	£965.70	£267.60	Shop Profits	£226.23	£221.65
HQ Maintenance	£4.40	£39.90			
Printing	£907.88	£873.00			
Donations (Charity)	£66.00	£18.00			
Investment / Bank Chg's	£0.00	£0.00			
BOBA Website	£88.13	£70.50			
Postage	£544.33				
Telephone	£12.55	£399.81			
Stationery	£227.02				
Honoraria - Treasurer / Membership Secretary	£200.00	£200.00			
Total Expenditure	£5,366.13	£3,999.75	Total Income	£14,794.02	£6,060.19
Surplus of Income to Balance Sheet	£9,427.89	£2,060.44	Deficit of Expenditure to Balance Sheet		
Grand Totals	£14,794.02	£6,060.19	Grand Totals	£14,794.02	£6,060.19

NOTES:

HQ Maintenance – Cleaning materials

Capital Property consists of the following Items: - BOBA Badge Drawings, Display Stands, Golf Trophies, New Standards and minor miscellaneous items.

Investments consist of Government Stock as follows: -

£6665.10 nominal stock in 8.50 % Treasury 2007, Running Yield 7.55 % gross Purchase Price - £7500.00

If these stocks are held until 2007, the Government will redeem at £6665.10 + £6665.10 = £13330.20. Therefore, unless the stock is sold before redemption, the GPF will see a loss of £15000.00 - £13330.20 = £1669.80.

However, the potential loss is more than compensated for by the dividend income of £1204.02 per annum.

Interest rate on Deposit Account has stayed virtually constant overall during the year despite increases in Bank Rate.

Subscriptions: - Significant increase in amount of Subscriptions received due to re-introduction of Subscriptions for a 5 year period commencing 1st April 2007. Many of these have been paid in full during the year. A small increase in membership has also contributed to improving cash reserves.

Generous Donations of £329.30 were made during 2006. The Benevolent Fund also benefited from donations of £285.00. Printing & Postage Costs incurred were slightly higher than previous year.

Committee Expenses includes all committee related travelling and general expenses. Postage, telephone & stationery costs have this year been itemised separately for greater clarity. Prudent Management by Committee Members has kept costs under control and to a minimum.

Shop contributed a significant contribution during the year and additional stock has been purchased to replace dwindling quantities of faster moving items and to enhance range. Details will be available on Website.

BOBA Reunion 2006 was given larger subsidy than in previous year. However, it is intended to make the event totally self financing over the next two to three years to avoid financial pressure on current assets.

Two Grants totalling £350.00 (£250.00 + £100.00) have been made from the Benevolent Fund.

Golf Fund has subsidised the event this year with the purchase of personal awards for next 2 to three years to take advantage of purchase offer.

Legal fees incurred as a one-off item of expenditure for Review of Lease for St Johns Church.

Accounts un-audited at time of issue.

Anthony M Waite

Honorary Treasurer BOBA

6th March 2007



BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by: Rocky Evershed – 61B.

Foreword: And so another 12 months have passed since my last Echoes report. The last 6 months have been hectic for me, with the new subscriptions introduced, my postman didn't bother putting letters through the letter box; he knocked at the door every morning, and gave me a bundle of letters, all neatly banded together.

Membership Fees: The response in paying the new fees has been extremely good; however there remains' about 150 members who have yet to respond to the request of paying their subscriptions. I look forward to hearing from those members in the near future. Please remember chasing subs gives me more work, costs your Association money and gets some members hot under the collar, some possibly rightfully so.

With regard to my letter about subscriptions, I owe a few members apologies for sending you a reminder to pay subscriptions, when in fact, you had already paid; I have approx ten databases and when it came to transferring some names from one database to another, I made the mistake of transferring about eight too many. To those I harassed for unduly for subs ... this was my fault and I proffer my sincere apologies once again.

Reference the reminder letter that I sent out to over 350 members, a few took umbrage to the content, saying that it was "Like a final demand" for payment, or that it was "Demeaning", and that "it could have been worded better", I accept the criticism, my only defence is that the letter that was compiled on the spur of the moment. It was a reminder that had been used on a previous occasion, and was resurrected from the archives amended a little and re-used. If some members were upset by the letter, (and most members accepted it in the honest manner it was drafted), to those who felt hurt, I proffer my apologies.

New Members: It has been a slow year for membership in 2006. We have only had 33 new members since the last publication of the Beachley Echoes, but hopefully things will get better as soon as I can get back to sending out spot emails, to people found visiting on our new Army Apprentices College, Beachley website.

Next of Kin (NOK) Forms: Response to these has been very good, giving the committee an idea as to whom should be contacted when a member passes on. To date it has always been a hit and miss affair as to whom the contact should have been made. To those that have returned your forms I thank you. May I also add, at this point, that those who have 'not' returned forms will have their wishes observed, and no family contact will be made. I have included the form as part of the Echoes again this year, this to allow those who have not returned the form, or if any member would like to amend his entry, the form is there for you to do so. It is located on the reverse side of the Reunion booking form on page 20.

1957 Group – 50th Anniversary: 2007 sees the 50th anniversary of the 1957 groups joining Beachley. I have been informed that A/T RSM Tony Kemp of 57B has been busy contacting members of his group. It appears new BOBA members from the year 1957 appear a little thin on the ground, so, if you know anyone who joined in 1957 who is not a current member, please give them a reminder of their 50th year's celebrations this year.

