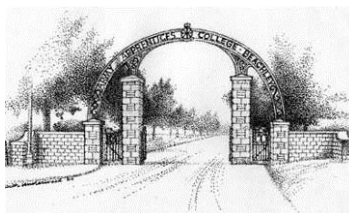


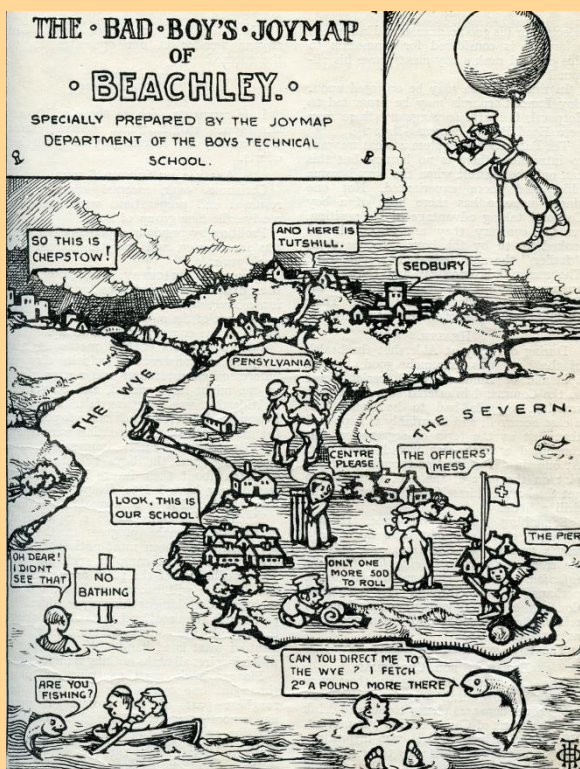
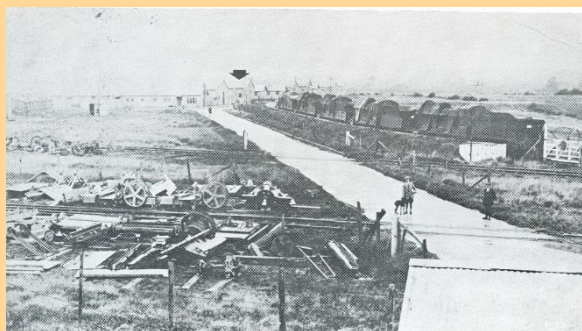


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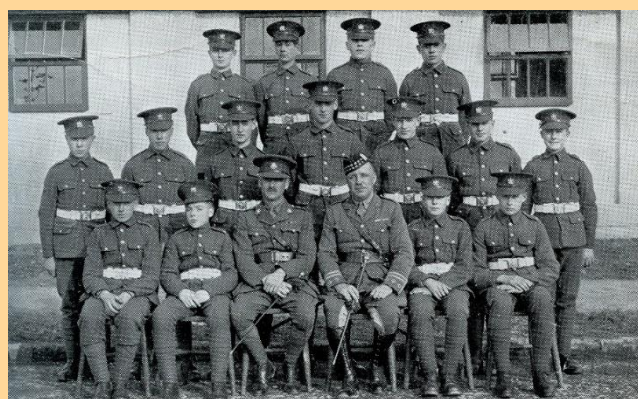


Echoes

Edition No. 19 ~ April 2013



90 Years Ago
The Boy's Technical School was founded



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CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

There is a saying that 'practice makes perfect' not so! This is my ninth set of jottings and I can assure you all that their production is not any easier and neither will it be perfect. I'm a fervent believer that the Echoes is an excellent means of communicating with all ex Beachley Boys and I know that all the articles in the newsletter are put together with thought and due diligence, therefore at this point I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to this particular issue and a special thanks to Ken Reader, the Echoes editor who spends many hours producing what is an excellent publication.

Last years reunion weekend got off to a flying start with our social in the WO's and Sjt's Mess at Beachley (yes the light infantry spell sergeant with a 'j'). It was nice to be back in our old mess again and a good evening was had by all. We intend to do the same for the 2013 reunion and after discussions with the RSM and the mess staff we have been promised improved seating arrangements and more stock behind the bar.

The reunion dinner was again held in the banqueting suite at Chepstow racecourse and it was pleasing to see the room reasonably full although I'm told we have a fair way to go before we reach its legal capacity, perhaps with your support we can attain that legal capacity. An excellent meal was professionally served, the speeches were remarkably short and judging by the noise being generated all were having an enjoyable time.

The Saturday of the reunion weekend would not be complete without the BOBA golf competition. Sadly last year the numbers playing golf were down but I hope this was just a blip and for 2013 the organiser of the golf, Tony Battle, gets some if not all of his players returning to Dewstow golf club for an excellent days golf.

The Heritage display was also held over the Saturday morning/early afternoon. Malcolm Hay has been producing this display for many years and it just gets better year on year. He has a dedicated team of helpers who assist with the setting up and stripping out of the display, thankfully they also man the display area and assist with questions or queries when they arise. Perhaps most will know that a vast quantity of Beachley artefacts were given to the Chepstow museum when apprentice training ceased in 1994. Thankfully the curator of the museum brings along many items of interest and without doubt this enhances the standard of the display.

Sunday is our traditional day for the Founders Day parade and service at St George's church, last year the rain came down but we initiated Plan B by forming up in the drill shed and then made a measured march to the church. As usual Joe Rooney officiated and our thanks go to him for his continuing support. The collection made during the offertory hymn was donated to The Soldiers Charity (formally known as the Army Benevolent Fund).

My final words with regards the 2012 reunion are centred on the AGM, can I ask that you read the President's thoughts on this matter. Myself and the committee support them wholeheartedly.

Your committee continues to give immense support to the running of the association and the organising of the reunion weekend, however we acknowledge that we are an ageing group of guys and need new additions who can bring along new skills and fresh ideas. If you think you can help in any way, large or small or would just like to chat it through, please contact me or any of the committee.

I've already mentioned that the committee are involved in all aspects of the reunion weekend, generally all goes to plan but sometimes we do have a few gremlins which can upset those in attendance. If this is the case it would be appreciated if you could bring your comment/complaint to the committee members rather than voicing them to the staff who are supporting the function.

The association currently has adequate funds to meet its immediate needs, for a number of years our annual income has been slightly more than our expenditure, this has come about mainly due to the reduction in postage, Echoes production costs and the generosity of the committee when submitting claims for expenses incurred. As there appears to be little scope for further reduction in our running costs I cannot see this situation continuing and I feel we may experience the opposite and have expenditure in excess of income. The only way we can cover this deficit is to use our reserves unless of course all the members who are registered with the Membership Secretary paid their subscriptions. At this moment in time our income from subscriptions is approximately half of what it should be! The non payment of subscriptions is a concern, we should all be paying £10 per year, preferably by Standing Order. For this small sum you remain within the wider family of apprentice training and experience the comradeship and belonging that only comes by having served at Beachley.

Can I remind you all that the subscription rate has not changed since BOBA lost the support of the College and



had to go it alone in 1994. A gallon of petrol in those days was £2.20, today, twenty years later it costs around £6.20. You can therefore see that the committee has managed your funds wisely and absorbed the rising costs we experience every year. Please give us your support and pay your subscriptions.

I'd like to briefly mention benevolence, we have a small fund for such cases and are here to help were we can. Please contact any of the committee if you have any queries on this matter.

Being acutely aware that my allotted number of column inches is rapidly running out I'd like to close by inviting you all to the next BOBA reunion in September. If, for whatever reason you cannot join us, the association wishes you all you would wish yourselves.

Kind Regards,

Brian Henderson (65A C Coy)



The President's Thoughts for 2013

Another year another Echoes another set of thoughts from your President, not again do I hear!!! I don't think there can be many complaints at the overall quality standard achieved at the 2012 Reunion, OK we did have minor hick-ups on the Friday evening but these will, no doubt, be resolved for this year. I have not seen the final arrangements but know that the Chairman and his committee are working with the Camp RSM to ensure your enjoyment over the weekend, particularly on the Friday. I am sure that full details will be

published in this edition of the Echoes.

I am very concerned that groups are having their own Dinner rather than attend the REUNION DINNER DANCE. I can, reluctantly, understand that some may wish to have a private get-together on the Friday (wish they would join us) but I consider the Saturday Dinner as the major function of the weekend and sincerely hope that **ALL** will attend this year.

Annual General Meetings ~ over the years this very important function has seen attendances drop considerably, why I just don't know but I would ask everyone attending the Reunion Weekend to make a special effort to be at the AGM – it is where you can have your say, enter discussions, question the Committee, propose amendments, and most importantly, **VOTE** on the future of the Association. It also gives the Committee a boost to know that the membership takes an interest in their work. We need continuing additions to the committee – is this your year to help out?

The Cenotaph Parade ~ again a good turnout, well marched and a nice day was enjoyed by all. Many new faces, some from far, far away who had much to talk about with old friends. It never ceases to amaze me just how the crowds support this event and I for one get a tremendous feeling of pride tempered with a certain humiliation as we march past. How many more I will be able to attend – who knows but I will as long as I am fit enough. Only sad part was not having Baz to control us – R.I.P. my friend.

Bids for this year's Cenotaph Parade ~ Not being the best with a computer I have managed to 'wipe out' the list of those who have already asked me to book them a place this year – PLEASE check with me, I have recorded Dick Mullins and Bob Reid. Despite trying, I have been unable to increase our allocation of tickets past the normal 30 so if you wish to join us please contact me soonest: email sydney1931@btinternet.com (new address) 01656 661180 or text on 07785 282266.

Recruiting ~ This is your responsibility – if we all managed to recruit, cajole, or shame just one extra person to join then we would have very few problems over the coming years. Please give it a go.

Gaynor ~ Continues to attend Velindre Hospital for Chemotherapy but has retained her will to live life as full as possible. The cancer has increased but, thankfully, has not attacked a major organ so far. She will be at the reunion.

See you all in September and hope the 63 Groups have a large turnout.

Fair winds,

Syd Thomas (47A C Coy)



A/T RSM Baz Morgan (73B C Coy)

Those of you who knew Baz will know that he was a larger than life character who quite simply got involved in 'everything'.

However, the 'everything' was an awful lot, and there is no way that it can all be put into a couple of pages, so with the permission and help from his family, and help from the other members of 'The Full Monty Club' (more of which later) we have put together something that not only gives any reader a true picture of what a great family man and friend Baz was, but also will I hope, be something of a lasting tribute to a dedicated BOBA man.

Baz arrived at Beachley in 1973 and was in the guardhouse the very next day, or that's how it seemed!

Baz was not what you would term a 'model apprentice'. If you took into account his fighting, skiving and occasional scams, (such as when taking entry money off the junior ranks to get into the Keymer Club Friday disco, every other person's payment went into the 'Baz and mates beer fund'), it is a complete mystery as to how he didn't get booted out, let alone become A/T RSM!

But become A/T RSM he did, and on reflection a bloody good one. The Army never did want wall flowers, they wanted guys who were doers and hopefully leaders, and in Baz they got both. His military skills were probably second only to his engineering skills, and he loved both, unfortunately he also loved to talk about both..... in depth! (You may remember the occasional conversation with him for an hour on a 3/8 Whitworth bolt, or the best method of bulling boots!)

Whilst at Beachley Baz played rugby for the college and went on to play for the RE, amongst the many guys he met was Ian Coombes (73B) who was not only to become a lifelong friend to Baz, but was also to become his brother in law.

Baz really enjoyed Beachley and completed his Plant Fitter's apprenticeship in 1975, and duly arrived at the RE Training Regiment at Cove shortly after. Being ex A/T RSM they were waiting for him, and Baz got the full treatment, even down to getting punched in the face by one of the troop corporals for sitting on his car down the training grounds (Baz got him back though with a good right hook when they were both posted to Hameln some years later). Baz spent most of his time with 29 Field Squadron RE but returned to Cove to do a cadre and stayed as part of the training staff (probably punched somebody for sitting on his car!)

Baz was the type of guy you definitely wanted in your troop, he always got stuck in when it was needed, and he was good at the thinking part when problems needed solving, it was easy to see why he got promoted to lance jack, and I have no doubt that had he stayed in longer a 'real' RSM's position would have been waiting for him.

But Baz did leave the Army in 1980 and married Ian's sister Debbie, a marriage that was to last 31 years and produce 2 great kids, Paul and Kirsty.

In 1993 Baz heard that Beachley was to close as an Apprentice College and become an adult unit, rather than sigh and say what a shame, Baz decided this was a perfect opportunity to rally as many BOBA guys together as he could back at the College for the final passing out parade, little knowing that what he was doing was becoming a major part of starting 'New BOBA'.

Obviously Baz started his rallying phone calls to the lads that served with him, he managed initially to get hold of five of us, Ian Coombes, Jimmy Hough, Roy Stitt, John Green and myself, although when he rang the number he had for John Green he asked if he could speak to Tony Green, the lady at the other end was John's mother who said "that's Barry Morgan isn't it?", Baz was stunned and asked how she knew that after so many years, she said "his name is John, you're the only one who ever called him Tony!"

As you all know a lot happened over the final weekend of the College, marching through the town, speeches, fireworks at the castle etc., with the Welsh weather being its usual self we looked at each other and said, "which bits are we going to do?", Baz just said, "I'm doing it all, I'm having The Full Monty", and so our little band had got itself a name. We have had various T shirts with the 'Full Monty' logo over the years, we've had





'Full Monty' trips abroad (always planned like a military exercise by Baz) with our wives, we've attended each other's birthdays and anniversaries all over the UK, we speak to each other on a regular basis and of course we've attended every single reunion since Baz helped start it all off. We have become a lot more than just friends over the years, we are now all part of an extended family, and without doubt Baz was the 'head' of this family, he was always the driving force for trips and getting together (not that we needed much of an excuse), so it's going to be really hard not having him around anymore.