BOBA Websites (URL's): For those who have yet to visit the new revamped BOBA website, or at least have not visited it for some time, may I suggest that you take a look now. The site has been updated and a lot more information has been added. Also you will find a copy of every single edition of the Beachley Echoes, since the inauguration of New BOBA, in 1994. (The first edition was published – 1995).

There were two Beachley websites, there is now only one, the following three URL's will get you there:

The Original Official Website (URL) at: www.boba-beachley.org.uk

and the 'Andy Yarrow' website (URL) at: www.armyapprenticescollege.homestead.com

For regular visitors to Andy's website, you will all know that Andy reluctantly had to suspend maintenance on his website last year this owing to other urgent commitments (like his day job.) Andy didn't want all his hard work and the contacts made by ex Beachley boys to be wasted, so he asked me if I could find someone willing to carry on his work, I asked around, but sadly there was no positive response. After some deep thought I decided to accept the role myself; I will do my best to upkeep the site for Andy and all Beachley Boys everywhere. The website is very informative, and if you feel the need to contact any of your old pals, please do log in to either of the above, or the following website (URL), they all take you to the same website.

<http://www.armyapprenticescollege.homestead.com/BOBAhomepage.html>

You can place a message in the Guest Book, so when your pals visit, they can see your entry.

**NEW BOBA MEMBERS JOINING IN THE LAST YEAR:****NEW BOBA MEMBERS JOINING IN 2006/7**

304	Mr J F	Joe Joy	44A	C	1142	Mr R	Mick Russell	72C	B
476	Mr G	Graham Smith	73B	B	1143	Mr J	John Campbell	61C	A
480	Mr T	Tony Spooner	56A	B	1144	Mr J	John Workman	48A	C
620	Mr BK	Bryan Irwin	58B	B	1145	Mr B	Barry Buttenshaw	63A	A/B
719	Mr W	Bill Bradley	55A	?	1146	Mr BA	Brian Lewthwaite	70C	B
720	Mr MB	Michael Lanning	62A	A	1147	Mr N	Neil McLean	63B	B
736	Mr RH	Derek Hunter	56A	A	1148	Mr FC	Dick Hughes	53A	C
1131	Mr GP	George Myles	56A	A	1149	Mr C	Colin Harrison	54A	B
1132	Mr S	Stan Smith	42	D	1150	Mr AW	Mr Death	47A/B	A
1133	Mr AS	Alistair Francey	70A	C	1151	Ms J	Judy Lomax	Honorary	
1134	Mr WD	Bill Tudman	57A	D	1152	Mr PJ	Jim Windsor	55B	A
1135	Mr WG	Bill Eden	62A	C	1153	Mr G	George Harban	56B	A
1136	Mr PH	Peter Dandy	56A	C	1154	Mr EC	Ernie Stables	65A	B
1137	Mr E	Edwin Blower	55A	A	1155	Mr JS	John Atkinson	56A	C
1138	Mr PA	Peter North	52B	C	1156	Mr SM	Steve Sankey	56B	D
1139	Mr PE	Peter Giles	46B	?					
1140	Mr K	Ken Baulf	35	C					
1141	Mr P	Peter Jackson	63A	C					

The first seven membership numbers issued above left were reused they had been previously allotted to BOB's who did not join new BOBA.

BOBA INFORMATION PACKS WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Mr	D	Dougie Stobart	77A	Mr	H	Hamish Fotheringham	74B
Mr	S	Sean McClean	77C	Mr	C	Colin Harrison	54A
Mr.	C	Chris Ruddlesdin	92	Mr	R	Roy Harrison	75B
Mr	T	Thomas Thain	72C	Mr	A	Andy Morley	63B
WOII	K	Ken Church	?	Mr	J	Jon Fletcher	?
Mr	R	Robert Rice	52B	Mr	BW	Barrie Marquand	45
Mr	J	Fred Manning	62A	Mr	A	Andrew Pearce	77C
Mr	J	John Flanagan	74B	Mr	M	Mike Jackson	76A
Mr	D	David Karat	Staff	Mr	I	Ian Coleman	67C
Mr	H	Henry Morse	49B	Mr	B	Brian Powell	59A
Mr	W	Bill Cooper	61A	Mr	BP	Brian McCarthy	72C
Mr	EG	Eddie Millar	62B	Mr	JS	John Atkinson	56A
Mr	K	Ken Baulf	35	Mr	K	Ken Pratt	55A
Mr	P	Peter Jackson	63A	Mr	W	Bill Taylor	?
Mr	R	Mick Russell	72C	Mr	N	Nic Cartwright	92
Mr	B	Bill Wigham	69A/B	Mr	JW	Jim Colbert	56B
Mr	D	David Dow	64A	Mr	R	Rod Allen	Staff
Mr	B	Bill Wigham	69A/B	Mr	F	Frank Allman	58B
Capt	J	John Barnes	Staff	Mr	J	John Bolland	58B
Mr	J	Jim Guthrie	Staff	Mr	JF	John Dunstan	59C
Mr.	w	Wallace Jones	56B	Mr	R	Robert Franks	43B
Mr	RD	Raymond Hackworth	55B	Mr	D	David Greig	58B
Mr	WEG	William Halstead	53A	Mr	DG	Geoff Jelly	58B
Mr	KB	Billy Rivers	70B	Mr	S	Stuart McNell	80
Mr	J	Joe Cairney	72C	Mr	H	Harry Ratcliffe	?
Mr	S	Stevie Gallagher	89	Mr	D	Derek Wheeler	43

Paid up to date BOBA members can obtain contact details for most members from the membership secretary. If you are a non new BOBA member and would like to contact any of the above Gentlemen, please place a letter only, 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: (0)1634 850207 email: rocky@redex289.f9.co.uk

**50A & 50B reunion in Aldershot on 16th & 17th Feb 2007 ~ By: Joe Kinson 50A.**

This reunion has been our fifth at the Potters International Hotel, and it has been our eighth since we held a reunion in the REME Corps WO's & Sgts Mess at Arborfield in February 2000.

We saw Senior NCOs and their wives, some arriving Friday others early on Saturday. I made a point of telling many of them they would be sharing their Saturday evening with many ex-Army Apprentices who enlisted 57 years ago and trained at Beachley Camp in Chepstow. These TA soldiers were a grand bunch of people.

We had 17 people attend on the Friday and we went out to a Toby Carvery in Frimley that we have used for four years. Sadly new management and most likely a new Chef meant they were not as helpful as in past years and most of us were not impressed with the standard of the food, a change of dining venue on Friday next year.

While waiting for friends to arrive who were just attending on the Saturday, two areas of the hotel were visited having been arranged a few weeks earlier. The first visit was to view the Ballroom, which by then was suitably laid out with the tables for dinner before the Valentines Ball. The Ballroom had been booked by 81 (National) Signals Squadron. I learned that they travel yearly to Basra, Gibraltar, Brunei, Falkland Islands, Cyprus and Nepal. As commander of Queens Ghurkha Signals, Lt Col (Ret'd) Royal Signals Tim Craven, is an Executive Officer. The unit's role is to carry out Communications Infrastructure Tasks: i.e.: Install Underground cables, telephone exchange and computer networks. As he mentioned, think of BT and you have it in a nutshell!

We were able to view the Ballroom, as their silver had not yet been laid out; as once it was set out, entry was controlled by Security. After viewing the magnificent murals on the ceiling and upper walls, we then were allowed to view the Officers Club. The ballroom was originally a major part of the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, which the Potters International Hotel has been built around. Club Members have access to their club, which is inside the hotel and regular functions take place there, I believe weekly.

On the Saturday night we had 28 people dining, one less than last year and even though we had three people attending for the first time; our numbers were not increased as a few people had impending operations due any day, preventing them from joining us. We originally looked as though we would have exceeded 30 attending.

Our reunion dinner commenced half an hour before the TA units dinner. The manageress would have done any Regiment proud with her control of the waiting staff, as immediately we had been served a course the waiting staff were then ushered to serve the same course in the Ballroom. The meal was excellent as was the company present. Our toast list was as follows: The Queen, Absent friends, BOBA, and 50A & 50B groups, Our respective Corps and Regiments, followed by a vote of thanks. I had received 14 apologies for their inability to attend, from 11 members of 50A Group and 4 members from 50B Group. These numbers included three from Australia, 1 from Holland, 1 from Spain, 1 from Jersey, and 1 from the USA, message were read out from most of them.

It was lovely to see the TA soldiers later all dressed in their Mess Kit sporting miniature medals, with their wives all beautifully dressed in Ball Gowns. I don't think I saw one soldier with less than three medals as they all had served in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations mentioned above. Tim Craven the retired Lt Col was sporting an LS&GC among his medal group. Later, on the Saturday evening after the meal, he saw my pal showing friends a BOBA Shield that I had presented him for all his help and support to me since I have been organising these reunions. Tim Craven asked could he see the shield, and on reading it, he said "My father did his apprenticeship there in 1934". His late fathers name was **Lewis Verdun Robert Craven** (named after the machine gun and the battle of Verdun). Tim Craven was unsure of his father's Corps or Regiment on leaving Chepstow, but he later transferred to REME, probably in 1942 on its formation. He later retired as a WO1 (ASM). It may interest BOBA members from his time at Beachley that Lewis Verdun Robert Craven was in the athletics team and was a keen footballer too, and he also played the ukulele! He served in the 8th Army and was a Dessert Rat. It is therefore no surprise to learn that his son Tim joined up too, but as an Apprentice at Harrogate in 1965, who joined the Royal Signals on passing out of Harrogate. Tim has photos of his father in 1934, and has promised to scan some to send to me later. I will pass copies on to BOBA if Tim agrees.

Lt Col (Ret'd) Tim and his wife Teri and his SSM (WO2) John Collins joined us for a drink and stayed with us for quite a while. They looked at lots of my photographs and memorabilia from my time at Chepstow. He was later heard to say to some of members his unit that he thought we were a grand bunch of ex-soldiers. It would be interesting if some of our membership from the 1930's knew his late father.

Since our reunion, I have many communications saying this reunion had been the best so far. I have a feeling we enjoyed the weekend more, because of the Royal Signals TA's dinner, followed by a Valentines Ball in the Ballroom on the Saturday evening. I am now looking forward to our BOBA reunion in September.