When Baz first started feeling unwell he typically just shrugged it off as something and nothing, and even when he knew that it was something very serious he still had the 'it won't beat me attitude', but that was Baz all over, he loved a challenge, whether it was a project in work, organising a get together or fighting cancer. Unfortunately this one did beat him, but believe me it was the toughest fight you've ever seen.

The turnout at Baz's funeral was absolutely outstanding, so many people volunteered to help as Standard Bearers, driving people to and from church etc., and to all of you, Baz's Family and The Full Monty lads would like to say a massive thank you.

It's been over seven months now since Baz passed away, and even though we all talk to Debbie and the family every week which helps a lot, I still can't understand why even now I find myself shedding tears, I guess I just miss my friend.

Chalky White (73A)

BAZ – MY HUSBAND AND BEST MATE

Barry was born on 5th February 1956 at Lyneham, Wiltshire to Walter and Shelagh and was their second child. Glyn was the oldest and his younger brother and sister were Terence and Denise.

He was always a "Soldier" throughout his life. Even when he was a young boy playing adventure games with his mates in Royal Wootton Bassett, he always took the lead with decision-making. He was a born leader; it just came natural to him. So it was inevitable that after being a member of the local army cadets, he joined the army. Luckily, his dad wanted the best for him so he demanded that Barry got a skill and trade whilst training to be soldier, so he became an apprentice plant fitter at Beachley.

I know that the two years he served at Chepstow were to be the making of the rest of our lives because of the friendship he had with my brother Ian Coombs. They had a very close brotherly relationship and it is through Ian that I met Baz. We married on 11th July 1981 and I can honestly say we had a wonderful marriage of 31 years with two fantastic children, Paul and Kirsty.

During those two years he made life long friendships and had experiences that were to become known to everyone as "Baz's army stories". They were so famous because he recounted them so many times that we knew them off by heart, but he would always tell them with such enthusiasm and enjoyment, you would think it was for the first time. Later on in years I would tease him and say "Baz do me a favour, tell me one of your army stories because I can't get to sleep" and he would say "Cheeky Bugger". I always felt that we had a mistress in our marriage and she was the "army". Barry left the army before we got married, so I only shared his army days whilst we were courting. I started writing to him at the age of 15 whilst he was serving in Northern Ireland. I met Baz a few times when he came home to Wales with Ian on weekend breaks from Chepstow. He would always tease Ian about how he fancied me, knowing it would wind him up, being the proverbial protective brother, but it was Ian who mentioned to me about writing to Baz because it was always great to have letters from family and friends whilst away on tour. I did, and so our partnership began, but after seven years of serving in the army, he decided, for various reasons, to leave and we were married soon after.



We were always connected with the army through Ian in the beginning, with their shared past experiences, but as time went on Baz started to enjoy finding fellow mates from his army past and would spend hours recalling



stories relevant to the person on the other end of the phone – hence my use of the word “mistress”. Luckily, I was able to finally meet most of the people on the other end of the phone over the years and they have become family to me, Paul and Kirsty. I now understand the friendship of soldiers and how they bond through life long experiences that civilian people never have and I have grown to love the “mistress” myself, for what it gave Barry through his life. Kirsty understands the word mistress too, as she had to share the topic of conversation of Barry’s ‘Father of the Bride’ speech with the army. She reckons he spent 10 minutes talking about his army mates attending the wedding, 5 minutes on his future son-in-law and 2 minutes on the bride, she actually called it the “Cold War Speech” and laughs every time she thinks of it.

Barry was sent on numerous postings, Tidworth, Cove, Chatham, Hameln to name but a few and was nearly posted to Martinique for storm damage work, but at the last moment he was sent to an underground power station in Scotland instead, boy was he gutted with that decision! He loved playing Corps rugby and the traditional after game drinking. His drinking was so enjoyed that he was made 29 Field Squadron bar man just before leaving the army in Hameln. He was amazing at this and always managed to “write off a few barrels of beer” so the boys could have happy hour at no cost. Needless to say he was well liked in that job. We used to meet up with his mates from 29 every year for a reunion and like Beachley he was always involved with the organising of events etc., always did his bit and always returned home hoarse from talking.

In the seven years that he served, he was A/T RSM at Beachley, which he was very proud of and he got to the rank of Lance Corporal before leaving. Who knows what rank he would have reached if he had stayed in, but I’m sure a leader would have definitely been on the cards. This I say because after trying various civilian jobs early on in our married life he always felt the ability and need to run his own business, so he started his own engineering firm with a work colleague Peter and it became BP Engineering. It was during this time that his work ethic, discipline, teamwork and leadership came into play. We were never going to be millionaires but he provided for us like no other. He worked tirelessly making sure everyone in his care was looked after. That’s one thing we all miss, he was our security blanket, the one to go to when in need and our rock.



When Baz was diagnosed with cancer, there was only a slight moment of panic on his behalf and a shock of having this thrust upon him, because he was always a healthy strong man who rarely saw a doctor. It was his tradition that if he picked up a cold, he would wear an old string army vest to bed so he could sweat it out and honestly, by day two, the cold would be gone. With this medical background we never thought it would beat him. He never allowed anyone to say he was “ill” and up to the day he passed away, he still had the determination to beat the disease. I have never seen such strength in anyone like in him. He fought strong and hard and was an amazing patient considering that he had to rely on other people when he was so used to being a leader. He never lost his sense of humour and had the nurses laughing on so many occasions. It was an honour to care for him and even I and the family believed he would recover due to our belief in his strength.

Since his passing, we have been amazed at the kindness of people around us. As a family we have been blessed with support and care from so many. The letters we have received from people I have never met, recalling their memories of Baz and feeling the need to get in touch because of how they felt about him as a person, have amazed me. He touched so many people’s lives with his ability to care and help them in any way he could. The common sentence in them all was “You could always rely on Baz “. I now realise that he was everyone’s rock if they so needed. Why he was taken so young, will always mystify me because he had so much more to do in his life, but at least now I can look back on what he did achieve and it’s a fantastic “Baz story”, one he will be constantly telling up there on cloud 9 with the best of them.

It is very fitting that some of Barrys ashes are placed within Beachley grounds because it was a place he felt such love for. He enjoyed attending his committee meetings with Chalky, and the highlight of his year would always be the reunion in September when he would return home unable to speak for a day or two because of his constant talking all weekend. Paul and Meryl have been living for the last year in Tutshill and have now bought a house in Caldicot but Paul feels close to Baz living there, due to the stories he grew up with about Beachley. I still find Chepstow the hardest place to visit emotionally because I feel Baz everywhere there, but as time is starting to heal, I can now visit, smile and remember. What wonderful memories.

Debbie Morgan



Extracts from the Eulogy

- * I think it easy to see just by the sheer number of people here today how very special Dad was to everybody who knew him.
- * First and foremost mum and dad were best friends, which is what made the basis of their relationship so strong.
- * Dad was always very proud of both his kids and we were just so grateful to him for everything and anything he did for us both.
- * Dad had sported a moustache from an early age.
- * Although I have grown up witnessing first hand for myself how hard Dad always worked to provide for his family, many people have told me over the years how he has always been committed to whatever job he has been involved in from the beginning to the end.
- * I've spoken to people he was in the army with over the years who said he was a great NCO to work for in the Sappers because he always got stuck in with the boys and showed them how it should be done and that definitely carried through his whole career.
- * As a result of his Army days, Dad has always had a great number of close friends who he would do anything for and vice versa.
- * I hope I haven't made Dad sound like some kind of angel during this eulogy, as that wasn't Dad. He was a simple man really, who just loved his family and friends, who worked exceptionally hard but also knew how to play hard too! He was simply a GOOD man through and through.



Paul Morgan

HERITAGE

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of **63A, 63B and 63C** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to me for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September.

Honours and Awards Book. We have a book recording the honours and awards presented to ex-Beachley boys, GC, MM, OBE, MSM, MBE, BEM and MiD etc. It records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having decorations please notify me with the details.

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 for 47A, 48A – 49A, 51A, 52A, 58C – 621C, 63A, 64A - 67B, 68A, 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87. We are happy to copy any that you might have so that you can retain the original.

Missing Robots. We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, Summer 1979 issue, Summer 1980 issue and Spring 1981 issue. Any copies would be appreciated.

Malcolm (Hector) Hay (53A) Heritage Member. Contact: 01980 591132 or malcolm.hay148@ntlworld.com

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We maintain a record of Honours and Awards, when notified, listing the award, the recipient's name and time at Beachley.

Currently we record, 1 George Cross, 2 CBE's, 12 OBE's, 1 Imperial Service Order, 51 MBE's, 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 4 Military Crosses, 1 Air Force Cross, 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals, 1 Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, 8 George Medals, 13 Military Medals, 9 Queen's Gallantry Medals, 1 Royal Victoria Medal, 46 BEM's, 1 Queen's Police Medal, 3 Polar Medals, 3 Imperial Service Medals, 23 Meritorious Service Medals, 1 Royal Naval Reserve Medal, 72 Mentioned in Despatches and 3 Foreign Decorations.

Malcolm Hay (53A) Heritage Member



That Sinking Feeling

Throughout our lives we have many different experiences, some we forget and others remain stored for ever, in case the same experience should re occur. This is one I remember very well!

In 1945 I was in 40 Company RASC in the First Infantry Division and stationed at Fayid, in the Canal Zone. The GOC had been invited to a Duck Shoot on the Nile and it was considered appropriate for him to have an Amphibious Jeep for his use while on the shoot.

One of these vehicles was found and brought to our Workshop for preparation but as there would be a comeback on the person who prepared the Jeep if things went wrong, no one was keen to have the Job. So being the latest arrivals to the workshop another Vehicle Mechanic and I were given the job of making the vehicle serviceable for the GOC.



It was not in too bad a condition, but had obviously not been used since its last immersion in salt water which had left all the brake components either corroded or rusted so, after giving it a complete brake overhaul, we changed all the oils, fitted a new oil filter and cleaned the fuel filter. Then after checking the points and fitting new spark plugs we were ready for the road test.

It was about two miles to the Bitter Lakes which we covered with no problems and arrived at the slipway adjacent to the NAAFI Club on the shores of the lake. Slipping the propeller into gear we drove into the water. All went well at first and we showed off a little to the drinkers sitting at the tables along the shore. Then we saw water in the front section of the floor, (a word here to explain that the lower part of the Jeep hull was divided into two sections 'Front' and 'Rear' and these names were on the bilge pump control which allowed the pump to operate on which ever section had taken on water) so putting the valve control to Front we were quite happy to keep going. It soon became obvious that the pump was not functioning, so we made a panic turn towards the shore and managed to get to about fifteen feet away from land before the water reached the fan blades which threw it around the engine compartment and saturated the engine, with a loss of ignition. The Jeep slowly settled until it touched the ground and we scrambled out on to the engine hatch which kept us out of the water as there was still about 6 inches of freeboard with the Jeep fully down.

All of this had provided the drinkers with a unique experience and they made the most of it by making many remarks about the situation, some of which referred to the Titanic and some of course were unrepeatable. We worked on the principle that if you ignore them they go away, but whoever said that had not been the subject of ridicule by drunken squaddies. The situation was finally solved with the arrival of an Arab with two donkeys; he obtained some rope and we were pulled ashore accompanied by more remarks from the drinkers.

We finally contacted our Unit and our recovery vehicle towed us back to the Workshops. One of the older Vehicle Mechanics took great pleasure in now telling us "Whenever you are taking a vehicle on to the water you always put a hose inside it first and see if any water comes out, that will show you if there are any leaks". We lived this episode down eventually but the knowledge about the using the hose lodged in my mind for future use. Unfortunately I never even saw another Amphibious Jeep in my Army Service so was unable to use it. However, if anybody knows of someone who is intending to put an Amphibious Jeep in the water I would be happy to give them my advice.

John Eveleigh (42A A Coy)

Editor's Note: I found the above photo after some searching of the web and asked John if this was the vehicle in question—his reply was as follows.

Yes the vehicle in the photo is an amphibious Jeep of the type my story is about. The Bilge Pump was capable of 25 gallons per minute but the valve controlling which end of the Jeep it would act on had (we later found out) a deposit of silt in it that had hardened to a concrete like consistency thus preventing the valve from seating in the Front position. Immediately in front of the windscreen you can see a curved metal item hinged at each end which pivoted into place on top of the bows as an addition when entering the water.

Incidentally, It was the steering drag link boot that was leaking.



Ladies Column

I was going to start by saying 'now that spring is here its time to produce the Ladies Column for the Echoes'. With regards the weather, how wrong could I be, its still bitterly cold, Easter is just around the corner and there does not appear to be any sign of this cold snap changing. However, regardless of the strange weather patterns, Ken, our editor still has deadlines to meet

so here goes!

Most certainly the executive committee produced yet another excellent reunion weekend, the Friday night social in the Serjeant's Mess at Beachley Camp was a return to the old days. All was very clean and comfortable, the curry supper provided by the mess staff was plentiful and of excellent quality. We were a bit short of seating when it came to eating our meal but I think we all managed in the end. I've also been informed that the bar ran out of some drinks but this was soon sorted by a shift of stock from the Officers Mess. The Ladies I spoke to after the event were very complimentary about this event being held where it was.

Not being a golfer the only feedback I get regarding this event is from the President during the reunion dinner. I gather all went well but numbers were down. Question: would the BOBA golf competition allow female entrants? Food for thought!!

The reunion dinner was again held in the banqueting suite at Chepstow racecourse, the room was fairly full and I'm told the number of Old Boys versus partners was about equal, this is good news but there is still room for more. The meal was served in a very professional manner, I believe we all had enough to eat, the speeches were short, the dance floor was full, so all in all an enjoyable night was had by all.

Now I'm sure all will realise that the reunion weekend does take a lot of effort to organise so on behalf of the Ladies I'd like to thank all of the executive committee for the work that is done over the months and weeks leading up to the event itself.