**OUR BEACHLEY HERITAGE: by Malcolm Hay 53A ~ Heritage Member.**

Honours and Awards Book: We have a book recording the honours and awards given to Beachley boys, GC, MM, OBE, MSM, MBE, BEM and MD etc. The book records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. The response to the request in last years Echoes gave us 66 additional entries, which were carefully and very painstakingly incorporated by the late Billy Moore of 59A. Anyone else having decorations please notify me with the details. Known additions are: TM Lord 54-57 MBE. R Kirby 55-58 BEM, NLR Lee 46-49 MBE, and finally JV Byrne DCM 35-37.

Missing Passing out Parade Programmes: 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 also for the following: 47A, 48A - 49B, 51A - 52A, 56A - 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87.

Missing Robots: We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, the Summer issues for 1979, 1980, Spring 1981 and finally the 1990 issue. We have a "SPECTRUM" for Aug 1981 and Summer 1983. What was this magazine and were there any other issues, please do tell if you know?

Photos and Memorabilia: It is hoped that the members of **57A and 57B** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to me for display at their 50th anniversary reunion. Please contact me with any finds!

Heritage Trail: The heritage trail will laid out in the 'Two Rivers' Suite as usual. However this is coming more arduous by the year, therefore I would please request some help in 'setting up' and 'striking camp' so to speak! It always is a race to get things set up and even worse to pack everything away. I have to attend the Executive Committee meeting just 30 minutes after the close of the Heritage Trail and thereafter to Beachley Barracks for the annual AGM. About 6 chaps to help for half hour before and after the trail should be enough.

T'WAS BEFORE THE DAYS OF THE M.O.T.

Two of us having borrowed a car from a Permanent Staff Cpl were taking our dates, two nurses, back to the hospital. The car was an American model, mature in years and with an inoperative handbrake. As we proceeded up the hill through Chepstow towards the arch I prayed that the traffic lights would stay Green, they didn't! I was a newly qualified driver having learnt on the Austin 3 Tonner and AEC Matador and was wondering how to set off again with no handbrake, when fortunately a big red double-decker pulled up behind us. As soon as the lights went green I rolled back onto his bumper, selected first gear and off we went with the bus driver blowing his horn and shouting all sorts of nasty things to us nice boys.

On the way back to camp we stopped off at the Castle car park and were approached by a member of the local constabulary who inquired if we knew that our lone rear light was not working. This was before the days of MOT and by this time I was amazed that anything was working! He then asked who we were and where from and though shaking in my boots gave him a great story with no connection to AAS Chepstow. The sharp eyed bobby then asked if we might be in the Army, *good God no officer, how could you think such a thing*, was our fast response. *Mainly because you are both wearing khaki trousers* was his faster reply! We had forgotten that we were wearing macks, done up to the neck over our SD's because a temporary ban on wearing civvies had recently been imposed. Now was the time for honesty and having explained that we were indeed from that worthy establishment near the Aust Ferry (as if he didn't already know) and that we had borrowed the car, his kindly response was, right lads, take it back to camp and tell the owner not to use it again until it's fixed. We did not need to be told twice!

Malcolm Hay 53A

A New Book Written by Brian Elks of 50B ~ namely "The Beachley Boys":

This book should be released in July 2007 under the following ISBN No: 978-0-9555073-1-1, I have not had the opportunity personally read a draft of the book, however I am informed by Malcolm Hay that it is a novel set in the fifties and is a light hearted attempt to convey life as it was then and some of the achievements as the boys prepared themselves for a life of service in the Army and to their country. Go on buy it and give it a read, should bring back lots of memories! Ed.

**The Beachley Sprog: by Colin Weir 55A.**

What were my parents thinking of, way back in 55, I'd lived through all the war years and was lucky to be alive. I'd struggled to find a proper job and sat the army test, my parents I had trusted, and thought that they knew best.

A letter landed on the mat, which both parents waved with joy. It said, that Queen and country would take their little boy.

On tram and train I motored to join the Beachley race, I'd packed my few belongings in some tatty little case. But at Chepstow station now with others, it was then it really started, jump on the truck, it then set off, to Beachley we were carted.

Form three ranks was bellowed at us, as we were dumped inside the camp, alphabetically we were sorted and sent to rooms quite damp.

We were marched off to the Q.Ms. store in lines of three abreast, with arms so full of bedding that soon put us to the test.

Make your own beds with this kit, said, the ever friendly Q. but these bewildered lads of fifteen, soon got in a stew.

Their were Corporals and Sergeants and Staff Sergeants too, then Q,s and Sirs, yes, and even Big Mac the Screw.

Then there was Sar'nt Majors and officers, upon which I won't dwell, along with 'Bing' the barber and others, who can all go to, well.

We then were issued with all our kit, that really made us think, they'd given us everything, as one wag said, except the kitchen sink.

Dressed in P.T. kit our shorts were dropped, as the medics looked for the unusual, do this, do that, does that hurt, where the results of their perusal.

He looked in our ears and then our eye's, did the Medic Doc. Bickmore, mouths open wide, then he made us cough, just to get our PULHEEMS score.

Reach up, turn round, bend over, with your fingers touch the ground, he knew we'd signed our life away and were to the army bound.

Lined up outside the barrack room, mug and eating irons behind our back, marched to the cookhouse, there we dined, on some measly little snack.

We scrubbed and cleaned and polished, then stood beside our pit, at nine thirty we were inspected along with all our kit.

Lights out at ten, and then to sleep, to the noise of the scratching rat, at six we woke to the Sergeants poke sternly saying, that's enough of that.

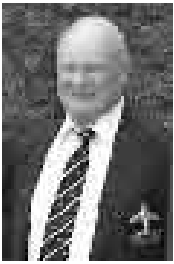
No smoking nor drinking, no rustling the sheet, with "bromidic" tea they had halted the beat, no heating, no fires, no women to hand, with the stroke of a pen they had everything banned

At six months no longer the sprogs we once were, into the company's and their tender care, allowed to wear mufti and out 'til half nine, if they'd paid us some wages life would have been fine.

REUNION SUNDAY LUNCH ~ CHANGE TO FUTURE BOOKING !

Please note at last year's reunion the new Hotel owners had only taken over the Hotel literally days before our reunion; for some unknown reason on Sunday the system used to serve the Sunday Lunch was reorganised. Apparently utter chaos ensued and some members are believed to have waited an extremely long time for their lunch, one 56A member reported he walked out of the hotel in disgust without any lunch. For what it's worth, I tender my apologies for the lack of foresight / planning on the hotel's behalf. Following this mishap, our stalwart reunion organiser Peter Burrige, with the committee approval, has now placed the responsibility for Sunday Lunch directly with the Hotel's management. The BOBA committee would bring to our members attention, most of the committee leave for home directly after our church service, therefore nothing can be achieved to relieve any situation at the Sunday Lunch by the committee. Therefore please take important note, because it is not possible to oversee a situation where the committee is not present, it has been decided Sunday lunch is no longer to be part of the reunion weekend organisation. Please do not misunderstand the situation, the Sunday Luncheon is still available, however view of the fact most of the committee are not present, it is seem the best solution is that those members requiring Sunday Lunch book this facility independently, either by telephone prior to arrival, or at the hotel reception desk when arriving for the weekend, the cost will be the same at £9.99.

Any inconvenience this may cause to members is sincerely regretted.

**JOHN O GROATS (JOG) TO LANDS END (LE) ~ cross country & road ~. By 'SCOTTIE' Scott 55A, D Coy.**

I had been dreaming of planning this little walk for many years – primarily the dream included camping every night under the stars, naturally in idyllic spots, by streams, away from everyone; sadly this was not to be!

The journey up by train to John-O-Groats took me past Ben Nevis and the Cairngorms, the sight of all the snow on the mountains gave my mind torment so I decided the mountains must be a miss, I decided to go through the Great Glen instead. After 3 days of trudging in the rain, the weight of all my wet kit - tent, sleeping bag, clothes etc was killing me and my blisters had blisters on my blisters, blisters.

God smiled on me at Dunbeath where a kind lady in charge of the caravan site suggested I stay in a luxury caravan until the blisters were better. I took that sensible advice and decided there and then to seek accommodation every night from there on. A kindly chiropodist, Hamish Stewart sorted my feet out and 'healed' I was back on the trail. What a difference those two people made to my trip, I was, as I had planned from the start, enjoying it at last. The people I met on route through Scotland were very kind; probably they felt sorry for me as half the time I was like a drowned rat. Travelling towards Inverness I decided to visit Culloden Battlefield. I had promised a 'jockinese' pal of mine a souvenir of the battlefield. I picked a small rounded oval stone out of one of the original dykes, stuck it in a jiffy bag and posted it to him and said it was the original 'rugby ball shaped item' of Bonnie Prince Charlie's personage, dropped when he ordered his men to do a full frontal charge across a bog at us English. I'm told he has given it pride of place on his desk in his study.

Scotland was glorious, however getting back over the border into England was certainly a great psychological milestone. Soon I would be on the 'Pennine Way' where my stepdaughter Tracey joined me at Greenhead near Hadrian's Wall and would accompany me for 200 miles. We had lunch and a pint or two at the Tan Hill Inn, the highest pub in England. With Tracy as company I felt could now really eat those hungry miles away.



Picking our way down past the 'Couldron Snout' on the cliff face was really hairy; the water was tumbling down over the rocks what seemed hundreds of feet below. Boulder hopping and a scramble over the side of a waterfall, suddenly a large bird flew out of the cliff face and hit Tracey on the head, she screamed and it flew off screeching.

Thankfully we made it to the bottom and then passing 'Widdybank Farm' the infant river Tees on the left. Then onto high force waterfall, the muffled rumble suddenly turns to a roar and the sight astounds you, 'High Force' commands your respect. The days and miles flew by, each day seemed to hold adventure, crossing Pen-y-Ghent, like a crouching lion, the dark mass of Pen-y-Ghent towers



over Ribblesdale and the head of Littondale on the western side of the Yorkshire Dales was memorable; it was so steep both ascent and descent. We just could not believe how the trail seemed to disappear off the edge of the cliff, but it did. However we made it to lower slopes, where a sign said, "Beware of the Bull" we decided to risk it and take a short cut across the field, big mistake. The bull did not bother us, but the rest of the herd took umbrage and chased us. We

just made it to the cattle grid before them, those cows with calves were a pain in the backside. Sadly at this point Tracey had to leave me, to return to run her pub - I was sad to see her go.

I had been in touch with Colin Weir and arranged to meet him at The Snake Pass Hotel. I got my first taste of hypothermia walking up The Pass from Glossop and was forced to stand in an old telephone box for a couple of hours to get warm. Once in the hotel and after a hot bath, I bumped into Colin and his wife. I was pleased to again see the man who had been monitoring my journey. We arranged to meet in the bar in a few minutes. Imagine my surprise when I walked in and found Alf stood at the bar, also Colin and his wife, and Ivor (Taffy) Smith and his wife, also Ray and Gwen, what a surprise, I was speechless and humbled at all the planning that Colin had made to meet me; we had a great night. Unfortunately I was never to see Ivor again - God bless him.