Finally I'd like to ask the Ladies once again if they wish to have something organised on the Saturday of the reunion weekend that would suit their tastes e.g. shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway, Abergavenny Food Festival, sight seeing, etc, etc. If you would like to take this forward please contact myself or any of the committee and we can see what can be achieved.

Kind regards to all.

Margaret Henderson

Quotes on Wives

- ⇒ "Wives are young men's mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men's nurses" - Francis Bacon
- ⇒ "An obedient wife commands her husband" - Benjamin Disraeli
- ⇒ "The wife who always insists on the last word often has it" - Kenneth Hutchin
- ⇒ "Judge not man by his clothes, but by his wife's clothes" - Thomas Dewar
- ⇒ "Wives are people who feel they don't dance enough" - Groucho Marx
- ⇒ "A man's best fortune, or his worst, is his wife" - Thomas Fuller
- ⇒ "This is the way to kill a wife; with kindness" - William Shakespeare



Some of the ladies at the 2012 reunion obviously enjoying the occasion

Notice ~ Please note that the views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of either the Editor or of The Beachley Old Boys Association and therefore no responsibility for these will be accepted. While all contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome and gratefully received. When submitting items it would be of assistance (though not essential), if Microsoft Word is used (Rich Text Format). JPEG or TIFF is preferable for photographs with images at or over 200 dpi where possible.

Editor



Editor's Hurrah

Having used the title for this column last year I thought I would stick with it. Up to the time of writing this the task has been easier but I still have to get the draft past the committee who have been really good getting their articles in on time. I would

especially like to thank Margaret Henderson for producing the her Ladies column once again.

I look forward each year, like many of you, to meeting up with old pals at the reunion. To a civilian, the thought of people who probably have not been in contact with each other throughout the year picking up as if it were only yesterday that they parted, would seem quite strange. To us it is a way of life built through a bond that only those who have endured the same rough and ready life, especially as youngsters straight out of education (or not) would understand.

Anyway this year my Hurrah's are:

- I have been able to keep my column short.

- Once again there is sufficient material to fill the news letter—it is 40 pages this year!
- I have been contacted by a number of guys from our group—now trying to recruit them as members.
- Last year's reunion was really great.
- We may get a decent summer this year.

The majority of members go to the BOBA website to read this newsletter. However, if you would like a pdf copy emailed to you please let me know (contact details are on page 12).

Do please keep the articles coming in—even a scribbled piece on a scrap of paper is better than nothing at all—saves me from having to write articles or go digging back in the archives.

Ken Reader (62C A Coy)

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop me a line stating name, group and address. My contact details are on page 12.

Beachley Ferry

Many of you will remember the ferry (boat, not pub) that ran from Beachley across the Severn. Last year I arrived early in Chepstow to attend a meeting; so I took a stroll along the river bank, to try out my new camera, and there found the remains of the River Princess under the railway bridge; the last time I had seen her was on the side of the Severn. While looking for a good angle to shoot from I started talking to a gent in his early eighties, Haydn Guest. He told me that when he was a young boy the skipper of the ferry had stood him on a box and let him steer the ferry; the skipper went off to chat to the passengers, returning in time to bring the ferry to the loading ramp. His father had worked in admin building on camp and he remembered a Heinkel flying over and bombing the camp; he was sure an Apprentice had been killed by strafing. Ironically Mr Guest had worked for Fairfield's on the construction of the Severn bridge.

I would have liked to chat with him a bit longer but his family had moved on and off he went to join them.



Heritage Officer's Note: Strafing was on 9 Nov 1940; A/T Thompson was killed.



THE ARMY APPRENTICE NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AANM) (Reg Charity 1137924)

The Project Fulfilled

Our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is now an established attraction for all ex-apprentices and their families and has been visited by many hundreds of them. The year 2012 brought the effective completion of this wonderfully successful project. The memorial will carry forward a distinctive memory of the Army Apprentice Scheme and of the apprentices who benefited from it.

During the summer of 2012 the final additions were made to the memorial. The last 30 commemorative tablets (out of 570) were installed and an inscribed granite lectern was built.

After a good deal of negotiations with the NMA a programme for on-going maintenance and insurance of the memorial was agreed and implemented. The NMA has contracted to maintain the memorial in perpetuity for a one-off payment of £40,000. To help meet this sum the REME Central Charitable Fund donated a further £15,000. The AANM account retains around £2,000 in order to meet any future expenses. The AANM Trustees, (all ex-apprentices), claim no expenses from the funds. You can view the AANM accounts etc. on the Charity Commission website.

Over one hundred and fifty people attended a Dedication Ceremony held for all four sponsoring ex-apprentice associations on Sunday, 9th September, 2012. This was to dedicate the new Information Lectern, the final Commemorative Tablets, the Associations' 'Rolls of Honour' casket and Hadrian's Old Boys Association's new Standard (Carlisle). The Video DVD made by Barry Hunter (60C) can be ordered through AANMN website www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk.

All ex-apprentices are deemed members of the Army Apprentice National Memorial and may attend and vote at meetings. The 2013 AGM is to be held at the NMA on Thursday 2nd May. The principal business will be to discuss the way forward for the future management of the memorial. If you intend to attend please let me know at 01291 628178 or dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk.

If you have not yet visited the AANM, I would encourage you to do so. A day spent at the NMA is always extremely moving and rewarding.

David Chapman

David Chapman (60A B Coy)
Chairman of Trustees



Colin Weir (55A) hands over the Beachley Roll of Honour for interment



The opening address by Deputy Chair Keith Thrower (Arborfield)



Patron (Maj Gen G B Berragan) lays a wreath

**AANM – Interment of the Rolls of Honour**

A Dedication Service for all four Army Apprentice Associations was held on Sunday, 9th September 2012 at the Army Apprentice National Memorial, NMA, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

The day before the ceremony was taken up by a briefing given by the organiser, Major G Bonner (Hon Secretary AANM Project). This was followed by a ladies dinner night after which there were short speeches and a hilarious monologue by Colin Weir; the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sunday dawned as a clear day with bright sunshine, a pleasant start to the day given the very wet summer. The service was conducted by the Rev G Kelly and started at 1200hrs; it had five elements:

- Dedication of Hadrian's Old Boys Association (AAS Carlisle) new Standard
- Blessing of the last Commemorative Tablets
- Dedication and unveiling of the Information Lectern
- Entombment of the Rolls of Honour (Chepstow's Roll was prepared by Major Malcolm Hay)
- Act of Remembrance (The NMA bugler was in attendance to play Last Post)

All went well and a poem written and read by T C Church (55A Arborfield) was well received by the 150 plus people attending. The photographs on this and the previous page complete the story.

Legacy

History tells us that nought will endure,
And time vanquishes all, which-though seeming secure
In our hearts and our minds-are but transient things
That arrive and depart on Eternity's wings.
So it is our duty for those yet to come,
To record for posterity all that was done
And achieved by those thousands of young boys who all
Came to willingly serve, answering duty's call.
We leave a clear message to those who will come
To this quiet corner, and also to some
Of the families who will feel the comfort and pride
From the stone masons art where the name blocks provide
The integral structure, united, as one,
Rather as in those first years, these boys' lives had done,
When they bonded in friendship and learned how to share
The good and the hard times with all whom were there.
So tread these steps gently, read names etched in stone,
Each one has a tale to tell, and of things done
Which deserve this remembrance of duty and trust
For the services rendered; for each name there must
Be thousands of others, not named, in the thoughts
Of their comrades who lived their young lives and were taught
The real values of life as they grew into men,
In these places of learning where they first began.
Those places are now very sadly all gone,
Bu the work and the ethos born there still lives on
In the hearts and the minds of all those who survive
Withthat brotherhood which we all shared, still alive.
Therefore let this occasion be full of good cheer,
We should celebrate now with all who attend here
And thank our committee whose hard work and vision
Have brought this project to successful fruition.

Anthony "TeeCee" Church (55A Arborfield)



Roll of Honour



The Lectern

Editor's Contact Details ~

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IN MEMORIAM

REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2012 BEACHLEY ECHOES No. 18

Keith Andrews	50B	C	Oct 2011	Anthony Lee	46B	B	27/04/12
James R Breewood	46A/B	B	06/04/13	David McBeath	55A	C	
Harry Caplin	Darland		29/10/12	Ron Manning	64A	B	07/09/12
John Chivers	44	C		Baz Morgan	73B	C	
Hart Gilchrist	55A	B	14/06/12	Tony Muir	68B	B	
Rab Hamilton	63A	C		John Parker	34	B	12/07/12
John A Harrison	51A	C	13/12/12	Tom Paxton	62A	C	
Cliff Hatchard	51B	A	15/05/12	A B Regan	54B	C	03/09/12
Pete Hodder	53A	D		John Tighe	42A	C	07/05/12
Les Johnston	61C	A		Geoff Tully	50B	D	27/03/12
James Johnstone	60C	A		Roy Wells	50A	C	

Rest in Peace



BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2012

On the 11th November 2012 those listed below assembled at Horse Guards Parade to march at Whitehall past the Cenotaph to remember and pay respect to our War dead. It is always an extremely moving event. Please consider joining us on November 10th 2013 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave everything for the future of others.

Mr Ray Allen	66C	Mr Mac Obermaier	58B
Mr Ray Armstrong	55A	Mr Derek Pomeroy	62A
Mr Bob Beeston	60C	Mr Richard Poole	RE
Mr Clive Bridgeman	66C	Mr Bob Reid	56A
Mr Colin Bridgeman	66C	Mr Dave Smith	60C
Mr Allan Chatt	59A	Mr Dave Stone	49A
Mr Ian Dickens	47B	Mr Ken Stout	53B
Mr John Goodall	74C	Mr John Symes	47A
Mr Chris Gould	71B	Mr Eddie Tall	68B
Mr Ian Harrower	74C	Mr Maurice Taylor	58A
Major Malcolm Hay	53A	Lt Col Syd Thomas	47A
Mr Jim Hyslop	63C	Mr Tony Waite	60C
Mr Joe Kinson	50A	Mrs Monica Waite	
Mr John Moore	73C	Mr Chalkie White	73A
Mr Moggsie Morris	55A	Mr Nick Winder	58A
Mr Dick Mullins	63C	Mr Dave Youdle	58A
Mr Maurice Murtagh	43B		



Wally Davidson 44 Group, a D-day Veteran, laid a wreath in memory of the fallen at The War Memorial, Chepstow on behalf of all Beachley Old Boys.

The Cenotaph: Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the permanent structure was built from Portland stone between 1919 and 1920 replacing Lutyens' earlier, temporary wood-and-plaster cenotaph in the same location. It is undecorated apart from a carved wreath on each end and a smaller carved wreath on top. The words "The Glorious Dead" are inscribed twice, once below the wreaths on each end. Above the wreaths at each end are inscribed the dates of the First World War in Roman numerals (1914 - MCMXIV; and 1919 - MCMXIX). The sides of the Cenotaph are not parallel, but if extended would meet at a point some 980 feet (300 m) above the ground. Similarly, the "horizontal" surfaces are in fact sections of a sphere whose centre would be 900 feet (270 m) below ground.^[1] It is 35 feet (11 m) high and weighs 120 tonnes (120,000 kg).^[1]



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

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

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE, CHEPSTOW ON SATURDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER 2012.

Present:

Lt Col (Retd) S Thomas	President
Maj (Retd) B Henderson	Chairman
Mr T Waite	Vice President (Elected)
Mr D Fox	Membership Secretary
Maj (Retd) M Hay	Heritage Member
Mr P Burridge	Reunion Organiser
Mr C Ricketts	Hon Treasurer
Lt Col (Retd) K Reader	Editor, Beachley Echoes
Maj (Retd) DRO Walker	Hon Secretary

(The meeting started at 1430hrs and 45 Members were Present).

Apologies R. Jago, G White, BA Obermaier, D Chapman, L Court, R Wise, SW Walker, R Davies, K Massingham, Col J Polley.

Item 1. Opening The Chairman welcomed all members to the AGM and apologised for the confusion over the start times. He then handed the meeting over to the President.

Item 2. Welcoming The President welcomed all present and thanked all (117) for their presence at the 1st Rifles WO's and Sjts Mess the previous evening, however he thought the attendance (45) at the AGM today was very poor. He commended those that had travelled from afar, Australia, Canada and other foreign climes. The importance of attending the AGM was reiterated as those attending only represented ten percent of the membership. He apologised for any misconstrues at dinner last year, because he has always welcomed Ladies to be in attendance. In respect of the Reunion attendance, as the College had become mainly RE from 1966 it becomes incumbent upon our RE members to take steps to encourage 'peers' and later ex-boys to join the Association to ensure its survival.

Item 3. In Memoriam A two minute silence was observed for members who had died since the last reunion and for those who had died while serving in Afghanistan. A list of 22 names was read out of members and non-members who had passed away. The names are appended at the end of these minutes. In particular Baz Morgan was mentioned, who had until last year been the parade RSM. Members were reminded that they were 'the eyes and ears' of the Association and should ensure occurrences were reported to the Welfare Member or Chairman.

Item 4. Minutes of AGM 2010

- Matters arising: Item 9a, AOB. Roll of Honour meeting took place in November 2011; the outcome is covered further in the minutes.
- As the last issue of the Beachley Echoes (BE) contained the 2011 AGM minutes it was assumed that all



present had read them. It was proposed by J Hasnip (Staff) and seconded by H Woodhouse (56B) that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings. Carried: Unanimously.

Item 5. Correspondence A letter had been received from the Chairman of the AANM Trust, this was read out and is also included at the end of these minutes. Any comments should be passed to the BOBA Chairman.