The next day a voice rang out loud and clear from the valley below high peak "Mr. Scott", looking back and



down I saw a team of men in combats and wearing the famed red beret, scrambling up the mountain side like gazelles. My very good friend Captain John Williams had alerted my old squadron 216 Para Signals and they sent a team of men lead by 2nd Lt. Ashley Jeyes, the men Cpl Corbett, L/Cpl Rankin, Sig. Carver, Sig. O'Conner, Sig. Sullivan and Sig. Ward took over the navigation and kept me moving at a blistering pace. We soon made it to that day's destination, the end of the Pennine Way at E Dale. They took me a couple of miles further to Castleton, filled me up with beer and food, presented me with a Para T-shirt with wings, then off they went back to Colchester. I was so moved and proud and pray that they are all safe and sound wherever they are now. From then on the journey was easier and pleasant. Uttoxeter, Rugely around Wolverhampton, Kidderminster, Tewksbury, Twigworth, then just outside Gloucester another pleasant interlude. I was met by our editor John Furley, taken to his house and made welcome by his lovely wife Gill. They fed me, Gill washed my dirty clothes, John took me out after I had showered and we had a good drink at The Old Ferry Inn, Beachley. After breakfast the next day John took me back to 'Wotton Under Edge' where he had picked me up the day before. Once again I could only marvel at how kind people are.

I found myself in the West Country and soon to be on my way to Wellington, Somerset. July 22nd was a blistering hot one; I skirted around Taunton and was ambushed as I was passing a lay by. One of my neighbours Don Hayward and his wife Margaret pulled in and ordered me to rest. Don who was ex 3 Para who had fought in Suez opened his boot to reveal a box of cold lagers. Wow what a really welcome surprise.

The miles seemed to fly by now, Tiverton, Okehampton, Bodmin. I met my wife Avril at Bodmin and that made life easier. She took my heavy kit each day and organised accommodation so I could travel lighter and faster. Keeping mainly to the A30 I soon made it to Penzance and was ready for the final push to Lands End. Later I found the A30 was far too dangerous to negotiate with busy traffic and being quite narrow. So again I cut across country over Carn Euny then there it was in the distance ~ Lands End. I was soon off the mountain and back on the road, and started running, I seemed to have boundless energy. The feeling of elation when I got to the line and was met by my wife Avril and John Furley it was a fantastic finish to my long suffering walk. John poured some whisky down my throat; I booked in to become a member of The Elite 'End to End Club'. We drank some beers at the bar and I almost fell asleep leaning on the bar. It was a wonderful day, may I record a big "thank you" to those who supported me and in particular to Colin Weir and John Furley.



I raised £1,740-00 for my prodigy Georgia and Naomi House. Estimated distance was 1000 miles most of it across country. Total walking time was 61 days. The biggest problem was mapping I required over seventy OS maps at £6-00 each that ate into my resources greatly. My friend Capt John Williams solved it somewhat by looking at my projected route and putting the relevant parts onto A4 size paper then into five separate books, which were easily carried and then posted home as I finished with each of them.

God bless all, thanks for all the fantastic support from all who contributed.



This issues joke:

A Crusty old Sgt Major found himself detailed to attend a local press conference, hosted by the local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of extremely young idealistic ladies in attendance, one of these approached the Sgt Major for conversation.

The young lady said: "Excuse me Sgt Major, but you seem to be a very serious man, is something bothering you?" "No ma'am" came the Sgt Major's retort, "I'm just serious by nature."

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said: "It looks like you've seen a lot of action."

The Sgt Major replied; "Yes ma'am, a lot of action."

The young lady beginning to tire of trying to make conversation said: ""You know, you should lighten up a little; relax and enjoy yourself more!"

The Sgt Major just eyed her in his serious way.

Finally the young lady said: "I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when was the last time you had sex?"

The Sgt Major looked directly into her eyes and said: "1955 ma'am."

The young lady was taken aback saying: "Wow 1955, there you are, you really need to chill out and relax a bit and quit taking things so seriously! I mean no sex since 1955, isn't that a bit extreme?"

The Sgt Major glanced at his watch and said in his matter of fact voice: "You think so ma'am, it's only 2130 now"

Don't you just love military time!!!

THE LESSONS OF LIFE:

- I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.
- I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.
- I've learned.... That you should never say "no" to a gift from a child.
- I've learned.... That we can always pray for each other if we don't have the strength to help in some other way.
- I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart that understands.
- I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for and if He has, watch out.
- I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.
- I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are letting that person continue to hurt you.
- I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- I've learned.... That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.
- I've learned.... That one should keep his words soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
- I've learned.... That when your newly born child holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but happiness occurs climbing it.
- I've learned .. That it' best to give advice in only two circumstances; when requested and when life threatening.
- I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.



Chep Chatter 15th September 2006. By: Len Wilby 42A C Coy.

We should have been at BOBA 2006. But Annie, my wife, was not fit to travel, so instead I sat and read Beachley Echoes. That started the grey matter whirring, what were they yarning about? Do you remember....?, How about when we and so on! Odd bits popped up in my memory most typifying ATS (Boys) at Beachley.