Item 6. Executive Committee Report

a. Chairman (BH) He stated that last years Racecourse Reunion had gone well and thanked the staff present for their efforts. In particular he wished to congratulate Tony Waite on his marriage to Monica (a well kept secret). He further stated that BOBA Committee meetings had been reduced to 2/3 a year as a cost saving measure. The Chairman then introduced the Committee Members to those present indicating aspects of their various tasks. The Welfare member was not in attendance. Further, he stated, the Web Site had been freshened up, the e-mail page had been updated, but there are some difficulties with uploading photographs. Feed-back forms had been sent to 120 e-mail addresses, 60 replied and those areas of concern had been addressed. Due to an exercise in Kenya, the lunch for Sunday has been cancelled. General comments from last night's visit to the WO's and Sgts Mess have been very favourable and appreciative.

b. Treasurer (CR) The summary of the BOBA accounts were included in the BE's. A shortfall in the Reunion funding, as anticipated, was incurred due to the general increase in prices and maintenance of standards expected by the members. There was an increase in the fund; Gilt Investments are realising £1030.88 pa; the £11K invested with the Monmouthshire Bldg Soc is returning £150pa. The Current Account is £7.5K. A donation of £200 was approved by the Chairman, iaw the Rules of the Association, via the Welfare Fund, towards a members' funeral. The Welfare Fund remains in good order. Membership payments received in April via SO's continues to show a gradual increase in income. 2012 Membership may see another drop due to the £50 'one-off' payments or SO's completing. The way forward is difficult. It is time to accept that our membership is about 400 rather than the 1000 listed, and stick with those stalwarts which support BOBA. Financially we remain strong and more than able to continue for another year. The Treasurer then gave a short presentation and left the account documents available for member's perusal.

It was proposed by R Marie 46A and seconded J Bass 44A that the BOBA fund be accepted as shown, carried unanimously.

c. Membership (DF) 25 new members (listed at the rear) have joined since the last reunion, many of these result from persons registering in the Visitors Book. Few new members are achieved via Facebook. The Hon Treasurer is to be thanked for providing 'lapsed' members details, his labours were not in vain. We have at this time 468 paid up members. The membership database now gives a much clearer picture of member's payments. As of the reunion weekend 280 members have not paid, this figure will rise by April 2013. It is felt we should maintain a database of paid members, even though the 3 year rule distorts this. The intention is to vote to change Rule 6c, which imposes the 3 year time frame for suspension on non-paying members. With permission of the Committee he suggested that the period be reduced to 1 Year. (The Chairman indicated that 'returning members' had not been asked to repay all lapsed fees.) However there was no silver bullet to set this right. After discussion from the floor it was decided to keep chipping away and let further investigation be undertaken, and then introduce the 1 year timing. Next year is the 50th Anniversary of 63 Groups, should any assistance be required please contact the membership secretary (01760 338483 or memsecboba@sky.com). The Reunion activities are confined to 'BOBA Members' only – so join up!

d. Heritage (MH) The Roll of Honour (RoH) has been updated from 1986 using Corps Record Offices and confirmation of Ammo Ex A/T's details through the School of Ammunition, resulting in only one death and GMs etc, being updated for personnel, it was then consecrated and interred at the AANM Alrewas on the 9th September 2012. Any further updates are awaited from members, this data can only be added to the Book of Remembrance in the Chapel of Rest. A calligrapher for this task is available. As previously mentioned last year in association with the Chepstow Museum, we hope to digitise some or all of our archives, Enlistment Books and Robots mainly to reduce our need for storage. The curator informs me that this may well proceed when the necessary recruiting has been achieved. There will be a cost for this service, previous experience by AOBA suggest this could be quite expensive. Other projects being undertaken, such as an on site café will slow this down, however the idea is not dead. Finally thank you to my helpers this morning, Ken Stout, Barry White, Pete Gilby and Mac Obermaier.

e. Beachley Echoes (KR) My first trial as Beachley Echoes Editor, a little daunting and more difficult than I had surmised. Thank you for your articles, please keep sending them in. As you know we are now producing the BE electronically on our BOBA web site, unless you had requested a hard copy (29), to enable members to



download BEs as required. Should we have your up to date e.mail address, it is intended to send a *.pdf copy direct to you next year. Any questions?

Q. How many pdf copies were sent out this year?

A. Just a few as Committee members believed members would download their own copy from the web site.

Item 7. Election of President Lt Col Syd Thomas was willing to continue as President, and there were no other nominees. Re-election was proposed by P Beaty 45B and Seconded by P Windsor 55B. Carried Unanimously.

Item 8. Election of the Committee (and Vice Presidents) The present Committee Members and VPs wished to continue in their posts and there were no new nominees, it was proposed therefore to re-elect all members 'on -block'.

Proposed by: A Chatt 59A, Seconded by: R Armstrong 55A, Agreed Unanimously.

Item 9. Army Apprentice National Memorial Maj (Retd) Chapman was not available so an update was given by the Chairman. The Secretary first read out an account by Ron Marie 46A, of the background of the Roll of Honour (RoH) and its updating prior to interment (see report attachment at rear).

Item 10. The Cenotaph Parade The President said that BOBA has paraded at the Cenotaph for ten years and each time numbers have exceeded places. This year for some reason we have only 14 names, possibly due to his e-mail address change or suchlike. Please ensure your name is on the attendance list in the foyer if you are coming to the Cenotaph this year. Tickets were available for 30 members, but reserves were always needed. For those who have not attended, the feeling of occasion is overawing. (Post meeting note: The Parade was well attended and enjoyed).

Item 11. Any Other Business

Chris Blunden 55A, Will any additions to the RoH be possible now it is interred?

Ans: No it is fully sealed. Future additions will be to the Book of Remembrance.

E Bass 44A, Has the Chepstow Hotel been resurrected yet?

Ans: Yes, but it has no large dining/meeting rooms, therefore it is not suitable for BOBA. Individual bedrooms rooms may be available.

Peter Gilbey 53B, Proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard work. Agreed: Unanimously.

The President,

Do you want to go to the 1st Rifles WOs and Sjt's Mess next year? General response: Yes.

Why do separate sub-groups hold their own dinners on Saturday evening instead of coming to the BOBA dinner?

Statement: Please let the Committee know exactly what it is you all wish for from the 'Reunion weekend', because at present we appear to be unaware of some member's requirements, especially as we wish to satisfy all our members.

Item 12. Date of Next Reunion and Closure The next reunion weekend will be the 20 - 22 Sep 2013, and the AGM the 21 Sep 13. The REA weekend dates will be taken into consideration. The meeting closed at 1600hrs.

DRO WALKER
Hon Sec BOBA

B HENDERSON
Chairman BOBA



In Memoriam

M/No	Title	Name	Group	M/No	Title	Name	Group
1157	Mr	SJ Emmett	42	1281	Mr	R Arnold	60C
259	Mr	JH Chivers	44	705	Mr	CDV Irish	53A
761	Mr	R Kennison	42A	168	Mr	WJ Kingsbury MBE	42B
609	Mr	TA Lowe	47A	185	Mr	KN Morgan	42A
493	Mr	BG Morgan	73B	329	Maj	SJN Parker	34
109	Col	PG Rosser OBE	Staff	279	Maj	JP Tighe	42A
697	Mr	REH Wells	50A	N-M	Maj	DA Robbins	55A
N-M	Mr	Gilchrist	55A	N-M	Mr	C Hatchard	N/K
N-M	Mr	AJL Lee	46B	N-M	Mr	W Sedge	57B
N-M	Mr	R Manning	N/K	N-M	Mr	J McBeath	55A
N-M	Mr	JM Johnstone	60C	N-M	Mr	L Lawrence	N/K

New Members

Title	Forename	Name	Gp	Coy	Title	Forename	Name	Gp	Coy
Col	Douglas	Stobie	55B	A	Mr	Tom	Bebbington	62C	C
Mr	Jim	Robertson	58B	C	Mr	John	Blisset	62A	C
Mr	John	Jowett	50B	B	Mr	Dave	Clement	71C	C
Mr	Bob	Hudson	63B	A	Mr	John	Barlow	62C	C
Mr	Mike	Suggitt	61C	B	Mr	Baz	Hipwell	75C	B
Mr	Bill	Nichol	61A	C	Mr	Jim	Brown	71B	B
Mr	Mel	Hinchcliffe	69A	B	Mr	Eddie	Hillier	62C	B
Mr	John	Hughes	62B	A	Mr	Alan	Rowlands	69C	C
Mr	Kieran	Devlin	88?	?	Mr	Gareth/Oz	Osborne	81	C
Mr	Doug	Woods	45A	A	Mr	Victor	Swann	62A	C
Mr	John	Dixon	61A/62CC		Mr	John	Forster	62A	C
Mr	Ozzie	Osborne	69C	C/A	Mr	Bryan	McCubbing	58A	B/A
Mr	Hugh	Caldwell	58B	A	Mr	Eddy	Lowe	62C	A

Background and Interment of BOBA Roll of Honour

The Beachley Old Boys Association, perforce dormant for some considerable time during WWII, was revived with a reunion held at Beachley Camp in September 1946. The then Commandant, Col. PB Cudden M.C., decreed that a complete list of all old boys of the school who had made the 'Supreme Sacrifice', should be recorded for posterity.

The listed Roll of Honour was published, detailing such particulars as officially received by the school from the respective OIC's (Officers in Charge of Records) and / or notifications from relatives and friends of the fallen. This culminated with the production and dedication of the 'Book of Remembrance' in November 1948, it being installed in the school chapel to serve as a 'war memorial' to fallen Beachley Boys.

This Roll of Honour has been subsequently revised to embrace post WWII hostilities by respective Heritage Members, R Marie 46A and M Hay 53A. The final act of interment and sealing of the updated Roll of Honour, beneath the monument at the Army Apprentice National Memorial, Alrewas, Staffordshire occurred on the 9th of September 2012.

It will remain there in perpetuity, and now completes the original task set by the Committee.

Signed, **Ron Marie** (46A)

20th September 2012

ARMY APPRENTICE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Report to BOBA AGM 22nd September 2012.

As BOBA members will recall, the Army Apprentice National Memorial, situated at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs was dedicated at a service of dedication on the 7th September 2010. The ceremony was attended by representative of the four ex-boys' association of Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate and Carlisle Colleges, Regimental and corps reps and other guests to a total of some several hundred.



The AANM was made possible by the generous donations from many sources, including BOBA. Ex-apprentices were able to donate via the commemorative tablets scheme where for a donation an apprentice's name and details were recorded on a series of plaques laid as part of the memorial. A total of 570 commemorative tablets were eventually produced and laid.

During the last year the memorial trustees have carried the project further forward: An insurance and maintenance plan was contracted with the National Memorial Arboretum. The NMA will maintain the memorial to a detailed specification. A one-off payment to the NMA of £40K will be paid for the insurance and maintenance in perpetuity. A generous grant of £15K from the REME Charitable Fund made this possible. A black granite lectern has been added to the memorial. The lectern carries further detailed information than is recorded on the memorial itself. The final thirty commemorative tablets were recently completed in August; these are immediately behind the monolith.

In June AOBA held their annual reunion at Hinkley and held a drumhead service at the AANM as part of their weekend.

On Sunday the 9th of September a service was held to dedicate rolls of honour provided by the four ex-apprentice associations which were interred as a 'time capsule' at the front of the memorial. This was originally suggested by BOBA's previous Heritage Member, Ron Marie. At the same service the new standard for the Carlisle Association, Hadrian's Old Boys', was also dedicated. Prior to the Sunday service a dinner night was held for ex-apprentices at the Mickleover Hotel, Derby.

The AANM website is still up and running and has now received more than 80,000 hits. You will find it at www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk.

On the Charity Commission website you can find details of the memorial – Reg. Charity No. 1137924, including financial returns and list of trustees etc.

If you have any questions about the AANM please contact Dave Chapman at dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01291 628178.

Signed, **D Chapman** (60A B Coy)

ARMY APPRENTICE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Precis of letter sent to BOBA Chairman by Maj D Chapman (Chairman AANM Trust)

Dear Ex-Apprentice Association Chairman

Now that the construction and dedication phases of the AANM are complete the Trustees need to think how the memorial should be managed in the future. Currently the memorial is held as a registered charity and is controlled by nine trustees all of whom are from the sponsor ex-apprentices establishments. All bills have been paid and an insurance/maintenance contract has been set up with the NMA.

Inevitably a time will come when the trustees will need to be replaced and it is their view that the four associations should jointly take over the supervision of the memorial and put up candidates to do this from their membership. An AGM is held when trustee appointments can be made. The minimum number is 3 and the maximum is 10, the minimum number of members to form a quorum is 8. At present there are representatives from the four ex-apprentice establishments' and are willing to stay on if that is acceptable to their sponsoring association.

In future, the current trustees are not expecting to hold any meetings other than the AGM, this should keep the commitment for future trustees to a minimum.

A further possibility is that the AANM charity could be wound up and any remaining funds returned to the sponsoring associations for charity purposes. The association committees would then supervise the insurance/maintenance contract directly and assume ownership of the memorial, which is currently owned by the trustees.

Another possibility is that in time a National Ex-Apprentice Association will be formed and would assume responsibility for oversight of the insurance/maintenance contract.

The AANM trustees would welcome the association's views on how the memorial should be managed in the future. To this end, we are to note that the next AGM of the AANM is to be held at 1100 Hours on Thursday 2nd May 2013 at the NMA. The trustees cordially invite you or your representative to attend this meeting.



BOBA Reunion 2013 – General Arrangements

We have again managed to obtain accommodation at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, near Magor. The costs per room per night are the same as last year. Again, on the Saturday we will be based at Chepstow Racecourse, this includes the Heritage Trail, the Annual General Meeting and the Reunion Dinner. As in 2012 the reunion dinner (Dress: Jacket & tie) will be mixed and the costs remain the same. The Friday evening 'Get Together' will again be held in the WO's and Sjt's Mess at Beachley (Dress: Smart casual). We trust you will find all the facilities to your liking.

The hotel is about 9 miles from Chepstow therefore we have laid on return transport for both the Friday (including a pickup at Tesco, Chepstow) and Saturday evenings to enable those requiring it to enjoy the festivities without jeopardising their driving licences. You will see from the reunion application form that hotel and transport packages are very attractive but please note that in order to obtain BOBA concessions, applications must be made through our organiser in the usual manner.

That apart folks, it is *almost* business as usual, by this I mean that it would be of real benefit to the committee if your reunion applications were made early this year to give us an indication of how many will attend. The catering will not be an issue but extra transport might be and there is also a need to advise the hotel if we need a larger allocation of rooms. Neither element is going to be best served by last minute requests so please help us to assist you?

Points to Note:

Application Apply early and send a stamped, self addressed envelope with the correct postage please. Attention! There will be no reception desk open on the Friday for the collection of tickets so if you intend to join us in the mess at Beachley that evening please get them posted to your contact address. (The reception desk will be open as usual on Saturday.)

Caravans Parking is available at the racecourse for caravans and motorhomes, however services are limited in terms of electrical hook ups and you may be required to share. There is a water supply and separate toilets and showers are available in the 'Hostel'. Access to the racecourse can be made via the Lion Gate or one of the other entrances off the St Arvan's road. There will be signposts to guide motorists on site.

Those leaving on the Sunday are requested to do so by 2pm, this coincides with the closing time of the market. The Racecourse has offered to extend the booking period to include Sunday night, those leaving on Monday are requested to do so by midday.

Coaches **NB.** Departure times are printed clearly on your itinerary overleaf and you are requested to ensure that those involved board coaches on time. This does mean leaving the Racecourse at the same time as the bar closes (**no time for last orders**) for your return trip, however the Hampton Hotel has promised to keep their bar open for those liking a nightcap or three to welcome you back. There is the possibility that, subject to demand on both evenings, a return coach leaving at 10.30pm.

Taxis If you have the misfortune to miss the coach a taxi to the hotel will cost approximately £25.00. However we would not be surprised to see fares increase in line with fuel premiums by September.



BOBA members and their guests enjoying the 2012 Reunion dinner at Chepstow racecourse.



**THE 2013 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME****FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER****DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – PARK COURSE**

Golf Practice	13.00
---------------	-------

BEACHLEY BARRACKS

Entrance to Beachley Barracks via the Main Gate (Holders of tickets to Friday Get Together only)	19.00 onwards
Coach/Coaches leave the Hampton Hotel for Beachley Barracks calling at Tesco's Chepstow	18.30

WO's & Sjt's Mess, 1st Rifles

BOBA Get together	19.00 to 23.59
-------------------	----------------

Buffet Supper (Beef/Chicken curry + trimmings or lasagne)	20.30 to 21.30
---	----------------

Bar closes	23.59
------------	-------

Early coach leaves Beachley Barracks for the Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco's Chepstow	22.30
Coach/Coaches leave Beachley Barracks for the Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco's Chepstow	23.59

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER**DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – PARK COURSE**

The BOB's Golf Competition	08.15
----------------------------	-------

CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE**THE PREMIER FOYER**

Members Reception Desk (Closed during AGM)	09.30 to 15.30
--	----------------

THE PREMIER FOYER

Heritage Trail & Chepstow Museum (Including the BOBA Shop)	10.00 to 13.00
--	----------------

THE PREMIER BAR

Bar open for tea/coffee/alcohol and light lunches until demand ceases	09.30 onwards
---	---------------

Annual General Meeting	13.30 to 15.00
------------------------	----------------

Coach/Coaches leave the Hampton Hotel for the Chepstow Racecourse calling at Tesco's Chepstow	18.00
---	-------

THE PREMIER FOYER

Members Reception Desk	18.30 to 19.00
------------------------	----------------

THE PREMIER BAR

The President's Reception	18.30 to 19.30
---------------------------	----------------

Golf Prize Giving	18.30
-------------------	-------

THE SILKS RESTAURANT

BOBA Reunion Dinner	19.30
---------------------	-------

After Dinner Dance	21.30 to 23.59
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Bar closes	01.00 Sunday
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Early coach leaves Chepstow Racecourse for the Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco's Chepstow	22.30
Coach/Coaches leave the Chepstow Racecourse for the Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco's Chepstow	00.15 Sunday

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER**BEACHLEY BARRACKS**

Entrance to Beachley Barracks via the Old Beachley Gate (Pass Required)	10.00 onwards
---	---------------

<u>PARADE SQUARE</u>	'Get on Parade'	10.30
-----------------------------	-----------------	-------

<u>St. GEORGE'S CHAPEL</u>	Founders Day Church Service	11.00
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THE BOBA REUNION

20th to 22nd September 2013

APPLICATION FORM

NAME: GROUP: COY: MEMBERSHIP NO:

ADDRESS:

..... POST CODE:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL: DATE:

THE NAME(S) OF ANY FAMILY AND/OR GUEST(S) TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS APPLICATION:

A. B. C.

TICKETS REQUIRED

1. FRIDAY 'GET TOGETHER' (Buffet & Dance)	Tickets @ £14.00	No....	Cost £.....
2. FRIDAY 'GET TOGETHER' (Dance only)	Tickets @ £5.00	No....	Cost £.....

3. SATURDAY REUNION DINNER (Dinner & Dance)	Tickets @ £32.00	No....	Cost £.....
4. SATURDAY REUNION (Dance only after 21.30hrs)	Tickets @ £5.00	No....	Cost £.....

5. ACCOMMODATION (B & B) AT THE HAMPTON HOTEL
(The price is the same for either double or single occupancy)

TWO NIGHTS FRIDAY & SATURDAY	Tickets @ £100.00	No...	Cost £.....
ONE NIGHT SATURDAY	Tickets @ £50.00	No...	Cost £.....

6. COACH - FRIDAY

HAMPTON HOTEL TO BEACHLEY (Return)	Per seat @ £7.50	No....	Cost £.....
TESCO CHEPSTOW TO BEACHLEY (Return)	Per seat @ £7.50	No....	Cost £.....

Please indicate if you wish to return by an earlier coach at 22.30hrs and not 23.59hrs YES/NO

7. COACH- SATURDAY

HAMPTON HOTEL TO RACECOURSE (Return)	Per seat @ £7.50	No...	Cost £.....
TESCO CHEPSTOW TO RACECOURSE (Return)	Per seat @ £7.50	No....	Cost £.....

Please indicate if you wish to return by an earlier coach at 22.30hrs and not Sunday 00.15hrs
YES/NO

8. CARAVAN PARK (CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE)	Per night @ £7.50	No....	Cost £.....
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9. NAME BADGE HOLDER	Each @ £1.50	No....	Cost £.....
----------------------	--------------	--------	-------------

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (NON REFUNDABLE) TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF £.....

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE "BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION"

Continued overleaf



10. ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (e.g. DIETRY, DISABLED)

í í

11. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS – THE REUNION DINNER

SEATING AT THE DINNER IS MIXED, THE TABLES WILL SEAT UP TO EIGHT (8) PERSONS AND CAN BE ARRANGED BY GROUPS. SHOULD YOU (AND YOUR PARTNER/GUESTS) WISH TO BE SEATED WITH FRIENDS PLEASE INDICATE BELOW:

NAME: GROUP:

12. ENTRY TO BEACHLEY BARRACKS IS RESTRICTED:

- A. ACCESS ON FRIDAY 21ST SEPT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE HOLDERS OF 'GET TOGETHER' TICKETS (BUFFET & DANCE OR DANCE ONLY).
- B. ACCESS ON SUNDAY 23RD SEPT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE HOLDERS OF A GATE PASS.
- C. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU REQUIRE A GATE PASS TO ATTEND THE CHURCH PARADE ON SUNDAY 23RD SEPT.

YES / NO

PLEASE ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT AND
ALSO INCLUDE A C5 OR C6 STAMPED AND ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR TICKETS

MR PETER BURRIDGE
4 SOUTHBROOK, 1 HERON CLOSE, PRESTON,
WEYMOUTH, DORSET DT3 6SX

(Tel: 01305 835989 E-Mail: boba.reunion@btinternet.com)

PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE 1ST AUGUST 2013

IMPORTANT

The attendance at any of this year's Reunion events, and consequently the use of this Application Form, is restricted to paid-up Members of BOBA (with their families and guests) together with the widows of Past-Members (also with their families and guests).

Should you not be a Member of BOBA and wish to join, or re-join, or have any doubts about your subscription status please contact the Membership Secretary – Telephone 01760 338483, email: memsecboba@sky.com



CHEPSTOW & AREA ACCOMMODATION LIST: APRIL 2013

The accommodation published has **not** been checked for quality ~ These entries may be changed without notice ~ All Locations are in, or within, a twelve miles radius of Chepstow ~ Please check prices before booking, some are expensive. ~ Any marked * after the telephone number have not confirmed availability ~ **Bold entries are new** ~ SC = Self Catering.

Hotels ~ Chepstow & Area:

		Tel. Number
Willowbrook Guest House	Pwllmeric, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 645951
The Marriot Hotel (St. Pierre ~ Golf)	Pwllmeric, Nr Chepstow (Note: Expensive)	(01291) 625261
Beaufort Hotel	Beaufort Square, Chepstow	(01291) 622497
Castle View Hotel	Bridge Street, Chepstow	(01291) 620349
The George Hotel	Moore Street, Chepstow	(01291) 625363
The Huntsman Hotel	Usk Road, Shirenewton, Nr. Chepstow	(01291) 641521
Hampton by Hilton	Newport Road, Magor	(01633) 749999

B&B Inns, Pubs etc ~ Chepstow & Area:

The Two Rivers	Newport Road, Chepstow	(01291) 629159
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
Knovil House	Mathern	(01291) 627191
Old Ferry Inn (Linda & Murray)	Beachley, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 622474
The Wheatsheaf Inn	The Square, Magor	(01633) 880608
The Old Barn	Llanmartin	(01633) 413382

B&B Guest Houses etc ~ Chepstow & Area:

Court Farm , (Mrs. Anstey)	Rogiet, Nr Caldicot	(01633) 880232
Parkfield	St Arvans	(01291) 621860
Cwrt Robert (Mrs Paxton)	Bryn Gwyn, Raglan	(01291) 690709
Coalpits Farm	Shirenewton, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 641820
Private House (Mrs Park)	Redwick, Magor	(01633) 880230
Private House (Mrs Brown)	6 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, (Prefers doubles)	(01291) 620283
Private House (Josie or Pete Warren)	1 Town Gate Mews, Chepstow	(01291) 626643
Private House (Jan Howells)	45 Bridge Street	(01291) 627191

B&B Guest Houses ~ East of Chepstow (Glos):

Cherry Orchard Farm	Newland, Nr Coleford	(01594) 832212
Deanfield	Folly Road, Parkend, Nr Lydney	0845 347 0029
Woolaston Inn (run by ex Gurkhas)	Woolaston, Lydney (West of)	(01594) 562256
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 Lychgate (Glynis & Gordon Casey)	47 Church Road, Caldicot	(01291) 422378
Ivy Lodge Guest House	Chepstow Road, Caldicot	(01291) 421504
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 Wilows	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:****Tel. Number**

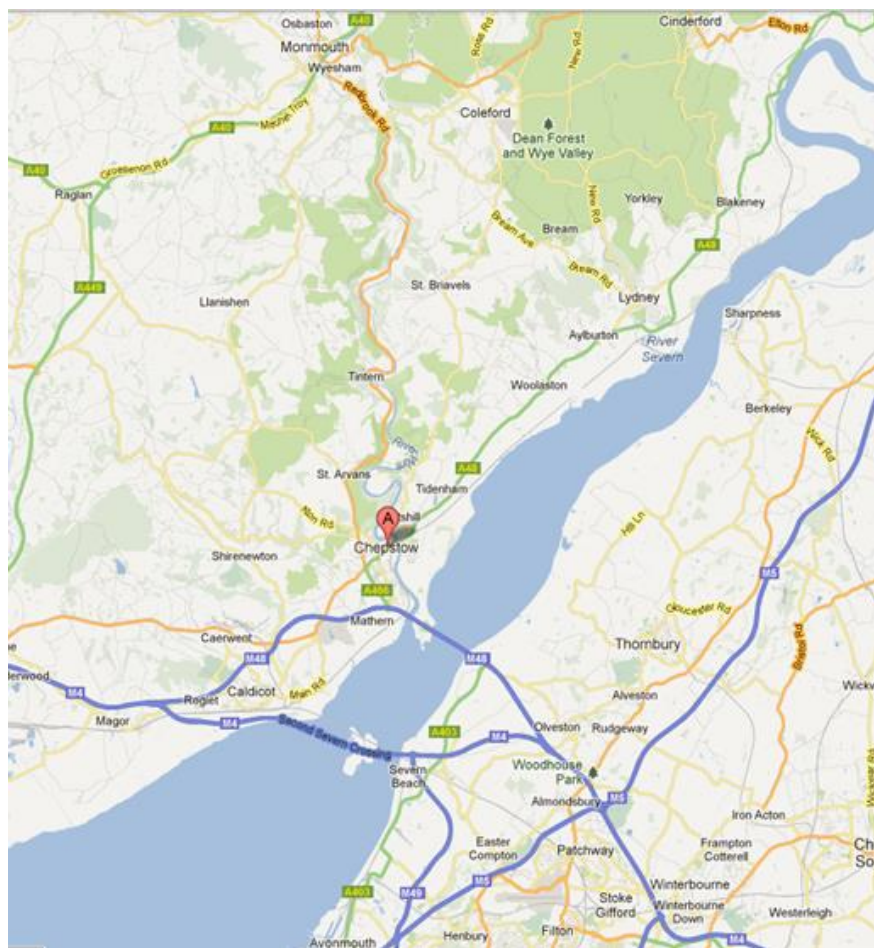
Parva Farmhouse Riverside Guesthouse	Tintern, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 689411
The Crown	Whitebrook, Nr Monmouth	(01600) 860 254
The Royal George	Tintern, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 689205
The Wye Valley Hotel	Tintern, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 689441
The Bush Inn B&B	Penault, Nr Tintern, Monmouth	(01600) 772765
The Florence Country House Hotel	Nr Monmouth, Lower Wye Valley	(01594) 530830
The George Inn	St. Bravels, 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
Prospect Cottage	St. Bravels (GL15 6RR)	(01594) 530566
Offa's Mead (Mrs Lacey)	The Fence, St. Bravels	(01594) 530229
Lugano, (Mrs. Townsend)	Llandogo, Wye Valley	(01594) 530496
Tintern Old Rectory	Tintern, Nr Chepstow	(01291) 689920

B&B Guest Houses - South & East of the Severn (Glos):

Abbots Way Guesthouse	Gloucester Road (A38), Almondsbury	(01454) 613134*
Travel Lodge (Aust Servises)	(Special rates occasionally ~ Phone 08700 850950)	(01454) 633199



Editor's note: My sincere thanks to Mac Obermaier for carrying out a comprehensive review of the accommodation list. Obviously things may change by the time you try to book—quite a number of establishments have ceased trading since the last review.