Firstly, how quickly we learnt. Example 1, Sports parade the very first Wednesday afternoon, CSM Lofty Arnott calls out fall out over there the footballers, Rugby players, you boy what's your name? Wilby Sir. Right you are long and skinny, could be useful in the line out. I had not even seen a rugby ball, let alone use one, well there are not too many elementary schools playing rugby in South London. The first line out, I get the ball, 15 other boys want it and jump on me. The next Wednesday he said, "fall out the hockey players" I was there like a shot, at least one had a stick to defend oneself; I have played hockey ever since.

Secondly, how our sense of priorities and decision making was developed. Example: In Lydney Saturday night, 9d left in my pocket, do I spend it on the bus fare to Tutshill, or another round of beans on toast in the canteen and walk the 9 miles to Beachley having a half of cider on the way? No contest, the stomach won every time.

How about the time when a few of us decided to emulate "The Great Escape" by Paul Brickhill. That author could have stunted a few careers. Thankfully, "Gammy" the Commandant and our Company commanders, "Judy" Garland and "Tanky" Wells saw our escapades for what they were - boyish pranks. Back to the story line, several of us from our barrack room, packed our "small kit" and headed off to London. I cannot recall much of the journey, open backs of lorries I do remember and a café lorry park in Gloucester, where the lorry drivers got us to London. I did not last long at home, father was an ex Royal Marine, I was whisked off to the RMP's, the cell was amply furnished with a solid WOODEN bed complete with built in "WOODEN" pillow.

I had not been there long when another of the "great escapers" was ushered in, same conscientious Dad. Now here I must be careful, because two of the escapers are great BOBA members and regular attendees to our reunion weekends. In case I might be tempted to refer to their names I will allocate Alias's to them. Shall we call the first one "Tapioca"? and the second "Excavator"? Next day, Tapioca and I were handcuffed to an RMP each, carted across London to Paddington Station, there de-cuffed and put on the train to "Chepstow". Tapioca and I got 14 days jankers each from 'Gammy', Excavator mysteriously stayed away much longer than we two, but managed to avoid jankers completely. Find out who he is and ask him nicely and he might tell.

Marching to the swimming pool, remember that place / and where? You do! How old does that make you? When I left Beachley I did not go swimming again until 1948, in the Little Bitter Lake, 'Auberge Attica' in Suez.

I remember those "educational" visits with Sgt Joe Tidy RAEC, which took us off to Newport to some theatrical production or other; in an attempt to introduce some culture into our life. What did we do, bunked off of course to the nearest pub that would serve us cider, miss the train back and walk the 15 miles to Chepstow. We avoided jankers that time. Judy Garland, (Major Garland RA. O.C. C Coy) was always warning us about getting involved with American soldiers. On orders we told him that we got lost in Newport and despite being offered lifts by Americans we felt we should refuse, heeding his warnings; he commended us, charges admonished.

The great escapers were split up after the "Big Bunk" But some off us must have been in room 34 when the 'Paul Brickhill Syndrome' struck again! We dug a hole in front of the "cenotaph fire place" and camouflaged it with the coal bunker each day. Whose turn was it in the tunnel? That person was passing the sandbag full of earth up to the dispatcher, only to stare into the highly polished boots of "Snake Harris" the Wing Sergeant. A couple of us got 14 days for that, where did all the other "diggers" go? We very nearly came severely unstuck this time. We had a job to convince Gammy that we were only trying to prevent our coal ration being stolen by the senior boys. At the time there was a spate of thefts from the cookhouse and Mr Lee the RSM thought we were making a larder! He wanted us charged with sabotage, but didn't it didn't happen, he later threatened us with fire and brimstone if any of us came before Gammy again, we made sure we didn't.

Then there was the "mutiny" can't remember exactly what about, something to do with being deprived of a "Half Day". Anyway many of us were marched to the field (now the parade ground) and told to sit down. The RSM asked if any body would like to explain our grievance, one unfortunate lad stood up to speak and he was promptly whizzed off to the guard room by the provost Sgt Buzz Berry and henchmen; no one else stood up. We were then marched to the workshops, we thought it might be fun not to swing our arms, to this day I can here Sgt. "Jeeps" Harding RE; shouting swing your arms, I can't give you your half day, in a Geordie accent.

Then there was the rather fearsome ATS Sgt who supervised the dining room, which she ruled with not a rod of iron exactly, rather a galvanised food ladle, but just as effective. It was a brave, or foolhardy boy who responded to the call "any complaints", you might have had to detail those complaints to The ATS Sgt! Hmmmmmmm!



UK Armed Forces Veteran Lapel Badge:

Members of HM Forces who served up to 31st December 1984.

You are now entitled to a Veterans Badge. An application form can be downloaded from: http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vets_badge/vets_badge.htm

If you require application assistance, or require a form posted to you, please contact::

Postal address: Veterans Agency, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 3WP

Email: help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk **Freephone Helpline:** 0800 169 2277 (UK only)

SUBSCRIPTION ~ REMINDER!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE RE-INTRODUCED FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS AT THE BOBA AGM IN 2004 AND CONFIRMED AT 2005 AGM & IN BOTH ECHOES.

For those members who have not yet paid, or do not yet have a standing order in force, a new standing order was included with the 2005 Beachley Echoes. If you have not already done so, please complete all areas of the standing order which are indicated with a black arrow.