The Hampton by Hilton Hotel is off J23a of the M4 on the B4245 Magor Road. On leaving the M4 by the 1st exit, take the 1st left leading to a roundabout, go left to pass under a bridge. The hotel is soon signposted on your right. Tel. No 01633 749999. Postcode NP26 3DG. Website <http://www.hiltonhotelfinder.co.uk/magor-hilton-hotels>

The Racecourse is sited on the A466. There is an icon (jockey on racing horse) below the word "Woodcroft" giving the location. The Lion Gate entrance is on the roundabout where this road crosses the B4293. Tel. No. 01291 622260. Postcode NP16 6BE. Website <http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk>



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2012

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

ASSETS

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	£7,540.65	Cash in Bank	£10,991.71
£7,540.65		Total Cash	£10,991.71
£0.00		Deposit Account	£0.00
£11,154.61		Monmouthshire Building Society Account	£11,405.59
£0.00		Sundry Debtors	
£18,695.26		Total Liquid Assets	£22,397.30

SHOP STOCK

£3,343.77	BOBA/AAS Regalia	£2,729.16
£22,039.03	Total Current Assets	£25,126.46

LIABILITIES

£0.00	Sundry Creditors	£0.00
£185.11	BOBA Golf Fund	£146.12
£626.90	Benevolent Fund	£426.90
£0.00	NMA	
£812.01	Total Liabilities	£573.02

£21,227.02	Net Working Capital	£24,553.44
	being Current Assets minus Liabilities	

FIXED ASSETS

£0.00	£0.00	Capital Property	£0.00	£0.00
£15,000.00	£15,000.00	Investments	£15,000.00	£15,000.00

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

£38,044.07	Balance as per last Balance sheet	£36,227.02
£1,938.90	Add surplus of Income	£3,326.42
	Subtract deficit of Expenditure	
£36,227.02	Accumulated General Purposes Fund	£39,553.44
	being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets	

Audited By:

Name	GR PROWITT
Signed	
Date	080313

Treasurer:

Name	C Ricketts
Signed	
Date	230413

RAO
- 8 MAR 2013
RMON RE (M)



Expenditure/Losses	2012	2011	Income	2012	2011
Refunds	£40.00	£20.00	Membership Subs	£4,040.00	£4,220.00
Committee Expenses	£1,281.07	£2,011.87	Donations	£31.00	£595.00
Insurance	£85.00	£85.00	Deposit A/C Interest	£0.00	£0.64
Property Depreciation	£0.00	£155.02	Investment Dividend	£1,030.88	£1,030.88
Wreaths	£37.00	£37.00	Shop Profit	£181.39	£203.39
Web Site Fee	£157.41	£150.04	Building Society A/C	£250.98	£154.61
Postage	£332.81	£586.65	Shop Postage	£135.45	£110.72
Stationery	£86.21	£337.59	Church Collection	£274.00	£350.00
Honorarium Treasurer	£0.00	£0.00	Additional Misc Sales	£117.50	£54.50
Honorarium Mem Sec	£0.00	£0.00	Reunion	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	£274.00	£350.00	Transfer	£0.00	£0.07
Reunion Subsidy	£221.63	£832.84			
Misc Purchase	£169.65	£215.40			
Total Expenditure	£2,684.78	£4,781.41	Total Income	£6,061.20	£6,720.31
Surplus to Balance Sheet	£3,376.42	£1,938.90			
Grand Totals	£6,061.20	£6,720.31		£6,061.20	£6,720.31

NOTES:**Subscriptions:**

Whilst income from Subs has fallen there are still many who pay 5 years fees at once.

Echoes:

The Echoes continues to be our most expensive item but the introduction of "on-line" availability should help.

Printing & Postage:

The cost of printing dropped significantly this year as we sent the Echoes to fewer but released it 'on-line'.

Committee Expenses:

Once again your Committee have been mindful of costs and have been diligent in saving wherever possible.

Donations:

There was a single donation from the Benevolent Fund.

New Account:

The Building Society Account has allowed us to receive a better return for our investment this year.

Shop:

The Shop continues to show a reasonable return and now has an increased range and additional stock.

Golf Society:

The Society continues to flourish and remains fully self funding.

Investment Account:

This investment will run until 2013 but shows a return of £1030.88 fixed until then.

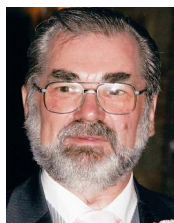
Account Audit:

Last year the accounts were audited by the RAO, R Mon RE(M), and found to be in good order.

C. C. Ricketts
Hon Treasurer BOBA

AGM Agenda

If you have any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary, Derek Walker, know as soon as possible. Derek's contact details are given at the head of the minutes on page 14.



BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by Derek Fox 58B Group

Membership / New Members:

New Members Joining In The Last 12 Months

There have been eight new members join since the last reunion(2012). I would like to thank the Hon Treasurer for phoning a sample quantity of lapsed members; his labours were not in vain! We have at the time of writing 473 paid up members.

The new members are:

Mr E A Eddy Lowe BEM	62C A	Mr PH Paul Clinton / Daft	72C B
Mr B D Brian Davis	58B C	Mr PR Peter Crockford	59C B
Mr RFG Fred Clark	62B A	Mr D Doug Mullins	52B C
Mr JA Jim Parsonage	49A/B A/C	Mr H Harry O'Neill	57B B

Membership Database

I am now sharing the Hon. Treasurer's database for membership payments, thus avoiding doubling up on information. The number of members that have not paid prior to and including 2012 is 280 (this figure will almost certainly rise after 1st April 2013).

I think we would be better advised to maintain our membership database at the paid up level. The three year rule distorts the true state of the membership numbers.. Where a member has returned to the Association he was asked to pay subs that were in arrears. On advice from the Chairman, returning members have not in fact been asked for back subs; although some have, to their credit, paid them.

Membership subs now due

May I take this opportunity of informing all the members that answered the call to pay 5 years (£50) subs in 2007/2008 that their renewal date was 01/04/2013. A Standing Order Mandate is included in this edition of the Echoes for your use. Many thanks in anticipation.

1963 Groups ~ 50th Anniversary

This year sees the golden anniversary of the 1963 groups of Beachley Boys. If I can assist those organizing the reunion (without falling foul of the Data Protection Act) just let me know. Any non-members thinking of attending should understand that any activity within the auspices of BOBA is confined to Association members only.

My Contact Details: You can contact me by any of the following methods -

Membership Secretary ~ Derek Fox (58B)

Home Address: 51 Church Close, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1JJ

Home Tel No: +44 (0) 1760 338483 Mobile Phone No: +44 (0) 7842555110

Email Address: ~ memsecboba@sky.com (Please note that this is a new email address)

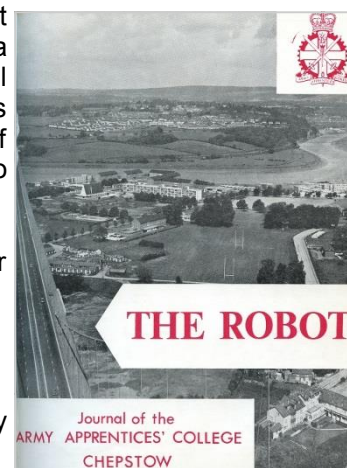
Derek Fox (58B)

New Robots for Old (Figuratively Speaking)

Do you ever wish that you had held onto The Robots covering you time at Beachley? Well you can now get them in PDF (Portable Document Format) on a disc. As the result of a request last year there is now an ongoing project to scan all of the issues of The Robot from the first edition in 1924. The scanned copies covering your time will be put on a CD along with the first three years worth of issues. The cost of the CD including P&P is £5.00, an element of which will go towards repairing the books holding the original copies.

To obtain a CD with the issues covering your time at Beachley please send your cheque for £5.00 (made Payable to 'Beachley Old Boys' Association' with

- ♦ Your name and group
 - ♦ Address
 - ♦ Month and year of arrival—month and year departing
- to Ken Reader (contact details on page 12). Please note that there may be a delay if the editions covering your time have not yet been scanned.





Your instruction to set up anew, amend or cancel a,

Standing Order

The easy way to make regular payments from your account

1 Your Details

Please write clearly in the white spaces with capital letters or Tick boxes

All sections must be completed

Your full Name or name of business

Branch name

Your contact telephone number

Sort Code

Account number

2 Standing Order details

Does this instruction replace any existing standing order or direct debit instructions?

Yes

No

How often do you want payments made?

Weekly

4 Weekly

Monthly

If 'YES' please complete section overleaf or detail in special instructions opposite.

Quarterly

Half yearly

Yearly

If 'NO' please complete all remaining boxes.

Special instructions

Recipient's name:

Beachley Old Boys' Association

Recipient's bank & branch name:

Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient's sort code

Recipient's Account number

3 0 9 1 8 9

0 0 0 9 8 8 5 2

First payment amount
(If different to usual amount)

First payment date
(Month & Year)

0 1 2 0

Usual amount

Usual payment amount in words

£ 1 0

TEN POUNDS STERLING

Second payment amount
(If different to usual amount)

Second payment date
(Fill in year)

0 1 0 4 2 0

Until further notice (X)

1. Ensure you fill in all dates where asked.

2. Make sure you sign and date this form.

3. When complete, send to your bank not BOBA.

To Bank

Please note that the second payment and all consequent payments are to be made on

01 April of each year.

Your payment reference (max 18 characters)
(Surname, initials & Group)

(e.g. Humperdink,E,27A)

3 Your agreement with us

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Registered office
25 Gresham St
London EC2V 7HN
Registered in England &
Wales No 2065

Please note that we will not;

1. Make any reference to VAT or any other indeterminate element.
2. Advise your address to the person/organisation you are paying.
3. Tell the person/organisation you are not able to pay.
4. Ask the bank of the person/organisation you are paying to tell this person/organisation when payments are received.

ID confirmed
(for bank use only)

☐

Your signature

Date

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc
Registered office
Henry Duncan House
120 George St
Edinburgh EH2 4LH

I authorise you to debit my/our account, in accordance with the details shown in Section 2.

This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account.

For bank use only

Registered in Scotland
No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes

From branch name

Sort Code

Contact name



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

BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY



Dear BOBA Member

Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

BOBA ~ Membership Secretary

Derek Fox
51 Church Close, Pentney,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
PE32 1JJ

Tel. 01760 338483
Mobile: 0784 555110
email: memsecboba@sky.com

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 if and whom 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, assist 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: memsecboba@sky.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 1760 338483

Mobile: +44 (0)784 555110

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sincere Regards,

Derek Fox ~ BOBA Membership Secretary



Ray's Skydive

To celebrate my 62nd birthday I did my first tandem skydive with a 60 second freefall over the Dubai Palm Island; the reason for doing it in Dubai is that I have lived here since 1975 a best kept secret until the Rulers put it on the Tourist map. By the way the I told my wife I was going to the dentist!

Ray Allen (66C C Coy)



BOBA Officers and Committee Members

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Lt Col (Retd) S Thomas REME (47A)

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Brig NMR Addison
Col AGR Holman OBE

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M Murtagh ex REME (43B)
P Burrige ex RE (43B)

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K Underwood
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A Waite ex RE (60C)

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Maj (Retd) M Hay REME (53A)

Welfare Officer

G White ex RE (73A)

Chepstow Liaison

B Obermaier ex RE (58B)

Editor Beachley Echoes

Lt Col (Retd) K Reader OBE BEM RE (62C)

Reunion Organiser

P Burrige ex RE (43B)



My Story

2489 A/T (Apprentice Tradesman) Kenneth Morris Army Technical School, Beachley Camp, Chepstow; 2 May 1934 to 23 January 1937. When I passed out as Fitter I/C and P, Class A3 I was posted to the Royal Engineers at Chatham as 1874458 Sapper K Morris. During the period 1937 to 5 October 1939 I carried out recruit training and what is today called combat engineering. Posted to Blackdown to join the Searchlight Regt RE (not too far from Camberley). Because of the tension in Europe, the searchlights were sited almost the length of England on standby duties. My section started with our light in Trinity Square Gardens, near the Tower of London. Later we moved up north, mainly parked in open fields and farms. Later we returned to Blackdown. I was posted back to Chatham for further technical courses during which period war was declared.

I was then posted to 59 Field Company RE at Canterbury. There we were fully mobilised and made up to strength and after several railway journeys we eventually arrived at Dover and shipped across to Boulogne (I think) to join the BEF in 1939. After much marching, we eventually found our transport waiting for us.

Gradually we moved up north, billeting in anywhere which was disused or not occupied. Eventually we arrived at our destination, Le Madeleine a suburb of Lille, not far from the Belgium border. Our section made ourselves comfortable in some disused houses, and took over a very large garage and workshop for our transport and work equipment, and of course there was a nice estamenet (French pub/cafe) right opposite. What a coincidence, I spent many happy hours in there!