When complete '**send the standing order to your bank**', **do not** send it to BOBA.

➡ Payments were re-introduced commencing again on 01/04/2006. ⬅

Note: if you are already paid up to i.e. 2008, you can start a new standing order, set it to run for five years, e.g. first payment on the next 1st April, you can tick the box on the new standing order which will automatically cancel any existing standing order.

Naturally, should you wish to present your annual subscription in different way, for example by paying the total £50 by cheque or postal order, that is acceptable. Please send these payments to the BOBA Membership Secretary, Rocky Evershed.

Should you have any question, please contact Rocky Evershed (Membership Secretary) Rocky's full contacts on the base of page 26, he will be happy to help where he is able.

VETERANS AGENCY INFORMATION: Formerly 'War Pensions' to all ex forces personnel.

If you think you have a claim for a War Pension, there is good information to be found from the Veterans Agency in Blackpool. Here are some contacts:

Write to: Customer Services Manager: Veterans Agency, Norcross, Black pool, UK, FY5 3WP

Vets Agency Free phone from UK - Telephone No: 0800 169 22 77

Telephone from overseas: ## 44 1253 866043

Minicom: 0800 169 34 58 Email: help@veteransagency.mod.uk

Warm front: (Energy saving help) 0800 952 0600 Energy Savings Trust: 0800 512 012

Were you a Japanese POW, if so you may be able to claim £10,000, call # Vets Free-phone line.

Beachley Barracks entry: At the 2005 reunion two Ex Beachley Boys turned up at Beachley for the church service, their details did not appear on our BOBA database. After giving the guard and the Vice Chairman enough convincing evidence that they were actually Ex Beachley Boys, they were permitted to enter barracks on the provision they submitted their contact details to the Vice Chair post church service, neither of these gentlemen kept their word. We are sad to now inform members, in future for MOD security reasons, access to Beachley Barracks will be denied unless your name appears on the database, or you can prove you are a new BOBA member, i.e. you have your new BOBA current membership book with you. Please comply with this very basic and necessary MOD security ruling! (BOBA Committee Agreed.)



from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

Again the weather gods were with us and produced two fine days of sunshine and excellent course conditions. The Society membership has now swelled to 69 in total of which there are 7 ladies and as every year we were well represented on both of the golfing days with 16 players for the Friday practice round and 27 players for the Saturday BOBA Open Championship (Ken Standen Trophy). Please let us have more in 2007.

Play all round was quite good with a quantity of reasonable scores and with a few surprising and some not so surprising winners.

We were happy to welcome our new member in Brian Woodward 56B C Company and commiserate with Al Picken who had to withdraw the day before due to injury. Hope your problems are now solved and we see you again in 2007.

Two further new members were unable to play this year and we hope to be able to welcome Joe and Lin Beavis to the competition in 2007.

It would seem that the 'youngsters' are getting away with winning the majority of the prizes and towards getting things on a possible more even keel for the 'oldsters' we have been requested to play the flatter Park Course on both days. Logically the practice round should be played on the same course.

The results of the BOBA Open Championship in the "Ken Standen Trophy" for 2006 were:

Longest Drive (9th hole)

Peter North 56B 214 yds

Nearest the Pin (18th hole)

Jimmy Hough 73A 7'11"

Best Par 3's

Chris Jarvis

Drawn Pairs in the "The George Murray Trophy"

Winners: Jimmy Hough 73A & Brian Woodward 56B

Joint Second: Peter Hepton 66A & Alf Chrascina 67B. Doug Cooper 61C & John Green 73B

The Handicap Cup

Winner Alan Duncan 67B

Second Dave Potton 69C

Best Lady Pat Saunders

The winner of the The Ken Standen Trophy for 2006 Charlie Denning 38 pts



President Syd presenting the trophy to Charlie Denning

Many thanks go to all golfers and special thanks to President Syd, Glen Chalmers, Tony Waite and Peter and Pat Saunders for your assistance.

I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion 14th to 16th September 2007.

Foster Pattison



The 2007 B.O.B.A. Open Golf Championships

The B.O.B.A. Open is in the form of an 18 hole Stableford competition open to all members of the B.O.B.A. Golfing Society who **must** be members and/or their spouses/partners.

It will be held at Dewstow Golf Club Caerwent on Saturday 15th September 2007.
All golfers are required to meet in the clubhouse at 0815 on Saturday morning.

Those entering should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for £25.00 made payable to B.O.B.A, **TO REACH ME BEFORE SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2007**

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 8th September 2007 and all golfers informed by email, or letter, **so please ensure your entry is received on time.**

In the event of too many entries being received, a "first come" system will be applied.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Foster Pattison, Flat 1, 12 Marine Parade, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7QS

Please complete **FULLY** and in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

RANK/TITLE: SURNAME: FORENAME:

ADDRESS.....

.....

..... POSTCODE:

TEL: EMAIL:

CHEPSTOW GROUP/INTAKE: COMPANY:

GOLF MEMBER AT:(GOLF CLUB) HANDICAP:

I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH:.....

I WISH TO PLAY FRIDAY AFTERNOON * YES/NO (*DELETE AS APPLICABLE)

I ENCLOSE CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO B.O.B.A. TO THE VALUE OF £25.00

SIGNED:.....

DATE.....