During this period, sometimes called the phoney war, we were engaged in field training, pontoon bridging and demolitions. We also were building concrete pillboxes along the Belgian border. Not much fun as it was in the middle of a very bad winter.

Later, we left for a tour of duty at the Maginot Line and were billeted in an old French barracks just behind the Line. Our job was to dig trench fortifications and command posts in front of the Maginot Line!

Before us was a large valley and some woods. On the other side of the valley, we could see German pioneers working, probably doing similar work to us. We never took notice of each other but one morning when we arrived on site, in one of our command posts was a notice pinned up "this is a German parade ground Tommy keep out".

Tour complete, we were on our way to Le Madeleine. We stopped at a village for a break and two of us wandered off looking for something to eat. I saw a young lady with a pram leaving a shop. I approached her and in my best French, aided with my hand to my mouth, requested something to eat. She understood and indicated us to follow her, giving her full shopping bag to me to carry. Turning the corner into the high street there was one of our sections vehicles parked. As we approached, me carrying the bag and walking beside the girl pushing the pram all the lads in the vehicles, including my section officer, got out and as we passed they clapped and cheered, with a few whistles. My pal was walking a safe distance behind us. It took a long time to live it down. Anyway we got a good meal.

Shortly after our return, the company had to give a pontoon bridge demonstration over a local canal. Because I was rusty on bridging, my section Sgt gave me the job of dingy man. I thought this was a cushy job, sitting in the dingy with two oars watching the others work! A senior inspecting officer approached, and ordered me to row him to the bridge head on the other side. It was then I found out that my rowing was not up to standard either! I proceeded to row in a semi-circle, ending up about 100yds downstream of the bridge head. The officer got out; his first words were "Sapper your name and number".

I knew I was for the high jump, and I was. A rocket from our Major who, unfortunately, was later killed in action, and a refresher course on bridging. Sometime during this period, I had a week's leave at home. On arrival at the house after greeting my mother I reached the sitting room door, and noticed two uniform legs of someone sitting. But he was wearing my slippers! Eventually I was introduced; he was a Morris, my father's cousin. He was working his way around Australia when war was declared and came back to join the army. His family owned a spring company in Birmingham. I think it still exists as Morris Springs. We went out together a few times. But I have not seen him since.

Back in France, and carrying on with routine work, with regular visits across the way for lubrication! On 10 May 1940 Germany invaded Holland and Belgium. We were ordered to pack up and to prepare to move into Belgium. Our vehicles with us on board lined up on the other side of the road opposite our pub! Our French friends including some girls we knew came out to say farewell. Off we went in convoy and on entering Belgium we were greeted with some apprehension by the locals. I suppose they thought "another war on our door step". Eventually, I can't remember the time, our section got their first job; prepare for demolition a large swing bridge



over a canal which I think was not far from Brussels. It was a hard job done in quick time. When completed and checked two men were selected to remain, guess who one of them was! We received instructions as to how and when to blow up the bridge. Basically it was if the Germans appeared or if we received instructions from an officer in the last detachment of infantry, or military police. The remainder of our section left leaving the two of us standing guard on the bridge.

Because of problems of quislings (traitors) and there were many in Belgium causing trouble spying etc.; we were cautious of any civilians approaching the bridge. A young lady came from our side saying she had to go to Brussels, she begged on her knees. Yes we let her go! Next was a man in a car, when we refused to let him through he revved up and headed over the bridge I fired a couple of shots at him. He pulled up just short of the end of the bridge, where a small infantry attachment was dug in to give us covering fire. They grabbed him, what happened then I don't know.

A barge was approaching the bridge, the officer in charge of the infantry unit worried about sabotage, run down to stop it. Not getting any change from the man at the helm, he fired over the man's head; he promptly shouted and dived overboard. We had a good laugh. The barge sailed on passed the bridge on its' own, or somebody was still on board.

They fished the old man out, still shouting and let him go after his barge!

I don't remember who finally gave orders to blow the bridge; I knew the infantry unit came over. I also think we had to swing the bridge into midstream. Don't ask how I got off but I must have! From behind a small hill we connected up the exploder, and I pushed the plunger down, "silence", I tried again no result. We had not time to go through the recognised procedures so we decided to fire by the alternative method. Using safety fuse we allowed a sufficient length to let us to get back safely, scarfed the end and lit in the approved manner. We ran for cover, you are taught to walk! Having reached cover we did not wait long, although it seemed ages to me. A loud explosion; great relief for a job completed. Someone came eventually and picked us up, and we returned to our section, somewhere!

Jobs were many and varying in size and type, such as blowing bridges, locks, roads, laying anti-tank mines and acting as infantry when the occasion arose. We were further hampered by refugees pouring towards France. Often we gave food to women and kids, not men they might be disguised quislings. Troops had caught some in priests clothing. We were always on guard from single shots aimed from church towers etc.

I was with a small section detailed to prepare and blow a lock gate. Having emptied the lock, two of us went down to fasten explosives to the hinges. We heard someone talking down to us, looking up, we saw an officer leaning over. We noticed he was dressed in full uniform complete with Sam Browne belt; all our officers wore battle dress. He spoke perfect English and was asking various questions. On the pretext of going to get some more explosives, one of us went and alerted our sergeant in charge, while the other kept him talking. They returned and arrested him but he maintained his pretence, threatening us with disciplinary action. They took him away and locked him up in a garage attached to a block of houses. Later, we found he had escaped through a small window in the back of the garage.

Having completed our task, we were tired and hungry; rations were not getting through due to the advance of the Germans. Noticing that the houses were empty we decided to get into one and made for the kitchen and got something to eat. I wandered upstairs and into a bedroom. I took my boots off and laid on the bed I immediately fell asleep. The next thing I heard was a woman's voice shouting, although I could not understand her I realised she was not happy. Being a coward, I decided to stay asleep. Suddenly the tone of her voice changed, I thought I detected pity. Then I decided to wake up, she was like my mother. It appears she was pleased I had taken my boots off, and that we had been tidy and not ransacked the house. We thought she had been evacuated, but she was down the air raid shelter. We parted on the best of terms.

For yet another task a few of us were loaded into a 15cwt truck and dropped off at various intervals. My turn came and two of us were off loaded. Our instructions were to blow up a brick built bridge outside a small village as and when we received instructions, or the Germans were in sight. The bridge had been prepared for demolition by Belgian Engineers. We were concerned a lot as to how long a Belgian fuse burnt. There were two points of ignition one on each side of the bridge, half way across and over the balustrade. We also noted that the fuses were connected to automatic matches which we had never seen before. Having familiarized ourselves with the set up and decided which side we would take, we stood down.

Eventually a young officer arrived; come to think of it I was young too. He gave us instructions to carry out the blow. We got to our positions ready at the count of three to pull the automatic matches. The officer remained at



the end of the bridge waiting for us. At the count of three we pulled. He reported OK, mine did not operate. I had to cut the fuse, scarf the end and get a match, place the head on the scarf and strike with the box. While I was preparing the strike, my counterpart was waiting at the end of the bridge not a little concerned. He didn't know how concerned I was. I struck, and it lit, so I joined the other two. We walked a few paces then the two of us started to run. The officer shouted "you walk away", it fell on deaf ears we reached our goal, a small cottage, as up she went. The officer, still walking, received a piece of masonry on his head. It's a good job he was wearing his helmet. On making sure he was alright, we had a good laugh, he was not amused.

We continued falling back, carrying out various tasks on the way. Eventually we reached the Belgian border, and the pillboxes we had previously built!

We now rested for a while; got some food and any outstanding mail. Also we received a Field Service Post Card to send home. We were not allowed to write anything except the date and our signature. Printed sentences not required were to be crossed out; I dated mine 18 May 1940. My card got home and I still have it. We didn't stay long, before receiving orders to go forward into Belgium again. Of the time, tasks and dates I have no idea. I do remember that somewhere we were digging slit trenches for the infantry coming up. Very low lying ground and as we dug it filled with water. Having completed the task, we waited to be relieved. We did not man the trenches but lay just behind with our rifles at the ready. An infantry officer came along the line followed by his men. He complained that we were not manning the trenches; he didn't give us time to explain or we just retired too quickly. I hope they didn't get too wet!

Ken Morris 34 Group

Editors Note: Ken goes on to describe being in action with the Grenadier Guards and being wounded before being taken prisoner on 27 May 1940. He then gives an account of his time as a prisoner being moved around a lot and having a few close shaves before being repatriated and arriving in England on 26 May 1945 almost 5 years after being taken prisoner. Also in the story is the tale of how he met his late wife, Suzanne; they had 56 years together.

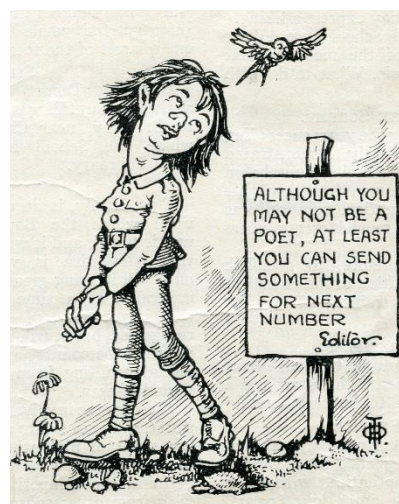
The story, some 17 pages will be available to read at the heritage Trail at the reunion – please approach Malcolm Hay if you wish to see it. We will include more of the story next year space permitting.

BOBA Website

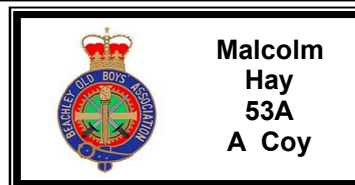
Most of you reading this edition of the Echoes will be doing so on our website, however, we are aware that a minority of our number are not aware that the site exists.

You can access the site either directly (<http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com>) or through The Army Apprentice site which has a link to the BOBA site.

Notice ~ Please note that the views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of either the Editor or of The Beachley Old Boys Association and therefore no responsibility for these will be accepted. While all contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome, it would be of assistance (though not essential), if Microsoft Word is used (Rich Text Format). JPEG or TIFF is preferable for photographs with images at or over 200 dpi where possible.



This cartoon from the first edition of The Robot shows that Editors have always had a need for new material to fill their publications. Please send me any jokes, anecdotes or stories of daring do that you may have. They say everyone has a book in them—I just need a few paragraphs from you please. Ed.

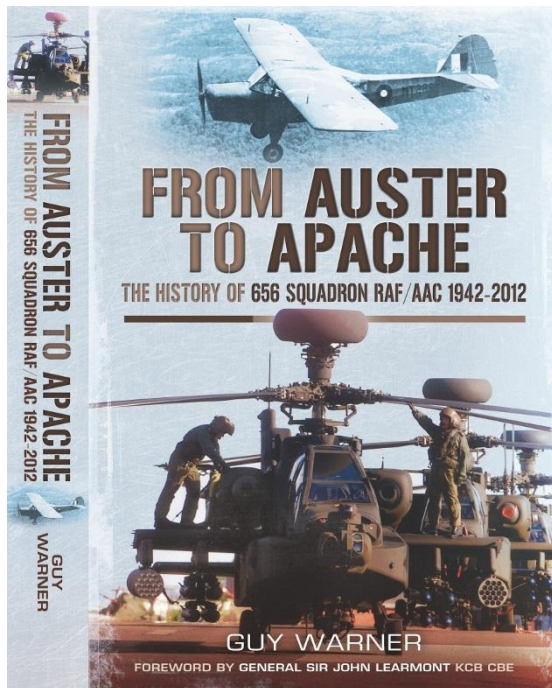


2013 REUNION ID NAME HOLDERS

Once again we will be producing 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 a press frog clip and secure safety pin mounting. At £1.50 each they are good quality with a coloured badge and border. Order yours on the reunion application form please and pick it up when you arrive for registration at the Racecourse.



'656 Squadron RAF/AAC: From Auster to Apache' by Guy Warner



This is the 70th Anniversary year of 656 Squadron, which first formed on 31st December 1942. Over the intervening years the Squadron has served with great distinction in India, Burma, Java, Malaya, Borneo, Hong Kong, the UK, the Falkland Islands, Bosnia, Kosovo and, most recently, in Afghanistan. This is 656's story, told in full and for the first time. 656 Squadron's story is a diverse one, characterized by active deployment in a diverse range of wartime theatres. It was the only Air Observation Post (Air OP) squadron to serve with the 'Forgotten Army', 14th Army under General Sir Bill Slim in Burma and, after the successful conclusion of this campaign, the Squadron was posted to Malaya, from where it took part in the little known but fierce campaign countering nationalists in Java. This was followed by the long campaign against Chinese communist terrorists in Malaya (Malayan Emergency). In addition, many members of the Squadron served in the Korean War. Subsequently there was considerable involvement in the 'Confrontation' with Indonesia in Borneo and policing and internal security work in Hong Kong. Following its retitling to the UK in 1979, there were deployments on active service to Rhodesia, the Falkland Islands (both during and after the war) and Bosnia and Kosovo. In 2001 the Squadron was chosen to be the Army's first Apache Attack Helicopter Squadron, and has now undertaken three operational tours in Afghanistan. Overall it has amassed well over 200,000 operational flying hours making it the most operational squadron in the entire history of army air warfare. It was also, of course, most recently on active service as a sea-based strike unit over the skies of Libya. It is a quite remarkable fact that the Squadron, and indeed the British Army, have both come full circle; directing fire from the air in 1944, to being the artillery in the air, directed from land or sea.

The price of the book is £20.00, post & packing is £4.20 per book (UK), £7.22 (EU) and the Rest of the World £12.86.

To pre-order copies please email our Honorary Secretary (you will be informed when copies are available): sylviaheyas@googlemail.com (please use 'Invite Pre-order 656' as 'Subject') or by post, including your full address & telephone details : Sylvia Heyes, Ty Ni, Corwen Road, Pontybodin, Mold. CH7 4TG.

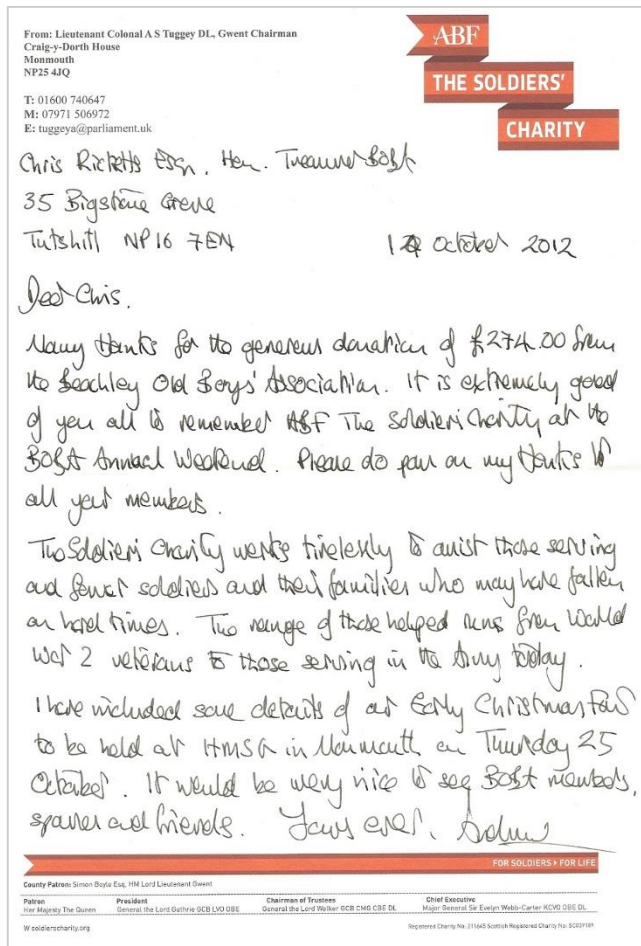
Book Quotes

- ◆ "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint." — Mark Twain
- ◆ "A book is a gift you can open again and again." — Garrison Keillor
- ◆ "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." — Joseph Brodsky
- ◆ "Books are like mirrors: if a fool looks in, you cannot expect a genius to look out." — J.K. Rowling
- ◆ "The covers of this book are too far apart." — Ambrose Bierce
- ◆ "Be awesome! Be a book nut!" — Dr. Seuss
- ◆ "You cannot open a book without learning something." — Confucius



ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Last year BOBA donated £274 to 'ABF The Soldiers' Charity'. The letter from Lt Col Andrew Tuggey thanking BOBA and inviting members to their Early Christmas Fair is shown below. The poster advertising the fair is also included in case you are in the Monmouth area on that date.



The BOBA Standard

Readers may like to know that, should the family wish it, the BOBA Standard can be present at the funeral of members who have passed on. This is of course subject to the availability of a standard bearer.

Please note that where we can assist a donation of £0.30 per mile may be requested to offset the standard bearer's motor vehicle expenses, other than this their services are entirely free of charge.

Alternatively a BOBA flag can be sent directly to the nominated undertaker for use as a coffin drape. Please contact any committee member.

The BOBA standard can be seen on the left of this page; it was paraded at the opening of the Army Apprentice Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum by Major Derek Walker (55A).



Customer Satisfaction

I'd only been out of the Army for three or four years but a series of incidents happened to me in about 1972 before the days of twelve month guarantees and customers rights etc. At the time I had discovered a rich vein of income that involved buying, renovating and selling properties, and due to my increased wealth I invested in my first new car. (Without borrowing any white fivers off Dicky Bound) A Ford Consul, this was the new Granada range that Ford had developed.

It was big and heavy and I soon discovered that a 2000cc engine wasn't big enough to give a decent performance for such a heavy car. Not only that, within six months I was getting a loud clunk whenever I changed gear! This was down to a 'dicky' transfer box that split the prop shaft between the gearbox and rear differential. About every fortnight it was returned to the Merseyside dealer (who was going great guns) they adjusted it and gave me assurances that all was now right and I shouldn't have anymore problems.

Of course they treated me casually because I always appeared in my building site kit, torn shirt, raggy arsed jeans and covered in sh one t. After the car had been returned on a number of occasions I decided that I needed to confront the Ford representative, a smarmy git who went by the double barrelled name and lived in North Lancashire but unknown to me because of the dealer's success they decided that he should move to Liverpool due to the amount of problems Ford cars were experiencing.

The day duly arrived and the "smarm" decided that a quick swan along the newly opened M57 motorway would clearly demonstrate the cars problems. Clunk, clunk, clunk, amply evidence that lead him to give me assurances that all would be put right. This in turn caused me, due to the amount of times I had heard that assurance, to reply that I had 10 grand that I would spend taking him, the dealer and Fords to court if the matter wasn't resolved to my satisfaction. This brought out the usual platitudes and indifferences combined with a smirky smarmy smile that was common amongst big companies who thought they were too big to be trifled with and they would soon see off a berk like me.

The car was returned to me and sure enough within a fortnight it was up to its old tricks. As I searched for an answer to carry out my threats. I got a phone call from my estate agent, he had got a buyer for one of the houses I was selling in Formby and it was none other than my greasy smarmy Ford 'friend'. I decided to stand easy until such times that contracts were exchanged then I arranged a meeting.

I wish I had been able to record the event with a camera. His smarmy, "Good morning sir", greeting, despite my building garb still thrilled through and he hadn't connected me with the house he was buying. I returned his greeting then told him I was experiencing the same problem with the transfer box and got the usual answer I was expecting. "Don't worry sir, we'll soon have it put right."

This was my moment. I reminded him of my promise to spend 10 grand taking all of them to court, brought the usual smiles, that was until I asked him about the house he was buying in Formby for £9,750,00. This brought him up short and he demanded to know how I knew about his private affairs? I revealed myself as the vendor and that the money he was paying for the house would be invested in court proceedings. It was one of those sweet moments that rarely happen in a lifetime, made even sweeter by watching the face on this smarmy little git grow longer and turn to a worried frown.

Later that day I became the owner of a new 2500cc Ford Grenada at no cost to myself courtesy of the dealer, and the smarmy chap with brown streaky trousers, and that's what I call Customer Satisfaction!

Colin Weir (55A)

Editor's Note: The names used in Colin's original submission have been changed to protect the guilty.





Boy Racers

Editors Note: This story, often related by Baz Morgan and in his words, was relayed to us by his brother in law, Ian 'Taff' Coombs (73B).

At the end of the evening out in Chepstow and on our way back to camp on our motor bikes, Taff Coombs, myself and Yosser (Scouse) Hughes found ourselves all waiting at the traffic lights on the Chepstow side of the bridge at the bottom of Tutshill. Whilst we were waiting for the lights to turn green the three of us were entering into an exchange of banter upon who had the fastest bike and who was the best rider, the banter got the old adrenalin pumping and the red mist began to descend around us.

As Yosser was first to get to the light and was waiting there prior to Taff and I joining him he assumed pole position, as soon as the lights went to amber Yosser was off at full throttle across the bridge with me right behind him and Taff bringing up the rear. Once over the bridge we began the climb up Tutshill and Yosser on a Honda 250 as opposed to my Honda 175 powered up the hill leaving me and Taff somewhat behind, we both opened our bikes up in an attempt to catch Yosser but he kept pulling away. As he began rounding the sharp right hand bend we observed a weird sight; it appeared his bike lights had elevated above the road and then strangely disappeared. As we approached the point where this appeared to happen it became clear Yosser had hit and mounted the kerb disappearing down the embankment. Taff and I pulled up to the side of the road and ran down the embankment to where Yosser and his bike had landed. I being the first to get to Yosser found him groaning on the grass with his bike chuntering over on the ground beside him; he was in some distress indicating that his handle bars had rotated when he hit the kerb digging into his stomach as he flew over them.



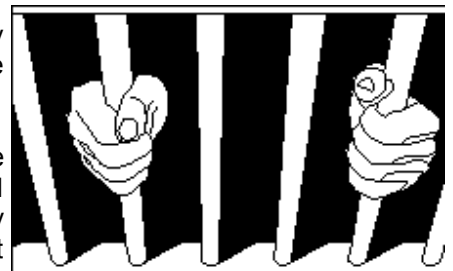
Taff and I discussed the situation and I decided to examine Yosser's abdomen suspecting the possibility of broken ribs or something of a sort; partially unzipping Yosser's leather jacket I carefully slid my hand in to examine him, on doing so my hand was met by a warm soggy sensation, I immediately withdrew my hand fearing the worst, in an attempt not to distress Yosser anymore than he already was I whispered to Taff that I thought he had torn open his stomach. Taff proceeded to check out my suspicions by placing his own hand in to confirm, whipping his hand back out in similar fashion, bringing both hands up to his face in anguish.

As the hand he had examined Yosser with came in close proximity to his nose he recognised a familiar aroma coming off his hand, "Salt & Vinegar" at which point he proceeded to allay my worst fears, on unzipping Yosser's jacket fully we discovered he had had a bag of fish and chips stuffed up his jacket and they had squashed all over the place, much to Yosser's dismay Taff and I fell about the place in sheer relief and buckled up in laughter.

On regaining our composure Taff and Yosser who was still in some discomfort went back to camp on Taff's bike. I attempted to start Yosser's bike but failed and began pushing the bike back to camp.

On getting back to camp it transpired that Yosser had ruptured his kidney and Daddy Lock (RMP) had detained Taff in the guardhouse to obtain the facts.

Daddy Lock subsequently found me on the Sedbury road about half a mile from camp when he came searching for me in a land rover, I had pushed the bike almost all the way from Tutshill only to find, with Daddy Lock's assistance, that Yosser had knocked the kill switch off when he flew over the handlebars, once switched on again his bike fired up straight away. Yosser was rushed to hospital and myself and Taff spent a very merry night in nick with Daddy Lock reading us a bedtime story.





The BOBA Shop

The following items are available from our shop.

Item	Notes	Price
Fleece Jackets	Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	£40.00
"The Beachley Boys" Book	A story written by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Beachley Apprentices Story	Anecdotes by Apprentices compiled by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp	Official College History 1924 - 1994	£12.00
Mugs	Single Badge AAS / BOBA , Dual Badge	£6.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges		£10.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges	(Patch Pocket)	£10.00
BOBA Lapel Badges		£5.00
Cap Badge GSC		£5.00
Cap Badge KC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC. Anodised		£10.00
Wall Plaques	AAS or AAC	£20.00
Wall Plaques	BOBA	£20.00
BOBA Car Sticker		£2.00
BOBA Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAS Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAC Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
BOBA Ties		£5.00
BOBA BOW Ties		£5.00

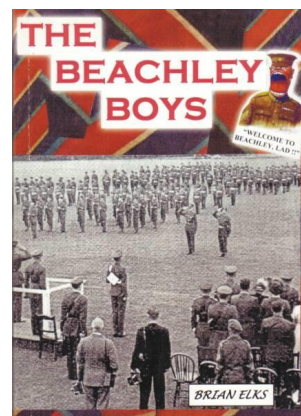
All items can be viewed on the BOBA website and are available from the BOBA Shop Manager. Payment must be made with the order and can be:

- Cash
- Cheque
- PayPal transfer

Extra fees apply for packing & packing and PayPal use.

Contact:

Anthony Waite
Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8JU
anthonywaite22ss@hotmail.com





from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

For the 2012 BOBA Open the weather chose to be good to us on both the Friday and Saturday. Knowing that there was little likelihood of a good soaking put everyone in good spirits and the right frame of mind for the game.

Like last year one man, Geoff Martin, who had a score of 36 would have won four of the six trophies on offer. However, the rules state that a player can win only one main trophy and may be a member of the Drawn Pairs winners. When a player wins more than one trophy the other trophies they would have received are awarded to the player with the next best score which usually goes on count back over several holes.

I would like to bring to all of the society members the fact that only 15 people have played in the last two tournaments. This means that we are using money from our society funds to help pay for the trophies as only £5 of our fees goes to the funds. The cost of the eight trophies for 2012 was £113.99 including engraving giving a shortfall of £38.99; this has left the fund with the sum of £146.22. If there is no improvement in the numbers playing we may have to reduce the trophies awarded. Please have a think about this so that we can have a discussion in September.

Winning Results for 2012

Longest Drive	Dave Potton 69C
Nearest the pin	Syd Thomas 47A
Best Par 3's	Alf Chrascina 67B
Handicap Cup	Tony Battle 57B
Drawn Pairs	Geoff Winter 66C & Geoff Martin 54B
Best Lady	Judy Potton

The Ken Standen Trophy Geoff Martin 54B with 36 points

Many thanks to all those who helped to make the tournament a success and also Dewstow Golf Club for their hospitality.

I look forward to seeing you all in September 2013 when, hopefully, the weather will be kind again.

Tony Battle (57B) (Telephone No. 01291 422403)



Geoff Martin receiving the Ken Standen Trophy from the President



Geoff Martin & Geoff Winter winners of the Drawn Pairs

Editor's Note: I have included the photo of Tony so that anyone thinking of joining the golf society can recognise the man they need to speak to. We should also thank Tony for the time and effort he puts into making the tournament a success—the weather is outside of his control!



Tony Battle being presented the Handicap Cup by Syd Thomas



The 2013 BOBA Open Golf Championships

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

It will be held at **The Park Course, Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent** on Saturday 21st September 2013. All golfers are required to meet outside the café there at 0815 on Saturday morning.

Those entering should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for £30.00 made payable to **Beachley Old Boys Association** (not BOBA), to reach me **BEFORE SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2013** please.

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 14th September 2013 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:

Tony Battle, The Martins, Lawrence Crescent, Caerwent, Monmouthshire, NP26 5NS

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 a cheque made payable to the **Beachley Old Boys Association** to the value of **£30.00**

SIGNED:.....

DATE:.....